BOROUGH AND BANKSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Borough and Bankside Community Council held on Wednesday 9 March 2011 at 7.00 pm at Charles Dickens School, Toulmin Street, London SE1 1QP

PRESENT:
Councillor Poddy Clark (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Claire Hickson
Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Geoffrey Thornton

OFFICER SUPPORT:
Pauline Bonner (Neighbourhood Co-ordinator)
Lee Griffiths (Community Council Development Officer)
Tim Murtagh (Constitutional Officer)

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME
The chair welcomed councillors, members of the public and officers to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES
Apologies for absence were received from Councillor David Noakes (Chair) and Councillor Tim McNally.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS
There were none.

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT
There were none.
5. MINUTES

That the minutes of the meeting held on 3 February 2011 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting, and signed by the chair.

6. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chair announced that the Community Council Fund 2011/12 would have £15,000 again this year. The application process would open in April 2011 and ideas were welcome. The maximum available per application was £1,000. The deadline would be in May. Further information available on the council website or via councillors.

Sylvia Wachuku–King from Blackfriars Settlement announced that the community engagement service and Southwark Council would be discussing the future of Southwark at Tabard Community Hall, 11am – 1pm on 15 March 2011. The discussion would include local involvement in decision making and in particular at Council Assembly.

Marion Marples announced that the film club would be meeting on Monday 14 March at Tate Modern. The lecture ‘There is no Spring without St. George’ England’s patron saint in the folk traditions of Europe and beyond, would take place at London South Bank University on 12 May 2011, 6pm – 8pm.

To follow up last year’s successful temporary orchard, built by over one hundred volunteers, a medicinal garden was being planned. The garden project would be done in conjunction with King’s College. Suitable sites were being considered.

Residents and Members commented on the sad recent passing of Bill Begbie. A service would be held at St. Georges on 21 March at 2pm. Councillor Morris added that local resident Brenda had also recently passed away. Both Bill and Brenda had been frequent attendees of the community council over the years.

The chair reminded residents of the importance of completing the National Census as this would have an impact on Southwark’s funding and services. Assistance was available for those who needed it, including those who dwell in communal buildings.

The chair explained that the Democracy Commission had been looking at how to engage people more in the decision making process. There was an opportunity for residents to have an input at full Council via questions and the meetings would be themed. On 6 April 2011, the theme would be the Future of Southwark - developing our plan for the Borough. See www.southwark.gov.uk/democracy
8. YOUR STREETS: HAVE YOUR SAY

David Farnham (Public Realm Design Quality Manager) explained that he was responsible for setting out standards on street design and improving the approach and consistency. Streets had a number of demands and functions which were not always complementary and can be competing. It was vital to get feedback from residents so their views could be inputted to the streetscape.

Trees had a range of benefits including improving the environment but streets were hostile to trees and tree roots could often damage pavements. Small tree pits reflect the lack of space available but do not allow trees to flourish. There were special soils available to assist trees living in urban areas.

David explained that shared surfaces was a design philosophy to do with making streets more people friendly. There were a number of ways of doing that. Removing signs and markings could give clues to drivers that it was a social space. Local examples included Walworth Road where footways and roads have been levelled in parts which encouraged drivers to slow down.

David asked a series of set questions and Lee Griffiths noted the results of the hand count for officers to input to the process.

9. DICKENS MEMORIAL - 200TH ANNIVERSARY

Helen Firminger (Bankside Open Spaces Trust) explained that she was speaking on behalf of a small collective called, Dickens in the Borough. The group was working on plans to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the birth of Charles Dickens in February 2012.

In Bankside there was great affection for the author and his books. Charles Dickens lived in Lant Street and his works were reflected in the names of parks and streets as well as having an impact on the lives of residents. There will be international celebrations in America and France. Locally there will be a monument to Dickens’ works. He did not want a statue but there should be a celebration of his contribution to society, literature and art. Something that celebrated the local connection.

£17,000 of Cleaner, Greener, Safer money would go towards the project but more was needed. In terms of design there would hopefully be a competition in the Autumn. It should be something that people respond to on many levels including visitors from abroad. Contact: www.dickens2012.org or local councillors.

10. AIR QUALITY IN SOUTHWARK

Dipesh Patel (Principal Enforcement Officer) drew resident’s attention to maps in libraries that cover emissions in the area. There are four objectives in the strategy:
- To reduce emissions from vehicles
- To reduce emissions from fixed plant (boilers supplying power to offices estates)
- To reduce emissions from new developments
- To protect public health

There were 20 measures in the action plan that the Council was keen to hear local views on. Among these were plans to ask large vehicle drivers to stop their engines idling unnecessarily.
Contact: dipesh.patel@southwark.gov.uk or Tel. 020 525 5723

11. FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY PROJECTS - WHAT'S AVAILABLE AND HOW TO APPLY

Deborah Hayman (Community Action Southwark [CAS]) gave an overview on possible funding for local residents / groups.

CAS became the Council for Voluntary Services for Southwark in 2008. It equips Southwark’s voluntary organisations and community groups with the tools and information needed to make a difference in the community. CAS provides training and one-to-one support on a wide range of topics. It produces regular bulletins that advise of funding opportunities.

Applicants should read the eligibility criteria, get to know the funder and get the whole committee involved. Applications should also match the budget on offer and detail what the funding request consisted of so the funder was very clear. Do not apply for something unrealistic or beyond your organisation’s capacity to carry out. Groups should also consider gift aid on the HM Revenue & Customs website: www.hmrc.gov.uk

Local businesses are often good sources of funding along with the Rowntree Trust and Tudor Trust give out a lot of money. Partnerships jointly with other groups were sometimes a practical way of getting the funding needed.
See also:
www.fundingcentral.org.uk
www.capitalcf.org.uk
www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_reaching_communities

Jim Wintour and Camilla McGibbon (United St. Saviours) explained that their local charity was doubling the amount given out in 2011/12 compared with two years ago due to the current economic climate. A significant amount of money was available made up of small grants of up to £5,000. http://www.ustsc.org.uk

Community Action Southwark, 131 Camberwell Road, London SE5 0HF
Email: info@casouthwark.org.uk Tel. 020 7358 7020

The chair thanked Pauline Bonner and Lee Griffiths for putting together an information paper on funding issues.

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

In response to a question about the future of Borough High Street (BHS) and problem
scaffolding, Councillor Morris said that the meeting about the future of BHS had gone ahead but neither Transport for London (TfL) or King’s College had attended. Those meetings were chaired by Simon Hughes MP and Members were in the process of going to meet the senior people at TfL and King’s College to tackle it that way. Councillor Hickson said that Val Shawcross (London Assembly) had also been chasing TfL on the issue. The chair said Members would try and get an update for the next community council meeting.

A resident highlighted the excellent work of Dave Taylor and the local street leader scheme which was now under threat. The chair said members would look into that and come back on it.

A resident asked if something could be done about removing the electric lights that were damaging local trees, as responsibility for the lights was not clear.

The chair said there were written questions on free car parks in the Borough and issues on Borough High Street. These would be responded to at the next meeting. There would also be a written response on section 106 and the Shard included in the minutes.

13. SCHOOL GOVERNOR DECISIONS

Executive Function

RESOLVED:

That Mr John Plowman be re-appointed as school governor for Charlotte Sharman Foundation Primary School.

The meeting ended at 9.05pm

CHAIR:

DATED: