

**Public questions received at Borough, Bankside & Walworth Community Council  
15 July 2015**

Question	Response
<p>On Walworth Road, the council bins on it and its pavements are dirty. Wheelie bins are in the street. Why is this?</p>	<p>Walworth Road is a busy retail area with numerous fast food outlets generating lots of waste and grime. The following arrangements are in place to ensure that Walworth Road is kept as clean and tidy as possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The street litter bins are washed twice a year, they were last washed in April 2015 and are due to be washed again in September 2015.</li> <li>• Walworth Road has a permanent presence for bin litter emptying and litter picking i.e. the road is patrolled continually from 06:00 to 18:00 (Monday to Saturday), 06:00 to 15:00 (Sundays) by our cleaning staff to carry out the stated cleaning duties.</li> <li>• Walworth Road receives a nightly pavement sweep, the litter bins are also emptied again overnight (Sunday to Thursday).</li> <li>• Bulky waste and street cleaners rubbish sacks are collected three times per day and once overnight (Monday to Sunday).</li> <li>• The pavements are jet washed once per month (April to September), the last pavement wash took place on the 29 July 2015 and are due to be washed again on the 24 August 2015.</li> </ul> <p>Officers can also confirm that there are no wheelie bins left out on the pavement, however there are numerous trade waste bins that are located along the length of the Walworth Road. The council is keen to address the problem of trade waste storage on the pavements of all retail areas across the borough and are currently looking at a number of options to manage the problem more effectively.</p>
<p>Are the Walworth Society working with other local societies, for example in Camberwell or Lambeth?</p>	<p>From Jeremy Leach (Chair of the Walworth Society):</p> <p>The Walworth Society tries to work as closely as possible with other groups throughout the local area. Within Walworth, we work really closely with groups like Carnival del Pueblo, Latin Elephant, many Friends of Parks groups and Creation Trust and we try to be active participants in the Elephant &amp; Walworth Neighbourhood Forum that is developing a Walworth Neighbourhood Plan. Slightly more widely we stay in touch with other amenity societies in Southwark such as the Dulwich Society, the Camberwell Society and the Peckham Society as well as the SE5 Forum for Camberwell. We also work with groups in other parts of the borough such as Better Bankside and Team London Bridge and groups in Rotherhithe. We are always happy to work with other groups if they would like to get in touch.</p>

<p>Why do the traffic lights on Borough High Street at Union and Newcomen Street take so long to change. The 343 had to wait about a minute and then only had 12 seconds to cross the lights before they changed again, even though no cars came out two side turnings. The bus driver said this was normal.</p>	<p>Response provided by TfL, as the responsible authority for this road and traffic signals:</p> <p>The traffic lights at Borough High Street / Newcomen / Union Street are operated by computer control system that adapts signal timings to the traffic demands on street. Therefore the green time on the main route (Borough High Street) varies from 12 to 20 seconds and side roads varies from 8 to 11 seconds between low to high demand in the peak period. The traffic light timings have been set to balance traffic and pedestrians demands.</p>
<p>Would the chair of the community council please advise on what steps the council is taking to bring to the attention of all relevant authorities the unacceptable level of aircraft noise over the community council area, and to promote means of mitigating this detriment to local well-being?</p>	<p>Aircraft for both Heathrow and City airports overfly the borough of Southwark. The loudest noise levels due to aircraft are mainly towards the middle and south of the borough due to aircraft approaching Heathrow and to the east of the Rotherhithe peninsular due to air traffic leaving City airport.</p> <p>The UK Aircraft Noise Index (ANI) followed extensive surveying of attitudes to aircraft noise linking air traffic noise levels to community annoyance. There are three levels defined to represent low, moderate and high annoyance.</p> <p>Each airport has its own noise contour maps and the average noise levels created on the ground in the Southwark Council area do not reach the 'low' annoyance level for either of the airports of concern.</p> <p>With regard to what Southwark Council is doing to bring the issue of aircraft noise in Southwark to the attention of the relevant authorities:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have, when consulted, strongly recommended to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) to consider producing cumulative noise contour maps to cover the areas where noise from more than one airport affects the ground-based population, rather than to simply have contour maps for individual airports. This would be of benefit to fully understand the impact aircraft noise has on Southwark.</li> <li>• Southwark Council will continue to respond to consultations for airport expansion in the South East of England, from both the CAA and national government, giving comments and input that represent the best interest of Southwark residents, however, the decisions on national airport and air traffic policy are made beyond the council's authority.</li> </ul>

<p>How can the community council help encourage and support the participation of people with additional needs, particularly additional learning needs, in local community gardening groups?</p>	<p>The council's neighbourhoods team will be exploring options regarding allotment groups or gardening organisations working with disability groups, particularly users with learning needs, to develop / share best practice in their engagement and participation.</p>
<p>How many reference books were on display in the old reference library at Newington and how many will be in the new library? How many lending books will there be compared to Dulwich, Peckham and Canada Water libraries?</p>	<p>It is too soon to confirm the quantities of stock for the new library, as the design and layouts in the proposed new building are still being formulated. Many of the materials which were traditionally available in hard copy for reference are now only available online and Southwark Libraries provides a range of these together with books, and audio visual stock. The new library will have a selection of stock in all formats, but the actual quantities are not yet determined.</p>
<p>There is virtually no footway remaining on Elephant Road between Elephant and Castle station and the New Kent Road. At present the pavement is invariably parked on by cars and so people have to often walk in the road. What steps can be taken to enforce parking regulations, so that the pavement is clear for people to walk along?</p>	<p>In the last 30 days (between 28 June 2015 and 28 July 2015) the council's Civil Enforcement Officers (CEOs, normally referred to as traffic wardens) made 590 registered visits to this location, around 20 visits a day. The CEOs logged 317 vehicles parked in contravention, moved on 247 of those and issued 70 parking tickets.</p> <p>The council used to use CCTV to enforce the restrictions here but central Government largely banned the use of CCTV for parking enforcement in April 2015 and this tool for enforcement is no longer available.</p> <p>The parking enforcement team will continue to visit the area and issue parking tickets. Additionally the businesses will be visited again by our highways team to warn of prosecution if the businesses allow their employees to mount the pavement</p>
<p>"The crossroad and traffic light at Borough market near St Thomas's / Guy's Hospital has no light for pedestrians. When is there going to be a crossing in conjunction with the road between Borough market and Guy's hospital to make it safer for pedestrians to cross?"</p>	<p>Response provided by TfL as the responsible authority for this road and traffic signals:</p> <p>Junction improvements at Borough High street junction with St Thomas Street are currently in the detailed design stage with CVU (Colas Volker URS), the TfL Central London Contractor.</p> <p>We are aiming to start works in approximately November this year, break for the Christmas period (due to high pedestrian flows around Borough Market) and restart works in January with completion by the end of March.</p> <p>The scheme will be putting in an all-round pedestrian stage including a diagonal crossing. Some of the footways will also be repaved in high quality materials</p>

<p>I have been attending community councils for a few years now, today's meeting is the first where the police have not been present. Their absence has not been discussed with attendees. Is this going to be the norm or could this be just an omission?</p>	<p>It was an oversight and the police have been invited to attend the meeting on 16 September 2015.</p>
<p>What is the community council doing about the dwindling number of attendees to meetings?</p>	<p>The total number of attendees for the 2014-15 cycle had increased by 12% from the previous year. 2432 people attended CCs (all areas) in 2014-15 whereas 2170 attended in the 2013-14 round.</p> <p>It is too early to say what the attendance figures will be for the current year as there has only been one round of meetings so far.</p> <p>Officers are exploring ways to further increase participation and trying to utilise more social/digital media to attract people to community council meetings.</p>