

Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council held on Wednesday 22 June 2016 at 7.00 pm at Docklands Settlement, 400 Salter Road, Rotherhithe, SE16 5LJ

PRESENT: Councillor Bill Williams (Chair)
Councillor Lucas Green (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Evelyn Akoto
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
Councillor Stephanie Cryan
Councillor David Hubber
Councillor Sunny Lambe
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Hamish McCallum
Councillor Damian O'Brien
Councillor Leo Pollak
Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Dan Whitehead
Councillor Kath Whittam

OTHER MEMBERS

PRESENT: Councillor Mark Williams

OFFICER

SUPPORT: Leah Coburn, Group Manager, Highways
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 Catherine Dale, Ben Johnson, Eliza Mann and James Okosun.

3. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

4. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Stephanie Cryan, declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 12, as she is a resident of Garter Way, which has a parking amendment decision for consideration.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 15 March 2016 be agreed as a correct record of that meeting.

The chair explained that a cleaner, greener, safer project had been agreed twice in error at the meetings on 27 January 2016 and 15 March 2016 meetings. To correct that duplication, an amendment was required to the minutes of 27 January 2016 so that an award of £2,000 to Compass School should be amended to £2,000 to St John's Primary School. The amendment would ensure that both schools receive £2,000 under the cleaner, greener, safer programme as was the intention of councillors at the time.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of 27 January 2016 be amended so that under item 11, "£2,000 to Compass Secondary school and Bermondsey community kitchen vegetable gardening project" should be amended to "£2,000 to St John's Primary School for its vegetable gardening project."

6. DEPUTATIONS / PETITIONS

There were none.

7. CANADA WATER MASTER PLAN - REVIEW OF FEEDBACK REPORT

Roger Madelin, head of Canada Water development at British Land, introduced the main theme item.

Christina Norton, from Soundings, presented a summary of the draft masterplan consultation feedback.

The meeting went into workshops to hear and discuss what had been recorded from the recent consultation on the three key areas, namely

- Transport and movement
- Heights and density
- Use and community infrastructure.

At the end of the workshop session, Christina explained that the sheets of notes from the workshops had been put up on the walls of the meeting hall so residents could see what others had been saying. She added that the consultation report was available online. Residents were encouraged to provide contact details so that they could be added to the database and be automatically notified of future consultation events. For further information contact: Eleanor.Wright@britishland.com

8. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sustrans gave their apologies for non-attendance but had submitted the following statement that the chair read out:

Earlier this year, Sustrans completed a feasibility study into a walking and cycling bridge connecting Rotherhithe and Canary Wharf, which identified that a bridge would see over 13,000 journeys a day: effectively emptying 15 full trains or 160 full buses of passengers. The study demonstrated that a bridge was feasible, connecting the two sides of the river between Durand's Wharf park and Westferry Circus. The bridge would open on average three times per day, but would otherwise provide 24 hours a day access for free. Sustrans are currently working to progress the project, and are exploring options around governance and procurement to ensure a transparent process which achieves the best value for money. If anyone would like more information about this project, please contact Cliff Matsuya (cliff.matsuya@sustrans.org.uk), or visit Sustrans.org.uk/bikebridge

Marian Farrugia, community council development officer, asked residents to complete the forms, circulated at the meeting, to suggest topics for the meeting themes for the municipal year ahead. Residents were asked to be specific on what topics they wanted discussed, e.g. rather than simply saying traffic, the particular road and issue should be written down. Contact: marian.farrugia@southwark.gov.uk or Tel. 020 7525 1780.

Councillors commented that the proposed new bridge, connecting Rotherhithe and Canary Wharf, had cross party support and that it was a better use of public money than the garden bridge proposed for elsewhere in London. Councillors asked that this view be made clear to the new Mayor of London.

9. SAFETY FOR PEDESTRIANS AROUND SOUTHWARK PARK

Matt Wilson, from Transport for London (TfL), presented. In response to some recent accidents that had caused a lot of concern for councillors and residents, Matt explained that putting guard rails around the affected area would be for pedestrian containment rather than as a safety measure against cars leaving the road. The guard rails had virtually zero containment value for cars at all. He added that modern cars were designed in such a way that adding guard rails to an accident impact could cause more damage to pedestrians in the event of traffic accident. Guard rails could also give a false sense of security to pedestrians.

Councillors said that something had to be done to improve safety in the area, whether by installing bollards or a redesign of the roundabout or other measures. Councillors asked for a separate meeting with TfL to take place, to discuss the possibilities and improve safety in that area.

On a separate issue, councillors said that the planned closure of Tower Bridge seemed to

have been done without consultation with local authorities. The closure would have a major impact on the surrounding roads which were already struggling with traffic levels. Matt responded that it was not a TfL planned closure. Tower Bridge was maintained by Historic Bridge (City of London) and the structure required urgent repairs.

Councillors asked that in future, neighbouring authorities be consulted, where possible, in future whenever similar changes with impacts on local traffic, were being planned by TfL.

10. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

Sergeant Dean Willis, from the local police team gave a summary of recent activities.

Sgt Willis was asked for a written update on Livesey ward for the next community council meeting.

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following public questions were raised at the meeting:

Q1 In response to a question about the high costs of affordable housing, Councillor Mark Williams, cabinet member for regeneration and new homes, responded that shared ownership was an increasingly broken model and not an affordable way for people to get on the housing ladder. He added that the council was looking at alternative options to shared ownership, such as shared equity, community land trusts and discounted market rent for those who did not qualify for social housing.

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai added that there needed to be more genuinely affordable housing in the borough.

Q2 A resident complained that parking amendment consultation was not fairly consulting interested parties. The resident explained that they recently discovered a consultation was taking place in their area when they spotted a sign facing away from the road attached to a post, instead of leafleting of individual homes affected by proposals. Leah Coburn, group manager in highways, explained that the issue of an effective consultation process was being looked at by the highways team.

Q3 A resident asked about a lack of consultation with Pumphouse Close regarding the regeneration in Albion Street, which involved the school, the library, the car park and Mayflower hall. A number of new housing units were planned and residents were concerned about the impact on the area. In response, Councillor Mark Williams said there were local meetings scheduled at which residents could give their views on these developments.

Q4 A resident asked about a recent increase in the amount of food litter visible. She explained that bins were overflowing and more bins were needed along with a strategy to tackle the problem. Councillor Stephanie Cryan agreed to follow up with the resident on this point.

Q5 In response to a question about the analysis that led to a local 33-metre swimming pool being replaced by a 25-metre pool, councillors explained that 25 metre pools (or 50 metre pools) according to Sport England were the recommended distance for

swimming pools and competitions.

12. LOCAL TRAFFIC AND PARKING AMENDMENTS

Note: This is an executive function for decision by the community council.

Leah Coburn, group manager in highways, was available to take questions on issues related to the report.

Councillors considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following local traffic and parking amendments be approved for implementation, as detailed in the appendices to the report, subject to the outcome of any necessary statutory procedures:
 - Snowfields – To install new contraflow cycle infrastructure at the eastern end of Snowfields (Bermondsey Street junction), and remove existing permit parking bays.
 - Surrey Quays Road – To install double yellow lines on the southeast side to improve traffic flow and to prevent obstructive parking at any time.
 - Elephant Lane – To install a single yellow line on the east side adjacent to The Ship public house to provide a loading facility.
 - Varcoe Road – To install double yellow lines adjacent to No.2 Varcoe Road to provide access at any time.
 - Bermondsey Street – To convert existing single yellow lines to double yellow lines from No.176 to White Cube Gallery to maintain traffic flow and access at any time.
 - Garter Way – To install double yellow lines to prevent dangerous parking and maintain traffic flow and access at any time.
 - Canada Water / Surrey Quays Road – To install a taxi rank in a loading bay on Surrey Quays Road on the southbound approach to Canada Water station. The taxi rank would operate outside of the permitted loading times.
 - Linsey Street / Alexis Street – To install new 'no stopping on entrance markings' on Linsey Street and to remove and install new no stopping on entrance markings in Alexis Street adjacent to St James' CE Primary School.
2. That the following local traffic and parking amendments be deferred for further discussions to take place prior to a decision:
 - Rotherhithe Street – reject objections and proceed to install double yellow lines to provide unrestricted access to the entrance of No.135.

- Rotherhithe Street – reject objections and proceed to install double yellow lines to provide unrestricted access to the garages at Columbus Court and along Rotherhithe Street between Brunel Road and Clarence Mews.
- Snowsfields – reject objections and proceed to convert Snowsfields to one-way working (eastbound) with a cycling contraflow and to formalise the two zebra crossings at the western end of Snowsfields and the northern end of Crosby Row.

13. ROTHERHITHE CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE STUDY

Councillors considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

Councillors noted and approved the recommendations in the report regarding the consultation boundary and methods to review parking arrangements within a network of streets bounded by Elephant Lane, the B205 Brunel Road, Surrey Water and the River Thames adjacent to the existing CPZs ‘H’ and ‘G’.

14. COMMUNITY COUNCIL QUESTION TO COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

The community council considered whether to submit a question to the next council assembly meeting.

RESOLVED:

“How can we improve the consultation process, the notifications system for that process and demonstrate how the council acts upon the information received. Further, will the cabinet member for communities and safety, consider a one-stop-shop opportunity for better consultation.”

Councillors requested that an update on community council questions, previously submitted to council assembly, be given at the next meeting on 13 September 2016.

Meeting ended at 9.40pm

CHAIR:

DATED: