

**Public questions received at Borough, Bankside & Walworth Community Council
29 June 2016**

Question	Response
<p>Please could the community council be advised at its meeting on 29 June 2016 of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the implications for traffic flows in the north of the Borough of the proposed total closure Tower Bridge for three months from 1 October 2016; the steps taken by Southwark council members and officers in this matter since the closure was first mooted around a year ago, and further steps now proposed to be taken; whether a "night-time only" closure was considered, and, if so, why was it dropped; whether, with regard to bridges under the control of the City of London and/or its appendages, Southwark council has any view as to the balance of powers between the City and the relevant riverine Borough(s). 	<p>During the closure of Tower Bridge, roads in the surrounding area will be busier than usual for all or most of the day. A signed diversion will be in place which will take drivers travelling north over London Bridge and south over Southwark Bridge. During the closure the Congestion Charge will not apply, if you follow the signed diversion. If you deviate from the signed route during charging hours and do not pay the congestion charge, you may incur a penalty. For the latest updates on how London's roads are operating, check before you travel at: tfl.gov.uk/trafficnews and follow @TfLTrafficNews on Twitter.</p> <p>Buses: The 42, 78 and RV1 use Tower Bridge as part of their route, the 78 and RV1 will be on diversion, the 42 will be curtailed. Allow more time for your journey and plan ahead. Visit tfl.gov.uk/bus/status and follow @TfLBusAlerts on Twitter for the latest bus updates.</p> <p>Pedestrians: A pedestrian closure will be required for three weekends during the works. Dates for these closures are currently being confirmed. Pedestrians will be able to cross the bridge as normal at all other times. Travel advice for all road users and customers is available at: tfl.gov.uk/tower-bridge-closure</p> <p>The council was officially made aware of the Corporation of London's wish to carry out maintenance works to Tower Bridge in November 2015. No formal engagement with Southwark Council had been received until then, when we received an email from the project manager. Due to the late notification, the council has made an official objection to both TfL and the City of London Corporation. The objection was overruled.</p> <p>Due to the nature of the works, once the operation starts it will be impossible to open the road to traffic. One of the repairs requires the rams that operate the bridge to be disconnected, which means the bridge will be in the open position. Other works include resurfacing the bridge. This also requires a full closure. The council are satisfied that the City of London Corporation are responsible for major maintenance works to Tower Bridge. The bridge is owned, funded and managed from private funds by the historic Bridge House Estates (whom the City of London Corporation are the Trustee of). The road that crosses the bridge is the A100 which is a TfL red route road.</p>

<p>Tower Bridge closure planned for the end of 2016</p> <p>Why was it reported in Southwark News, five months before the Corporation of London gave official notification to the borough of Southwark about the closure? Would officers confirm that the delay of notification was correct and what representations were being made to the Corporation of London about this discourtesy. The discrepancy between public knowledge and official notification required explanation.</p>	<p>This project has been jointly funded by The Corporation for the City of London, Transport for London and English Heritage. It is unclear how or who released the information to the public as so many individuals within these organisation have been involved in planning.</p>
<p>East Street trading and shops encroaching onto the pavement</p> <p>Why has the council not enforced against this? Traders needing extra space should hire a stall and not take up space on the pavement. The chair and ward councillors responded that they would follow that up with the relevant officers.</p>	<p>Unfortunately the council cannot offer any fruit or vegetable pitches on the market, as officers have now placed an embargo due to fact there are enough. Officers are looking at having a varied offer of commodities on the market.</p> <p>Officers are in the process of reviewing all shop fronts on East Street, in order for them to complement the area and not encroach on public safety. The traders in the shops are not allowed to make sales on the street and there has been recent and on-going enforcement against this.</p> <p>Shop fronts have been licensed on East Street, however due to conditions of licenses not being adhered to officers are formulating a new and more robust approach, so the council can create a safe and thriving space. This is expected to be implemented in the next few months.</p>
<p>"Why does the council expect residents to pay for the green recycle food bags. Previously they were free."</p>	<p>Compostable bags for food waste caddies were provided free of charge to residents until 31 March 2015. The withdrawal of free compostable food waste bag provision was one of a range of measures taken by the council to ensure that funding for the services that matter the most to residents would continue.</p> <p>There is no absolute requirement to use compostable bags to line food waste caddies. A sheet of newspaper can be used to line caddies. The use of plastic sacks is not acceptable and this would contaminate the loads collected.</p> <p>Compostable food waste bags are available through local retail outlets and on-line suppliers. More information about the food waste service is available on the council website at:</p> <p>http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/530/food_and_garden_waste</p>

<p>Why is the lighting in the open stairwell at 18 Comus Places, Flats 1-4, SE17 1TQ on all the time? The stairwell is fitted with heat and motion detectors, so the lighting should only come on during the presence of movement.</p>	<p>18 Comus Place is managed by L&Q Housing Association. The question is therefore not within the remit of the council. Officers have forwarded this question to the local L&Q housing for a response, but have not received one. L&Q did not want to give council officers the direct contact details of the officer responsible.</p>