

Lionel Road Liaison Group

Notes of 8 September 2008 meeting

08 September 2008

Attendees:

- Steve Lancashire (SL), chair
- Ian Liddell (IL)
- Brian Burgess (BB)
- Inspector Steve Edwards (SE)
- Dave Hughes (DH)
- Donald Kerr (DK)
- Tim Lockett (TL)
- Phil Marchant (PM)
- Mike Simson (MS)
- Cllr Matt Harmer (MH)
- Bela Cunha (BC)
- Chris Calvi-Freeman (CCF)
- Andrew Doe, notes

Welcome and apologies:

SL: Welcomed all present to the meeting and invited them to introduce themselves.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Ruth Cadbury, Peter Murphy and Sanjay Sharma.

Transport presentation:

IL: Made a presentation on the transport plans for the project and associated issues. This presentation will, as with previous presentations, be available on the Brentford Community Stadium website. It included sections on how people are likely to travel to the site, what the transport capacity for the area is, pedestrian movements, the probable differences between football, rugby and other events, and what the next steps are regarding transport and related issues.

Discussion:

BC: Mentioned that the recent Mela held at Gunnersbury Park caused the problem of people parking on Lionel Road and nearby roads, and wanted to know how this could be avoided.

IL: Recognised the issue of parking on roads needed careful attention and consultation but cited the example of Fratton Park in Portsmouth, where consultation suggested that local residents didn't want a matchday parking ban, and that this is not always the answer.

MH: Says that councillors will see transport and parking as important issues, and that the A4 is not well served by bus routes, with only one single decker service running. Points out that after 10.00 in the evening, the Kew Bridge-Waterloo train service changes to running every half an hour.

DK: From his experience of living near Twickenham, reported pop concerts can cause problems in transport terms, with people arriving from a wider range of directions compared to matchdays. Emphasised that it cannot be assumed that concerts will involve the same traveling patterns as matchdays, as people will not be traveling with the aid of habit.

DH: Suggested that travel information should be placed on the Club and other relevant websites to encourage people to travel on the most appropriate routes.

SE: Believed that the new location provides the Community Stadium with better transport links than the current location at Griffin Park.

CG: Asked Inspector Edwards whether there are likely to be any issues with home fans leaving the ground at the same time as away fans.

SE: Stated that he does not believe there would be any problems with the two sets of fans leaving the stadium at the same time.

BB: Clarified that the away fans would be situated at the eastern end of the stadium, providing a good entry and exit route.

MS: Believed that the members of Friends of Stile Hall will, amongst other things, be concerned about the following issues: 1) How the police are going to manage transport on matchdays and how they are going to communicate this; 2) What can be done about fans/visitors parking in Stile Hall Gardens - the CPZ during the week is only from 12pm-2pm; 3) The traffic in Stile Hall Parade is currently a nightmare.

DK: If a revision/introduction of the CPZ is to be considered in the light of matchdays, evenings will need to be considered as well because of weekday evening matches.

CCF: Said that he would be reluctant to see a matchday CPZ, but that the CPZ could be extended to include weekends. Confirmed that TFL is responsible for the Kew Bridge junction, which the meeting agreed was a major issue that needed attention. There have been plans for several years to improve it, and that TFL has appointed a project manager for the junction improvements.

TL: Asked whether it would be possible for people to travel through Carville Park and use the parking near there on matchdays.

MH: Believed that habit is key for matchday journeys. If the parking near Carville Park is only used temporarily this is probably not to the long-term benefit of matchday travel, as people need to build up a habit of traveling to the Community Stadium by public transport.

BB: We could look into the use of permanent office car parks.

BC: Suggested that many supporters will continue to park where they do at present when visiting the stadium at Griffin Park.

CCF: Reported there is no likelihood of a change to the train timetable from Kew Bridge station, apart from the Sunday timetable. This, CCF says, is because the routes into Waterloo are already busy.

IL: States that encouraging people not to travel by car at all is likely to be a better solution than encouraging people to park in car parks off the A4 but recognizes there is a need to be pragmatic.

BC: Is policing football matches at the Community Stadium going to be challenging?

SE: On the whole the problems will not be more significant than they are currently.

Notes of 4th August meeting:

Agreed.

Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

Communications:

SL: Reported that he had been advised the Buzz newspaper was at the printers and would be ready for circulation in about 2 weeks. There was an article by the young people on the Community Stadium. Also, representatives from Bees United and Four Communications have recently displayed information and distributed leaflets about the Community Stadium development at the Chiswick and St Margaret's Fairs, Brentford Picnic and Kew Fayre.

DK: Reported that many people living in the Brentford/Chiswick/Kew vicinity who he had met at these events are not very aware of plans for the Community Stadium, and that more direct engagement needs to be continued going through the Autumn.

MS: Asked whether it would be possible put a sign by the Lionel Road site clearly advertising what is being planned.

DH: Confirmed that a sign would be possible, but that it would need temporary planning permission.

TL: Requested 750 Community Stadium flyers to deliver to his local area.

MS: Requested 100 fliers for the Friends of Stile Hall mailing.

SL: Felt that the distribution of leaflets/fliers should be considered next time and this was agreed. Also, that he had been in touch with Garth Buckle to arrange workshops with local sixth formers to discuss the proposals.

Date of next meeting:

There was some discussion about changing the date of the next meeting for a number of reasons, particularly the fact that A Brentford game was being televised on 13 October. After discussion it was agreed to bring the meeting forward a week to Monday 6th October, between the times of 7pm and 9pm. Venue was likely to be St Paul's Church Centre but this would need to be conformed.

Topic, as agreed at earlier meeting to be the community hub and stadium concept, including contribution to community cohesion, facilities for young and old, disabled and other groups and health and leisure centre provision.