



Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council

MINUTES of the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council held on Monday 21 July 2014 at 7.00 pm at St James Church, Thurland Rd, London, SE16 4AA

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Williams (Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto (Vice - chair)
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Catherine Dale
Councillor Ben Johnson
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
Councillor David Hubber
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Michael Situ

OFFICER SUPPORT: Andrea Allen, Project Manager in Public Realm,
Gill Kelly, Community Council Co-ordinator
Tim Murtagh, Constitutional Officer

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The chair welcomed residents, councillors and officers to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lucas Green, Lisa Rajan, and Kath Whittam.

3. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

4. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. MINUTES

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 March 2014 be agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

6. DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. COMMUNITY SLOT

Volunteer Centre Southwark

Sean from the Volunteer Centre Southwark (VCS) explained that the aim of the VCS was to encourage local people to get involved in their community and to make volunteering easy. During the last year VCS had worked with hundreds of charities in the borough. Charities registered volunteer vacancies with VCS and local people were able to apply for those positions. VCS is based at the Elephant & Castle shopping centre. Contact Tel. 020 7703 4205 / email: info@volunteercentres.org.uk

Bloomin' Southwark

Kirsten Downer, a green mentor at Bloomin' Southwark, explained that the project was for residents in the area and was funded out of the Southwark Cleaner Greener Safer fund. Bloomin' Southwark was aimed at people interested in growing their own fruit, vegetables, herbs or just making an area look a bit more colourful. Whether starting from scratch, gardening at home or in need of support with an existing community growing space, the Bloomin' Southwark project, based at Surrey Docks Farm could help. There were workshops at the farm as well as outreach activities to community groups. Contact: kirsten@surreydocksfarm.org.uk

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Section 106 update

The chair outlined that the community infrastructure levy (CIL) and section 106 would feature at the September community council meeting. Ideas were being sought to go on the community infrastructure project list (CIPL) for local publically accessible improvements that could be funded by S106 or future local CIL.

Youth Community Council

Members of the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Youth Community Council had submitted the following question to be read out:

"With so many large redevelopments in the pipeline such as Harmsworth Quay and Rotherhithe New Road, we are concerned that there will be less for us and other young people [to do] who live in the area. The sort of things we would like to see included are:

- a local cost gym
- keeping youth clubs in the area
- more sports facilities
- we don't need flats, we need entertainment
- more pet stores.”

A resident commented that there had been a redevelopment of the Docklands Settlement in Surrey Docks, due to open in September which would provide a range of facilities indoor and outdoor for young people.

Councillor David Hubber added that there had been considerable work done on the adventure playground in Trident Street funded by Cleaner Greener Safer money.

In response to a question about rumours of closing the bowling alley at Surrey Quays and replacing it with flats, Councillor Hubber said the planning application several years ago had envisaged replacement of the cinema and other facilities in the same area. He added, following a further public question that the Odessa Street youth centre would be replaced in part by the Docklands settlement which would include youth facilities.

Councillor Leo Pollak said that he would report back, to a future meeting, on the progress of the new youth centre at the Blue. Councillor Al-Samerai asked for information on the hours of the outreach youth worker at the Blue.

Rotherhithe Festival

Gary Magold, a local resident, thanked the sponsors, the council and all who attended the recent Rotherhithe Festival. The event raised £1,406 (£1,000 of that would go to the University College cancer campaign).

War remembered

Gary Magold explained that on 4 August 2014, it would be 100 years since the outbreak of World War One. A candlelight vigil was being organised in Southwark and across the country.

Southwark Park

Gary Magold, reported that new tennis courts were about to become available for use along with the athletics track and cricket facilities.

Brunel Museum

A resident announced that the Brunel museum was organising its thirteenth annual summer play scheme for local children. It was a free play scheme. The Brunel museum had recently been designated a national historic landmark partnership site.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

PC Ross Huxley, Riverside Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), explained that he would take general questions during the item and specific enquiries during the break. PC Huxley announced police station opening hours:

- Walworth Police Station is open to the public 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Peckham Police Station is open 7.00am to 11.00pm, 7 days a week.

- Southwark Police Station is open 10.00am to 6.00pm, Monday to Friday.

In response to questions, PC Huxley made the following points:

- He agreed that there should be more police stations with open access to the public in the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe area.
- The police would arrange home visits to any residents with mobility issues who wanted to speak face to face with police officers.
- Every SNT had a ward panel of community representatives that meets every two or three months to discuss police priorities in the area.

The chair asked that the Borough Commander attend the next meeting of the community council to discuss with residents the issues surrounding a local police station in the area.

9. FORWARD PLAN FOR THE YEAR AHEAD

During this item, councillors led workshops that discussed meeting themes for the municipal year. The workshop notes would be fed into the agenda planning process for the next four community councils in 2014/15.

10. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Andrea Allen, project manager in public realm, explained that there was a Victoria Cross (VC) commemorative paving stone programme. The government had asked local authorities to install commemorative paving stones to honour soldiers awarded a VC in the First World War.

One of the earliest recipients of the VC was Fred Holmes who was awarded his on 26 August 1914 after his actions during the Battle of Le Cateau. After receiving his medal at Buckingham Palace in January 1915 he was driven through the streets of Bermondsey and hailed the Bermondsey hero.

The Victoria Cross commemorative paving stone to honour FW Holmes would be unveiled on Tuesday 26 August 2014 at 2.00pm, following a military parade.

11. INTERACTIVE VOTING SESSION FOR RESIDENTS

At this point in the meeting, there was an interactive voting session that enabled residents to choose their favoured themes for the community council meetings ahead. The results (via voting pads) were as follows:

Security 25%
 Transport 25%
 Housing 25 %
 Regeneration and Infrastructure 9%
 Education 9%

Environment 7%

As there was a tie for fourth place a show hands determined that Regeneration and Infrastructure would be the fourth choice of theme in addition to the top 3 listed above.

GILL KELLY'S LAST MEETING

The chair announced that Gill Kelly, Community Council Development Officer, was moving on to work on another community council in Southwark. He thanked Gill for her years of service in the area and helping him with his first meeting as chair.

Gill received lengthy applause along with flowers.

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following public questions were asked at the meeting:

1. Does Southwark's trading standards team conduct weight enforcement checks. If so how often and where? This question related to signage at the end of Marlborough Grove and 7.5 tonne lorries having access to Rolls Road. The resident said much larger lorries regularly travel along Marlborough Grove despite the signage.

Cllr Situ said he would take details of the questioner and provide an answer within a few days.

2. On Rotherhithe New Road there are lots of speed bumps that are giving rise to noise at 4am in the morning when large trucks travel down there.

A resident added that the resurfacing of the road carried out six months ago had made the situation much worse. The chair asked for an officer response to be provided to the next meeting.

3. A resident on the Hawkstone estate asked that something be done about the caged football pitch in the area which she said had caused misery – including property damage and bad language - to local residents for years. Councillor Stephanie Cryan said she was looking at arranging a local meeting to find a solution.

4. A resident from Wilson Grove said the one-way system in place was a nightmare. The cars go the wrong way at speed.

Councillor Al-Samerai said part of the problem was traffic on Jamaica Road and local councillors had discussed that with Transport for London (TfL) at City Hall. In the meantime, rat-running in the area had caused problems for a long time. A speed limit was introduced and some one-way changes on Pottery Street had been made but problems remained. A review of all the various aspects of the issue has been promised by the council. Councillor Al-Samerai said she would follow up on the review.

A resident added that, as on several past occasions, a car had gone through the park railings on Jamaica Road and someone would get injured unless something was done. TfL should do something about it.

5. A resident suggested a public toilet in Spa Gardens to complement the new park gym installed in the area. Councillors said they would follow up on that.
6. A resident asked for traffic measures to be installed in the area near the Rotherhithe Old Road roundabout / Crystal Bridge to prevent drivers doing U-turns.

The chair said he would look into the issue.

7. A resident asked for the trees near Devon Mansions to be trimmed.

The chair said he would look into the issue.

8. A resident asked about people living on the streets and what was being done to care for them and find them hostels / accommodation.

Councillor Livingstone said there was no duty on the council to check on all rough sleepers. However, the council worked with the police and social care to pick up issues. Work was being done to reduce homelessness in the borough and ensure there were proper places and hostels for people in that situation.

9. A resident asked about action being taken against beggars pestering customers near supermarkets often related to the trolleys being returned.

Councillor Michael Situ said he would follow that up with community safety officers to work on addressing the problem.

10. A resident asked about users of Southwark Park being upset by an increasing numbers of cyclists going through the park as a cut through and there were no byelaws available. Councillor Livingstone suggested a question to council assembly.

11. A resident asked about potential tolls policy on Rotherhithe tunnel. The chair said that Transport for London (TfL) would be invited to a future meeting to discuss that.

12. A resident asked if something could be done about cyclists going through red lights on Rotherhithe Road – near Surrey Quays tube station. Several residents had nearly been run over when the signals were ignored by cyclists. The chair suggested that the police needed to take enforcement action and that issue would be forwarded to the police to look into.

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai asked about the London Cycling Campaign's proposals for each ward in the community council area and if those could be looked at as part of the transport themed meeting later in the year. The chair agreed to the request.

13. LOCAL TRAFFIC AND PARKING AMENDMENTS

Note: This is an executive function.

Members considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

1. 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:
 - Ilderton Road – install double yellow lines between Penarth Street and Record Street.
 - Rotherhithe Street – install double yellow lines outside the entrance to the car park of Stanton house and adjacent to Somerville Point.
 - Brunel Road and Hatteraick Street – install double yellow lines at the junction and also adjacent to the entrance to Adams Gardens Estate.
2. That the statutory objections made in relation to proposed waiting restrictions be noted and that the following proposals be implemented:
 - Tower Bridge Square – install double yellow lines outside both gates that lead to the square.
 - That the council includes Shad Thames in its parking review for 2014-15, including consideration of a Controlled Parking Zone and further parking provision.

14. COMMUNITY COUNCIL QUESTION TO COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

Following discussions during the public question time item, about cyclists in Southwark Park, the community council considered whether to submit a question to the Council Assembly meeting on 26 November 2014 and agreed the following:

“Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council ask the council to review park byelaws with reference to cyclists speeding in Southwark Park.”

Meeting ended at 9.05pm

CHAIR:

DATED: