

Feedback on queries raised at previous Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council meetings

Question	Response
<p>“Is the clerk or any of the members aware of the answer to the question recorded in the penultimate paragraph of the minute of item 7, meeting of 2 April 2014?”</p> <p>(“Catherine said she would take away a question regarding leaseholders from the Heygate potentially being offered places in the new Aylesbury development.”)</p>	<p>The Heygate and Aylesbury estates redevelopment are treated as stand-alone projects. Former Heygate leaseholders will not be offered places on the regenerated Aylesbury estate. Heygate leaseholders were made offers in the Strata development.</p>
<p>“Is the council aware that incidence of mental ill health are increasing and therefore cuts to the third sector (charities) where loopholes or falling though the gaps is detrimental to Southwark and so investment should be made?”</p>	<p>It is the case that mental and emotional distress is more common where people have money and/or housing worries, or experience big life events like losing their job. Sometimes this leads to more severe or long-term mental health problems along with other issues such as alcohol problems. It is also known that people with established mental health problems are more likely to be out of work, unemployed long-term and to have low income, to live in less good quality housing and be socially isolated. Society tends to discriminate against people with mental health problems which makes things worse for them.</p> <p>In a recession where there are also policies of austerity, officers may therefore expect an increase in mental distress and that people with mental health problems who are already disadvantaged to potentially become even worse off. This could include being found fit for work when they are not and losing benefits. However, even if they are fit for work, employers are much less likely to employ someone with a history of mental health problems. So, where there are job shortages someone with a mental health problem is likely to be more disadvantaged than other unemployed people.</p> <p>In any local situation, such as Southwark, it is more</p>

	<p>difficult to document exactly what is going on. Officers do not know precisely how many people have mental health problems (people's consultations with their GP are confidential for instance, although research shows that about a third of GP consultations do have a mental health component to them), so officers estimate the expected numbers from research studies (possibly about 48,000 people in Southwark at any one time). This does not help us estimate whether the numbers are going up or down at different times.</p> <p>Officers can only suspect that this is likely because of the economic situation and do the best they can to support people. The sorts of things that are useful are providing good advice on employment and preparing for work; advice on money and debt; providing access to low interest small loans (not payday loans); ensuring people with mental distress are identified promptly by their GP or talking therapy or other services, and given the right care. The role of the voluntary and community sector is indeed vital at all times and especially in a recession.</p> <p>As individuals we can all help, too, to look after our minds and the mental health of others by making sure we are informed about mental health and using the five ways to wellbeing http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/Pages/improve-mental-wellbeing.aspx.</p>
<p>"Regarding Southwark council's support for patient participation in health services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. What funding is given to Southwark Healthwatch? b. Does the council have oversight of funding given to GP patient participation groups (PPGs)? c. Would the council like to see the Healthwatch representative on CCG (Clinical Commissioning Groups) elected by Southwark patients/citizens?" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The funding given to Southwark Healthwatch is £120,000. b. Please see response about PPGs below. c. Healthwatch Southwark representatives are currently not elected to the CCG Governing Body and to CCG Committees. Southwark Council recognises that Healthwatch Southwark is an independent body and operates a rep system whereby a process is in place to recruit, train, induct and support representatives from the general public to take up these roles. This is a very structured process and aims to recruit the right representative, who are able to productively feed into meetings by bringing a broad perspective to their role. The council monitors the process by which Healthwatch recruits and supports representatives from the general public and does not rule out an election process in the future.

<p>“Money given by government for PPG groups. Southwark was given some of this money, what is happening to it and which GP surgeries has it gone to?”</p>	<p>Southwark Council does not receive funding from the government for patient participation groups and does not hold information relating to the use of the funding.</p> <p>NHS England contracts directly with GP practices to deliver a range of medical and related services which includes a requirement to ensure that patients and carers are involved in decisions about the range, shape and quality of services provided by their practice.</p>
<p>“Could pedestrian and some traffic lights be turned off during the late hours, so reducing pollution?”</p>	<p>Any changes to traffic signals must have prior approval from the Department for Transport. Also for safety reasons it is important to ensure that any changes to signalling provides a consistent and unambiguous message to all road users. It is therefore extremely unlikely that Department for Transport would approve of any plan to make existing traffic signals operate only part of the day, for reasons of restricting light pollution and or energy use. Therefore the council has no current plans for such arrangements.</p> <p>That said, over the years officers have taken the opportunity to reduce consumption and carbon emissions from street lights by having the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) A comprehensive maintenance program b) Continuous capital investment c) Use of modern technology <p>As an example, all newly installed street lights since 2007 have been fitted with a reduced setting meaning the lights operate approximately half-an-hour less each night. This has very little impact of effect on end users but makes a significant cumulative contribution.</p>
<p>“The sign at the junction of Heygate / Walworth Road gives information that this is the end of 20 mph. Not so. The one at Elephant Bridge gives the info that Walworth Road is the end of the 20mph zone.”</p>	<p>The council has recently introduced a 20mph speed limit on all roads within the borough for which it is traffic authority. As a result of introducing this borough-wide speed limit, speed limit signs are currently being checked and amended to bring them in line with the new arrangements. Any changes required to the mentioned signs will be made as part of these works, scheduled for completion in October 2014.</p>

<p>“Why is it taking years to remove the ‘Whiskey Shop’ sign from the western entrance to Clink Street. It was supposed to be moved before the 2012-Olympics. Can the relevant officer take responsibility for dealing with it?”</p>	<p>Officers will contact the owners and request that a retrospective planning application be submitted. If this is not done so within the required timeframe, the council will require the removal of the sign.</p>
<p>“Is the pilot street triage impacting on the morale of police officers in a positive or negative way?”</p>	<p>Answered at the meeting – please see minutes (page 4).</p>
<p>“Rubbish bins on Walworth Road that are not serviced by the council. Always full and smelly can something be done about this.”</p>	<p>A more precise location of these bins is needed. Please contact the council’s call centre on 020 7525 2000 or the 24hr-number for urgent enquiries 020 7525 5777, to report issues such as these. Calls of this nature are in the first instance forwarded on to the waste management team.</p>
<p>With much construction being done around the borough, the demand for car parking is increasing. New car parking should be put in place, and some of the double and single yellow lines changed.</p>	<p>The council has parking standards for new developments in Southwark. It is primarily based on the quality of access to public transport, whether there is an existing controlled parking zone and if the site is with the central area zone. The policy sets a maximum level of parking allowed within these different areas with a maximum of 0.4 spaces per dwelling in areas of high public transport accessibility and up to a maximum of two spaces in more suburban zones with low access; in all cases the parking must be provided on-site and not using spaces on the public highway. In addition, Southwark mandate that residents of all new developments with high levels of public transport accessibility and in a controlled parking zone will not be entitled to a residents’ parking permit. It is through these policies that the council seeks to reduce the number of cars associated with new developments and prevent new developments causing a detrimental impact to the existing on-street parking provision.</p>
<p>“Why does the community council not provide BSL-interpreters at meetings? Deaf residents should be invited.”</p>	<p>Community councils development officers have targeted the deaf community and individuals in the past. BSL signers have been provided at the former Borough and Bankside Community Council meetings for example, when requested. However, no requests have been</p>

	received since 2012. Officers have looked into this over the summer and targeted specific groups and individuals.
--	---

CONSULTATION FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Busking consultation – John McHenry, Markets and Street Trading Manager
(to follow)