



Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council held on Wednesday 28 January 2015 at 7.00 pm at Links Community Centre, 353 Rotherhithe New Road, London SE16 3HF

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Williams (Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Catherine Dale
Councillor Lucas Green
Councillor David Hubber
Councillor Ben Johnson
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor James Okosun
Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Kath Whittam

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Neil Coyle

OFFICER SUPPORT: Dave Swaby, Licensing Team
Susannah Pettit, Planning Team
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 Councillors Al-Samerai, Hamish McCallum and Eliza Mann.

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 29 November 2014 be agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

6. DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Youth Community Council

Councillor Evelyn Akoto (vice-chair) introduced the members of the youth community council (YCC) and explained that she had recently attended one of their meetings. One of the biggest issues for the YCC was police profiling. The YCC were concerned that young black males in the area were being picked on. There was an extensive discussion which concluded that profiling was used by police in identifying potential criminals but some times it can be abused. Local police would be invited to a future meeting of the YCC. In terms of interaction with the main community council, young people wanted more interaction, visuals, stalls and less jargon. The YCC meet fortnightly at 5pm at the Canada Water Library. All are welcome to attend.

Three members of the YCC attended and gave their views on transport.

- Buses were often overcrowded and non-school users often had to put up school children making lots of noise during journeys. Perhaps more buses and schools only buses could be considered.
- Oyster card delivery delays were mentioned.
- Safety on public transport was a big issue for young people. Passengers under the influence – drink or other drugs - could often be frightening for young girls. Transport for London (TfL) should not allow people on board that are under the influence.
- Bus drivers should take care when opening and closing doors as injuries have occurred to young people when not done properly.

Councillor Michael Situ, cabinet member for community safety, explained that the

administration had recently introduced a women's safety charter (WSC) to support the experience of women, especially during the night. As part of the work there was dialogue with TfL to improve the travel experience of women and girls on public transport. The YCC said they would interact with work done by the council and TfL on that.

Farhan Ghafoor, Southwark youth service, said that young people could get involved with the YCC via the website or by contacting him.

Contact: farhan.ghafoor@southwark.gov.uk or Tel. 0207 237 9312

Neighbourhood Fund 2015/16

Marian Farrugia, community council development officer, explained that this new fund was an amalgam of the cleaner, greener, safer revenue programme and the community council fund. The application period was 6 January – 16 February 2015. Applications were welcomed online or via paper application form. The neighbourhood fund was for projects benefitting the community that would encourage people to work together and improve their local area.

Contact: marian.farrugia@southwark.gov.uk or Tel. 020 7525 1780.

Millwall FC Community Match

Marian Farrugia, community council development officer, announced that Millwall FC were playing Huddersfield on 7 February 2015. Free tickets were available via an application form.

Shad Thames Area Management Partnership

Janet Morris, Shad Thames Area Management Partnership (STAMP), explained that the group was formed a few years ago by people wanting to give the area a bit of energy. The group arranges events and meetings that all were welcome to attend.

Contact via the website - www.loveshadthames.org or Twitter @loveshadthames

Petition for improved C10 bus service

Councillor Stephanie Cryan explained that the C10 bus is often affected by congestion on Jamaica Road and often stops near the Rotherhithe tunnel to regulate the service before cutting out the peninsula and Canada Water area and going back down Jamaica Road. Councillors Cryan, Whittam and Williams, had got together a petition to ask Transport for London (TfL) to include the peninsula in the C10 route. Residents were encouraged to sign the petition. Councillor David Hubber added that a recent email from TfL indicated that following a review of both the C10 and 381 routes new schedules were being introduced in January 2015, which would hopefully improve the situation.

Southwark Cycling Strategy

The chair announced that the council was keen to know what they could do to improve safety conditions for all road users along the route. Comments would inform the design of the route. The council wanted to work with residents, cyclists, pedestrians and motorists to develop the route.

Contact: streetcare@southwark.gov.uk

Southwark Statement of Licensing Policy 2015 – 2020 consultation

Dave Swaby, licensing officer, explained that public consultation was currently running on the latest version of the Southwark statement on licensing policy. The council was seeking the views of residents about licensing policy on matters including alcohol and regulated entertainment.

- Is the policy clear
- Is it fair and balanced
- Does it adequately deal with the licensing objectives of crime and disorder, protection, nuisance and the protection of children from harm.

Consultation runs until 30 March 2015.

Charity Trustees

Councillor David Hubber explained that from time to time the council had to appoint charity trustees. Volunteers were currently being sought to become trustees. A range of charities and level of involvement was available to volunteers. Anyone interested could apply by completing the application forms available at the meeting.

The Blue Bermondsey, Business Improvement District

Councillor Leo Pollak, explained that a major survey of the area was being launched. People in the area would be asked what type of shops and stalls they wanted to see in The Blue and on Southwark Park Road.

More information was available at: <https://bluebermondsey.commonplace.is/>

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

Zander Gibson, Borough Commander presented.

Safer Neighbourhood Board

Commander Gibson explained that the Mayor's office for policing and crime (MOPAC) had required each borough to have a main conduit for engagement. That would be the Safer Neighbourhood Board (SNB). It replaces the police consultative group and links together all the ward panels. There were about 24 board members, most of those were from the community. Quarterly meetings would be held. At the start of each meeting there would be a one hour open forum session for members of the community to raise any concerns.

In response to questions, Commander Gibson made the following points:

- There had not yet been a meeting of the full SNB.
- Dates of meetings should be checked to avoid, where possible, meeting clashes.
- Each of the four clusters in Southwark would have a representative from their panels that would sit on the SNB.
- Each group of ward panels were asked to self select board members.
- There was a member from the multi-faith forum on the SNB.
- The continued feedback from the community was essential to tackle crime and that had been a key part of last week's operation that had followed 6-7 months of police work.

There was some disagreement from ward panel chairs present who said they had not been consulted about board membership at all.

Inspector Richard Auty was introduced as the new Inspector for the area. He explained that he had been a police officer in Southwark for three years. In response to a question on police numbers, Inspector Auty explained there had been some officer movements recently but there would remain an experienced ward officer along with a police community support officer (PCSO). There were currently 41 officers in the North East cluster who would be used where they were needed.

9. TRANSPORT THEME ITEM

David McKenna, Transport for London (TfL), presented. He explained that he worked in the road space management directorate in connection with modifications to the road network. David made the following points:

- Several schemes on Tower Bridge Road were due to start within a month. One was safety improvements at the junction with Abbey Street, where a cyclist had died some time ago. Another was an upgrade to the footways. A diagonal crossing was planned for pedestrians at Bermondsey Square.
- Consultation was currently taking place on the Southwark Quietways cycle route in the area of Tower Bridge Road, Webb Street and Rotherhithe Street.
- TfL colleagues were working on Cycle Superhighway 4 in the area of Jamaica Road. There would be public consultation in due course.

In response to questions, David made the following points:

- An enhancement in the frequency of the 381 and 21 bus services routes had recently taken place. Usage would be monitored.
- Curtailments of the service can be frustrating and sometimes they happen due to road works or incidents. Some time curtailments happen when operators try to avoid bus bunching and followed by a long gap in the service.
- Driver training programmes dealt with handling of incidents of bad behaviour on buses. David said he would find out more specifics and report back.
- The work on the Abbey Street junction would take about eight weeks starting in February 2015.
- Jamaica Road presented challenges: Tower Bridge Road had the inner ring road and competing demands for green time at the signals, whilst at the other end the width restriction at the Rotherhithe roundabout was necessary to protect the structure of the tunnel but resulted in traffic queues.
- The Old Kent Road junction with East Street at the corner of the library was noted as an accident heavy area.
- A resident's concerns about buses with disability ramps that were faulty and so denied access to wheelchair users was noted. It would be fed back to TfL.
- David was aware of the proposed programme of works related to the Thames tunnel. Detailed discussions were taking place between TfL and Thames Water. TfL would be pushing Thames Water construction lorries to have the latest safety equipment including beepers and signage as well as driver training. He agreed with the general safety concerns about the construction.

Councillor Mark Williams, cabinet member for regeneration, planning and transport explained that transport policy was about the council serving existing and future needs. He made the following points:

- A lot of work was done with TfL who controlled about 5% of the roads in Southwark as well as the overground and underground trains.
- Problems with certain buses including the C10, 381 and 415 in the area had been highlighted. Ward councillors and the assembly member had been lobbying TfL to improve the routes.

- The council had been lobbying the Government with other boroughs to push for TfL to run all train services coming into London. Unfortunately the Government turned the latest request down.
- Walking and cycling were being promoted by the council. They were sustainable and healthy methods of transport as well as often being the quickest way of getting around. The target was to double the number of cyclists whilst making it as safe and direct as possible.
- The Old Kent Road was not the best environment for pedestrians. The council had lobbied TfL for improvement works on the Old Kent Road.
- Future pressures on the transport system would flow from developments on the Rotherhithe peninsula at Surrey Quays. The council was looking at taking out the Lower Road gyratory and paid for by developments as a condition in the planning process. In Canada Water, the council wanted to improve the green links and cycle links.
- There was also pressure being put on TfL to get the tube extended from the Elephant & Castle down to Lewisham and Hayes. The council's position was for both routes through Southwark via Camberwell and Peckham and via the Old Kent Road.
- The council also supported the Brunel bridge project to link Rotherhithe peninsula to Canary Wharf but were not keen on the tolling of Silvertown tunnel and Blackwall tunnel, as that could lead to increased use of the Rotherhithe tunnel.

In response to questions, Councillor Williams made the following points:

- The removal of the gyratory on Lower Road was a key issue. Through the planning process there would be a lot of section 106 money from the Surrey Quays development which would be put towards that end.
- There was a council commitment to extend the cycle hire scheme and TfL had been lobbied about that. The council had offered to match fund expansion on capital costs but as yet TfL have not agreed. As each new large development comes forward in Southwark we are trying to get the developer to pay for cycle hire docking stations as part of those.
- Working with Lewisham to push on with development on their side of the border so that the Surrey Canal Road station can be built.
- The multi-modal study was a useful piece of work but things have moved on. It will feed in to the work being done by British Land with our transport planners and there will be new piece of work to take into account increased numbers of homes in the peninsula.
- The council are trying to push down the number of car spaces for new developments on the peninsula so dwellers use public transport and walking/cycling instead of cars.
- Re the neighbourhood forum, no decision has been made on the boundaries. The feedback from residents is that tenants groups on the western side of the peninsula were not supportive of a neighbourhood forum. However, those on the eastern side were more supportive. The council was meeting regularly with the proposed neighbourhood forum ahead of any formal decision on the boundary.
- The decision on the extension of the Bakerloo line was in the hands of the Mayor of London and TfL. The sooner the better so that funding mechanisms can be agreed and commitments made with central government and TfL.

10. NEW SOUTHWARK PLAN

Susannah Pettit, planning officer, presented the item.

What is the New Southwark Plan?

- A new local plan for Southwark with policies to determine planning applications
- A replacement to Core Strategy (2011) and Southwark Plan (2007)
- Area visions
- To be adopted in 2017 after three stages of consultation.

The New Southwark Plan will sit below the National Planning Policy Framework and the London Plan.

- Consultation would run from 31 October 2014 to 6 March 2015
- Lots of events, workshops and meetings across Southwark
- Respond via email or in writing
- Paper and online questionnaires
- We can attend your community meeting.

New policies for deciding planning applications

- New area vision for Southwark's neighbourhoods
- Homes
- Travel
- Business, employment and enterprise
- Town centres
- Social infrastructure
- Design, heritage and environment
- Sustainability
- Identifying sites for development

How to get involved –

Visit www.southwark.gov.uk/newsouthwarkplan to:

- Download the plan and supporting documents
- Complete a questionnaire
- Check the calendar for area and theme-based events across Southwark, and come along...
- Monday 2 February 6.30pm - 8.30pm at the Alfred Salter Primary School
- Monday 9 February 6.30pm - 8.30pm at the Crypt at St Peter's Church, Liverpool Grove
- Thursday 12 February 6:30pm - 8:30pm at Southwark Council offices, 160 Tooley Street SE1 2TZ.

Questions or comments -

Email planningpolicy@southwark.gov.uk or Tel. 020 7525 4530

Revised Canada Water Area Action Plan 2013

- The council are revising the area action plan (AAP) to put in place a policy framework to guide a redevelopment of Harmsworth Quays and take account of the implications of this for the wider area.
- The council consulted on the revised draft AAP in 2013 and 2014, and an examination in public was held at the beginning of October 2014.
- A further consultation would take place in spring 2015.
- A decision was expected in summer of 2015.

Old Kent Road

A 15 year area action plan (AAP) was taking shape and once agreed would be used to make decisions on planning applications. It would also be an opportunity area planning framework (OAPF) and would be endorsed by the Mayor of London.

- A new opportunity area has been designated by the Mayor around Old Kent Road and a strategy for growth in jobs and businesses
- Locations for housing, including new council homes
- New shopping and town centre facilities
- The designs and heights of buildings and spaces
- Improvements for pedestrians and cyclists, including new links and making existing routes safer
- Public transport improvements
- The infrastructure that would be needed to support growth, such as schools, open space and public realm, health and other community facilities

The plan was at an early stage. Officers had been out talking to businesses to gather information to be used for a business atlas.

11. CLEANER GREENER SAFER CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2015/16

Note: This is an executive function.

The community council considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the following projects be approved for cleaner greener safer capital funding for 2015/16:

GRANGE WARD

Bermondsey hanging baskets 2015/16	£11,000
Southwark park improvements – contribution to bandstand	£3,000
Setchell Way walled and gated garden	£5,850

Community hall tables (Setchell and Longfield)	£680
Grange cycle hangers	£4,000
Improved landscaping on Harold Estate / Pages Walk	£18,750
Better Stevens Street	£15,000
Positive Youth Swanmead Games Area	£13,244
Bermondsey Village Hall	£18,000
LIVESEY (ROTHERHITHE) WARD	
Silverlock safer bikes	£1,150
Tustin Estate bin stores	£10,000
Livesey ward hanging baskets 2015/16	£10,000
Southwark park improvements – contribution to bandstand	£3,500
RIVERSIDE WARD	
Bermondsey hanging baskets 2015/16	£10,200
Lupin point forecourt improvements	£16,200
Vertical garden at Old SSFA building, part-funding	£17,562
Lighting for Keetons Estate	£5,200
Better community lighting (Wrayburn House, Dickens Estate)	£15,000
Dickens Estate (DETRA) information – notice boards	£5,200
Pattball – Four Squares	£2,600
Spelow House basketball pitch resurfacing	£17,562
ROTHERHITHE WARD	
Peaceful Play & Safer Play	£15,000
Red Lion youth club – equipment only	£4,860
Surrey water bird identification board	£3,300
Cavendish School outdoor space regeneration	£1,510
Cathay Street / Fulford Street Thames path upgrade	£33,000

Nesting discs in Albion channel	£7,150
Addy House motorbike / moped parking rails	£3,250
Fenced and planted area outside Bradley House	£4,600
Mayflower garden in Mayflower TA Hall – planting only	£2,160
Canada Estate planting – part funding	£6,054
Grow local network	£3,240
Green, Grow, Cook and Eat	£5,400

SOUTH BERMONDSEY WARD

Bermondsey hanging baskets	£11,454
Southwark Park improvements – contribution to bandstand	£3,000
Rouel Road Estate notice boards	£4,550
Manor Estate netting	£14,000
Light up the Longfield – lighting improvements for Craigie House	£9,400
Multi-activity playground on the Longfield Estate	£18,000
Bermondsey Community Kitchen – van and catering wagon	£27,500
Galleywall Nature Reserve water tap – for rainwater collection	£1,620

SURREY DOCKS WARD

Southwark Park improvements – contribution to bandstand	£3,000
River walk improvement	£36,000
Surrey Docks adventure playground rejuvenation	£17,500
Boardwalk replacement at Lavender pond	£10,800
Landscaping safety into Acorn Walk	£7,020
Chicane / iron adjustments Acorn Walk	£2,500
Surrey Docks nesting rafts	£7,304
Russia Dock woodland rain shelter	£5,400

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following public questions were asked at the meeting:

1. Many people across the area, notably Rotherhithe and the Canada Estate, have ongoing anxieties in regard to 'misrepresentation' and inappropriate motivation by existing tenants and residents associations (TRAs). Many residents have been actively 'discouraged' from voicing their concerns in the way their estates and blocks are being represented and feel bullying, intimidation and misrepresentation is pandemic. Please could you assure the floor that all residents – irrespective of being private or council tenants are – actively encouraged by Southwark Council to have a voice in the way their communities are being managed by the council.
Councillor Livingstone responded, that as a council we want to encourage as much participation as possible. Different TRAs would have different constitutions about how they were represented within that estate. They might have individual block representatives or something less formal. All those constitutions had to be agreed with the council and SGTOs (Southwark groups of tenants organisations) are usually consulted as well. It's very important that the council ensures that the TRAs are representative. If residents had any complaints about their TRAs then they need to report those to be investigated.
2. The speed humps on Rotherhithe New Road, from the Bonamy estate to the Old Kent Road, are still creating noise when large lorries go over them early in the morning as well as in the evenings. Residents can hear the impact and the chains rattling along. The chair said he would ask officers to look into it.
3. A resident said that in Rotherhithe Street (Surrey Docks Farm end), near the new community hall, a fire engine had recently crashed into a car on its way to a fire. After dealing with the same fire, the fire truck couldn't get past the turning due to parked cars.
Councillor David Hubber said he was hoping to have a meeting with developers / officers in the area soon which would look at the issue of parking in the whole area. It may be necessary to introduce parking restrictions to. Councillor Cryan added that the council were looking at controlled parking zones (CPZs) around Canada Water and the peninsula. Residents should advise of any suitable places they thought should have CPZs. If taken forward the schemes would be subject to resident consultation.
4. On Southwark Park Road the parking situation is atrocious. Traffic wardens park for several hours yet residents are restricted to 30 minutes. Who tickets them? The chair asked for this to be followed up with officers.
5. The Ship York public house had recently closed and has received planning permission for flats above it and a bistro where the pub used to be. Unfortunately, a group have gone in there and opened a shisha bar that children can look through the window and see the smoke. It had become a private function room and was bringing the area down. Councillor David Hubber said licensing officers had been there with the police and had difficulty entering as the doors were bolted. It was an increasing problem and some thing to watch out for it with any empty premises.

6. A resident flagged up the North Southwark Environment Trust as a source of funding. The trust helped fund a range of local projects and interested residents should look into the funding available if they had a project needing help.

13. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS

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:

- Pages Walk – install double yellow lines at all vehicle entrances off Pages Walk to provide access at any time and along the east side between Willow Walk and Grange Road.
- Raymouth Road – install double yellow lines adjacent to an existing vehicle crossover that will improve sight lines at No. 38.
- St James's Road – install double yellow lines to prevent parking on one side (west side) to improve traffic flow and that the temporary double yellow lines at the junction with Blue Anchor Lane are made permanent.
- Cadet Drive – install double yellow lines adjacent to a vehicle crossover that provides access to off-street parking.

14. LOCAL TRAFFIC AND PARKING AMENDMENTS

14. RIVERSIDE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PROPOSALS

The community council considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted and approved.

14. SOUTHWARK PARK ROAD LOADING BAY

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:

- Southwark Park Road – between houses 383 and 393
 - Amend the existing traffic management order to revoke 1 on-street parking bay
 - Provide a loading bay to operate between the times of 7.00am and 7.00pm Monday to Friday (maximum stay 40 minutes).

15. COMMUNITY COUNCIL QUESTION TO COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

Following issues discussed during the transport item, the community council considered whether to submit a question to the Council Assembly meeting on 25 March 2015.

RESOLVED:

Can the cabinet member for regeneration, planning and transport set out what steps the council is taking to improve traffic flow at the Rotherhithe tunnel on Lower Road and to ensure the C10 and 381 bus routes better serve the Rotherhithe peninsula. Can he also explain what steps he is taking to lobby Transport for London (TfL) on these issues.

Meeting ended at 9.05pm

CHAIR:

DATED: