



BOROUGH AND BANKSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Borough and Bankside Community Council held on Wednesday 16 June 2010 at 7.00 pm at Charles Dickens School, Toulmin Street, London SE1

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:**

OFFICER Pauline Bonner – Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
SUPPORT: Tim Murtagh – Constitutional Officer

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

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

2. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies.

3. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

4. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the Borough and Bankside Community Council held on 10 March 2010 were agreed.

6. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

David Franklin from Licensing said that the Licensing Section is consulting on extending the saturation area for licensed premises in the Borough and Bankside area. It currently finishes quite a bit away from the edge of the borough at Blackfriars Road. The consultation is about extending it to the edge of the borough and in any other way as well. The consultation is based on crime and disorder and nuisance in the streets and things of that nature. Evidence from the Police does not suggest it should be extended but we really want to hear from residents living in the area. Application packs and short questionnaires are available.

Cllr Noakes added that Ward Councillors would be supporting that extension as residents deserve the protection.

There was an update on the St George's Festival that took place in April. One of the things that took place was a competition of writing and art work. The winning entries are now on display in a unit at the Elephant & Castle shopping centre on the ground floor. If anyone has anything suitable they are encouraged to add to the display.

On Friday 2 July there is a community showcase event which is the open day in Mint Street Park. Blackfriars Settlement and others are keen to highlight what people can do. There will be stalls and a showcase of talent such as bands and dancing. Contact Sylvia at Blackfriars or Mary at BOST (Bankside Open Spaces Trust).

The London Festival of Architecture is taking place from 19 June – 4 July. More information available on the SE1 website.

8. INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Pauline Bonner introduced herself as the new Neighbourhood Co-

ordinator for the area. She said, that if residents had concerns or any ideas for the Community Council they should contact her.
pauline.bonner@southwark.gov.uk or Tel. 020 725 1019

9. MEET YOUR COUNCILLORS

Chair said that following the elections on 6 May there were three new Councillors elected for the area and he would like Members existing and new to introduce themselves ahead of their four-year term.

Chair paid tribute to former Councillor Mackie Sheik who narrowly failed to be re-elected by just six votes. He thanked him for his service as Chair and to the area.

Cllr Adele Morris – I was elected in 2006 and worked for several community organisations on lots of projects prior to that. I chaired this community council for 18 months before becoming, in May 2008, Executive Member for communities. My main interest is in getting people engaged and involved in their communities. Getting people to speak up on how things affect them so they have a positive impact on where they live. I actively represent the views of local people.

Cllr Poddy Clark – I have been campaigning in Southwark for about twenty years. I am very pleased to have been elected by the residents of Chaucer Ward. I think Borough and Bankside is a wonderful area. I've met so many people and like to listen to people's issues. Community involvement is very important to me. I have tended to have jobs in finance, mostly in the private sector but did work for a while as a finance officer at Southwark Council. I am happy to speak to anybody about anything at any time.

Cllr Claire Hickson – I am a newly elected councillor for Chaucer Ward which I think is a fantastic ward. I also think the area as a whole is great. I have lived in Southwark for about fifteen years. I work in campaigning on issues including child poverty, housing and development in Africa. I bring those passions to the role but I think the key thing is that Chaucer becomes even better and that the inevitable changes taking place involve residents in what they want to see.

Cllr Geoffrey Thornton – I am delighted to have been elected in May as a new councillor in Cathedrals Ward. It's a new experience but I am enjoying meeting the challenges of the role. I pay tribute to Cllr Morris and Cllr Noakes for their community involvement work and I hope to continue that through community councils. I aim to be the best ward councillor that I can be. I live in the Ward and I am here to help residents with any issues or concerns they may have.

Cllr Tim McNally – I have been re-elected to Chaucer Ward. For the past two years I was the Cabinet Member for Resources. I am now Chair of the Environment, Transport and Communities Committee. Previously I was an IT professional in the non-profit sector for charities and trade unions. In the last four years I have enjoyed working with the fourteen tenants and residents associations that we have in Chaucer Ward. Social housing is a real passion of mine. I like to see the benefits of developments spread into other areas. I am also Chair of the Grants Committee of United St Saviours, Southwark's oldest and largest charity.

Cllr David Noakes – I moved to Southwark in 1996. I was first elected in 1998 for Faraday Ward in the Walworth, for four years. Since 2006 I have been Councillor for Cathedrals Ward. During the last four years I was Chair of Health Scrutiny for eighteen months and then for two and a half years was Executive Member for Health and Adult Care. I also work part-time in Community Safety for the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames. I enjoy engaging with my constituents and attending local meetings and taking up issues. There are a lot of planning and licensing matters in this area and I look to get the right balance for business, culture and residents.

Chair added that Simon Hughes MP was also re-elected and has now served the area for 27 years. He will probably come along later after attending other meetings.

Public Question – A resident asked what benefits would the Councillors – as mentioned – like to see go to Chaucer from Cathedrals Ward.

Cllr McNally said that a lot of regeneration was happening in our area. Alongside that there is section 106 money, much of which is retained close to developments. Millions of pounds of s106 money have been spent in Cathedrals and a lot less goes to Chaucer Ward. When developments happen on the boundary or near the boundary then it will impact on those living on the other side of the boundary.

Public Question – Perhaps both wards can work together for maximum benefit to the community. So that any money available is spent on things really beneficial to residents.

Chair said that improvements could be made in explaining how s106 money has been spent to benefit the ward(s).

Public Question – I am a leaseholder, I've heard that the Lib Dems lost the leadership of the Council by lack of interest in leaseholders. Is that rumour true?

Chair said that is a bit political. There was a general election on the same day as the local elections and there is a debate on whether people mainly voted on general election issues. We can all agree that we want to improve the service to leaseholders. I personally think improvements have been made to the leaseholder service. Martin Green has done a lot to put policies in place that did not exist before. I am sure that improvements can be made.

Cllr McNally said that Southwark has the second most social housing in England. Birmingham has the most. Southwark has about 42,000 tenanted and 13,000 leaseholders. There has been a major audit of the service provided to leaseholders that came up with a fifty point improvement plan and we are about a year into that two year plan. In about a year's time we will see the benefit of the recommended changes.

Public Question – A resident said there had been about £25million of SRB money. About £5million of that went into 56 Southwark Bridge Road and Charlotte Sharman. Way outside the Elephant area. Bankside benefitted more from that SRB money than Rockingham and the surrounding area did. We've got to pull together so there are new opportunities to make this a more fantastic community than it is.

Public Question – A resident asked if the bike hire scheme was still going ahead.

Val Shawcross – The cycle hire scheme will still go ahead with an expected launch on 30 July. Within a year there should be 400 docking stations. People are encouraged to use them.

A resident expressed their dissatisfaction with the consultation and felt that the taxpayer would end up paying for bikes being stolen if the French experience is anything to go by.

Public Question – A resident expressed concern at the lack of follow up information on issues raised at community council meetings.

Chair said that his predecessors had asked officers to return with information to the next meeting when they did not have it at the time when asked. This often happens.

I will do my best that where questions are asked and answers are not immediate that they come to the next meeting or sooner if practicable.

Chair asked those in attendance to complete the circulated questionnaire called Setting the Agenda. This asks how you want the meetings conducted in future, venues, start times, themes. We want these meetings to be useful to you and for your voices to be heard.

10. SETTING THE AGENDA

Chair encouraged everyone to complete the survey and leave it at the back of the room as this is the opportunity to say how you would like future meetings run.

What are the issues for the next twelve months?

One possible example would be the improvement of Borough High Street along the lines of improvements made to the Walworth Road.

Other ideas are welcomed.

A resident suggested the re-development of the Harper Road site. It would be good to keep an eye on that one.

Chair said that a range of general issues / themes were listed on the questionnaire.

A resident asked about what the community council was going to do about the high levels of student accommodation in the area. There are too many students, we want to keep our businesses and local community.

Cllr Morris expressed her agreement and said they spend a lot of time battling with the Planning department who in turn battle with the Mayor's office, who battle with the Government. We would be happy to have a meeting dealing with planning issues.

Cllr McNally said on Great Dover Street they have a thousand students and they had to object to an additional block going up which would have been totally inappropriate. This community council has more students than any other and any other part of London. The matter has also been raised by Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Chair added that we are not anti-student but we want stable communities where people grow up here and stay here. More family housing and long-term dwelling is needed.

A resident asked about the increase in the dog population in the borough. There has been an alarming increase in loose dogs fouling areas.

A resident suggested that where an idea is agreed for a meeting, such as the student issue, that in advance of the meeting some comparison statistics are circulated to inform the discussion. We also need to be aware of the powers of this committee to shape / alter the particular debate. If we don't affect change then we will get dispirited. They requested a discussion on the management of public space.

A resident asked about Borough High Street and why there are so many derelict buildings and strange accounting colleges on what should be our main high street.

Also on transport I would like the whole area looked at regarding transport as it's all interconnected. These things don't seem to be co-ordinated even

though there are groups that exist to do that.

The issue of the closure of Lant Street remains inconvenient to residents. People are leaving because of it and all we are asking for is pedestrian access.

Cllr Morris said that surveys have been done with local residents and we will take those back to the school. We will continue to work on this and we found that it's not just Lant House but other residents who have been affected by the closure. Some parents have also complained about the speed of traffic which is something else we could look at.

A resident suggested looking at issues just across the border, for example in Lambeth, that affect our lives such as large developments. Also to have a positive outcome section of the meeting so we could see what has been achieved rather than just talking.

A resident asked about the Hankey Place road entrance that has caved in following recent works.

A resident asked about alternative routes to behind the Rockingham?
Cllr McNally said the matter had been raised with Transport for London of the possibility of a right turn from the New Kent Road into Meadow Row which seems the most suitable. At the moment there is a negative response but Caroline Pidgeon (GLA) former Councillor of Southwark is taking that up.

A resident asked about the youth in the community. There needs to be action to help them away from crime and into education.

A resident said there needs to be better consultation on planning matters. Notices are ripped down, letters are sent late and it's a big concern.

A resident said we should look at the high unemployment rates in the area which is surprising given the opportunities in the area. Section 106 money should be used to employ local people longer. Would be good to have a detailed look at the issues.

11. COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND ALLOCATION

Orange stickers were distributed prior to the break as part of the Community Fund. This enabled residents to directly choose how some of the fund was allocated.

Councillor McNally and Councillor Morris announced the funds awarded.

They reminded residents that other funding streams were available and those who missed out should discuss alternatives with Members or with Pauline Bonner.

The following community projects were awarded the following amounts under the Borough and Bankside Community Council Fund 2010 – 2011:

Polish Art Festival in Borough - £500

Family Fun Day / Coach trip for Applegarth - £600

Bankside Open Spaces Trust - £1000

Bengali Women's Group - £500

Bermondsey Street Area Partnership - £500

Borough Music School - £600

Colombo Community Sport Centre - £500

David Idowu Foundation - £730

Decima Street TRA - £850

European – African Talent Development Organisation - £600

Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Playroom - £700

Great Lakes African Women's Network - £600

Lant and Bitten TRA - £530

Family Outing (Lawson Estate) - £850

Football Coaching Sessions for Lawson youngstars - £500

Breakfast Service for the homeless - £500

Somali Poetry and Music Cultural Evening - £500

Rockingham TRA Fun Day - £900

Leadership Course / SE1 United - £500

Bankside Fringe Event / Love your street - £1000

Ice Skating at Somerset House - £900

Community Coach Trip (Tabard) - £900

Programme of Events (Trinity Newington) - £500

12. COMMUNITY SAFETY

Sergeant Steve Dutton (Cathedrals Ward Safer Neighbourhoods Team)

Sgt Dutton gave apologies on behalf of Sgt Linklater (Chaucer Ward SNT) who has provided a quick update on Chaucer –

Sgt Linklater has been in contact with Transport for London regarding improving security around the Bricklayers Arms roundabout. If anyone has comments please contact myself or the team.

There will be a series of crime prevention days featuring Smartwater and Cycletags.

There has been a large operation involving the Council concerning the Valentines public house. The squat has been evicted and a closure notice served. Reports of anti-social behaviour have decreased.

There has been a large cycling initiative on Borough High Street issuing tickets for offenders jumping lights and riding on the pavements.

Witnesses are appealed for concerning the death of a Romanian man in Southwark. An ambulance was called on 31 May for a male suffering head injuries, he died on 2 June and the death is being investigated by CID and regarded as unexplained. Please contact us with any information.

Re Cathedrals Ward

Ward Panel was held on 8 June and the priorities were set as:

Anti-social behaviour in Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park by East Europeans. We have held visitors days for anyone wishing to provide statements/information.

Another good result recently involved a resident near the Elephant & Castle who took photos of a van they believed was involved in drug dealing. The photos were circulated to us and the van was stopped. It contained £500 in cash and a quantity of crack cocaine was found. Two individuals are now in custody awaiting trial.

At the last community council there was an issue discussed on dangerous dogs and the seizure of two dogs. They were pit bull terriers although the owner is disputing that and it's going to trial on 14 July. If anyone has information on dangerous dogs please let us know.

Public Question – A resident asked about sessions involving bicycles and Heavy Goods Vehicles. These were useful and more would be good.

Sgt Dutton said they were trying to get as many as possible.

Public Question – A resident raised the matter of people urinating in a phone booth and street drinking and being told by an officer that it wasn't in their area. He said the Police need to be working cross border if they see a crime.

Sgt Dutton said they do a lot of cross border work although we are responsible for an area.

Public Question – A resident asked at what point could a resident call the Police about street drinkers.

Sgt Dutton said this could be raised at a ward panel or they could call the local Police team if they had concerns about something. Just drinking is ok but if there are related anti-social aspects then residents may contact the local Police.

13. SOUTHWARK ACTIVE CITIZENS HUB

Natasha Plaister explained that they work to support active citizens. That is people who come to community councils, take part in consultations, volunteer, become trustees and school governors or want to lobby to improve things in their community. We run a programme of free training. Details of the courses for the year ahead have been circulated. We also produce information and resources for people and a range of how to guides, if you cannot get along to the training. We are based in Hannibal House, Elephant & Castle if you want to come and see us.

For further information or advice please contact us

Tel. 020 7703 4205

Email: getactive@volunteercentres.org.uk

Web: www.volunteercentres.org.uk

14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

No additional public questions

15. MEMBERS' DECISIONS

PARKING DECISION

The following local parking schemes were approved subject to the

outcome of any necessary statutory procedures:

County Street – Agreed as on paper

West Square - Members said it is agreed on the condition that wardens monitor and enforce it.

SCHOOL GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

That Mr Bhavesh Patel be appointed to the role of Governor at Saint Joseph's Catholic Primary School.

16. OTHER

Chair explained that there would be an additional community council meeting taking place on 20 July 2010.

Simon Hughes MP arrived and spoke to the meeting –

He said that one particular issue of relevance to residents was that of Borough High Street. His view having discussed it with lots of people is that we need to see if there's an opportunity to take advantage of all the work that's been done to end up with a one way system that would produce much wider pavements, a much more pleasant street and less traffic fumes. To gain a consensus perhaps we could do it on a trial period of maybe six months / a year once the work has been completed. We should be brave enough to try out and compare with the two-way Borough High Street. It would involve lots of agencies and TfL. It should be more of a High Street that would bring people to shop here and spend time here rather than elsewhere, like it used to be. The Council needs to have a more pro-active policy with its planning and letting of shops, not just betting shops or estate agents. There should be a range of traders that would bring people here.

Chair added that we should have a debate on that and establish what the community would like to see.

It was also added that there were gardening materials from the Chelsea flower show available that week via growingsouthwark.org

CHAIR:

DATED: