



DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Dulwich Community Council held on Tuesday 27 November 2012 at 7.00 pm at James Allen's Girls' School, 144 East Dulwich Grove, London SE22 8TE

PRESENT: Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton (Chair)
Councillor Michael Mitchell (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Toby Eckersley
Councillor Helen Hayes
Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Andy Simmons

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Renata Hamvas (Peckham Rye ward)

OFFICER SUPPORT: Zoe Bulmer (Corporate Complaints Team)
Ann Cochrane (Organisational Development Team)
Sam Fowler (Southwark Schools for the Future)
Lorna Fraser (Organisational Development Team)
Fitzroy Lewis (Community Engagement Team)
Gerald Gohler (Constitutional Team)

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The chair welcomed councillors, members of the public and officers to the meeting, and thanked the James Allen's Girls' School Gospel Choir for their performance before the start of the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence from Councillor James Barber, and for lateness from Councillors Michael Mitchell and Lewis Robinson.

3. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

The chair announced she would alter the running order of the agenda items, swapping items 7 and 8, and items 11 and 12.

The chair gave notice of the supplemental agenda circulated prior to the meeting, which included a report on item 16 "Community Council Fund 2012/2013".

4. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Members made the following declarations in relation to the agenda items below:

11. Local Parking Amendments

Councillor Andy Simmons, non-pecuniary, as he lives close to the location of the two proposed disabled parking bays.

16. Community Council Fund 2012/13

Councillor Lewis Robinson, pecuniary, as he is a board member of the Crystal Palace Community Trust which manages the Kingswood Community Shop.

5. MINUTES

The community council heard a comment from the floor regarding the accuracy of the minutes, and pertaining to the "deputations/petitions" item at the previous meeting. The chair thanked the resident for their comment.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2012 be agreed as a correct record of that meeting and signed by the chair.

6. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting heard from Marion Gibbs, Headmistress at James Allen's Girls' School (JAGS), who welcomed the community council to the school, and informed the meeting of some of the activities, which took place at the school, including sports event and the choir. The school's aim was to educate young, active citizens, and it wanted to get all parts of the community involved. The school was also still fundraising for the community music centre, but were getting close to being able to build it. Once built the centre would be open to all in the community. The chair thanked JAGS for hosting the meeting.

Christmas Cracker Event

Fitzroy Lewis, Community Council Development Officer, announced that the Christmas Cracker event would be happening on Saturday 1 December 2012 from 10am until 5pm in Northcross Road and Lordship Lane. Councillor Jonathan Mitchell added that the event would include carol singing, food and refreshments, music, prizes for children and

entertainment. There were different-size posters available for attendees to take away and to display in their properties, in order to spread the word about the event. The idea was to support local businesses in Dulwich.

Southwark Civic Awards

Fitzroy informed the meeting that the nomination process for next year's Southwark Civic Awards was now open, and that forms were available from him and on-line. The deadline for nominations was Thursday 31 January 2013. For more information see: <http://www.southwarkcivicassociation.org/>

Community Council Fund Launch

Fitzroy informed the meeting that the application process for the 2013/14 round of the Community Council Fund had been launched, and that application forms were available at the back of the hall. The deadline for applications was Friday 14 December 2012 at 12noon. For more information see: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200047/grants_and_funding/392/community_council_fund

Cleaner Greener Safer Fund

Fitzroy explained that the Cleaner Greener Safer Fund application process for 2013/14 was still open until Friday 30 November 2012. For more information see: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200256/cleaner_greener_safer, or contact: Tel: 020 7525 1259, or cgs@southwark.gov.uk

Corporate Complaints Policy consultation

Zoe Bulmer, from Southwark's Customer Resolution Team, informed the meeting that the proposals for the council's new corporate complaints policy were out for consultation. Part of the proposals was replacing the current three-stage model with a two-stage model. The deadline for responses to the consultation was Friday 1 February 2013 at 5pm.

For further information, please see:

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/file/7841/consultation_paper%20

7. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

RESOLVED:

That the deputation from the Youth Learning Network be heard.

The meeting heard a deputation from the Youth Learning Network, which included a clip from a DVD outlining the activities of the group. Kwame Ocloo from the group told the meeting that they were in need of premises, out of which they could operate, as they had to vacate their current home at Goose Green. The group also supported the current campaign to ensure a community use for the Dulwich hospital site. He appealed to anyone who would know about premises for them to use.

The chair thanked the group for attending and suggested they make links with some of the groups in attendance at the meeting. She encouraged attendees to contact the group, if they knew of suitable venues.

8. YOUNG PEOPLE THEME ITEMS

Millwall Football Club

Richard White from Millwall Football Club, informed the meeting that the club had run Friday night football sessions at JAGS for the last 7 to 8 years, and thanked the school for making the space available. Funding had been secured to continue running the sessions. Nick from Millwall FC said he had started out as a participant in the programme, but was now employed as part of the coaching programme which Millwall FC was funding. Jamie, a current participant in the sessions, told the meeting that the sessions provided great opportunities for young people, including going on to learning coaching.

Red Thread Youth Club

John Poyton from the Red Thread Youth Club informed the meeting that the club had been started 17 years ago by parents, and that it was involved in many projects, for example sessions at the Paxton Green Clinic which offered specialised services for young people, such as skin, diet, mental and sexual health advice, and advice on substance abuse. Following on from the success of their work at the Paxton Green practice, King's A&E department had asked the group to deliver a young people's violence project. The group worked hand in hand with other providers. Tim, a youth worker from the project, explained that the group was operating mainly out of the Greendale scouts' hut. This provided a safe place for young people to meet and was open to all young people. Various activities were on offer: games, art workshops and cafe facilities. He also thanked JAGS for offering up a space to run the group's arts workshop, and drop-in lunchtime support. www.redthread.org.uk

NOTE: At this point, Councillor Michael Mitchell joined the meeting.

Dulwich Youth Community Council

Representatives from the Dulwich Youth Community Council reported back on the issues the Youth Community Council had identified in their area:

- Insufficiently frequent P13 and P4 buses
- Personal safety concerns

The youth community council proposed the following measures address these issues, and to make things better in general for young people in the area:

- Street lighting should be improved
- Self-defence classes and personal alarms should be offered
- Girls sports clubs for beginners' and other levels were needed. These should be accessible and not intimidating.
- The library should be better advertised, and more events and tuition should be offered there
- Courses for example workshops in public speaking and independent living skills such as cookery, should be offered

- The area needed free, larger events which brought the community together, like the Lambeth country show

NOTE: At this point, Councillor Lewis Robinson joined the meeting.

The representative of the Youth Community Council informed the meeting that they met every second Tuesday at the Belair Recreation Centre.

The meeting heard a comment from the floor that there were larger scale events happening in the area, like the Christmas cracker event. There would also be an event in the spring, and young people should be involved in planning this. In response to a question from the floor about the closure of the youth club at Dulwich Grove Community Centre, the chair said that councillors had tried to get other providers to come to the area, like Red Thread and Millwall FC, and were providing information to groups on where to find funding. The meeting heard that reduced cost exercise classes were offered by Fusion, the company which ran the council's leisure centres.

The chair informed the meeting that a question about bus service provision in the south of the borough would be put at the Council Assembly meeting the following evening, and advised the Youth Community Council to put in a Cleaner Greener Safer bid. The meeting also heard that East Dulwich Safer Neighbourhoods Team had free personal alarms to give out.

Radio King Online

William Akon from the organisation told the meeting that the station had been on the air online since 2009, and that it got a large number of hits from around the world, due to the specialised content which included music and speech, such as RKO Question Time and radio drama. Based at Kingswood House, the organisation was keen to see the building turned into an arts and performing arts space. The organisation also ran courses for young people to learn radio skills such as editing, presenting, radio production and public speaking at key stage 3. There was much uptake of this by schools all over South London. In answer to a question, William said that the organisation could produce vox pops for a future Community Council meeting. The meeting heard that the organisation could also apply for funding from the Community Council Fund.

Safer Roads to school

Laurie Johnston informed the meeting that the organisation had been born out of the campaign to retain the crossing patrols in East Dulwich Grove. Since securing the temporary continuation of the crossing patrols, the group had also taken part in other actions such as getting Olympic athletes involved in local road traffic awareness events at Alleyn's playing field. They were currently campaigning for better lighting in Greendale, putting together a "safer routes to school" map to include Bessemer Grange, and gearing up for a renewed campaign for the crossing patrols to be retained as funding would run out in 2014.

In answer to questions and comments from the floor, the representatives of the group responded that they had contacted all schools in Village and College wards. They were looking to expand their activities to East Dulwich ward, and were happy to raise awareness about cycling on pavements.

The meeting also heard that councillors would mention the group's work at the next evening's Council Assembly meeting, and that Southwark offered free cycle proficiency courses.

The chair thanked all the presenters for attending, and encouraged them to speak to each other and network during the break.

9. SOUTHWARK COUNCIL APPRENTICE SCHEME

Lorna Fraser, from the council's Organisational Development Team, spoke to the meeting about the council's apprenticeship scheme. She outlined the scheme's benefits, which provided apprentices with an opportunity to gain both work-based skills and valuable qualifications while earning a wage. The scheme provided excellent work experience – on the job training with a competitive salary; London Living Wage. It also provided nationally recognised qualifications.

Successful applicants would be given a contract of employment for a minimum of 12 months with placements in the council or its partners and contractors. Apprentices also received support from central apprenticeship team, line managers and learning provider assessors and tutors, as well as coaching and mentoring. Lorna explained that the council was committed to the apprenticeship scheme, which was very successful. Since the scheme began in 2005, 197 apprentices had started, 144 of which had completed the full framework qualification. 46 apprentices were currently on the scheme.

Lorna went on to explain that this year, there were new apprenticeship opportunities in civil engineering, surveying and with the community wardens. Recruitment would start in April 2013, with adverts being placed on the council website, posters in libraries, schools/colleges, job centres, youth service, tenant & resident halls, one-stop shops and community centres. Further information at: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200432/apprenticeships/2589/apprenticeship_scheme

Ann Cochrane, from the council's Organisational Development Team, announced that the council's youth fund, Southwark's university scholarship programme, was open for people to register their interest by 16 Jan 2013. Further information at: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/100005/education_and_learning/2300/southwark_scholarship_scheme

10. WELCOME TO THE NEW BOROUGH COMMANDER

The chair welcomed the new borough commander, Chief Superintendent John Sutherland.

Chief Superintendent Sutherland told the meeting that he had come from Camden, but had worked in the borough in the 1990s, and that his first impression of Southwark, and of his fellow police officers, councillors, council officers and the residents, had been overwhelmingly positive. Violent crime and burglaries had gone down in the last five years, but there were challenges in terms of street crime and crime involving young people. He outlined that the Met needed to make substantial savings in the next two and a half years, about half a billion pounds, and that the biggest costs to the Met were salaries and buildings. Retaining frontline services was, however, a priority.

Responding to questions by councillors about the Kingswood base at Seeley Drive, the Chief Superintendent said that there were no plans to close this base, and that his understanding was that there would be no changes to it before 2014. The teams currently based at Seeley Drive would remain there. In 2014, there could be a review and the Met in Southwark would make the case for keeping it. The final decision, however, rested with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC). As borough commander, he would be invited to comment on whether the building was economically viable and operationally necessary. He explained that there would be no point in having the building as a base, if it was not an operational base.

There was a discussion about the existing, and alternative, sites for a police station in East Dulwich, and about how these could be secured. The meeting also heard that councillors received calls from victims of crime, and that the police would have a duty to look after the victims of crime under EU and British law in future.

Responding to questions by councillors about East Dulwich police station, Chief Superintendent Sutherland said that he understood that residents wanted a reassuring presence in their area, and that the final decision about East Dulwich police station had not been taken. He welcomed the creative approaches discussed, but said that the station was economically unaffordable and operationally less essential than other buildings. There were many costs which were not immediately obvious, such as installing secure IT systems and physical security measures, which increased the running costs and fitting out of alternative buildings. The footfall at East Dulwich police station was very low, and the building was too big for the number of officers located there, compared with other locations in the borough. He went on to say that he was happy to relay the message that councillors would try to find the funding if a new site could be secured quickly. He did not want to raise expectations, as the East Dulwich police station was likely to go.

Responding to further comments by councillors, Chief Superintendent Sutherland explained that there were no moves away from ward-based policing. The new policing model would be based on neighbourhoods with ward-based teams. There would be named, identifiable officers.

The meeting heard that confidence in the police was dipping, and that it would continue to do so because of a lack of communication, and due to staffing being below the allocation levels. There was some support for the plans to use the community hospital site as a location for a new police station, and concerns were raised about the loss of front desk facilities in East Dulwich, which would lead to crime going unreported in East Dulwich ward and beyond.

Chief Superintendent Sutherland responded that there were now more ways of contacting the police than going to a police station. The police could also be contacted via the "101" number and online. There was also Operation Promote, under which any victim of any crime, could meet an officer face to face at a place of their choosing. Every borough would have at least one 24hr counter and probably two others with more limited hours.

Responding to questions from the floor, Chief Superintendent Sutherland explained that he did not have figures to hand for a cost per officer, but would be able to get these in due course. He confirmed Seeley Drive was secure both physically and in terms of IT, and went on to explain that each of the 32 borough commanders had engaged the senior

stakeholders, such as MPs, chief executives and directors of councils, seeking their views on building disposals and public access. This exercise was now completed and the feedback would be presented to MOPAC before Christmas, followed by a period of public consultation in the new year, and a decision by MOPAC before the new financial year. The Met's estate was the responsibility of MOPAC, and ultimately the Deputy Mayor for Policing.

The chair thanked Chief Superintendent Sutherland for attending.

11. SCHOOL PLACES / BULGE CLASSES PRESENTATION

Sam Fowler, Project Director at Southwark Schools for the Future, informed the meeting that there was pressure on primary school places in the borough and across London. There was an identified need in the Dulwich area now, and over the next two to three years. Currently this was met by bulge classes, and temporary expansions would be put in place for 2013/14, while moving forward with permanent expansions in the long term. Dulwich was unique because of the underlying pressure on school places, and because it had smaller community schools and academies which were spread out geographically. They therefore could only provide limited response to this pressure. There was a long list of expansion proposals in a report to cabinet which could be found on the Southwark website. Sam's team were working with the schools to explore the options for expansion in the area: Dulwich Hamlet, Dulwich Village and Langbourne, the latter of which was ready for expansion. Bessemer Grange School was also looking to take an expansion class, and was a candidate for possible expansion.

Responding to questions from residents and councillors, Sam explained that discussions with the NHS had taken place about the possibility of locating a school on the site of the Dulwich hospital with the NHS. He was aware of a proposal to free school on the site. Budgets required for the different options were being put together, and worked up into viable programmes. The outcomes of studies would be reported to the cabinet member responsible by January/February 2013, while funding would be coming through from the Department for Education in January 2013.

In answer to questions by councillors, Sam explained Southwark had the option of building a new school through a tendering process, which could include the Dulwich Hospital site, but the financial implications were significant and regard had to be had to best value when delivering school places. In terms of Langbourne School, the designers had been appointed, and the temporary expansion from September 2013 should be followed by a permanent expansion hopefully in 2014, or 2015. This permanent expansion would be progressed and was likely to happen, as even the expansion of Langbourne itself would not meet the need for school places in the area.

Sam explained that there was an expectation that part of the need for places would be met by free schools. Southwark were under an obligation to provide a sufficient amount of school places in the right localities, and would be working with proposers of free schools, among others, to make sure this was achieved.

Councillors asked to be kept better informed about progress with the expansion programme.

12. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS

At this point, Councillor Andy Simmons left the room.

Note: This is an executive function

Members considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the following local parking amendments, detailed in the appendices to the report, be approved for implementation subject to the outcome of any necessary statutory procedures:

- the installation of two disabled persons parking (blue badge) bays in Woodwarde Road at the locations set out in the report.

Councillor Andy Simmons rejoined the meeting.

13. CYCLE PERMEABILITY SCHEME

Members considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the following comments be fed back to officers:

1. Councillors expressed concerns about the proposals for Etherow Street. This was an important junction where school children, parents with prams and other pedestrians crossed. The raised table was important, and the scheme as proposed in the report was dangerous. Councillors asked for this scheme to be reconsidered.
2. Councillors agreed with the other Dulwich schemes listed in the report.

14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were none.

15. COMMUNITY COUNCIL QUESTION TO COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

The community council considered whether to submit a question to the next Council Assembly meeting and agreed the following:

RESOLVED:

“In view of the concern in Dulwich about the effectiveness of the new arrangements for

determining planning applications, would the chair of Planning Committee advise whether the current system will be reviewed, and whether consideration will be given to holding planning sub-committee meetings at the new council offices at Queens Road Peckham, or at other venues in the south of the borough?"

16. COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND 2012/13

Note: This is an executive function

At this point Councillor Lewis Robinson withdrew from the meeting.

Members considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the following allocations of community council funding for the following applications be approved:

Organisation	Project	Amount
Creative Modern CIC in assoc with Herne Hill Forum	Dance Off Christmas	£ 430
Dulwich Park Friends	Homage To Hepworth	£ 750
Herne Hill Society	Henry Bessemer Bicentenary	£1,000
Lively Minds	Inspirational Talks	£ 917
Athol House	The O2 Challenge	£1,000
Kingswood Community Shop	Moving on up – wellbeing and health event	£ 919
Paxton Green Time Bank	Annual Christmas Party	£ 650
Southwark Pensioners Forum	Feel Good Days	£1,000

The meeting ended at 9.50 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: