



BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council held on Saturday 29 November 2014 at 1.00 pm at St James Church, Thurland Road, London, SE16 4AA

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Williams (Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Catherine Dale
Councillor Lucas Green
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 Lisa Rajan
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Kath Whittam

OFFICER SUPPORT: Simon Phillips, Transport Policy Manager
Leah Coburn, Group Manager Network Development
Marian Farrugia, Community Council Development Officer
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 Councillor Eliza Mann; and for lateness from

Councillors Evelyn Akoto and Michael Situ.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2014 be agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

6. DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. COMMUNITY SLOT

Youth Community Council

Several members of the Youth Community Council (YCC) gave a presentation to the meeting. They explained that the recent issues the YCC had discussed included:

- Redevelopment at Harmsworth Quays
- Fisher Athletic rebuilding St Pauls football pitch
- New accommodation and shops in the Surrey Docks area

Generally young people in the area were positive about the new developments taking shape.

One issue of concern was the negative stereotypes that existed about young people being untrustworthy / careless. Such stereotypes were insulting and had a negative impact on the lives of young people. An example was highlighted about school students not being allowed into stores at certain times of the day to buy food.

The YCC sought to use effective social media to engage more young people in the democratic process.

The Ship York Pub

The chair announced that several local residents had requested a big thank you to Dussell and Lorraine Charalambous, who were retiring after having run the pub since 1977. During

that time they had done a lot of local charitable work. That included activities for Macmillan cancer support, helping out at the nearby old people's home, paying for coach trips in the community and assisting numerous individuals on a range of things over many years. The community council wished them well for the future.

Charity Trustees

Southwark Council was looking for volunteers to become charity trustees on various charities operating in Southwark which provide financial assistance to residents in need, mainly pensioners. There were information packs available for anyone interested in applying.

Salter Statues campaign

Councillor Catherine Dale, explained that there had been a lengthy campaign following the theft of the Doctor Salter statue from near The Angel pub in 2011. On 30 November 2014 at 2pm, a new statue would be unveiled. The replacement would have the addition of his wife Ada along with their daughter Joyce and pet cat. Donations from a range of community groups, individuals and match funding from the council had raised the necessary funding, much of which had gone on security measures.

Surrey Quays Shopping Centre and SE16 printworks

Eleanor Wright, from British Land, explained that there were some forthcoming exhibitions and workshops taking place locally discussing the developments of the emerging master plan for the area.

Flood Risk Strategy

The consultation on the Local Flood Risk Strategy is now available to the public and will end on Friday 6 February 2015. Consultation documents can be found at the council's webpage, local libraries, newsletters of tenants and residents associations and friends of parks. Residents are encouraged to review the documents and provide feedback.

2014 Poppy Appeal

Gary Magold, poppy appeal coordinator, had advised the chair that the total raised so far in the area for 2014 was £11,203.44. That was a record amount for the area and a huge thank you goes out to all those who helped reach that sum.

NHS staff petition

Councillor Richard Livingstone, highlighted as part of the meeting theme of health and wellbeing, the concerns of staff at Guys and St Thomas's hospital working in the pathology laboratories. The pathology jobs were being taken out of the NHS and privatised under a company named Viapath. Viapath was part of SERCO. A petition to help keep the pathology jobs in public hands was available to sign.

Raffle ticket

The chair encouraged residents to complete the feedback forms. At the end of the meeting one of the forms would be drawn at random and the lucky person would win a family ticket to Southwark's Playhouse theatre.

The Friends of St James Churchyard

In January 2015, the Friends of St James Churchyard would be launched. It would bring together people from the church, the community and the parks department.

St James Road

Councillor Damian O'Brien explained that the road was currently a bit of a mess with some yellow lines drawn but not joined up. It was a safety issue for emergency vehicles and council officers were working on a solution.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

Sergeant Steven Brown, from the South Bermondsey local policing team, highlighted some recent local activities:

- Increase in cycle thefts around Grange ward, officers tackling problem
- Drugs warrant issued near Old Kent Road and address shut down
- Residents were encouraged to attend contact points at Canada Water library on Wednesdays and Thursdays 7 – 8pm, and Saturdays 2 – 3pm.

In response to concerns raised about recent violent crime in the area, Sgt Brown responded:

There had recently been a fatal shooting, believed to be a domestic dispute. The main suspect had been arrested. Unrelated to that incident there was a gang stabbing that was not life altering. Local gangs had been written to by the police with warning letters that identified members and suggested they change their lifestyle or face escalating enforcement.

Councillors thanked the police for assistance at recent football in the community training sessions. In the past some coaches had been threatened and a reassuring police presence helped all those wanting to take part in public sessions and similar events.

Sgt Brown said there had been a recent rise in violence with injury crimes, in the area. One recent change had been, that violent crimes were routinely assigned to experienced CID officers. The aim of that was to increase the likelihood of witnesses following through related matters within the criminal justice system to the courts.

Other matters highlighted by residents and councillors at the meeting:

- People setting fire to bins in Surrey Quays
- Recent Russia Dock Woodland assaults, someone had been arrested in connection with those crimes
- Docklands Settlement Youth Club would open in January 2015
- More local police officers were needed to stop the rise in violent crime and reassure residents

If anyone had any useful information they should phone Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

9. BUDGET CONSULTATION EXERCISE

Councillor Richard Livingstone, cabinet member for housing, explained that over the previous four years the council had lost about one quarter of the money that it had to spend. For the year ahead there was a budget gap of about £31 million. It was important

for the council to know what the people in the borough's priorities are.

Residents were invited during the break to take part in this year's budget consultation exercise. This involved a red and green cheques interactive session that enabled residents to show which areas of council spending they thought should be reduced and which areas should be protected in the future.

10. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Southwark's economic and wellbeing strategy

Councillor Stephanie Cryan, deputy cabinet member for financial inclusion, explained that Southwark's economic and wellbeing strategy had four core priorities:

- Supporting people into work
- Helping businesses grow and prosper
- Creating thriving town centres
- Promoting financial wellbeing.

The cabinet had agreed a number of civic promises. Among these were:

- A guarantee of education, employment or training for every school leaver
- Supporting 5,000 more local people into jobs
- Creating 2,000 new apprenticeships
- Doubling Southwark scholarships
- Establishing a new childcare commission
- Swimming and gym use free for residents
- Stop the spread of betting shops and payday lenders
- London living wage paid to all staff and an end to zero hour contracts.

Sally Causer, Southwark Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB)

Sally explained that Southwark's CAB was one of the first to open in the UK and 2014 was its 75th anniversary. The team had 29 paid staff and about 130 volunteers. Sally summarised some of the recent work:

- In 2013/14 Southwark CAB helped 12,591 local residents (8% more than 2012/13)
- Impact of legal aid cuts were impacting on CAB ability to assist clients
- Southwark CAB helped local residents to increase their income by almost £4million in the last year, mainly from grants, benefits and compensation claims
- Top 3 enquiries are Benefits (31%), Debt (22%), Housing (16%).

Money Savvy Southwark

Sally explained it was a 5-year funded financial education project aimed at social housing tenants. Southwark CAB provided group and one to one sessions on the cost of credit and prioritising housing costs. The CAB also trained community champions to ensure they could effectively direct people to the right service. The CAB was looking for money champions in the community to provide advice. To find out more contact:

sallycauser@southwarkcabservice.org.uk

Southwark Cyclists

Bruce Lyn of Southwark Cyclists, explained that every Saturday there was an organised

bike ride for those who were not confident cyclists. Some of these were from Canada Water. Cycling was an enjoyable exercise that was good for physical and mental wellbeing. It was also cheaper than travelling by public transport or car.

Southwark's Draft Cycling Strategy

Simon Phillips, Transport Policy Manager, explained that consultation on the cycling strategy would run until 1 February 2015. The cycling strategy would be linked to the New Southwark Plan. New developments in the area would be aware of the cycling strategy and many would contribute to the schemes involved.

The Southwark spine would run the length of the borough, linking to the North-South Cycle Super Highway and running all the way to Dulwich. It would provide excellent facilities to encourage cycling for all. It would run on main roads in part, through green spaces and on quieter streets. The council had allocated £2 million for this route. The alignment was not yet fixed – residents were asked for their views.

Unlocking the cycle network:

- Identifying the missing links: the council needed to identify how to link up areas where conditions were good for cycling and to overcome barriers that separated them from other areas
- Improve the streets for walking: many of the improvements for cycling would also benefit walkers
- Visit www.southwark.gov.uk/cyclingstrategy to download the draft cycling strategy, complete the online survey or log specific issues using the Interactive map tool
- Email transport@southwark.gov.uk or phone 020 7525 4530 with specific questions or ideas, or if you would like to get involved.

Age UK

Simone Morrison, Healthy Living Centre Manager Age UK Lewisham and Southwark, explained that Age UK was dedicated to making later life wonderful in whichever way possible. Age UK was currently promoting the warm and well programme. Many older people had to choose between heating and eating. Age UK was circulating information to help. The healthy living centre promoted health and wellbeing to the older person. It tried to reach people in difficulty before they fall or go to hospital. Exercise, healthy eating and socialising were encouraged. It was important that all neighbours looked out for older people in the community. Age UK had all sorts of useful information about available resources and advice.

Contact phone: 020 7237 0860 or email: simone.morrison@ageuklands.org.uk

Galleywall Nature Reserve

Jane Stokes, Friends of Galleywall Nature Reserve (GNR), explained that GNR had been going for about 10 years. With support from volunteers, the council, big lottery and various groups the GNR had continued. There were sessions with schools to identify what lives in the wild. There had been sessions on window boxes, beekeeping and signage. There was a nature trail, a composting toilet, rainwater harvesting and a bug hotel. More volunteers were welcomed and needed.

Surrey Docks Farm

Gary Jones, from Surrey Docks Farm, said there were constant improvements being made to the farm. The farm was for all to enjoy with a range of activities going on.

Generally, the farm worked with local communities and the people of Southwark to provide many unique opportunities for people to learn about farming and food production, and to be actively involved in the ongoing work of the farm.

Animals reared on the farm included a herd of goats, sheep, cattle, pigs, ducks, geese, chickens, turkeys, bees and donkeys. The herds, flocks and swarms were farmed with specific attention to animal welfare.

In response to questions on the cycling strategy presentation, the following points were made:

- The council was supporting the Brunel bridge project for the area
- The traffic monitoring had indicated that levels were stable but there was still congestion in the area. In 2015, officers hoped to return with plans for the Lower Road gyratory scheme
- Walking was the most important mode of transport and a walking strategy would be considered in the future. Cycling improvements should not be at the expense of pedestrian safety
- The council was working with the London cycling campaign on a bicycle loan scheme. There was also free cycle training / lessons programme.
- Residents were encouraged to have their bicycles security marked to protect them and to help the police track them down.

11. HIGHWAYS CAPITAL INVESTMENT 2014-15

Note: This is an executive function.

Members considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following schemes be approved for capital investment:

• Clement Road footway	£21,784
• Drummond Road footway	£22,854
• Oldfield Grove carriageway	£19,854
• Ridson Street footway	£23,741
• Trothy Road carriageway	£28,800
• Finland Street footway	£26,584
• South Sea Street footway	£26,458

2. That the schemes for Grange and Livesey wards be considered at a future meeting.

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following public questions were asked at the meeting:

1. Lots of estate agents signs were on display around the borough and many of those were retained even after the property had been sold or let. Who has the responsibility to ensure they are taken down.
Councillor Al-Samerai responded that sometimes it was the council's responsibility as landlord. On private blocks the planning department could take action to have them taken down by putting pressure on estate agents or private landlords.
Councillor Livingstone added that action should also be taken against developers who fly-poster.
2. In response to a question about more information being made available to residents about all the activities / places of interest in the Bermondsey area, Councillor Al-Samerai said that like minded residents were putting together a Bermondsey map that highlighted such things. A similar map had also been put together for Rotherhithe.
3. In response to a question about the highways capital investment item and its reference to investment in Grange Road, Councillor Ben Johnson said he would look into that further as a road for resurfacing.

13. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS

13.1 SHOPPING PARADES ONE HOUR FREE PARKING

Leah Coburn, Group Manager Network Development, introduced the report.

Note: This is an executive function.

The community council considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the following locations, detailed in the appendices to the report, be approved for consultation on the introduction of one hour free parking:

- Ilderton Road
- Plough Way
- Rotherhithe New Road
- Southwark Park Road (2 locations)

13 .2 WILLOW WALK

Leah Coburn, Group Manager Network Development, introduced the report.

Note: This is an executive function.

The community council considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed parking revisions in Willow Walk, detailed in the appendices to the report, be approved for implementation, subject to the outcome of any necessary statutory procedures.

14. LOCAL TRAFFIC AND PARKING AMENDMENTS

14 .1 LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS OBJECTION DETERMINATION

Note: This is an executive function.

The community council considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the one objection, made in relation to proposed waiting restrictions on Rotherhithe Street, be rejected and that the proposals approved at the 21 July 2014 community council be implemented.
2. That the petition against the proposed waiting restrictions in Hatteraick Street and Brunel Road be rejected and that the proposals approved at the 21 July 2014 community council be implemented.

14 .2 ESTATE PARKING

Note: This is an executive function.

The community council considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

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

- Albion Estate – to be included in an estate parking scheme
- Arnold Estate – Lupin Point to be included in estate traffic enforcement managed by Two Towers Traffic Management Order (TMO).
- Dickens Estate – Casby House to be included in an estate traffic enforcement scheme managed by Two Towers TMO.

14 .3 POTTERS FIELDS BAYS

Note: This is an executive function.

The community council considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

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

- Potters Fields – provide two new parking spaces for car club use and amend the existing traffic regulation order to revoke the existing loading bay.

15. COMMUNITY COUNCIL QUESTION TO COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

Following discussions during the community slot about an issue raised by the Youth Community Council, the community council considered whether to submit a question to the Council Assembly meeting on 21 January 2015.

RESOLVED:

That the following question be submitted:

What is the council doing to address the stereotyping of young people by businesses?

16. PRIZE DRAW

A family ticket to a local theatre was won by a resident attending the meeting.

17. FILM ABOUT SOUTHWARK PARK

As the meeting finished a DVD played out about the local park.

The meeting ended at 3.50pm

CHAIR:

DATED: