# **Kensington Academy and Leisure Centre Residents' Forum**

# EMB Meeting Room - Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2012

# **Minutes**

# Attendance:

- Councillor Coleridge (Chair)
- Laura Johnson, Head of Housing
- Shelley Gittens (Minutes)
- Councillor E Campbell
- Councillor Blakeman
- Christopher Carr
- Ullash Karia Leisure Services RBKC
- Teresa Miles
- Edward Daffarn Grenfell Tower Action Group
- Phil Owen
- Simon Blanchflower
- Mary Harris
- Joe Wilson
- Chris Churchman (Landscape architect)
- Barrie Maclaurin (RBKC Parks)

1. Introduction by attendees	Actions
Declaration of interests:  • None	
<ul> <li>Apologies:</li> <li>Anna Gardiner</li> <li>William and Wilma Anderson</li> <li>Olivia Dix</li> <li>Robert Bryans</li> </ul>	
2. Minutes and Matters Arising	
<ul> <li>Simon Blanchflower contacted the ASA in relation to the 25m pool issue and the ASA have come back to him in support of the 25m pool.</li> <li>The minutes from the last meeting were agreed.</li> </ul>	
3. Public Realm	
<ul> <li>ED stated that he is unhappy with the plans of public realm and he does not feel consulted up till this date.</li> <li>Cllr Coleridge explained that based upon the decision made from Cabinet, particular areas within the programme were being discussed at different Forum meetings. Today's meeting was to discuss the Public Realm and would form part of the consultation, along with the other events that have been put on, as well as the drop-in sessions that would take place on Thursday and Saturday.</li> </ul>	
The landscape architect explained the following points:	
The North-South, East- West links are important however due to the	

- changes to the original design this is being looked at again in relation to the latest designs.
- Retention of Lancaster Green is important. The zones either side of Grenfell Tower should be retained in some form.
- TM raised concerns around the road/link. It will be discussed with planning colleagues and a proposal agreed.
- Officers are reviewing again the sewer pipe and whether this can be diverted.
- New plans have been discussed for a different shape Leisure Centre to take into account the feedback given from the AAP meeting. This could have a vista that connects to Avondale road.
- TM The issue of electronic bollards in relation to the link. TM does not feel that the estate managers are not best placed to manage this. Ideas around this are being further explored. A robust protocol will need to be drawn up once an way forward regarding this has been found.
- MH asked, where will the new housing be placed? This is still yet to be finalised, however the view is that the housing will be placed towards the South of the Leisure Centre to act as a natural barrier to those living on Walmer Road.

# **Playground**

- The existing playground will be re-provided in the same location
- There is still opportunity to look at Lancaster green and the playground and influence the plans for these. This is public realm and as such this is an opportunity for the residents of Lancaster Green estate to inform these designs. The attendees of the meeting were asked whether there are any new people they know that could help to inform the final designs for the public realm.
- ED: Is against the design.
- It was also felt that the playground is boring for older children.
- For older residents, there is a wish to have somewhere to read and sit during the day. A quiet corner to have for the old and for this place to be as far away from the Academy, possibly near the KLC café.
- The crèche will need a playground near them for the under 5's.
- Only 1 playground can really be made as there is limited space on Lancaster Green.
- It was agreed that Lancaster Green should be in principle left as an open space and improved.

**Options:** Natural play equipment and to make it more into a garden

- TM request that the dead tree be retained for the Mistle Thrush
- There is potential for there to be a larger public realm area and it opens up a lot of opportunity.
- JB: asked about station walk and how this will be dealt with. Revised comments/plans will need to be brought back to a further meeting.

# 4. Education Update

- Working with the council at design stage and looking at classroom structure
- Looking at ASD centre and how this is integrated as much as possible into the main Academy
- A questionnaire has been developed and is currently seeking feedback from staff and students at Chelsea and other Aldridge Academies on their use of their academies to assist in the design of Kensington Aldridge Academy
- Visits to local schools are ongoing to explain the standards and specialisms
  of the Academy. These will be supported by publicity pamphlets. A briefing
  with local ward councillors is also due to take place on 25<sup>th</sup> January.
- The ICT supplier tender evaluation process is underway with the ICT

service provider due to be appointed by March 2012.

- The Aldridge Foundation is to host one event for all local Primary school heads and another for Secondary schools and Sixth form colleges.
- The next Academy's 'Sponsor Partnership Group' meeting (with representatives from local community, sports, business and education groups as well as Officers and residents) takes place on the 8<sup>th</sup> of February
- MH asked, are there any families with children with special needs being currently consulted with? PB to check and respond back to next meeting
- The Visit to Chelsea Academy will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> February 6:30pm.
- TM wants to meet with the residents around Chelsea Academy to seek their views and experiences of the Academy.
- PB will be contacting the people from the last residents form Chelsea and will provide details if permission is granted would like to see a Studio E academy

# Peter Bradbury

# 5. Communications

#### **Drop-in Sessions**

 There will be drop-in sessions organised for interested residents and leisure centre users to come and see the latest designs and talk to the architects. These will take place on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> January and Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> January at Kensington Leisure Centre

# **Planning Update**

The Architect Appraisal Panel met and raised the following points about the programme:

- They highlighted the important roles that the public realm has to play in shaping the proposals and stitching the development into its surrounding urban fabric.
- The scheme needs to work harder to optimise the contributions of the public realm, especially regarding the north-south link.
- A shared surface that permitted vehicle use would encourage night-time pedestrian use, improving safety, and main public entrances.
- The panel supported the 'ribbon' form of the Academy, which sits comfortably of the site and responds well to the adjacent public realm.
- The panel felt that the designs for the leisure centre were underdeveloped and uneasy on the site. The shift of the buildings footprint northwards and its entrances southward in response to the presence of a sewer has compromised the quality of its urban design. The panel suggested that it could front onto and reinforce both the new north-south route and Walmer Road as important urban places
- It was requested that a future meeting be conducted to explore the building works and where things will be stored. There are concerns about heavy vehicular traffic and concerns around the build and the effect of it.
- It was asked whether the building contractors can come to the meeting in March to discuss this. LJ to speak to PW

#### **Grenfell Tower Update**

- The Council has commissioned the TMO to do some costs in relation to how much it would cost to do some works to the tower, such as cladding, double glazing windows and heating. Feedback regarding the outcome of this will be fed back to this meeting, once the information has been received.
- This news was welcomed. ED stated that the Edward Woodwards estate and how it has been regenerated is a model of preference in terms of

ideas for Grenfell Tower	
6. AOB	
Future Meeting Dates:  • Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2012  • Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> April 2012	SG

