

Beckton Community Forum Public Meeting: Thursday 07 March 2002

Introductions

- Apologies for the late delivery of the agendas. There was some sort of a hiccup with the post. This will be investigated. Some people got duplicates. This was because the mailshot was originally done two weeks ago, but some people did not receive their agenda, so John sent out another mailshot on Tuesday.
- The minutes from the last meeting were agreed. One matter arising was concerning the road humps in Savage Gardens. It was suggested that white lines be painted on them so that drivers are made aware of them before they find themselves on top of them. It was noted that there were no notices seen on the lampposts prior to the humps being slipped in. Also, the improving of the pond and Beckton Corridor (Beckton DLR – Stansfeld Road) bids were approved and work has started.

Tesco Development, etc

- Mark Michael St Claire was our guest speaker from a project management company. Castlemore bought the old British Gas site (54 acres, 3 pylons wide) and are developing it. Tesco are building their own store there, Castlemore are building the rest.
- By the end of May 2002, they are due to finish the drainage and remediation works (-cleaning up of the site etc). Because it is an old gas works, the ground will have a barrier, then one metre granular fill, then tarmac and concrete on top. They have dug down 2.5 metres below all the retail unit sites, recycled clean material and taken away dirty/contaminated material, put a clean layer and then the gas protection, and then the retail units will be built on top.
- Castlemore have let Tesco in early. Tesco have started their foundation works and will finish their construction by September 2002. Castlemore will continue their construction beyond Tesco's opening dates – open by Easter 2003.
- Planned other tenants so far are Superdrug, Next, Boots, and Dixons. There will be a drive-in food outlet. There is also availability for two further restaurants. Liz suggested consulting the community for their preference over restaurants. Some of the tenants will have their own cafes. They have space for a leisure complex, but no-one has shown interest in it yet.
- There will be 2300 car parking spaces.
- There will be public transport links with buses, including a terminus in the centre of the development.

Consultation on Improvement of Pedestrian Access (Agate Close and Richard House Drive)

- The council wrote to 41 residents on 25 February 2002. As of 07 March, there has been a 50% return with opinions split approximately equally. It was also noted that there are residents in both roads who support the proposal.
- Some residents have no/poor English. If Malcolm is advised on which languages, he can access the council's translation service.
- Some of the properties in Richard House Drive are owned by a Housing Association. They also own a piece of land that would be critical to this path. If the path were to be built, then the Housing association would have to give permission.
- A lady from Agate Close feels that the path would be detrimental – re damage and theft. She also stated that she

bought her property in a close! Others voiced concern about thefts, damage, motorbikes shooting through, and horses. It was pointed out that other alleyways have had problems, and people have got them closed.

- The access was requested because it is a much-needed route to DLR and the current fence is unsightly. Peter Mendham said that this path would only make about 10 seconds difference, plus people do not use the wide bridge because it is unsafe after dark, there is no CCTV, and motorbikes use it for their stunts. Some people have been asking for a brick wall instead of the fence.
- "Convenience should not override safety."
- The lady who started the petition for this path got 30 signatures from people in and around Agate Close. She does not mind which way the decision goes and can see points either way. She is keen for the brick wall.
- Sergeant Cotton can investigate the crime figures in that area. How can we deal with the problems – crime, fear, safety, etc? Police and local community to look at improving things.
- Malcolm Smith (Director of Environment, LBN) cannot recommend the path, as the split is 50:50. He will give the consultation a little longer, and also take away the suggestion of a brick wall to replace the fence that keeps getting broken down. He will also inform BCF of the outcome, as well as writing to the residents he wrote to in the first place. If it turns out that a majority is in favour of this path, then he will bring it back to BCF for further discussion.
- WAG need to discuss this as it is a local issue, and it was suggested that it be an item for our newsletter.

Community Convention Feedback

- Results will be analysed by LBN and fed back to us.
- Our slide show will be shown in The Globe soon. There is a copy in the BCHP office that can be run on a PC and is available for borrowing. We can also show it in future meetings (like we have done today).

Calendar of Future Meetings

- A draft schedule was issued.
- Public meetings have been scheduled for every 8 weeks, with a daytime meeting (times to vary) and an evening meeting, both having the same agenda. It was suggested that any 4pm meetings be changed to an earlier time because parents need to pick up their children from school and feed them at that time.
- Steering group meetings were timetabled for one week prior to the public meetings.
- Please pass any thoughts to John Barry.

Planning Applications

- Winsor Terrace: Proposal for the erection of 3 non-food retail units.
- Alpine Way: display – advertising signs.

Any Other Business

- Any suggestions on how to spend the £17,000 unused money from LDDC? For example, a laptop computer.
- Any suggestions on how to spend the remainder of our money from LBN? For example, a community party to engage the local community, especially different groups.
- Next public meeting planned for 16 May 2002.