



BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council held on Tuesday 12 March 2013 at 7.00 pm at Lewisham College incorporating Southwark College – Bermondsey Centre, Keetons Road, London SE16 4EE

PRESENT: Councillor Nick Stanton (Chair)
Councillor Michael Bukola (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
Councillor Denise Capstick
Councillor Mark Gettleson
Councillor Jeff Hook
Councillor Paul Kyriacou
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor Michael Situ

OFFICER SUPPORT: Zayd Al-Jawad (Section 106 Legal Agreements Manager)
Matt Hill (Public Realm Programme Manager)
Jay Daisi (Service Development Officer)
Ian Brinley (Community Buildings Officer)
Gill Kelly (Community Council Development Officer)
Gerald Gohler (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 David Hubber and Lisa Rajan (both due to other council business), and from Councillors Linda Manchester and Wilma Nelson. There were also apologies for lateness from Councillors Catherine

McDonald, Denise Capstick and Mark Gettleson and Paul Noblet.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillors made the following declarations in relation to:

Agenda item 9: Proposed new community infrastructure project list (CIPL) to guide S106 and CIL expenditure in each Community Council replacing the community project banks

Councillor Nick Stanton, non-pecuniary, in relation to the Reverdy Road project which is listed, but not recommended for inclusion, as his property backs onto this piece of land.

Agenda item 14: Edward III's Rotherhithe Conservation Area

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, non-pecuniary, as she is a member of the Alfred Salter statue campaign.

Councillor Richard Livingstone, non-pecuniary, as he is a member of the Alfred Salter statue campaign.

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 January 2013 be agreed as an accurate record of that meeting, and signed by the chair.

6. DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) Updates

Safer Neighbourhoods Officers from Grange and from Surrey Docks wards were in attendance and fed back on the priorities of Grange, Surrey Docks and Rotherhithe wards:

Grange: Anti-social behaviour (especially by young people) around the

Neckinger and Spa Road area, recovering stolen goods, for example mopeds, vagrancy/rough sleepers around the Leathermarket area

Surrey Docks: Anti-social behaviour by young people on the Osprey Estate, cycle thefts around Rotherhithe Street, robberies in and around Greenland Dock

Rotherhithe: Drugs (dealing and using), robberies around Canada Water, and cycle thefts.

Responding to questions from the floor, the officers explained that the term “robberies” referred to muggings and thefts of personal property, mostly mobile phones. He reminded attendees to call 999, if there was a present danger, and 101 at all other times, and encouraged people to keep an eye out for anything unusual. A resident remarked that officers from Livesey SNT did not seem to attend this community council, the officers responded they would feed that back.

Alfred and Ada Salter Statues

Gary Glover informed the meeting that the statues project was progressing well, and that an artist had been commissioned to replace the statues at the original location along the river. He encouraged people to donate to the campaign on its website, emphasising that Southwark council would match contributions by the public. The campaign had so far attracted more than £15,000 in donations meaning that including the match-funded contribution from Southwark council this amounted to £30,000. The project target was £100,000 target. The project included installing CCTV and other security measures to ensure the statue was not stolen again. He encouraged people to log on to the website to make donations or to find out more about the project: www.salterstatues.co.uk

Street Leaders

Dave Morrison explained that Street Leaders were ordinary residents who were given special phone numbers to ring or email addresses to write to, in order to report environmental issues in their neighbourhood or across the borough. He told the meeting that it was a worthwhile and satisfying thing to do which made a real difference to one's area.

The meeting heard that a link between different groups such as Street Leaders and other groups such as Safer Neighbourhood panels was needed. Street Leaders also used to be supported by street wardens, which was now no longer the case. Views were expressed that there was not enough information about the street leaders scheme and that the council was not promoting it enough.

Big Local Project

Anne Clayton, from the Big Local, informed the meeting that the organisation had grown out of the South Bermondsey Partnership whose board continued to operate, and which had successfully applied for a grant from a lottery fund for community engagement activities. 26 smaller groups had got together, and Bede in partnership with Time and Talents had led on the bid from the lottery fund. Over the last two years, the constituted group had been working on six estates in the South Bermondsey and North Peckham areas along the Old Kent Road. Some of the estates involved were Avondale, Astley Cooper, Ledbury, Caroline Gardens, Bonamy

and Bramcote. The group had organised activities and events on the estates to get feedback on a vision for the future of the area, in order to apply for lottery funding. This bid had been successful and they had drawn down £168,000 this year. The plan was designed to show where the community wanted to be in ten years' time, specifically: ownership of the green areas, re-enfranchising older people, getting young people involved through volunteering. The next step was to work on a vision and projects for the next 10 years, and then to apply for more funding. Anne said she was proud of the people who volunteered and who had become part of the board. The idea was that volunteers would eventually take over the running of the projects. She thanked the councillors for their support.

Changes to benefits

Jay Daisi from the council's Revenue and Benefits section told the meeting that three major changes were coming in from 1 April 2013. These were: total benefits would be capped at £500 per week for couples and families, and £350 per week for single people. Secondly, for social landlord tenants who lived in flats, which were deemed too large for them, the changes meant that they would be asked to pay a percentage of the rent, depending on what their needs were assessed as. Thirdly, council tax benefit would be abolished. Local councils would have to manage and fund any support schemes themselves. This meant that residents on benefit had to pay at least 15% of the council tax themselves. Pensioners were excluded from this last provision. In order to address the impact that this would have on residents, the council was raising awareness of the changes and how these would affect people. It would be using a hardship fund to support vulnerable people. The council was also trying to increase the number of residents in work by offering employment support. Furthermore, the council would monitor the changes, and would revisit the measures it put in place.

The meeting heard the council's one-stop shop in the "Blue" could provide further information, if required. The council also had a scheme to help council tenants downsize to flats that were more appropriate to their needs. Furthermore, there were many one- and two-bedroom flats coming on-stream in the area, and that the council would work with overcrowded families. Council tax levied on second or empty homes would also rise. Attention was drawn to the fact that there were going to be exceptions to the new regulations regarding the number of bedrooms for disabled people, people providing foster care and people who had a family member in the armed forces. The meeting heard that, if residents had concerns they could also speak to their local councillors.

8. FEEDBACK FROM TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT WORKSHOPS

The chair announced that items 8 and 9 would be heard together.

9. PROPOSED NEW COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT LIST (CIPL) TO GUIDE S106 AND CIL EXPENDITURE IN EACH COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPLACING THE COMMUNITY PROJECT BANKS

Note: This is an executive function.

Zayd Al-Jawad, Section 106 Manager, introduced the report explaining that the projects in the appendix were meant as a sign-post for local preferences.

The chair proposed that a revised list be brought back to a future meeting to include feedback from the recent traffic and transport workshops. Responding to questions, Zayd explained that the strategic CIL objectives were being consulted on at the moment, and that guidance on what constitutes a local area in terms of CIL would be issued by the Government in the next few months.

Members made suggestions for amending the list of projects in Appendix 1, as outlined below.

The meeting heard that Rotherhithe residents may also want to consider applying to form a neighbourhood forum, and to speak to their local ward councillors for advice around this.

RESOLVED:

That officers are requested to produce a further report for a future community council meeting, with a revised list of projects which:

1. includes the additional comments and suggestions made at the meeting:
 - taking out the Old Kent Road / Glengall Road item
 - adding provisions about enhanced security to the Surrey Docks Farm suggestion
 - consolidating the two Dockley Road items
 - adding an item regarding the Shad Thames conservation area
2. includes the relevant items from the transport workshops and the strategic CIL details.

Note: The chair invited councillors and residents to submit further items to officers.

10. CLEANER GREENER SAFER PROJECTS OVERVIEW

The chair informed the meeting that lists of potential Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) projects were on display in the hallway, for attendees to indicate their preferences on with the help of sticky dots.

Matt Hill, Public Realm Programme Manager, gave a presentation outlining past and current Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) projects. Since 2003, there had been 323 Projects approved in the area, which equated to £6.4 million invested in capital improvements. Of these projects, 298 had been completed, leaving 25 remaining live projects. In the past three years (2010-2011 to 2012-2013) there had been 76 projects approved and £1.3 million awarded. Of these 76 projects, 54 had been completed. Matt went on to present some examples of the projects improving the public realm, e.g. in terms of lighting, streetscapes and greening. For the 2013 – 2014 programme the total funding available was capital £89,523 per ward and (£44,762 Livesey).

Revenue £20,000 per ward (£10,000 Livesey). 84 applications had been submitted.

Responding to questions, Matt explained that the number of live projects would fall to 19 by the end of the financial year. A resident complained about the St. Helena & Millender Community Gardens project, which she said seemed to have stalled and the organisation which had been awarded the money did not respond to residents telephone calls. The chair said Matt would talk to the resident in the break.

ACTION: Councillors asked for the list of live CGS projects to be circulated to members, and to be included in the agenda pack for a future meeting.

11. COMMUNITY ASSETS REGISTER

Ian Brinley, Community Buildings Officer, informed the meeting of the new “community right to bid” and the related community asset register. These derived from the Localism Act 2011. Under the act, local community groups had the right to nominate assets to be put on the community assets register, for which they could then bid if they came up for sale. To qualify, the assets needed to foster community wellbeing by providing future cultural, sports or recreational use to the community. Communities had the right to purchase the freehold or a 25-year lease at market value. The following could nominate: parish council, neighbourhood forum, any group of at least 21 people on the electoral roll, and other organisations with a local connection such as business associations. Currently, a panel of officers decided on the merit of the nominations, but this arrangement was being reviewed. The list of successful and unsuccessful nominations would be published on the council’s website. Furthermore, there was an appeals process for the owner of the asset, but not for the community group nominating. Listing effectively acted as a 6-months moratorium on the sale of the asset, giving the community group time to raise the funds required. The seller was under no obligation to sell to the community group, or at less than the market rate. After the 6 months the seller was free to sell to any interested party they chose. There was, also a compensation scheme in place for landowners, to compensate for costs or losses incurred.

The chair reiterated that listing community assets on the register would not block the sale of such assets, merely delay the sale. Assets people may want to list included allotments and pubs. Southwark had been one of the first authorities in the country to list a community asset – a pub in Nunhead.

Suggestions were made to look into putting Rotherhithe police station and Tower Bridge Magistrates Court on the register.

Note: There followed a 15min break.

12. SECTION 106 REPORT - SANDS FILM CINEMA CLUB / ROTHERHITHE PICTURE RESEARCH LIBRARY

Zayd Al-Jawad, Section 106 Legal Agreements Manager, introduced and set out the proposals in the report. Olivier Stockman from Sands Films explained that this money

would help give the charity side of Sands Films (the library and film club) security of tenure.

Councillors considered the information outlined in the report. Some commented favourably on the proposal, and thanked Olivier for the work he put into the project.

RESOLVED:

That the community council supports the recommendations contained in the report, and invites main planning committee to release the funding.

13. COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND

Note: This is an executive function.

Councillors considered the information presented in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the following amounts of Community Council Fund 2013/2014 be allocated to:

Name of group/applicant	Awarded
Southwark Helping Hands	£1,000
The Camden Society	£343
Oblique Arts	£986
Setchells Estate TRA	£600
BSAP	£1,000
Vauban Estate TRA	£1,000
Bethel Christian Development Centre	£379
Leathermarket JMB	£1,000
Southwark LGBT Network	£250
Bonamy and Bramcote TRA	£970
Tustin Community Association	£910
City Hope Church	£880
DETRA	£1,000

Name of group/applicant	Awarded
Salmon Youth Centre	£800
Tayo Situ Foundation (TSF)	£593
Bede House Association	£1,000
The Woodmill	£580
St Crispins TRA	£850
Bosco Centre	£1,000
Sands Films Cinema Club	£500
Rotherhithe Festival Group	£1,000
Stevenson Crescent Estate TRA	£1,000
Ronald Buckingham Court Resident Group	£1,000
Brunel Museum	£1,000
Albion Street Steering Group (ASSG) – ASMTG	£1,000
Time and Talents Association	£1,000
Albion Primary School	£250
London Bubble Theatre	£1,000
Millpond Chess Club	£250
Albion Street Up Market Community Charity Shop	£350
Rainbow Arts and Crafts	£400
Longfield Tenants and Residents Association	£1,000
Astley and Coopers Road TRA	£990
Hornafrik Integration Project	£343
Southwark Turkish Education Group	£250
1st St Annes Guides	£250
The Quay Players Amateur Dramatic Society	£1,000
Lucey Way TRA	£250

Name of group/applicant	Awarded
Clive Brown (The Camden Society)	£1,000
Osprey Tenants and Residents Association	£1,000
Surrey Docks Farm	£1,000
South Dock Marina Berth Holders Association	£1,000

Councillors explained that in some wards, there had been more applications than there had been money to allocate. Furthermore, some wards had transferred part of their budgets to wards, in which had been oversubscribed with applications.

The meeting heard that Jean Douglas, from Hyde Housing, who had done a lot of community engagement work in Grange and Riverside wards for Hyde, was leaving her post. Councillors expressed their thanks to Jean for the work she had done in the community.

14. EDWARD III'S ROTHERHITHE CONSERVATION AREA

Councillors considered the recommendations outlined in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the community council endorses the recommendation contained in the report.

15. TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT ON SHAND STREET AND MAGDALEN STREET

Note: This is an executive function.

Councillors considered the information contained in the report.

The meeting heard that the measures proposed were important for cyclists safety.

RESOLVED:

1. That the community council gives approval to advertise the relevant Traffic Management Order (TMO) and implement the proposed one-way operation on Shand Street and closure of Magdalen Street; subject to objections received being duly considered.
2. That an update about Magdalen Street and Shand Street, particularly in relation to the possibility of imposing width restrictions, be brought back to a future community council meeting.

16. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following public question was submitted in writing before the meeting:

“Could the community council please explain why the Council’s management of the Greenland Dock marina has not made a full planning permission application for the recent 25% increase in the numbers of berths in Greenland Dock, preventing environmental and amenity issues being considered and contrary to the promise that any further marina development in Greenland Dock would be subject to a full planning application?”

The chair said that a formal response would be sought, and brought back to a future meeting.

Meeting ended at 9.05 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: