

Housing & Community Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Housing & Community Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee held on Monday 26 October 2015 at 7.00 pm at Ground Floor Meeting Room G02A - 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

PRESENT: Councillor Tom Flynn (Chair)
Councillor Ben Johnson
Councillor Karl Eastham
Councillor Eleanor Kerslake
Councillor Vijay Luthra
Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Martin Seaton
Cris Claridge
Michael Orey

OTHER MEMBERS

PRESENT:

OFFICER SUPPORT: Fitzroy Williams – Scrutiny Project Assistant

1. APOLOGIES

1.1 There were no apologies for absence.

2. NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

2.1 There were no urgent items.

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

3.1 There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 24 June 2015 be agreed as a correct record, with an amendment to page 2, item 4, recommendation 3 to read “ That all consultation should ask specific questions to residents”.

VIDEO - OPENING THE MEETING

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGg1EbX2msU&list=PL_maFEOk7e9hzs6qKzTOAYLSoi4Tdx8F2

5. THEMES FOR INTERVIEWS OF CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY AND BOROUGH COMMANDER

The sub-committee discussed and suggested the following themes for the interviews of the Cabinet member for Communities and Safety and the Borough Commander:-

- Potential loss of PCSO's
- Southwark Community Wardens
- Enforcement Officers
- ASB issues around the Elephant & Castle
- Young people and knife crime.
- Police relationships with communities in Southwark
- Southwark data on stop & search
- Financial impact on Southwark
- Women's Charter

6. HOUSING REPAIRS DRAFT

The sub-committee heard from the Leathermarket JMB representatives, Andy Bates (Manager), John Paul Maytum (Chair), Peter Coulthard (Director) and Berni McEwan (Finance Manager) with regards to the housing repairs on their estate and answered members questions relating to this subject.

RESOLVED: That any recommendations from housing repairs should be shown to legal services prior to agreement.

VIDEO - EMPTY HOMES & REPAIRS

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BByx6wwnzws&index=3&list=PL_maFEOk7e9hzs6qKzTOAYLSoi4Tdx8F2

7. RIGHT TO BUY - HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS

Members of the sub-committee were updated regarding the progress of the incoming bill by the chair and councillor Eleanor Kerslake.

RESOLVED: That the link for the Housing and Planning Bill 75 to 2015-16 be circulated to members for their information.

VIDEO - RIGHT TO BUY

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G9Pbm60hFGw&index=2&list=PL_maFEOk7e9hzs6qKzTOAYLSoi4Tdx8F2

8. AOB - EMPTY HOMES AND HOUSING STRUCTURE

Empty Homes

The sub-committee discussed empty homes and highlighted the following points of interests that they will be looking at starting at the January 2016 meeting:-

- How the council deals with voids/sub-lets – officer briefing and council policy
- Private rented sector and conversions
- Buy to leave
- Look at other Councils and Housing Associations
- Hear from developers

The New Housing Structure

The chair reported that the housing department had been re-structured and members noted the new structure and requested that this information be e-mailed to members of the sub-committee after the meeting.

The sub-committee noted that SBS had been transferred to Environment & Leisure and then discussed interviewing the new heads of departments in the future, and the chair undertook to meet with housing officers to discuss the changes and the new outlook.

VIDEO- HOUSING STRUCTURE

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIQFUqnd3nw&index=4&list=PL_maFEOk7e9hzs6qKzTOAYLSoi4Tdx8F2

Meeting ended at 9.40 pm

CHAIR:

DATED:

