|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| FORMAL BUSINESS | | | | |
| **1.0** | **Introductions were made, and apologies noted as above** | | | |
| 1.1 | The Chair explained that the event was jointly hosted by Finsbury Park Station Users Group and the Finsbury Park Neighbourhood Plan working group. DB noted that a broad range of other groups were represented, from Friends of Finsbury Park, to Highbury Community Association, and FinFuture. | |  | |
| 1.2 | RT explained that the event was the first in a series of themed events intended to bring together local stakeholders and raise awareness of the Finsbury Park Neighbourhood Plan (<http://finsburyparkplan.wordpress.com>).  BC kindly offered to assist with arranging speakers for future events. **Action:** RT to forward dates and themes to BC. | | RT/BC | |
| 1.3 | BC introduced himself as the Town Centre Officer for Finsbury Park. He is employed by LB Islington but his remit is to cover all three Boroughs and works with his counterparts in Hackney and Haringey. He explained that he was a useful first point of contact for town centre management issues, working closely with the various local trading associations.  He also explained that a Finsbury Park Town Centre Management Group has been set up under the direction of Finsbury Park Regeneration Board.Tt was hoped that eventually representatives from business, residents’ groups, and other local stakeholders would be able to send representatives to that forum, rather than the other way around. | |  | |
| 1.4 | TA introduced himself as the London Underground External Relations officer at TfL, covering the Central and Victoria lines. He explained that he was a useful first point of contact for liaison with TfL. His colleague (Area Manager Arsenal), Mike Maingard was also present. | |  | |
| **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION** | | | | |
| **2.0** | **Transport** | | | |
| **2.1** | **Cycle parking –** BC reported plans to install Love Cycle Hoops (heart-shaped hoops that attach to existing street furniture) in the area.  BC reported that the cycle parking facility next to Stroud Green railway bridge is currently under-utilised, and there are plans to promote the facility more widely. For example, a recent Cycle Doctor event (offering bike maintenance to those passing by) was very well received, and a similar event may be held in future. LB Islington were also lobbying Network Rail to include refurbishment of the facility in their improvement plan.  One attendee reported that the registration process was for the cycle parking facility was clumsy, and could be harming take-up rates. MM understood that the facility was owned by TfL, but operated by a third party; however, he would try and pass on the feedback to the relevant contact. | | MM | |
| **2.2** | **Cycle improvements –** BC reported that improvement works to the cycle lane along Stroud Green Road were now complete, including an integrated strip of lighting to aid separation of pedestrians and cyclists. | |  | |
| **2.3** | **Step-free access** – Mike Maingard outlined the proposals, which will eventually see five lifts operational across the underground and National Rail station.  He explained that joining the works to provide step-free access with the City North redevelopment would save around one-third of the cost; however, the original developer pulled out before signing the Development Agreement. Telford Homes had taken over the development, signing the Development Agreement on 17 May.  However, the TfL welfare facility currently situated on the City North site would have to be relocated on the highway, requiring a lane closure.  Completion of the works is due in 2018. | |  | |
| **2.4** | **Wells Terrace underground station entrance closure** – TA reported that the Wells Terrace underground station entrance would close from Monday 18 July, to allow for demolition of the existing entrance, and re-provision as part of the City North development. Promotional activity would begin w/c 20 June to raise awareness of the plans, including press releases, posters, high visibility signs, emails to Oyster card users, and announcements on local buses.  The diversionary route along Stroud Green Road was estimated to take two minutes longer, after accounting for time spending walking through the internal tunnels from the existing entrance to the platform. Whilst the original diversion was originally going to involve suspension of the cycle lane along Stroud Green Road, both the cycle lane and pedestrian pathway had been widened instead, increasing traffic flows to 2,000 pedestrians per 15-minute period – providing an estimated 36% spare capacity even at the morning peak. There was also an initiative under way to reduce the amount of street furniture at Wells Terrace to improve pedestrian flows. TfL Travel Ambassadors would be on hand for the first two weeks to assist passengers and ensure their safety.  On Arsenal football match days, the one-way system would be in operation, as is currently the case. CC noted that organisations promoting events in Finsbury Park would need to consider pedestrian safety even more carefully during this period.  The Goodwin Street entrance is due to open in April 2019, and Wells Terrace entrance in October 2019. BM highlighted that this is even later than originally programmed, and queried why TfL had not pressed the developers to rephrase the development to reduce the duration of the closure. MM responded that TfL had requested this several times, but that the developer had stated that this was not feasible. | |  | |
| **2.5** | **Night transport** – Tom confirmed that the Night Tube was due to start from 19 August 2016, and that a review was under way to alter night bus routes to provide connectivity between Night Tube lines. | | **Note** | |
| **3.0** | **Public realm and connectivity** | | | |
| 3.1 | **Railway bridge public art installations –** BC reported that a local artist had been commissioned to create a lighting and public art installation under Stroud Green and Seven Sisters railway bridges. The artwork had been borne out of local community workshops, and featured a contemporary, fractal design.  BM suggested that the bridges should be branded with the words “Finsbury Park”, as had been done with bridges at Haringey Green Lanes, Camden Lock and Camden Road. BC confirmed that the artwork would feature the text “Finsbury Park”, although this would be underneath the bridge.  Works were due for completion at Seven Sisters railway bridge by September 2017. Installation at Stroud Green Road railway bridge would form Phase 2, with work due to start on site in May-June 2017. However, some attendees were doubtful that the works could be carried out at Stroud Green railway bridge whilst the Wells Terrace entrance was closed.  The installation will be accompanied by initiatives to deter pigeons from damaging the pieces, and will need to be regularly cleaned. | |  | |
| 3.2 | **Street trees –** TA reported that TfL was currently investigating the potential locations for new trees to replace those removed as part of the increasing of pedestrian and cycle capacity along Stroud Green Road. However, MM explained this was made complicated by the number of utilities running beneath the public realm in the local area.  One attendee queried whether the developer contributions for street trees from the redevelopment of the John Jones site had yet been expended. **Action:** BC to investigate.  DB explained that Council policy was that several new young trees (up to 16, in some cases) should replace every mature existing one removed. **Action:** BC to chase up | | BC | |
| 3.3 | **City North landscaping –** Some attendees were concerned that the outline landscaping proposals for the City North scheme were dominated by hard surfaces.SL reported that the landscaping for City North was still a reserved matter, understood to be scheduled for submission some time before summer 2017.  RT urged the Council to work with the developer to tackle the issue before groundworks begin, so that services can be redirected if necessary. **Action:** BC to pass on the request to the relevant contact at Islington Council. | | BC | |
| 3.4 | **Directional signage** – BC reported that there were currently no plans to improve directional signage in the area; however, he welcomed specific suggestions for consideration. | | All | |
| 3.5 | **Decluttering of street furniture –** BC reported that an initiative was under way to reduce the amount of street furniture along Blackstock Road. | |  | |
| **4.0** | **Town centre management** | |  | |
| 4.1 | **Fly tipping –** Some attendees were concerned by the amount of fly tipping of bulky goods in the area. BC reported that CCTV was being installed in fly tipping hotspots to tackle the problem. | |  | |
| 4.2 | **Public toilets –** DB explained that facilities for passengers who interchange at Finsbury Park were limited, often leading to anti-social behaviour in the area.  There was ageneral understanding amongst attendees that permanent public toilets are being delivered as part of the City North scheme; however, this was disputed. **Action:** BC to confirm.  Some attendees felt that theporta loos outside the Rainbow Theatre (by the UKCG building) would be better placed on Fonthill Road, until the permanent facilities were delivered as part of the City North scheme. **Action:** BC to investigate potential for relocating the porta loos from outside the Rainbow Theatre to another location, such as Fonthill Road.  It was also understood that a permanent facility already existed beneath the railway arches at Wells Terrace, which could be reopened at relatively little cost. **Action:** BC to investigate potential for reopening the existing facilities beneath the railway arches at Wells Terrace. | | BC  BC  BC | |
| 4.3 | **Fly posting –** BC urged attendees to report incidents of fly posting to their relevant council. For LB Islington, using the Clean Streets app speeds up response time. | | All | |
| 4.4 | **Shopfront improvements –** BC reported that whilst shopfront improvement initiatives generally result in works being carried out to four or five units, the Finsbury Park initiative had received 80 expressions of interest, with 65 qualifying for works, and 35 were already being taken forward.  Designs for these 35 units were almost finalised, and the tenders for carrying out the works were currently being assessed. The initiative would be promoted around three weeks before works commence on site, including information on the location of welfare facilities, a map of units having works carried out, and before and after visuals. BM queried whether the emerging designs were available to the public. BC responded that they were not confidential, but had not been made publicly available to date. **Action:** BC to send on the pack of shopfront designs.  One attendee queried how much was being spent per unit. BC responded that awards averaged around £10,000 per unit, although there is significant variance in the amount being spent between different units.  BM queried whether legal agreements were in place to ensure that the upgrades were retained and maintained. BC responded that in order to achieve a balance between flexibility, turnaround of traders, and protecting public sector investment, and a clawback mechanism would be in place for a period of three years. Provisions were in place for changes of trader, retaining the original design, but allowing for new signage in the same style. | | BC | |
| 4.5 | **Anti-Social Behaviour** – One attendee expressed concerns about the Stroud Green railway bridge, which they felt was a very large and gloomy space. MM reported that the colours of light installed there are proven to deter anti-social activity; however, they were unsure whether the lights would be retained in the improvement works programme. | |  | |
| 4.6 | **Street cleaning –** BC reported that several streets in the area (such as Blackstock Road and Stroud Green Road) had recently been jet washed. | |  | |
| 4.7 | **Commercial units at Wells Terrace –** BM noted that the commercial units beneath the arches at Wells Terrace had become vacant, and queried about plans for their future.BC responded that the units were being refurbished by Network Rail, and those existing traders who had submitted a rental bid and won would return (currently aware of two such traders). | |  | |
| **CLOSING** | | | | |
| **5.0** | **Any Other Business** | | | |
| 5.1 | TK reported that preparation would soon begin for the third Finsbury Park Trust Regeneration Conference, which would take place in the Borough of Hackney. Those who wish to assist in the preparations, including proposing speakers, should contact TK directly. | | All | |
| 5.2 | DB urged attendees to support proposals from LB Islington to apply an Article 4 direction to remove permitted development rights from office to residential development in some parts of the Borough. | | All | |
| **6.0** | **Dates of future meetings** | | | |
| 6.1 | **Finsbury Park Neighbourhood Plan**   * 8 August 2016, 18.30-20.00 – Finspace, 225-229 Seven Sisters Road, N4 2DA * Tuesday 20 September 2016, 18.30-20.00 – venue tbc * Wednesday 26 October 20016, 18.30-20.00 – venue tbc * Thursday 8 December 2016, 18.30-20.00 – venue tbc | |  | |
| 6.2 | **Finsbury Park Station Users Group**   * Date and venue tbc | |  | |
|  | |  | |