Planning Services Users Group
Notes of Meeting held on 21st May 2015 at 7pm

Present:
LBE: Steve Barton, Alex Jackson
Community and Voluntary Groups: Don Kelly (Friary Green Residents Association), John Gavin (Norwood Green Residents Association), Ann Chapman (Walpole RA), Anthony Lewis (Ealing Cricket round CA); Prof. Alan Gillett (Park Crest RA); Don Tanswell (Southfield Park Triangle RA), Bill Davidson (Acton Alliance), Sheela Selvajothy (West Acton RA), Jonathon Notley (West Acton RA), David Dwyer (West Ealing RA), Sandra Andrews (West Ealing RA), Angela Jullings (Friary Green RA), J. Gayne-Farrow (Friary Green RA), Delia Kelly (Friary Green RA), Carol Woolner (Bedford Park RA), Julian Edmonds (Central Ealing RA), Penny Mason (Ealing Village RA), Victor Mishiku (The Covenant Movement), Robert Gurd (Ealing Civic Society & Hanger Hill CA). Mr Sundeep Saxena (Architectural Design Services)

1. Welcome/Introductions

SB gave a short introduction on the new management structure for Planning Services and outlined the new roles created. A further restructuring is in train and work on this is on-going.

ACTION: Agreed to circulate a copy of the Cabinet report, dated 24th March 2015, on the service restructuring including the revised management/organisation chart.

2. Items Carried Forward From the Previous Meeting

a) Terms of Reference and
b) Format of the Group

ACTION: Agreed to amended terms of reference as attached. The key changes included addition of “and respond to” after “To seek views...“ in second bullet point and add a new bullet point under working arrangements to say “Circulate a brief note of meetings held within one month.”

3. Planning Policy Update

SB gave a report and responded to queries that included updates on the following:

- National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) – published in March 2015;
- London Plan Review - started but unlikely to be completed till 2018/19;
- Minor Alterations to the London Plan (MALP) – out to consultation now and dealing with housing and parking standards;
- Joint West London Waste Plan - nearing adoption;
- Planning for Schools - submission expected within next few weeks, adoption by Autumn;
- Community Infrastructure Levy/s.106 – submission expected in the Summer, adoption by Autumn;
- Ealing Cinema CPO – final day of inquiry on 22.5.15 then await outcome but likely to take several months;
- Supplementary Planning Documents – under review with next priority likely to be Resi Standards wit consultation early next year;
- Gardens SPD – nearing adoption and final version with amendments will be published shortly;
• Southall Gateway SPD – nearing adoption and final version with amendments will be published shortly;
• Old Oak and Park Royal – Mayoral Development Corp set up w/e 1st April 2015 with scheme of delegation determining who/how planning applications will be processed with and OPDC responsible for plan making with highly optimistic timeline;
• Neighbourhood Planning – seen draft spatial options for West Ealing, awaiting draft planning policies for Central Ealing and decision pending on designation of Greater Acton; and
• Interactive Policies Map – new web based tool to be launched next month.

ACTION: Agreed to circulate link to Planning for Schools and CIL/S.106 and ensure all registered delegates are included on the Planning Policy e-bulletin mailing list.

4. Planning Development Management

AJ gave a report and responded to queries that included updates on the following:

• Changes to Neighbour Notification for planning applications – from the 8th June 2015 the Council will be publicising its planning application by displaying site notices. The Council will no longer be sending letters to notify occupiers of properties adjacent to application sites. Legislation offers a choice of using a site notice or notification letter. Ealing’s normal practice is to display a site notice. In addition, for some types of application it would be appropriate to consult local groups and amenity societies and specialist organisations.
• Process Reviews/IT – The replacement back office systems has been chosen and officers are working on the implementation of the system which is planned to be in place by the end of October/early November 2015. In parallel to the IT switch project, officers are reviewing its operational working practices/processes. It is anticipated that some existing processes will be cut.

ACTION: Agree to circulate links to sources of information from other fora/committees and send out a copy of report to Regulatory Committee scheduled for October 4th 2015 on planning performance for information.

5. Feedback and issues raised by the group

A discussion took place about the pre-application process and the scope for residents and groups to be involved.

6. Issues to take forward

ACTION: It was suggested that an update on the implementation of the replacement IT systems and its process review, including protocols for site notices, protocols for making comments on applications.

7. Any Other Business

In view of late finish these were dealt with after conclusion of the meeting in discussion with the relevant officer.

The meeting concluded at 9.30pm.
Steve Barton and Alex Jackson
May 26th 2015