

Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council

MINUTES of the Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council held on Wednesday 23 November 2016 at 7.00 pm at Thurlow Lodge Community Hall, 1 Thurlow St, London SE17 2US

PRESENT: Councillor Eleanor Kerlake (Chair)
Councillor Samantha Jury-Dada (Vice-Chair)
Councillor James Coldwell
Councillor Karl Eastham
Councillor Paul Fleming
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall
Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Martin Seaton

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Johnson Situ, Cabinet Member For Business, Employment And Culture

OFFICER SUPPORT: Nicky Costin, Environmental Services
James Price, Project Manager
Richard Wells, Principal Network Development Engineer
Pauline Bonner, Community Council Development Officer
Gerald Gohler, Constitutional Officer

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The chair welcomed councillors, members of the public and officers to the meeting.

1.2 PERFORMANCE BY PEOPLES COMPANY AND IMAGINE THAT

Shelagh Farren, John Whelan and Peta Steele addressed the meeting and spoke about the projects in which their respective groups were involved. 120 children had

taken part in one project which had produced the papier-mâché bear on display at the meeting.

This was followed by a performance of a monologue written from the perspective of a fallen local WWI soldier.

1.3 APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Maisie Anderson, Helen Dennis and Vijay Luthra.

1.4 DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

1.5 ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

The chair informed the meeting that there were information stalls from: South Bank and Walworth Neighbourhood Plan (SOWN), Su Mano Amiga, Friends of Pasley Park, Bankside Residents' Forum, London Mutual Credit Union, Neighbourhoods Fund, Southwark Construction Skills and Theatre Delicatessen.

1.6 MINUTES

Members noted the minutes and discussed two points of accuracy.

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2016 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair, including the following amendments:

1. That the wording of the question to council assembly be amended to read:
"What measures does the council propose to instigate to change the situation where large HGV vehicles are using residential streets including John Ruskin Street, Webber Street and Harper Road to avoid Elephant and Castle, and will the council now state that Harper Road is recognised as a simple residential street and shall be deregulated from its B and traffic sensitive status, and further that it will pressure TfL to accept responsibility for elevated traffic levels in Harper Road?"
2. That the reference to "Rodney Road" in the last paragraph of item "2.3 Petitions and Deputations" be changed to "Harper Road".

The meeting heard that the delegation of school children from Robert Browning School who had attended the last meeting to complain about the short pedestrian crossing times at Elephant and Castle had succeeded in getting Transport for London to change the times to 15 and then to 25 seconds.

2. OFFICIAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

2.1 COMMUNITY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS CAPITAL INVESTMENT FOR 2015-16 AND 2016-17

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

Councillors considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That the following schemes outlined in Appendix 1 of the report be agreed:

Newington ward

Cooks Road – Footway £27,845

Alberta Street – Footway (one side)
Junction with Ambergate St to Penton Place £18,984

Penton Place
Footway (one side)
From properties no. 84 to no. 72 £7,556

Faraday ward

Merrow Street
Footway – Villa St to Portland St both sides £50,923

2. That the following additional scheme be agreed:

East Walworth ward

Wansey Street footway refurbishment
southern side, subject to further feasibility
study by officers £50,000

2.2 LOCAL TRAFFIC AND PARKING AMENDMENTS: GREAT GUILFORD STREET - INTRODUCTION OF LOADING BAY, RELOCATION OF PAY AND DISPLAY BAYS

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

Councillors considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the following non-strategic traffic and parking arrangements in Great Guilford Street, which are detailed in the drawings attached to the report, be approved for

implementation subject to any necessary statutory procedures:

- Provide 14.5m loading bay
- Relocate pay and display bays
- Remove existing single yellow lines.

2.3 SECURE CYCLE PARKING (BIKE HANGARS) IN FARADAY WARD

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

Councillors considered the information contained in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the implementation of the four cycle hangars in Aylesbury Road, Wooler Street and Merrow Street detailed in the report be approved, subject to necessary statutory procedures.

2.4 HEYGATE STREET AREA TRAFFIC AND PARKING AMENDMENTS

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

Councillors 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 consultation and procedures:

- 1.1 Heygate Street traffic calming
- 1.2 Heygate Street bus lane
- 1.3 Brandon Street parking revisions
- 1.4 Brandon Street traffic calming
- 1.5 Larcom Street parking revisions
- 1.6 Wansey Street parking revisions
- 1.7 Wansey Street pedestrians & cycles only
- 1.8 Victory Place pedestrians & cycles only.

2.5 LOCAL TRAFFIC AND PARKING AMENDMENTS (BOROUGH WIDE JUNCTION PROTECTION PROJECT)

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

Councillors considered and discussed 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 consultation and procedures:

- All Borough, Bankside and Walworth community council wards – upgrade all existing single yellow lines to double yellow lines on all road junctions, to improve intervisibility and road safety for all road users.

3. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ITEMS

3.1 SOUTH BANK AND WATERLOO NEIGHBOURHOOD (SOWN) PLAN

John Langley and Ben Stephenson from SOWN, informed the meeting that this neighbourhood plan, which was mostly in Lambeth, but also covered a small part of Southwark, had been in preparation since 2013.

The themes they had focused on were: retail and work, housing, green infrastructure, open space and air quality, social infrastructure and culture, development management and streetscape and transport.

The current proposal included items like requiring green roofs for new buildings and an emphasis on street trees. The proposal also sought to protect buildings, green spaces and their uses, as well as proposing traffic and transport measures that will decrease air pollution.

In-depth information about it was available on the group's website www.sowneighbours.org/.

The plan was in the pre-submission consultation phase until 20 January 2017, and would then go to the council and to independent examiner. This would be followed by local referendum of 12,000 residents and one representative from each business in the area. If adopted, it would set certain parameters for local planning policy for the next 15 years. Neighbourhood plans were designed to support borough and London-wide policies, and as such could not contradict them.

Residents and councillors were asked to submit their feedback on the proposals.

3.2 COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Su Mano Amiga

Tony Linforth-Hall from the group informed the meeting that the launch event for this charity would be taking place on Saturday 26 November 2016 from 17:00 - 22:45 at Queensborough Hall Community Centre, 11 Scovell Road, London SE1 1QQ. He went on to say that the charity was dedicated to support people experiencing domestic violence specifically in the Latin communities, and that they were keen to work with other organisations.

London Youth Support Trust

The meeting heard that the organisation provided affordable office and workspace for young entrepreneurs, along with business support and access to funding and grants, and were based in Wendover Block, Thurlow Street, SE17 2UU in the old Aylesbury Learning Centre. For further information contact: adenike@lyst.biz.

Neighbourhoods Fund announcement 2017-18

The Neighbourhoods Fund 2017-18 was now open, with the deadline for applications being noon on Monday 19 December 2016. For further information contact Pauline Bonner, pauline.bonner@southwark.gov.uk, Tel: 020 7525 1019.

UK Power Networks

The meeting heard that UK Power Networks now provided a "priority services register" for people who might need extra help in the unlikely even of a power cut. This service was open to older people, families with very young children, and people with specific medical conditions. For more details and to register, visit:

www.ukpowernetworks.co.uk/prioritysupport or call 0800 169 9970.

Southwark Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy

It was reported that Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and Southwark Council were developing a local Wellbeing and Mental Health Strategy to improve the support for children and adults to maintain positive wellbeing and prevent mental ill health. Drop-in meetings were being held on 15 November 2016 and 30 November 2016. The results would be discussed at the health scrutiny meeting in January 2017.

Mint Street Adventure Playground

Officers were asking people to attend a meeting about the latest information and initial ideas for an exciting new adventure playground and public play space on Friday 2 December 2016 from 3:30-6:30pm (drop-in) at Mint Street Adventure Playground, Southwark Bridge Road, Lant Street, SE1 1QP. Southwark Council staff and the landscape design team would be available to talk about the designs and answer any questions. To share your thoughts outside of this session please call 020 7525 5352.

Update on the Walworth Road post office

The chair informed the meeting that she and Councillor Johnson Situ, cabinet member for business, employment and culture, had met with representatives from the managing director of crown post office and their PR person, but that the meeting had not been encouraging, as the company seemed committed to franchising, despite views expressed by the local community. The company was now in the process of considering submissions from franchisees. There would be a six-week consultation, but only on the choice of franchisee, not on the principle of franchising. The changes would be coming in early next year. Councillors would continue to raise their concerns and would be meeting with the unions next week. At the meeting councillors had also suggested making the Crampton Street sorting office a pick up point, which the post office was willing to consider.

Proposed changes to community councils

The chair explained that changes to community councils were proposed, which would be going to council assembly for decision on 30 November 2016. The changes were aimed at the meeting having a bigger community engagement focus. There would be five town hall-style meetings every year, which would make meetings more flexible in terms of agenda items and the format.

In terms of decision making, prior to two of these meetings, there would be a shorter, public decision-making meeting. One of these meetings would be focused on Cleaner Greener Safer and Neighbourhood Fund allocations. Other decisions could then be divided amongst these two meetings. A further change would be traffic management order (TMO) decisions which were currently decided by community councils. The council planned to change the decision-maker for TMOs to be the relevant cabinet

member, which meant that decisions could be made whenever they were needed. It also meant that members of the public who are interested in a decision can: contact officers or the decision-maker directly with any issues they wish to raise, engage with the statutory consultation sent out by the council, or raise queries and concerns with their ward members. As well as this, councillors from wards affected by TMOs would be contacted directly before the statutory consultation, and if at least two ward members asked for part or all of a TMO decision to come to community council for consultation, the TMO would be put on hold and brought to the next community council meeting for discussion. The community council's comments would then be taken into account by the cabinet member when taking the decision, as well as any comments from members of the public and individual ward members. Once a TMO decision was taken, there was also a five day "call in" period, during which any three members of the overview and scrutiny committee could choose to call in a decision in for reconsideration. This would still exist under the new scheme.

The meeting heard that the opposition councillors wanted to put it on record that they would be voting against the proposals.

Police attendance at community council meetings

Councillors expressed their concern that the police had not sent any representative to this and the previous meeting. They also asked for a written response to the question they had originally put to the police representative at the community council meeting on 29 June 2016 about a Burgess Park fair where knife crime had occurred, and about which the police had said they had not been informed. The response should confirm whether they had been informed of the meeting and had not taken action, or if they had not been informed how this communication problem would be addressed.

The meeting also heard that there was currently a problem with the credit union's website, but that this was being worked on.

3.3 PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS

None were received.

3.4 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The chair invited questions from the floor, or for questions to be submitted in writing.

In answer to a question from the floor, the chair said that the post offices in Peckham and Blackfriars Road were also being franchised (or had already been franchised) by the Post Office. Walworth Road and Blackfriars Road were lossmaking. Councillors had cited the example of the Kennington post office which had remained a crown office after modernisation.

In response to a question from the floor, councillors explained that there was currently an adventure playground in Mint Square and that the building that came with it, was dilapidated and needed refurbishment. The new design would be accessible, but residents were invited to put forward their ideas.

In response to a question about blue badge letters which had not arrived, the chair asked the resident to speak to their ward councillors.

The meeting heard that there were halls for groups to meet available at Michael Faraday School and St Peter's Church, as well as the tenants halls on the Elizabeth and Nelson estates and in the refurbished Aylesbury hall which would open as part of the redevelopment.

Further public questions were submitted in writing:

1. How can the council reduce "rat running" on Manor Place, Braganza Street and Penton Place (since the revisions of the Elephant and Castle southern roundabout)?
2. The London Mayor is proposing a North Circular – South Circular congestion charge, or pollution charge from vehicles. Will this help traders in East Street Market? What will be the level required?
3. St George's Square conservation area. The row of terraces on London Road, protected by English Heritage and developed by South Bank University, make one of the most pleasant shopping rows in Southwark. The coffee shop has put one, two and now three advertising boards in the middle of the public footpath. Having had half a dozen conversations, nobody on the site wants to take responsibility for them. So I am now referring the matter to the enforcement section of the community council.
4. Why have the railings next to the zebra crossing outside Friars Primary foundation school been taken away and we have been left with a long muddy ditch that is now overgrown with long tall weeds, that people are using as a rubbish ground, and [that is] attracting mice? The cars don't see when children run out of school as the weeds block their view. A health and safety concern for school and local residents. Also the bin has been taken away, as well, so people are using the ditch with weeds as a dumping ground. Please can we have the railings and the bin back?
5. Why do they not paint the cyclists' part of the road which covers Blackfriars Road (beginning of St George's circus) and Webber Street, so cars can see clearly where they can drive down, as very confusing for drivers and pedestrians?
6. Why is there no crossing for pedestrians on the first bus stop (Bus 100, 63, 45) on Blackfriars Road (St George's Circus end) as when you get off the bus, you have to walk all the way down to the traffic lights in order to cross?
7. Parking permit zone M1 – Wansey Street

The restrictions are 8.30am-6.30pm Monday to Friday. When the new development becomes inhabited, and once the shops and cafes open, local residents will find themselves crowded out and unable to park on returning home in the evenings and weekends. Can you please give consideration to extending restrictions to:

1. 10.00pm or 12.00am
2. 24 hours

Seven days a week including weekends?

8. Can the community council provide a list of local workspaces available to rent for

artists?

4. THEME: BRILLIANT BUSINESS - HELPING OUR LOCAL BUSINESS THRIVE

Councillor Johnson Situ, cabinet member for business, employment and culture, introduced this item by saying that the council was focusing on improving the local economy. The council's Economic Wellbeing Strategy was focused on employment, at starting up and running businesses, High Streets and financial inclusion.

In the last five years, the council had helped businesses grow, and created SEEDS (Southwark employment and enterprise development scheme) which had supported 3,300 residents into new roles both in the voluntary and private sectors since 2014. 908 jobs had been created through partnerships with developers and enterprises. The council's apprenticeships scheme had created 608 apprentices who had all been paid the London Living wage, plus training and borough. These apprenticeships were not just for young people, with one of the oldest participants being 56 years old.

Apprenticeships were a career opportunity, and the council could support small businesses to take on an apprentice. SEEDS would support this with the council co-investing 50% of the cost of the apprentice's London living wage. The council's business portal provided online advice, training and help for businesses and those who wish to start a business, while the High Street challenge had dispersed £209,000 in Borough, Bankside and Walworth to make the borough's High Streets more attractive and so encourage people to shop locally since 2012.

Councillor Situ went on to say that the first Saturday in December 2016 was going to be Small Business Saturday, and encouraged residents to visit their local High Streets where parking fees would be lifted for the day. The free parking would apply to all local High Streets in the borough.

Responding to questions from the floor, he said that Southwark was supporting residents who needed some extra support to get on the job-ladder, for example, with Pathway To Work in partnership with the local job centres. The Southwark Works programme, based in the Elephant and Castle shopping centre, helped residents not to be excluded from the job market. The council also had a commitment to commissioning services only from companies which paid the London Living Wage and had no zero-hour contracts.

Responding to further questions, Councillor Situ said that the rate of employment of Southwark residents had gone up from 66% to 78% (16 to 64-year-olds) in the last six years. Apprenticeships lasted a year and apprentices were paid a fair wage. The council would also help apprentices on the programme with the next step into employment, for example with a six-monthly check-in. Pay after the apprenticeship year would depend on the employer and the apprentice, and Councillor Johnson said he would come back to the community council with information about what hourly rate would be paid after the year of apprenticeship.

4.1 FOCUS ON LOCAL BUSINESSES

Walworth Road Network Group

William Mubiru, Section Manager at the Walworth Road Marks and Spencer, appealed to local businesses to come together in a retail forum to come up with ideas

how to benefit from the development at Elephant Park.

In answer to questions from the floor, the chair said that the council was aware of the problem of there being a lot of betting shops and payday lenders in Walworth Road, and had worked with community groups, as well as many businesses of the same type (like nail bars), however, the council's hands were often tied by the planning legislation.

Responding to questions from councillors, William said that the local M&S was not under threat of closure for the time being, and that he hoped the development at Elephant Park would be good for the businesses on Walworth Road, which is why it was important to have a business forum for Walworth Road.

East Street Market Update

Nicky Costin, from the council's environment department, introduced the changes to East Street which would be rolled out, including the branding, the 60-70 new gazebos which would help get rid of the clutter and shops overstretching. These had been funded by roughly £500,000 from the GLA. There would be a new street food area near Nursery Row Park which it was hoped would bring shoppers into market. The Walworth Road entrance to the market would also be changed. The new brand would be launched at Easter.

In response to questions from the floor, Nicky said that the gazebos would be made available to traders free of charge and owned by the council. The costs would be covered by the rent and it was hoped that the gazebos would encourage new traders to come. There were no plans to increase the rents in the near future. The arch currently located at the Walworth Road entrance to the market would be relocated to the new street food area, and replaced by a lighted sign. The markets management team had put embargoes on some types of stall, of which there were already many present in the market. The quality of the goods sold could not be controlled by the council, but the customers would be voting with their feet. Nicky further explained that the consultation about these changes had been carried out by a company called "We made this" on behalf of the GLA, as part of the money being awarded. Shop-front licences would be discontinued. The council was also prosecuting shop-owners and fly-tippers. In addition to this, the rubbish compactor in East Street would be removed, and a drift lorry would be coming through five times a day instead.

Update on the Elephant and Castle shopping centre

Kim Humphreys informed the meeting that a public consultative exhibition had taken place in the summer with 750 people participating. A planning application had been submitted, and would be shortly going out to consultation. He highlighted some of the main features of the proposals: a 500-seater performance venue, shops, a new public space, the new London College of Communication (LCC) site, 1,000 homes and the new tube station. The residential properties would be rental with an affordable, tenure-blind housing component. In terms of the timetable, the application will be determined in the first quarter of 2017, with works to begin by 2018. The shops would open five years later - by 2023. The works would begin with the shopping centre site and continue on the LCC and Underground sites.

Responding to questions from the floor, Kim said that the shopping centre was scheduled to close at the end of 2017 (or in early 2018). Some of the phase 1 retail units on Elephant Square would be offered to existing Elephant and Castle traders. The Latin businesses in Elephant Road were not Delancey's tenants, but Delancey

was working with the Latin businesses in the shopping centre and was keen for the Latin flavour of the area not to be lost, for example by an archway swap.

The meeting heard that the council had a challenge in terms of accommodating a general increase in population with limited means. There was a primary schools places expansion programme. The council had no power over secondary schools, but there were plans to open a new secondary school in the old Southwark fire station. Some GP surgeries would be moving to bigger health centres.

4.2 WORKSHOPS - BUSINESS SUPPORT

The meeting then split into workshops discussing for questions:

- Best things about Southwark (or the local area) for small businesses
- Threats to the success of small businesses in Southwark
- Changes that small businesses would like to see locally
- Things the council could be doing to support small businesses better.

The chair said that the responses would be collated and feedback given at a future meeting.

5. COMMUNITY COUNCIL QUESTION TO COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

RESOLVED:

That the decision on which question would be sent to the Council Assembly meeting on 22 March 2017 be deferred to next community council meeting.

The chair informed attendees that the next community council meeting would take place on Saturday 4 February 2017, and would feature the Cleaner Green Safer 2017-18 funding decisions.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: