BOROUGH AND BANKSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Borough and Bankside Community Council held on Tuesday 5 October 2010 at 7.00 pm at Charles Dickens School, Toulmin Street, London SE1 1QP

PRESENT:
Councillor David Noakes (Chair)
Councillor Poddy Clark (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Claire Hickson
Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Geoffrey Thornton

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:
Councillor Richard Livingstone

OFFICERS PRESENT:
Tim Murtagh (Constitutional Officer)
Pauline Bonner (Neighbourhood Co-Ordinator)
Lee Griffiths (Development Officer)
Sally Crew (Transport Planning Team)
Tim Cutts (Southwark Planning Policy Team)

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The chair welcomed councillors, members of the public and officers to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

There were none.

3. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

4. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS
5. MINUTES

RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 20 July were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were no deputations or petitions.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair announced the sad news of the death of former Cathedrals ward Councillor and Mayor of Southwark, Hilary Wines. Her funeral was well attended at St George’s Cathedral. She had served the area with distinction for 16 years.

The deputy head of St Saviours and St Olave’s school announced that under Building Schools for the Future they had brought building plans which they invited residents to view and comment on. They had brought a model and display to the meeting. There was also an architect present to respond to questions. The school held meetings on the building project every other Monday evening at the school.

Rosemary Watts from Southwark PCT (Primary Care Trust), NHS Southwark announced that there was an event taking place on 9 October, 2010 from 1030am - 1pm at the Inspire Centre. The purpose of the meeting was to explain the changes taking place to the local NHS and deal with questions and listen to views.

The Chair invited participants to take part in a consultation regarding the Elephant & Castle leisure centre. The consultation had been taking place at the leisure centre and there were three days left. Residents were encouraged to give their views.

The Chair announced that at the Elephant & Castle there was a new farmers market, from 9am – 1pm every Saturday, near the College of Communication.

A resident highlighted the Community Film Club. It was held by the residents’ forum in co-operation with Tate Modern. The next film would be on 8 November 2010 and it is the story of Islam in Southwark.

Lee Griffiths said that Southwark Council had just released a Youth Opportunity Fund. There were funds available for activities and events and
also a capital fund for equipment and building refurbishment. Forms were available.

A resident announced that on Sunday 17 October at Tabard Street there would be the first of many community planting sessions. Under the banner of ‘Pimp your Pavement’. Tools and bulbs would be provided. At future events there would be landscaping.

The Chair announced the following events:
1 – 31st October, Black History Month
7 October, National Poetry Day
10 October, Free Blackfriars History Walk
23 October, African Cultural Event hosted by Great Lakes
29 October, Impact Youth Project presentation
7 November, Parks and Open Spaces themed Community Council
Contact pauline.bonner@southwark.gov.uk or Tel. 020 7525 1019

8. VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY SLOT

The Street Leader item had been withdrawn and would be considered at a future meeting.

9. FUTURE OF BOROUGH HIGH STREET

The Chair introduced the main item of business for the evening and welcomed students from Kingston University.

He explained that the future of Borough High Street had been identified by Councillors, the MP and a number of groups including Living Streets, Bankside Residents Forum, Better Bankside (Business Improvement District). It was a street that many of residents use but there was a general feeling that it could be improved.

Daytime needs vary to those in the evening and it was important to get the right mix. There would be other meetings in the future to see how groups could work to move the issues forward and make Borough High Street the way residents would like it to be.

Sally Crew (Transport Planning Team) and Tim Cutts (Southwark Planning Policy Team) gave an overview.

Tim explained the Borough, Bankside and London Bridge were identified in the Mayor’s London Plan as an opportunity area.

There were targets for the area including:
- 1,900 new homes
- 25,000 new jobs

There would be new office space. The Council’s own employment land
review had forecast the need for up to 500,000 square metres of new office floor space in the area.

Guys Hospital would have new facilities including a state of the art cancer research centre but they also wanted residential and retail use. There would be smaller developments at Brandon House and also Colechurch House. London Bridge Station would have improvements including addressing access and congestion issues.

For Borough High Street the changes would lead to impacts and opportunities. There were issues to discuss around design and consultation as well as the impact on local amenities.

Sally said that Borough High Street was one of the oldest and most strategic roads in the borough. It falls within the remit of Transport for London. The road carries 80 buses per hour and more than 20,000 vehicles per day and a significant number of cyclists. In 2006 there were 1,000 cyclists per day using the road.

There would be a 50% increase in capacity at London Bridge station which would have an impact on many things.

Councillor Morris and Councillor McNally summarised some of the good and bad things about Borough High Street.

The Councillors and officers facilitated the workshops to identify the views of residents on –
Traffic and transport
Pavements and pedestrians
Business, retail and entertainment mix
The day time / night time offer

Simon Hughes MP said it had been a great turnout and welcomed students from Kingston University. He said that in Parliament he was aware that two major roads in his part of the borough needed attention. One was Borough High Street and the other the Old Kent Road. Walworth Road had already received attention and was hugely better as a result. There were wider pavements, narrower roads, less congestion and safer movement. That would be a good vision for Borough High Street.

There would be meetings with local interested groups/residents and the plan was to come to arrive at a common view as to what can and should be done by the next financial year in April/May 2011. The other key player was Transport for London. The workshops and other ideas would be fed into the process to reflect the ideas of the community.

Simon said that the Government would be publishing the Localism Bill in November. That would give more powers to Councils and communities and allow more influence on licensing and other matters. The bill would not become law until summer/autumn 2011 but it was important that people have an input into that also. The bill should enable local people to
have more of a say about the type of shops in their area. Simon added, Borough High Street was one of the principal roads in London. It is the road from Dover and the rest of the continent to the City of London. It should be a road that we can all promote with pride.

10. TRANSPORT PLANNING POLICY AND PROGRAMMES

Sally Crew explained that each year an annual funding submission went to Transport for London (TfL) to fund improvements in the local area. Recent improvements included works on Great Suffolk Street. The next submission would go to TfL on Friday (8 October). There was a lengthy process to identify locations and things such as letters, feedback from community councils, bus delays and parking ticket hotspots were considered to target areas. One of the identified areas was traffic patterns in the Lant Street area as a result of the recent road closure.

Sally said that The Transport Plan was currently being developed which takes a longer term view of how transport was delivered within the borough. The Plan would be consulted upon early next year and initial thoughts from residents were welcome.

The Chair explained that under TfL funding councillors had agreed to support a bid to introduce measures to deter traffic from using Mint Street, Weller Street and the top end of Lant Street. Since the closure of Lant Street, traffic had diverted into other roads. He added that £64,000 had been identified that would go into the Council’s bid for TfL money.

COMMUNITY COUNCILS HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING CAPITAL INVESTMENT 2010-11

EXECUTIVE FUNCTION

The Chair explained that for the second year the Council had devolved some of the Highways and Lighting budget. He added that there was a slight underspend from last year.

Members considered the report.

RESOLVED: That the following projects be approved for funding:

Chaucer Ward - Lighting
Rephidim Street (£12,000)
Wilds Rents (£4,800)
Bermondsey Square (£5,600)
Burbage Close (£6,400)
Rothsay Street (£25,200)

Chaucer Ward – Highways
Swan Street (North) (£35,000)
Falmouth Road (£38,011)
Rothsay Street (£14,800)

Cathedrals Ward – Lighting
Park Street (£25,600)
Little Dorritt Court (£8,000)
Oswin Street (£8,800)
Brook Drive (£6,400)
Fives Court (£3,200)

Cathedrals Ward – Highways
Mint Street (£35,000)

About £52,000 was held back for further consultation to take place.
A resident asked if the money was for re-surfacing.
Sally Crew confirmed that was correct.

A resident asked about Newcomen Street and the horrendous situation which had not been altered despite several requests going back a long time.
Cllr McNally said that the matter had been raised by residents and Councillors. Each year Councillors had asked for it to be put into the LIP (Local Improvement Plan) bid. Unfortunately only one project in Borough and Bankside had received funding of about sixty or seventy thousand pounds, from the LIP and more would be needed to address the Newcomen Street issue.

The resident added that emergency vehicles could not access the road and were getting stuck.
The Chair noted the point and said Councillors would continue to seek funding.

Sally added that feedback from community council meetings helped inform the submissions to TfL.

A resident asked about two lamps in Mermaid Court that had been re-done a few years ago but had never worked. The area around them had been dug up and left.
The Chair noted the enquiry.

11. BUDGET CONSULTATION - FAIRER FUTURE FOR ALL IN SOUTHWARK

Councillor Richard Livingstone (Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources)

Cllr Livingstone said that Southwark faced a big challenge due to
Government cuts. The scale could be about £90million over three years. That represented about one quarter of the money the Council had to spend. The Council would like feedback and ideas from residents about how to tackle the cuts. The budget would be set in February for the financial year starting in April.

Cllr Livingstone said the Council wanted to ensure as little as possible was detracted from front line services and that the vulnerable were protected. The Council would be talking to partner organisations such as the voluntary sector, the Police and other parts of the state and private sector about doing things in different ways. There were also conversations with other Councils like Lewisham and Lambeth about how money could be saved by doing things together. There was a need for clarity and transparency about the decisions made and why they were being made.

At future meetings residents would be given further information but the Council would like residents to get involved early. The Council would like to hear from residents who could suggest areas to save money or improve the service. Information on how to get involved in the process was available on the Council website or by contacting: richard.livingstone@southwark.gov.uk or Tel. 020 7525 7161

12. LOCAL PARKING REPORT

LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS

EXECUTIVE FUNCTION

RESOLVED:
That the following local parking amendment was approved as set out in the report subject to the outcome of any necessary statutory procedures:
- Redcross Way (1011Q2019)

Councillors asked for it to be noted that proper consultation should take place on the item. There had been concerns raised by residents and Councillors that consultation on parking schemes was often inadequate.

13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident asked about Hankey Place. He said that at previous meetings he had asked for the crater to be fixed but it was still there. An attempt had been made with tar to fix it but the problem remained.

Cllr Clark said she had raised the matter with officers that week and would do so again.
A resident asked about Meadow Row and the problem of having to go to the Elephant. Officers have said they would do something for years but nothing had changed.

Cllr McNally said it was a thorny issue and Councillors had campaigned for years for a right turn off the New Kent Road into Meadow Row so that residents of the Rockingham would have easier access. New Kent Road is a TfL road and TfL object to that idea. Councillors would continue to campaign for it and the traffic light nearby created a natural opportunity for traffic to turn right into Meadow Row.

A resident expressed concern to Cllr Livingstone that £90million was a large cut and it was difficult to comment or give feedback on proposals without a real sense of what the money was spent on. More information was required. Also the priority should be sections of the community rather than things like street lamps.

Cllr Livingstone agreed that there was a need to protect the most vulnerable in society. Councillors need to be aware of those voices not as loud as others when making their decisions. The Council wanted feedback on priorities and in November there would be more information on what the Council currently spends its money on.

14. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. The next main meeting would take place on 9 November 2010 at Charles Dickens School with a theme of parks and open spaces.

Meeting ended at 9.18pm

CHAIR:

DATED: