



DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Dulwich Community Council held on Tuesday 17 April 2012 at 7.00 pm at Kingswood House, Seeley Drive, Dulwich, London SE21 8QR

PRESENT: Councillor Lewis Robinson (Chair)
Councillor Toby Eckersley
Councillor Helen Hayes
Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Andy Simmons

OFFICER SUPPORT: Gill Davies, (Strategic Director Environment and Leisure)
Glen Garcia, (Head of Pupil Access)
Joan Leary, (Anti Social Behaviour Officer)
Grace Semakula, (Community Council Development Officer)
Beverley Olamijulo, (Constitutional Officer)

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

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

2. APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence from Councillors James Barber, and Robin Crookshank Hilton, and for lateness from Councillor Michael Mitchell.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

A member made a declaration regarding the following agenda item:

Agenda item 10 – The Future of Kingswood House

Councillor Lewis Robinson, personal and non prejudicial, as a member of The Friends of Kingswood House.

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2012 be approved as a correct record and signed by the chair subject to the amendments below:

- Item 11, Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) funding programmes: Sydenham Hill Estate improvements Dulwich Upper Wood LNR were not included in the list of schemes that were agreed. The funding for this would be decided at a later community council meeting.
- Councillor Rosie Shimell's apologies were for lateness.

6. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS

RESOLVED:

That the deputation requests from representatives of Turney Road Residents Association and Crystal Palace Community Association (CPCA).

Deputation from Turney Road Residents Association – Basement Developments

The deputation spokesperson, Sue Badman from Turney Road Residents Association thanked the community council for the opportunity to raise the subject of subterranean evacuation in basements in the Dulwich area. This issue had been on going for some time particularly in light of a current planning application in Turney Road in progress to extend an existing basement to provide extra living space. The association was asked for an opinion and advice by a neighbour of the development.

The purpose of the deputation was that residents were unable to find any specific basement advice for Southwark. The Dulwich Estate's view was that there was no formal scheme of management for change of use related to basement developments. It only required approval for changes to external appearance and anything visible at ground level from the boundaries.

The deputation spokesperson asked the council if there was any appropriate planning guidance for basements and lightwells, and if not when would such guidance be developed. The residents association recognised that a basement development could help to make efficient use of limited space and land, however there were two areas of concern:

- Flood risk from surface water: Turney has suffered at least 3 flooding events in a 100 year period 1910, 1980s and 2004. The residents association were now

working with the flood risk asset team in Southwark on the impact of flooding in Turney Road which is considered high risk.

- Loss of amenity and impacts on neighbours during demolition and construction of the basement including excessive noise, dust and vibration, and impacts on businesses. Especially those who work or run their businesses from home during the construction period.

The spokesperson stated that the current situation means that it is extremely difficult to take any action against excessive noise from building works. At the time that the present environmental legislation was enacted, building works in residential areas tended to be fairly small scale and rarely lasted more than a few months. What with increasing wealth and increase in land values, the situation has changed dramatically and it has become a common place for people to build major developments under an existing building.

The spokesperson explained that local authorities had produced their own planning guidance. For example, Camden council has drawn up planning guidance on basements and lightwells and also has a 'basement impact assessment' which applicants need to complete that would involve specialist engineers and experts on land stability and hydrology. The residents association and the Dulwich Society had met with Southwark officers in planning policy, and have looked into producing information based on Camden's guidance on basements and lightwells as a possible model that could be incorporated in the Dulwich supplementary planning document.

The community council agreed the following motion:

RESOLVED:

That Dulwich community council notes the deputation concerns about basement excavations and requests officers to have regard to them in drafting the Dulwich SPD and generally with particular regard to flood risk in certain parts of Dulwich.

**Deputation from the Crystal Palace Community Association, (CPCA)
- Upper Norwood Library**

The deputation spokesperson, John Payne introduced himself and thanked the community council for the opportunity to speak at the meeting. He mentioned that the Upper Norwood Library was situated in a special area of south east London across the five boroughs (Southwark, Lambeth, Croydon, Lewisham and Bromley).

This part of south east was in need of more cross borough planning and policing. One possibility would be to consider a parish council that could be jointly funded by Lambeth and Croydon. The spokesperson explained that the library was not part of the central library service; they provided their own books and had proved it was cheaper to run than any other library. Some of the services the library provides were children's reading club; various activities including authors giving speeches at the library which made it a vital resource of the community. The 112 year old library was now threatened with closure based on Croydon council's decision to withdraw funding and the fact Lambeth Council had reduced its funding.

The spokesperson stated that a large number of users were Southwark residents. He

asked those present at the meeting to support the library and urged people to complete the questionnaires that were located in the library on how best to support this service.

The community council agreed the following motion:

RESOLVED:

That Dulwich Community Council notes with concern the threat to the long term future of Upper Norwood Joint Library, an excellent and efficient local library service which served many residents in Southwark. We would therefore request:

1. That Southwark council formally responds to the consultation being carried out by Croydon council into the future of library provision in Upper Norwood in support of continued funding of UNJL (Upper Norwood Joint Library).
2. That Southwark council's library services communicate to both their Lambeth and Croydon counterparts the excellent service provided by UNJL and the need to set aside differences and seek a long term solution.
3. That Southwark council engage in making a positive contribution as to how the long term future and governance of the library can be secured.

The chair thanked the representatives for their deputations.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

The following were highlighted at the meeting:

Launch of the community fund for 2012 – 2013

Information and application forms were available at the meeting. Community councils have a total of £122,000 to support activities run by local groups.

These should be inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games' values. Groups were asked to indicate this in their application.

The community council fund must fund projects that would benefit people that live in the Dulwich community council area. This should include one-off events such as fun days and festivals, workshops or activities involving members of the local community.

Local groups could apply for £100 up to £1,000. Only one application per community council area must be submitted.

The closing date for applications would be Friday, 25 May 2012 at 5pm. Late or partially filled applications would not be considered.

For more information visit the website at www.southwark.gov.uk or contact Grace Semakula on 020 7525 4928, or email grace.semakula@southwark.gov.uk

Changes to the community council areas

The chair made an announcement on the briefing paper (tabled at the meeting) which referred to the proposed changes and mergers of community council areas. Dulwich and Camberwell were unaffected.

Apprenticeship recruitment

The council were currently working with partners to provide apprenticeship opportunities to people in the area so they could fully develop their potential.

Over 160 people from different backgrounds and age groups had joined the apprenticeship scheme. Every year people are offered a wide variety of placements to give them an opportunity to achieve their career ambitions. For more information visit the Southwark website www.southwark.gov.uk

Health Services in the Dulwich Area

Rebecca Scott from the Southwark Business (PCT) support unit referred to the presentation on developing health and care services in Dulwich at the community council meeting on 24 January 2012. Following this meeting an engagement document was produced and copies were available at the meeting to highlight issues on the following:

- The current health services for the people of Dulwich.
- A summary of health status and needs of the local population.
- Building on the work that has already been completed – a recent consultation exercise people in the area supported the idea of more integrated services in the community, with enhanced primary and community services.
- What are the ideas? Services in general practice, services in support of primary care and for people at home etc.

Rebecca explained there was now a three month engagement exercise asking residents about the future of health services in the Dulwich area would end in May 2012. People were encouraged to complete the survey so their views could be heard. Officers would also be visiting local groups in the area.

For further information, contact the communications and engagement team on 020 7525 7888 or southwark.communication@southwarkpct.nhs.uk

The report is available on the website at www.southwarkpct.nhs.uk

8. EDUCATION AND PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACES IN DULWICH

Glenn Garcia, Head of Pupil Access announced that letters were sent to inform parents about whether their child had been offered the secondary school place of their choice. Usually offers of a school place are conditional until proof of address has been confirmed by the school. If a child was not offered a place there was an appeals process which would be dealt with by the school admissions team in Southwark.

Glen then gave an overview of where the council were at in relation to addressing the huge shortage of school places particularly with regard to primary school places year on year. The council had to build extra capacity to deal with the shortfall and a lot of factors were taken into consideration with regard to this issue.

The council took the following steps to address the problem:

- Established a steering group in Southwark which consisted of council officers, teachers and parents to ensure the extra capacity was right, the 'quick win' schools are in the right areas in order to tackle the high demand. In addition, the steering group would look at those local primary schools which were in close proximity for parents so children do not end up going further than necessary.
- Created an extra 30 classroom places to support demand in the area, Langbourne School was one of those schools.
- Established a code of practice for schools – make it easier for schools to expand if there was a need, making the process less bureaucratic.
- Schools were asked to be more flexible for additional children in a class of 30 so that new arrivals or a set of twins could attend the same school.
- A School Preference Advisor would be based at Cator Street to give advice and guidance to parents.

In response to questions, it was noted that the expansion of a 30 class size at Langbourne was definitely needed in the area even after the build up of additional places. Although the expansion at Langbourne would be a temporary measure the council were looking at permanent solutions to address this issue. Also no capital works would be involved in accommodating the expansion. More information on this was available if required.

It was noted that a recent Ofsted report suggested that Langbourne Primary School had improved and the quality of education was good.

A resident asked local councillors whether they were aware Village Infants and Dulwich Hamlet also had a problem with class size and was there any way they could seek a solution to this issue. The officer explained that any transitional arrangements were outside the council's control because one is voluntary aided and the other is an academy. Councillor Eckersley explained that he and the former Southwark education head, worked together with both schools about five years ago to try to alleviate the problem. He agreed that it needed to be revisited and as a local ward councillor he would support this.

Glen agreed to take back comments and questions that were highlighted at the meeting.

RESOLVED:

That officers were asked to attend a future community council meeting with data (Dulwich area) on the three points given below:

- Where local children in the area ended up?

- What were the pressure points?
- Firmer proposals on what the solution is?

9. CRIME IN DULWICH

Chief Inspector Rob Harper and Sergeant Stewart Turnbull were in attendance.

Sgt Turnbull reported that Sgt Warren Gregory was the new ward sergeant in College ward. He had served twenty six years on the police force and eight of those he worked as a sergeant in Peckham and Lewisham. Sgt Gregory conveyed a message to say he was looking forward to working with members.

Councillor Helen Hayes said she formally welcomed Sgt Gregory and looked forward to working with him as well.

Sgt Turnbull gave a general overview on the Dulwich area, provided names of officers based within the policy team of the met police; (Chief Superintendent Charles Griggs, Superintendent Cheryl Burden, Chief Inspector, Rob Harper and Inspector Phil Parrett, responsible for Dulwich and Camberwell). He stated that the wards in the Dulwich community council featured low in crime mapping with Cathedrals ward (north of the borough) being the highest.

Sgt Turnbull spoke about staffing matters in College ward where the PCSOs were currently being trained as police officers, and a recruitment process of new PCSOs would take place. East Dulwich SNT had no change in staffing.

Priorities for College ward:

- School officers from the Met Police for the DCC area were stationed at Charter School and Kingsdale School.
- Burglary – Kingswood Estate, Herne Hill Triangle and Turney Road were hot spots. Many victims were away from home and the windows and doors were not secure where the perpetrators gained access to the rear of the houses. Other reasons for easy access included with single glazed windows

Measures/action

- Highly visible patrols that involved plain clothes patrols
- Intelligence picture developed
- Leaflets - advice distributed

Mapping details on residential burglary over a four week period in all wards included:

- East Dulwich, items stolen from property while occupants were away.
- Village, property had sash windows, the burglars gained access and stole a laptop and car with the keys being on show.
- College, occupants were on holiday burglar used key from inside door which was visible through the letter box.

The crime prevention advice would be not to leave curtains open and keys on display if you are going to be away for a long period of time. Also, call the local SNT if you think your house could be vulnerable.

Sgt Turnbull provided further mapping information concerning robbery in the hot spot areas like, Sunray Avenue, Red Post Hill and North Dulwich British Rail Station. This involved some “bumping” and “snatching” of mobile phones and purses carried out mostly by adults. High visible patrols and plain clothes tactics were in place to deal with this sort of crime.

There was additional mapping information on motor vehicle crime. This involved “smash and grab” which could be preventable if valuables were not left on display. In order to address this type of crime there were enforcement patrols by the Police constables and reassurance patrols by the PCSOs.

Other issues included:

- Traffic operations which involved large operations in conjunction with the DVLA (e.g. people that had not paid their fines).
- Speed guns in operation – training sessions were arranged to help tackle the issue with motorists speeding on roads.
- “Op Ferrous” operation put in place to tackle the rising problem of metal theft.
- Tackling incidents of anti social behaviour.

In response to questions, Sgt Turnbull spoke about crime statistics in Lambeth and Southwark particularly in light of a recent assault that took place in Norwood Road. He confirmed Southwark offences could be investigated by Lambeth. Also the CCTV along Half Moon Lane and Norwood; the cameras are to be updated from analogue to digital, subject to a response from the head of community safety on the specific timescales.

Presentation from the Anti Social Behaviour Unit

Joan Leary, anti social behaviour officer from ASB unit gave a brief overview on the role of the unit and the types of incidences that are investigated by the team. The officer said she was glad be back at Kingswood where she had previously worked with the youth worker on the Kingswood Estate dealing with local gangs that came from Lambeth borough on to the Kingswood.

The officer stated that the team consisted of 10 council officers, and 2 police officers; they work closely with the safer neighbourhoods teams in the wards. Anti social behaviour incidences were relatively low in Dulwich due to early intervention.

The following information was noted:

- ASB would be defined as incidences of harassment, alarm or distress.
- The most common complaints in Southwark are noise and fly tipping.

- 24 hour ASB reporting line.
- 38 reported nuisance neighbours.
- 12 referrals of harassment.
- 20 domestic noise cases.
- 3 drug dealing issues.
- 7 annual related complaints.
- 104 cases dealt with by housing officers in Dulwich.

The chair thanked the representatives for their presentation.

10. THE FUTURE OF KINGSWOOD HOUSE

Gill Davies, Strategic Director, for environment and leisure presented this item.

Members of the audience and councillors were provided copies of a briefing paper at the meeting. The officer highlighted during the presentation that Kingswood House was a grade II listed building with community facilities on the ground floor and the upstairs rooms were hired out to generate income for the upkeep of the premises.

The underlining problem was the structure of the building which needed major maintenance and repair work that could involve the renovation of the whole of Kingswood House at a cost of £1 million.

There was a proposal to use part of the building as a Steiner school and retain common usage for conferences, public meetings and weddings in order to pay for the restoration.

Forms of development

The council was consulting on options for use of the upper part of the building examples given were an office hub, enterprise hub, or conference hub.

The next stage

- A feasibility study and review of the disabled access would be undertaken as well as holding consultation meetings with local stakeholders.
- This would be going out to architects which have not yet been appointed to see what would be feasible. All papers were available for public inspection.

Gill responded to questions and took on board comments concerning the following:

- Possibility of a health facility at Kingswood House.
- In the past the council had not spent large sums of money on the building hence the reason why it had fallen into disrepair.
- Possible option would be private flats although this was not an exclusive option.
- Kingswood House should be retained as a community facility.

- Members of the community should be fully engaged in the consultation process.

The chair thanked Gill Davies for the presentation. He said he was sorry to hear that she would shortly be leaving the council. He thanked Gill for all the hard work she had done.

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

12. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS

Executive Function

Members considered the information in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the following local parking amendments, detailed in the appendices to the report, be approved for implementation subject to the outcome of any necessary statutory procedures:

- Tarbert Road - installation of a disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay.
- Zenoria Street – installation of a disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay.
- Acacia Grove – installation of waiting restrictions (double yellow lines).
- Half Moon Lane – minor adjustment made to bus stop, extending the time restricted parking bay and the removal of one shared use parking place.
- Little Borne/Rouse Gardens – installation of waiting restrictions (double yellow lines).
- Kingswood Drive/College Road – installation of waiting restrictions (double yellow lines).
- Burbage Road – installation of waiting restrictions (single yellow line), subject to retention of as much as possible of the existing shared use bay to minimise loss of parking opportunities.

13. CLEANER GREENER SAFER REVENUE FUND

Executive Function

Members considered the information report. Councillor Jonathan Mitchell stated that no proper consultation or correspondence was given on what the effect would be after

allocating a proportion of the revenue funding on the school crossing patrols, agreed at a recent council assembly meeting.

Councillor Helen Hayes asked members to note that an extended debate took place on the lollipop patrols at Dulwich Community Council and council assembly and if there were any concerns then those should have been explored before a vote was taken at the council assembly meeting.

Members further debated and then took a decision on the item.

RESOLVED:

1. That the allocation of funds for the 2012 – 2013 Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) revenue fund in the Dulwich Community Council area set out below be approved:

Proposal Name	project cost
Dulwich Helpline (All wards)	£2,000
Kingswood Community Shop Co-ordinator post (College ward)	£3,000
Redthread Youth project on the Croxted Road Estate (College ward)	£500
New round of say no to unwanted bags in Dulwich (All wards within the DCC area)	£2,556.12
Food Hygiene Training for the traders along Lordship Lane (East Dulwich ward)	£1,074
Hanging Baskets along Lordship Lane (East Dulwich ward)	£1,700
	Total allocation £10,830.12

2. That in addition to the above, East Dulwich ward Councillors bring forward some suggestions for the remainder of the CGS revenue funding that has not yet been allocated.

The meeting ended at 10.10 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: