



CAMBERWELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Camberwell Community Council held on Wednesday 2 February 2011 at 6.00 pm at The Blue Elephant Theatre, 59A Bethwin Rd, London, SE5 0XT

PRESENT: Councillor Norma Gibbes (Chair)
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Kevin Ahern
Councillor Stephen Govier
Councillor Peter John
Councillor the Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole
Councillor Veronica Ward

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Richard Livingstone

OFFICER SUPPORT: Margaret O'Brien, Head of Housing Management
David Franklin, Licensing Officer
Sally Crew, Group manager policy and programmes
Sheena Starrett, Neighbourhood Coordinator
Mark Whitehouse, Community council development officer
Alexa Coates, Principal Constitutional Officer

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle opened the meeting and took the chair for the duration of the meeting as the chair had given apologies for lateness. Cllr Dixon-Fyle welcomed, members of the public, councillors and officers to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Wingfield and apologies for lateness were received from Councillors: Gibbes, John and Ahern.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

5. MINUTES

The decision to agree the minutes was deferred until the next meeting.

6. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. PUBLIC QUESTION RESPONSES

Members noted the responses to written questions submitted at the meeting held on 7 December 2010.

8. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chair made the following community announcements:

LGBT History Month

A series of events for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender history month will be running throughout February. Programmes for the events were available at the meeting.

Southwark Legal Advice Network

Sally Causer explained the work of the organisation and their aim to increase access to good quality advice for residents of the borough. Sally explained that much of their focus was currently on financial inclusion and that they were organising a pilot, starting in Bermondsey, to assist residents to get the most out of Home Search.

9. ARTS, CULTURE AND THE OLYMPICS

The chair explained that the theme of the meeting was arts, culture and the Olympics and that a film by the Blue Elephant who were hosting the event would be shown followed by a presentation by Cllr Ward, cabinet member for culture, leisure, sport and the Olympics.

9.1 FILM PRESENTATION - THE BLUE ELEPHANT

Stuart Cox from the Blue Elephant theatre, where the meeting was held, introduced a film

about 'A Camberwell Carol', a community play funded by the Camberwell community council fund involving members of the local community.

Stuart explained that the theatre needed to find new sources of funding to remain open and continue delivering projects of this kind.

9.2 SOUTHWARK AND THE OLYMPICS

Cllr Ward, cabinet member for culture, leisure, sport and the Olympics, gave a presentation of Southwark's preparations for the Olympics, highlighting some key web addresses:

Main Website: www.london2012.com

Volunteering: www.london2012.com/get-involved/volunteer

Paralympic: www.london2012.com/games/paralympic

School: www.getset.london2012.com/en/home

Cllr Ward explained Southwark's vision for the Olympics and how there would be opportunities to engage with young people in the borough, encourage people to be healthier and attract more people to the area, for example, the South Bank would be dressed as the arts quarter for the Olympics. The council wanted to build an Olympic legacy and an Olympic Board had been established to co-ordinate the preparations for 2012. Cllr Ward explained the need for volunteers who would have a role in drawing visitors to other parts of the borough such as: the South London Gallery in Camberwell, the velodrome in Herne Hill and the Dulwich Picture Gallery.

Cllr Dixon-Fyle, cabinet member for health and adult social care added that the council would be organising three high profile events designed to make use of parks and open spaces and to encourage people to get active in different ways.

Cllr Ward took questions from the floor relating to: opportunities for people with learning difficulties to volunteer, transport to the games, current funding for activities such as t'ai chi. In response Cllr Ward explained that volunteering opportunities would be open to all, that she would look into transport provision in terms of getting to the games and that she would take specific details on the t'ai chi class which had been cancelled due to funding issues to ascertain if this funding came from the council or other sources.

Valerie Shawcross, member of the London Assembly for Lambeth and Southwark, was in attendance and updated the meeting on the Herne Hill velodrome. A velodrome trust had been established and Val explained that residents had been extremely supportive. Investment was required to refurbish the facility. Val explained that the refurbishment was not to host competitive events as the facility no longer conformed to the standards required for competition events but that the facility would mainly be used for training purposes and that British Cycling was keen for the velodrome to be used as a training base for young people.

Val also provided an update on the South London Line, explaining that it would not be retained and the money used on the line would be used to complete the East London Line extension. Network Rail would consult on what the track should be used for and services in the future. TfL would support plans for long distance services to stop at Denmark Hill

and the accessibility works would commence soon at the station.

10. UPDATE ON FAIRER FUTURE FOR ALL

Cllr Livingstone, cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety attended the meeting to give an update on the budget consultation which the community council had been involved with in November. Cllr Livingstone explained that there was a consultation report available which outlined the key results from the consultation including an overview of the views of residents who attended the community council meeting in November. Cllr Livingstone explained the next steps in the budget process: the draft budget was available on the council website alongside a budget guide, cabinet would consider the draft budget on the 8 February before making its final recommendation to council assembly. The final decision would be taken by council assembly on 22 February.

Cllr Livingstone explained that the cabinet was aiming for a council tax freeze and a freeze on the salaries of most staff. A number of posts would be deleted at the council and it was estimated that around 150 staff would lose their jobs.

Cllr Livingstone took questions on how the cuts would affect people with learning disabilities, the impact on luncheon clubs and performance related pay for officers. In response Cllr Livingstone explained that the council had to balance how the cuts would be made, adult social care as a service would make savings of around 20% over three years where some services were facing savings of 30%. He also explained that the council would try and retain the luncheon clubs but these would need to be run differently and a model would be developed to ensure costs were sensible. The cabinet was seeking to create a transitional fund for the voluntary sector of £1 million to assist the sector in adjusting to the challenges of the budget constraints. This would reduce to £500,000 in year 2 and be eliminated in year 3. Cllr Livingstone also explained that performance related pay was not a bonus system but this would be looked at by cabinet members.

Cllr Dixon-Fyle, cabinet member for health and adult social care added that a borough wide view would be taken on the luncheon clubs and the aim was to keep three in the borough.

Cllr Peter John, leader of the council, explained that the council would have to work more efficiently in the future and look for opportunities to be innovative including working with neighbouring boroughs to reduce costs. He added that the cabinet was working to introduce a fund for young people to assist in dealing with issues such as: youth unemployment, Education Maintenance Allowance, and the increasing tuition fees.

11. SEX ESTABLISHMENTS LICENSING POLICY

David Franklin, Team Leader Licensing, Licensing legislation in relating to licences for sex establishments had changed. He explained that the council had developed a draft policy outlining the criteria for sex establishments and that a questionnaire was available for residents to comment on the draft proposals. David was also seeking views on whether there were any locations in the area which might be suitable for such establishments.

David took questions relating to: what type of conditions might be attached to licences for sex establishments and how would these be enforced. David explained that conditions might include: blacked out windows, certain signage, inspection regimes and vetting of employees. These conditions would be enforced through regular inspections of premises.

12. TRANSPORT PLAN CONSULTATION

Sally Crew, from Planning and Transport, explained that the transport plan was being reviewed and refreshed. The transport plan identified ways to improve travel in the Borough the plan looked at the council's short term plan for the next 3 years and the longer term strategy for the next 20 years. Sally highlighted that Southwark has one of the highest levels of bus use in London, but a high rate of cycle collisions.

Sally invited residents to get involved in the consultation by completing a questionnaire which was also available on the council's website.

Residents asked questions relating to the number of cycle collisions which had occurred on the new cycle superhighways, space for wheelchair users on buses, whether fixed penalties could be issued to cyclists who did not follow the highway code, whether there was specific information on the age of cyclists who caused the majority of accidents and the pressure on buses at school closing times. Residents also complained about the number of pot holes in roads especially where water collected on pedestrian ramps and a resident asked a specific question relating to Southampton Way.

In response Sally stated that Southwark Bridge Road was the only part of the borough with a cycle superhighway and statistics needed to be developed over 3 years to establish accident trends. The issue of space for wheelchair users had been raised with TfL and the bus operators as it was their responsibility. Sally acknowledged that some cyclists did cause accidents by not following the highway code and that the council was interested in the 'share the road' initiative which promotes respectful use of the road. Sally stated that statistics showed that the majority of cyclist collisions involved male commuters aged between 25-45 years. On the pressures caused by school closing times, Sally explained that TfL does try and co-ordinate transport at these times of high demand. Sally explained that pot holes were the responsibility of the road engineers who had to prioritise how to invest in the area. Sally suggested inviting the engineers to a future meeting of the community council. Sally would talk to the resident about the specific issue at Southampton Way outside of the meeting.

Valerie Shawcross, AM, explained the London Assembly Transport Committee, which she chairs, had reviewed wheelchair access on buses and had found that the buses do have enough space but that better driver management of that space is required and that TfL needs to improve this.

13. HOUSING - YOUR SERVICE YOUR CHOICE

Margaret O'Brien, Head of Housing Management, gave a presentation on the Housing

Service 'Your Service Your Choice' and the pressures on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). Margaret explained the HRA was a ring fenced budget generated through government grants and income from rents which could only be spent on housing services. A rent rise of 7.08% had been agreed by the cabinet and this was higher than inflation. The council had approximately £300 million available to spend on housing and this was spent on things like: repaying debts, housing service, environmental services such as community safety, administration of home ownership schemes such as 'right to buy', area management – local housing offices, repairs and asset management and support services for example, human resource, IT support, finance and the call centre.

Margaret explained that higher levels of savings were required to fund investments. Capital investment was needed for: housing regeneration projects in the borough, improvements to make homes 'decent' and contingency for emergency events.

In this financial context Margaret explained that the council would try to: protect frontline services and implement all the findings of the overview and scrutiny review into the housing repairs service. The service would try to deliver more from the money available and would seek to engage with residents more in the future in budget and contract management.

In response to questions Margaret explained that there were plans to build at Queens Road Peckham but the prospects for developments everywhere were affected by balancing the availability of grant and private sector funding.

14. SOUTH LONDON AND MAUDSLEY CHARITABLE FUNDS

Paul Mitchell Director of the South London Maudsley (SLaM) Charitable Funds introduced Joe Morris the architect working on a proposal for the development of the site. Before Joe began his presentation the chair explained to councillors on the community council that the final application may be considered by the community council and therefore in order to take part in that decision members should not express a particular view on the development.

Joe explained the proposals for the site and sought residents feedback before SLaM Charitable Funds submitted their planning application to the council.

15. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Some young people attending the meeting made comments relating to the impact of the budget proposals on young people and the potential effect of cutting grants to cultural activities such as the Blue Elephant and community services such as youth centres.

In response Cllr John, leader of the council, stated the protecting services for young people was a priority and that the cabinet aimed to create a fund to assist young people following the loss of EMA and the rise of tuition fees.

The following public questions were submitted in writing:

What was the decision on the implementation of the CPZ for Lucas Gardens? If it is going ahead when will it be going live?

Why has nothing been done about the water being splashed over pedestrians at the 345 bus stop Denmark Hill, outside Peacocks?

Who decided the police would no longer report to the community council?

Why was the new arrangement of a police surgery prior to the community council not advertised?

Who failed to proof read the Camberwell Leisure Centre re-opening flyer declaring 24 February to be a Monday?

Why can't the community council agenda and minutes be folded in half making huge postal savings?

16. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS REPORT

Resolved

That the following local parking amendments be agreed subject to the outcome of any necessary statutory procedures:

- Camberwell Grove – installation of two disabled persons (blue badge) parking bays
- Brisbane Street - installation of one disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay

The meeting ended at 8.50 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: