



Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council

MINUTES of the Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council held on Saturday 16 November 2013 at 1.00 pm at Walworth Methodist Church, 54 Camberwell Road, London SE5 0EW

PRESENT: Councillor Martin Seaton (Chair)
Councillor Poddy Clark (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Catherine Bowman
Councillor Neil Coyle
Councillor Patrick Diamond
Councillor Dan Garfield
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Geoffrey Thornton

OFFICER SUPPORT: Zoe Bulmer (Housing and Community Services)
Pauline Bonner (Community Council Development Officer)
Gerald Gohler (Constitutional Officer)

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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

2. APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Claire Hickson, Tim McNally and Darren Merrill; and for lateness from Councillor Catherine Bowman.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 October 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. BOROUGH, BANKSIDE AND WALWORTH YOUTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The chair informed the meeting that, unfortunately, no members of the youth community council were able to attend the meeting, but that he and the vice-chair had met with the youth community council the previous week and had spoken to them about their future plans and projects. The trip to Boston, Massachusetts was still in preparation, but given that the estimated cost of this was £25,000, it was a future project, for which more fundraising would have to be done. In the interim, the members of the youth community council would make links with young people in Southwark's partner cities in the UK and Europe.

This was followed by a dance performance by the "recycled teenagers".

7. BUDGET CONSULTATION - FEEDBACK

The chair drew the meeting's attention to the report contained in the agenda pack which contained highlights of the budget consultation held at the previous meeting.

8. PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

There were none.

9. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCG)

A local GP informed the meeting that the SCCG, which comprised all the GP surgeries in the area, commissioned, planned and monitored health services for Southwark residents. He encouraged residents to get involved, either through the local participation group at their GP surgery or through the area group. He also encouraged people to attend an event about accessing services on 26 November. Further information at: <http://www.southwarkccg.nhs.uk/pages/home.aspx> .

Camberwell After School Project

Carmen Lindsey from the organisation informed the meeting that the group provided childcare and out-of-school educational services for pupils whose parents were working or studying. This included a breakfast service for 20 children and a holiday play scheme, which ran during the school holidays for up to 70 children, as well as a Saturday school which provided extra tuition. These services were aimed at, and succeeded in, measurably improving attainment. 100 parents were supported in this way, and were, therefore, able to go out to work or study. However, the group had recently lost funding and was now expected to pay commercial rates for one of their premises, which they might be forced to shut. Carmen asked the council for support with the rent for the first site, and for assistance with the repairs at their second site, which was a council building. She also called on the community and on schools to support the organisation. Responding to questions, Carmen explained that the organisation had been liaising with the council's property department and a local councillor. The chair said he would meet with Carmen in between meetings and would report back.

Safer Neighbourhoods Teams

Inspector Richard Barton from the Metropolitan Police Service informed the meeting that there had been a focus on robberies and burglaries in the Borough. Furthermore, operation Neptune, whose aim was to tackle mobile phone thefts on and around East Street, was continuing. The police was also working with local shops to prevent them reselling stolen phones. In East Walworth, the team had focussed on knife searches, to deter knife violence. In Faraday, the teams had focused on squatters on the Aylesbury Estate, while in Cathedrals ward there was a focus on non-residential burglaries. He advised attendees to lock away computers and other electronics they had in residential or business premises. On the riverfront, organised gangs targeted iPhones and iPods. He advised people to use the "find my iPad" app. The teams were also focusing on robberies in Westmoreland Road. A man had recently been arrested in Newington Park with 400 wraps of class A drugs on him. There was also some good news, as burglaries had gone down. The dates of the next ward panels were as follows:

Faraday	–	20 November 2013 6.30pm; Inspire in Liverpool Grove
Newington	–	26 November 2013; Paisley Park Community Centre
Cathedrals	–	16 January 2014 2.00pm; Queensborough Community Centre
Chaucer	–	25 November 2013 7.00pm; Southwark Police Station
East Walworth	-	26 November 2013 – venue tbc

Green Bridge Consultation

The meeting heard that Transport for London (TfL) were consulting about the possible construction of a "green" pedestrian bridge across the River Thames, between Waterloo and Blackfriars Bridge. If approved, the project could be completed by 2017. More information at: <https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/rivercrossings/garden-bridge>

Miscellaneous announcements

The chair informed the meeting that from the 22 November 2013 to 29 January 2014 there would be urgent works taking place to the war memorial on Borough High Street, which would cause disruption to traffic. There would also be new trees planted in Victory Park on

29 November 2013 between 2pm and 3pm – all volunteers were welcome.

10. OLDER PERSONS' VOICES IN BOROUGH, BANKSIDE AND WALWORTH

Dulwich Helpline

Barbara Scott, from the organisation, informed the meeting that they offered many services including 1-2-1 befriending, social groups and a gardening and handy person scheme. All these activities were staffed by volunteers and Barbara encouraged attendees to volunteer for one of the services. A new dementia project was also about to start. The organisation's overarching aim was to combat isolation among older people. Barbara explained that Dulwich Helpline services were open to all older people who were in contact with the organisation, and that there was no charge for the handyperson scheme.

Southwark Council Services

Zoe Bulmer from Southwark's Housing and Community Services, explained that the main focus of the council's services was: keeping people active, healthy and in their own homes. This involved finding practical solutions that provide everyday support, and specific and higher level support for those who need this. Services spanned the following areas: housing, travel, social care, advice service and supporting the voluntary sector.

In terms of **travel services** which may be relevant to older people, the blue badge scheme, which was used by 1,666 residents in the community council area. 433 residents in the community council area used a disabled Freedom Pass, and taxi cards were used by 4,000 Southwark residents. Further services included Capital Call for taxi card holders which provide further travel services, the 60+ London Oyster card and wheels for well-being.

In terms of **social care**, over 4,800 residents and 1,350 carers were in receipt of services across the borough. In recent years the council had halved the price of meals on wheels. A new centre of excellence for people with dementia or complex needs was going to open in 2015. The council had also introduced a single contact number this year in response to resident feedback: Southwark Information, Advice and Access Service – open 8am to 8 pm, 7 days a week. The Creation trust worked with older people on the Aylesbury estate providing one-to-one support, assisted bidding, assisted viewings of properties, family intervention, mediating with other organizations, as well as help with packing and moving, assistance with changes in benefits and emotional support.

Council-run **sheltered housing** was available in the community council area, as well two extra-care housing blocks with care staff on site 24/7. Three additional extra-care blocks were in the planning phase, as were 50 extra care flats, with 24/7 support, planned as part of Aylesbury regeneration.

The council also had a programme of **housing transfers** to seaside and country homes which is for those in a council/housing association tenancy. The programme managed 3,200 properties along the southwest coast from Cornwall through the countryside from Shropshire to Cambridgeshire and over to Norfolk and Lincolnshire in the east. The council's smart move programme was open to any council or housing association tenant where they are under-occupying by at least one bedroom. Participants in the scheme are included in band 1 straight away, and had support from a dedicated smart move officer,

and might be eligible for financial incentives.

Help was also available with adaptations and home improvements'. The housing adaptations team undertook adaptations for disabled people to enable them to continue to live in their homes, while the council's home improvement scheme offered a service to elderly and disabled homeowners and private tenants who want to repair or adapt their homes. The council's SMART service installed equipment and monitors and responded to alerts from elderly and vulnerable people living in the community. It included pendant alarms and bed and chair sensors to alert to when someone has fallen; property exit sensors for people who are prone to wandering; and smoke, heat and carbon monoxide detectors.

Advice services were jointly provided by Southwark Council and the pension service worked to provide easy access to all benefits and services for people living in Southwark aged 60 or over. The team could help with: Pension Credit, Council Tax Benefit/reductions, Housing Benefit, attendance allowance, disabled badges, taxi card schemes, social services referrals.

Zoe went on to emphasise the importance of staying active, for example by means of groups like Silver Active, which ran chair-based exercise classes for older adults across Southwark. These took place at the London South Bank University Sports Centre, on Sundays from 1.45pm to 2.45pm, and required a £1 contribution. Silver Active sessions in Camberwell were free and ran from 12noon to 1.00pm at the Camberwell Business Centre, 99-103 Lomond Grove, SE5.

Responding to questions from the floor, Zoe explained that there was one number for Adult Social Care, that this number would provide information about both council-run and other sheltered housing. Eligibility for meals on wheels was assessed individually so people could just apply, or call the above number which would provide further information. The seaside and countryside homes scheme was available to Southwark residents over 60, who fulfilled some additional criteria.

Responding to further questions, Zoe explained that she would pass criticisms about certain numbers being engaged or not in service to the Head of Older People's Services. Zoe also explained that staff at the council's library were trained to help people in accessing the internet, and that the council had translation service for people who did not speak English. Zoe went on to explain that the council's number was open from 8am to 8pm, and that she would feed back the suggestion of staffing it 24 hours to Ray Boyce, Head of Older People's Services. The meeting also heard that the council's SMART alarms were too large and so that it took too long to press them. Zoe said that she would feed this back. The meeting heard a suggestion that GP lists should be used to identify vulnerable adults, as these were likely to be more comprehensive. Zoe went on to explain that council services were reachable by email, telephone or by visiting a one-stop shop.

Note: A list containing useful contact information relating to services for older people is appended to this set of minutes.

Southwark People Care Association

Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE informed the meeting that the charity was founded in the early 1970s by her parents. Their annual Christmas Day event was aimed at people who would normally spend Christmas on their own. On Christmas Day over 400 people

would be collected by bus and taken to Bacons College for the event which was for people of all ages. The event included lunch, entertainment and afternoon tea. Danny Waters, Chair of Southwark People Care Association, encouraged people to pass on information about this event to people who may want to join in or to volunteer. The hall was being set up on 23 December in order to be ready for the event itself on the 25 December.

Southwark Pensioners Centre

Neil White, the centre's director, informed the meeting about the activities and services offered by it for people over 50. These included the pensioners' forum, a visual impairment group, computer classes, supporting people to bid for council housing, help with changing or applying for council housing, assisted cycling at the velodrome, trips to the seaside, and a film club. He encouraged people to join the organisation.

Black Elderly Group

Aubyn Graham from the organisation informed the meeting that the group's aim was combating the loneliness and isolation some elderly BME people experienced by providing a safe, warm and friendly place to meet others. Another aim of the organisation was to connect people with the community, services and new technology at their Elim House daycentre. Other services and activities included: care assessments and home visits, mini-bus to taxi centre users to and from centre, leisure activities, refreshments and luncheon, members and family celebrations, trips to the seaside, as well as one-to-one personal support. At present there were 35 older people using the centre, and 95% of day centre users were supported by social service personal budget financial contributions, which is why the centre could not function without its currently four volunteers. Aubyn Graham said that the group had lost council funding and called on the council to support voluntary sector groups like his.

A question was asked from the floor, why the council was withdrawing funding from groups like the Black Elderly Group. The chair responded that a written answer would be given at a future meeting, and reminded the meeting the council had lost £100m of central government funding over the last few years, which made cuts necessary. He was going to take advice on whether the community council could support local groups, over and above the funds it is responsible for. He reminded the meeting that groups may want to apply for Cleaner Green Safer funding

The chair went on to say that statistically 50 percent of residents in the community council area were over 55, and that of those, 30% relied on help from local or central government. He would, therefore, add a new standing item regarding older people to future community council agendas.

The chair thanked all the presenters for attending.

11. LAUNCH OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND

Councillor Neil Coyle informed the meeting that the new round of the Community Council Fund was now open for applications. A total of £122,000 were available across the borough, which translated to just under £30,000 per ward. It was aimed funding local events and activities. Local groups could apply for amounts of £100 - £1,000. The closing

date was 13 December 2013 at 12noon. Decisions on funding were scheduled to be made at the community council meeting on 1 February 2014, while the projects had to take place between April 2014 and March 2015.

In answer to a question from the floor about cuts to grants to voluntary section organisations and senior managers' pay, Councillor Coyle explained that the council had also made cuts of £1m in senior officers' pay in recent years.

12. CLEANER GREENER SAFER - REALLOCATION

Note: This is an executive function.

Councillors considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the following amounts of available Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) funding be reallocated:

- £3,000 to existing project 106048 - Perronet House TRA works.
- £10,000 to project 106199 – Tower Bridge Road clean up phase 2.
- £15,000 to a new scheme – Comus House playground.

In answer to a question from the floor, the chair said that he would ask for a report back on how much was left in the different funding streams that were the responsibility of the community council.

13. PARKING CHANGES RESULTING FROM THE AYLESBURY PHASE 7 DEVELOPMENT

Note: This is an executive function.

Councillors considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the following local parking amendments be approved for implementation, subject to the outcome of the necessary statutory procedures:

- Sedan Way (amended location) – provision of 2 car club bays and 3 residents permit bays (Zone M1).
- 'Southern Way' (yet to be formally named road) – provision of 10 residents permit bays (Zone M1).
- When requested allow the alteration of one or more of the resident parking bays

to a disabled bay where residents meet Southwark's criteria for disabled parking spaces.

- Implement a restricted parking zone on the internal estate roads to restrict parking outside of the marked parking bays.

14. WEBBER AND RUSHWORTH STREET STREETScape IMPROVEMENTS

Note: This is an executive function.

Councillors considered the information contained in the report, pointing out that the schemes proposed should complement the projects agreed recently under the community council highways capital investment fund.

RESOLVED:

That the implementation of the scheme outlined in the report and appendices be approved, subject to statutory consultation, and subject to officers ensuring that this scheme complements the community council highways capital investment fund schemes for the same streets agreed by members earlier this year.

Note: At this point Councillor Abdul Mohamed left the meeting.

15. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS - CAMBERWELL VISITOR PARKING

Note: This is an executive function.

Councillors considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the following be approved:

- Implementation of the local parking amendment, detailed in the appendices to this report, subject to the outcome of the statutory consultation.
- The provision of provide visitor (pay by phone) parking at the John Ruskin Street and Dartford Street locations.
- The consultation methods and boundaries detailed in paragraphs 20 to 24 of the report.

16. BOUNDARY LANE AND BRADENHAM CLOSE - TRAFFIC FLOW AND PARKING

Note: This is an executive function.

Councillors considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the following non-strategic traffic and parking arrangements, detailed in the drawing attached to the report, be approved for implementation subject to any necessary statutory procedures:

Boundary Lane and Bradenham Close

- Introduce a restricted parking zone for the full extent of the highway to be adopted under a Section 38 Agreement.
- Reserve parking bays as follows: four for disabled badge holders, fifteen for resident's permit holders and two for car club use.
- Introduce a one-way system, traffic flow to be in an anti-clockwise direction, for the full extent of highway to be adopted, including the already adopted section on Boundary Lane connecting it to Red Lion Row.

17. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following public questions were raised from the floor:

- "What is the council doing to support the attendees at hall committees and to enforce its code of conduct at these meetings?"
- "Why is the council cutting support to groups like the Black Elderly Group?"
- "Footpath in East Street – shop keepers digging holes into the footpath outside their shops. What is the council doing about this?" – Councillor Lorraine Lauder said she would take this on and would report back on this at a future meeting.
- "Why are disabled badge users from other boroughs allowed to park in disabled bays in Southwark, while Southwark-based blue badge holders are not allowed to use bays in boroughs like Chelsea or Westminster?"
- "Why has the council not supplemented the street lighting in the streets (including main roads like Walworth Road and New Kent Road) surrounding the Heygate Estate? For over 40 years, people living in and/or using the streets have had the assistance of ambient lighting (in significant amounts) from the Heygate. Now that the decant has been completed all surrounding streets are too dark for pedestrian safety – hence the violent assault and rape near the Crossway Church on New Kent Road recently. It will be many years before the regeneration is complete. In the meantime please augment lights on the pavements areas for all the surrounding streets." The chair said that he would invite a representative from lendlease and the council's team who are responsible for lighting the area.
- "Will the consultation about the future of Walworth Town Hall be addressing the

need for a library and public meeting space?”

The chair said the above questions would be reported back on at a future meeting.

Furthermore, the following public questions were submitted in writing:

- “On Albany Mews we have communal dustbins. Some of the tenants are temporary and speak little English; some not even knowing ‘blue’ and ‘green’! Two of us have contacted the council for translations of recycling instructions at least in Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. This could be on-line. So far this is not available. There are endless bags of general rubbish in the recycling bins. Please help.”
- “What is going to happen to the rest of the CGS money? Report back.”
- “Can you assure me that [a] feedback will be given at the next community council on the Camberwell After School Project problems and what steps the council is going to take.”

18. COMMUNITY COUNCIL QUESTION TO COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

Following a discussion the community council considered whether to submit a question to the Council Assembly meeting on 22 January 2014 and agreed the following:

“How many community organisations in the Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council area have lost funding this financial year?”

Meeting ended at 3.35 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: