



BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council held on Monday 23 March 2015 at 7.00 pm at Dockland Settlement Community Centre, 400 Salter Road, Rotherhithe, SE16 5LJ

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Williams (Chair)
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor Catherine Dale
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 Kath Whittam

OFFICER SUPPORT: Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement
Jess Leech, Residents Participation Team
Sylvester Hilton, Major Works 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 Evelyn Akoto, Lucas Green, Ben Johnson, Eliza Mann and Michael Situ.

3. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

The chair advised that a late report Community Council Highways Capital Investment 2014/15 had been circulated as part of Supplementary Agenda No. 1.

4. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Stephanie Cryan, declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11, as she is a member of Time and Talents, which has an application being considered for funding.

Councillor Sunny Lambe, declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11, as he has links with the Basic Business Initiative.

Councillor David Hubber, declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11, as he is a member of Surrey Docks Farm, which has an application being considered for funding.

Councillor Lisa Rajan, declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11, as she is a member of Surrey Docks Farm, which has an application being considered for funding.

Councillor Kath Whittam, declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 11, as she is a trustee of The Amicable Society, which has an application being considered for funding.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 28 January 2015 be agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

6. DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Southwark Safer Neighbourhoods Board (SSNB)

Councillor Kath Whittam gave an overview:

Neighbourhood / Cluster panels

- Meet quarterly before the SSNB to report any significant trends in wards
- Ward panel chairs meet with Inspector
- Discuss priorities for the cluster
- Information goes to Chief Inspector from each cluster

The SSNB

- Meet quarterly and are public meetings open to all.
- Wide range of members including a representative from each cluster panel.

- Attended by Borough Commander (currently Zander Gibson)
- Holds some funds to distribute for projects aimed at reducing crime and increasing community cohesion

The Big Lunch

Mark Parker, a local resident, explained that this would take place on Sunday 7 June 2015. There would be three community lunches in the area and working groups had been set up in the following areas:

- Greenland Dock
- Canada Water
- Rotherhithe

The idea is to bring together neighbours to get to know each other, share food and have fun. Further information available at – www.iliveinse16.com

The Blue Bermondsey Survey

Russell Dryden, from the Blue Bermondsey, explained that he was a manager of the Business Improvement District (BID). The council and the local owners of the biscuit factory had produced an online survey. The survey sought views on what residents would like to see in the area. The businesses and the council would try to implement the changes people would like to see in the area. Local residents and visitors were encouraged to have their say. See www.bluebermondsey.commonplace.is

Step out in Southwark this Easter

The chair read out a series of rambles that were taking place in the first half of April. The walks were being led by local author John Constable.

Unexploded WW2 bomb

Stephen Douglass, Head of Community Engagement, explained that the council had been made aware that day of an unexploded bomb on a building site in Grange ward. The army bomb disposal team were working on making the bomb safe. The Police had narrowed the evacuation cordon to 100 metres from the site. That meant about 300 – 400 properties were affected. There was a wider cordon of 200 metres for traffic and pedestrians. Information was available on the council website and had been circulated to community groups and tenants and residents groups in the area. A rest centre had been set up locally and arrangements were in place for temporary accommodation.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

There was no community safety update. Police officers were working in connection with issues arising from an unexploded World War Two bomb in the area.

9. HOUSING THEME ITEM

11,000 homes update / consultation

Jess Leech, Residents Participation Team, gave a presentation.

2013 – Borough wide consultation on the future of council housing. The council committed

to build 11,000 new homes in the next 30 years with 1,500 delivered by 2018.

2014 – Borough wide consultation on the charter of principles. A list of promises to residents on how the council would involve them in decisions related to the new homes. Over 2,000 responses received.

2015 – Borough wide consultation on principles for all council developments.

- Where to build the homes
- Design standards
- Tenure mix
- How to decide to invest or rebuild.

Engagement methods include:

- interactive digital map of the borough
- community forums
- youth events
- community conversations
- online e-form
- postcards for written input
- mailings to residents and leaseholders

Councillor Richard Livingstone added that half of the new homes being built on sites would be ring-fenced for those people in housing need already living on the estate immediately affected.

In response to questions, the following points were made:

- The 1, 500 would be council properties
- Young people would benefit from the 30-year programme and a lot of work had gone into how best to engage with them e.g. schools, social media and an event at the Ministry of Sound.
- 11,000 additional homes over 30 years would not solve the housing problem but it was part of a solution.
- An extra care facility was being built at Cator Street. Willow Walk would have some hostel accommodation and general needs accommodation.

Tenant and Resident Engagement

Jess Leech explained that:

- In March 2013, the council agreed an engagement strategy. The objective was that all residents in the borough were entitled to a say and where appropriate some control over the services available.
- The strands of the engagement strategy had included how to improve services and increase engagement.
- Council officers supported tenants and residents associations (TRAs) and attended AGMs. The capacity and partnerships team do a lot of work around setting up new TRAs and provide training and advice for tenants. There were a couple of resource centres that TRAs can use to print minutes and newsletters.
- The resident participation team arranged consultations with TRAs on a range of local issues.

- A piece of work last year involved engagement with older residents. All sheltered housing units were visited. An event brought all the units together which also introduced the different services that residents could access.
- Workshops had taken place with residents in temporary accommodation about how to get involved and how to be better neighbours.
- Overall there were 126 TRAs. The officers in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe were George Coombes and Chucks Amaechi.
- About £3.1 million had been spent on improving TRA halls.

Kitchens and Bathrooms Project

Sylvester Hilton, Major Works Team, gave an overview presentation.

- In February 2015, cabinet agreed to establish a six year kitchen and bathroom programme to “deliver a quality kitchen and bathroom for every council tenant” by March 2021, as part of a wider asset management strategy. It was agreed to coincide with the final year of the current warm, dry and safe programme in 2015/16 to replace kitchens older than 20 years and bathrooms older than 30 years.
- Further details would come before Cabinet later in the year, setting out how the kitchens and bathrooms programme could be taken forward from April 2016, as part of the broader housing asset management strategy.
- A list of properties in the area with planned works was circulated.

In response to questions, some of the following points were made:

- It was the first year of a six-year programme so surveyors would be adding to the current list of properties during that time after assessment.

10. CLEANER GREENER SAFER FUNDING REALLOCATION

Cleaner Greener Safer Funding Reallocation

Note: This is an executive function.

RESOLVED:

1. That £38,168 of capital funding be reallocated into funding for the 2015/16 programme.
2. That the following projects be approved for funding from the 2015/16 capital programme:

GRANGE WARD

- Positive Youth Swanmead games area £7,600

LIVESEY (ROTHERHITHE) WARD

- Ledbury football pen – additional funding £20,000

RIVERSIDE WARD

- Bermondsey hanging baskets £3,800
- Urban Natural Learning (St James school) £4,700
- Wrayburn Residents, green spaces on Bevington Street £4,700

ROTHERHITHE WARD

- Southwark Park bandstand £6,000
- Southwark observation beehive £5,000
- Canada Estate planting £10,196

SOUTH BERMONDSEY

- Bermondsey hanging baskets £3,546

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND 2015/16

Note: This is an executive function.

RESOLVED:

That the following neighbourhood fund projects be approved for funding for 2015/16:

GRANGE WARD

Bermondsey Spa Residents Association beauty phase 2	£1,540
St Saviours TRA international day	£2,000
OBC Youth Club summer activities	£3,894
Create Bede/Grange more creative	£5,000
Vitrine Sculpture at Bermondsey Square	£3,000
Age UK Yalding sports and mobility day	£1,292
Albert McKenzie VC St George's Day celebration	£1,000
Millwall Community Trust multi-sports central	£5,000
Alwaysz Kreative, be kreative	£4,000
Bermondsey Street Area Partnership sculpture	£5,000
The Quay Players	£1,500
Maintaining Health Partners, Bermondsey breathe	£1,800
The Friends of Southwark Park, activities programme	£625

Bermondsey Street Festival	£5,891
----------------------------	--------

LIVESEY (ROTHERHITHE) WARD

Millwall for All Trust, youth education and improving health for older people	£3,529
St Helena and Oldfield TRA, tai chi sessions	£700
Bermondsey Artists Group, pop up at GP surgeries	£100
Bede House Association, Buzz on the B&B	£4,000
Silwood Community Youth, project at Silwood	£2,500
St Helena and Oldfield TRA, family hub	£2,500
Arundel Court Resident Association, garden	£303
Bonamy and Bramcote TRA, St George's Day	£1,500

RIVERSIDE WARD

City Hope Church, Rotherhithe World Cup	£1,075
Bermondsey Artists Group, pop up at GP surgeries	£500
Shad Thames Partnership, Local Eyes festival	£1,825
Shad Thames Residents Association, clean up	£5,000
Salmon Youth Centre, Leap Into project	£10,000
Cherry Gardens TRA, through the generations	£1,050
Cherry Gardens TRA, Millpond Hall opening ceremony	£1,050
Riverside Parents and Carers Association, play sessions	£9,797
Bermondsey Community Nursery, trip to Chessington	£2,264

ROTHERHITHE WARD

Time and Talents, community garden	£5,240
Brunel Museum, summer play scheme	£1,000
Bermondsey Artists Group, pop up at GP surgeries	£125
The Rotherhithe Festival Group	£2,500

St Helena & Oldfield TRA, tai chi sessions	£700
Friends of Southwark Park, activities programme	£1,000
Red Lion Boys Club, children's youth club	£1,000
The Amicable Society, local conservation	£2,500
Canada Estate TRA, fun day	£1,000
Bede Youth Adventure Project, fun day	£1,021
Themed markets for Albion Street	£5,000
London Bubble Theatre, reach out	£2,540
Mayflower TRA, Activities for All	£1,000
Albion Street steering group, opening of St. Olav Square	£1,500

SOUTH BERMONDSEY WARD

Millwall for All, youth education and improving health for older people	£5,231
The Quay Players, production of Sister Act	£1,500
Upkeep of Blue Market planters	£250
Longfield TRA, fun day	£1,200
Bermondsey Community Kitchen	£5,000
Stevenson Crescent Estate TRA, bright and planted	£1,200
The Queen Victoria, air ambulance event	£1,000
Stevenson Crescent Estate TRA, summer fete	£1,200
Citizens Advice Bureaux, day for abolition of slavery	£110
Markaz Man UK, sports day / family event	£500
Glott fashion workshop	£680
London Bubble Theatre, reach out	£825
Friends of Southwark Park, activities programme	£750
New Covenant Church, celebrating choir and dance	£300
Playdagogy	£500
Southwark Community Festival	£250
Faces in Focus, solution based counselling	£250

Southwark Muslim Youth Society, what I know about Islam	£200
Walworth Golden Oldies, 3 step healthy programme	£400
Southwark Eid	£150

SURREY DOCKS

Bermondsey Artists Group, pop up at GP surgeries	£500
The Rotherhithe Festival	£2,500
Osprey TRA, mural project II	£5,100
Millwall Community Trust, football for all	£5,850
Russia Dock Community, estate renovation	£5,600
Surrey Docks Farm Society, green grow cook	£5,000
London Bubble Theatre, reach out	£2,000
The Friends of Southwark Park, activities programme	£1,000

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following public questions were asked at the meeting:

1. What is the council's policy on religion. What does it do to promote religion that is not oppressive or discriminatory (whichever religion that may be).
Councillor Stephanie Cryan responded that Councillor Jamil Mohammed, had helped to arrange an inter faith community day and was compiling a directory of all the different faiths and places of worship in the borough. Councillor Mohammed could be contacted for further information.
2. As freeholders, how do we get out of the communal heating system so as to have full control of our own heating [rather than] paying for what others use.
Councillor Richard Livingstone responded that it was a difficult one as people either have communal heating systems or they don't. If people opted out, that would increase the bills for everyone else contributing.
3. A question was raised about the planned 20 mph speed limits in the borough and the difficulty of limiting vehicles to that speed. Concerns were expressed about residents being criminalised by speed cameras.
Councillor Livingstone responded that a report would come to a future meeting about the consultation that took place on 20mph limits.
4. It has been three years since the Pumphouse museum closed down. It remains an empty building. What has Southwark got out of the closure.
Councillor Richard Livingstone responded that savings were needed due to heavy

budget cuts. Councillor David Hubber added that there have been expressions of interest from groups wishing to use the Pumphouse museum for community use which would be warmly welcomed.

5. Would the indigenous population of Southwark be given preference in obtaining accommodation in Southwark, instead of people from another borough coming here and depriving them of the opportunity.

Councillor Richard Livingstone responded that last year the council agreed as part of the allocations policy a requirement for residency. There was now a five-year residency priority.

6. What plans were available to make homes more affordable. A new two bedroom flat, in the area, only 650 square foot, was on the market for £650,000.

Councillor Richard Livingstone responded that more homes needed to be built across London and Southwark was doing more than most boroughs. Councillor Anood Al-Samerai added that the situation was tough and more should be done to deter investors from abroad buying property and not even dwelling in the properties. Extra council tax should be charged on such unoccupied properties.

7. A resident highlighted the Ship York pub that had recently closed. It could have become a Shisha bar prior to it becoming flats but residents and officer action had prevented that from happening which was important for the area.

8. Is there anything that could be done to ban people buying properties to rent and make it easier to rent to buy.

9. A resident asked about officers parking in the Blue Bermondsey for 3 or 4 hours at a time while residents were limited to 30 minutes.

A written response was read out that council officers were exempt whilst carrying out their statutory duties.

Councillor Leo Pollak added that there had been some displacement of parking due to major works around Lucy Way. A solution was being worked on which may include pay and display and traders bays respected.

10. A resident said that people on shared ownership schemes had no chance of owning the property outright. Should shared ownership be dumped and the focus be on building more council houses so that local people could be housed.

Councillor Richard Livingstone responded that as many council homes should be built as possible but that would not meet the demand so other sorts of affordable housing options should be available as well.

11. David Eyles, Chair of the Tissiba and Haddonfield Tenants and Residents Association (TRA), said that at the last community council there was a question that strongly criticised TRAs. David explained that he had invited the author of the question to contact him and discuss ways forward and demonstrate the activeness of TRAs in the area. David said that without TRAs in the area many things would not get done including festivals. He added that his door was open and he would be happy to assist with any needs associated with TRAs in the community.

12. In response to a question about parking in Gomm Road, Councillor Stephanie Cryan said that controlled parking zones in the wider Canada Water area was being looked at

and consultation had been requested.

13. A resident complained about the Police stations in the area being closed. He had been told to come back with lost property to another destination at a particular time and then told it would not be accepted. Councillor Kath Whittam responded she would follow up on that issue.

13. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS

Note: This is an executive function.

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:

- Ilderton Road – install a loading only bay on Penarth Street to service a recently redeveloped building on Ilderton Road.
- Bermondsey Wall East – removing an existing solo motorcycle bay.

14. LOCAL TRAFFIC AND PARKING AMENDMENTS

14 .1 CANADA WATER AND SOUTHWARK PARK CONSULTATION

Note: This is an executive function.

RESOLVED:

1. That the consultation methods be approved.
2. That the following comments about the consultation area be added:
 - Canada Street and Quebec Way should be included within the scope of the controlled parking zone. The streets were often full of commuter vehicles at the annoyance of residents unable to park.

14 .2 STANWORTH STREET AND MILLSTREAM ROAD

Note: This is an executive function.

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 procedures:

- Reinstatement of double yellow lines at the corner of Stanworth Street and Millstream Road.

15. COMMUNITY COUNCIL QUESTION TO COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

Community Council Question:

“Will the Leader of the Council explore the allocation of council staff parking permits across the borough and whether it is being abused”

16. COMMUNITY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS CAPITAL INVESTMENT 2014/15

Note: This is an executive function.

RESOLVED:

That the following scheme be approved for capital funding investment:

- Morocco Street carriageway resurfacing £28,160

The meeting ended at 9.40pm

CHAIR:

DATED: