

TAKEnote

Bermondsey Community Council



Notes from the meeting on Wednesday November 9 2005
Aylwin Girls School, 55 Southwark Park Road, SE16 3TZ

Issue no. 5

southwark.gov.uk/communitycouncil

Main items at this meeting:

- Four Squares anti-social behaviour action plan
- Bermondsey Spa update
- Police update
- New Academy at Aylwin
- Secondary school access and improvement

Community slot

- Southwark Refugees Communities Forum
- Southwark Multi Faith Forum

Southwark Refugee Communities Forum (SRCF)

SRCF brings together community leaders representing people from over 30 countries and over 30 different refugee community organisations. It works to raise the profile of refugee community organisations (RCOs), so the voices of refugees can be better heard.

SRCF has four key aims: promoting awareness of the role and skills that RCOs have to offer; facilitating collaboration between RCOs, statutory and voluntary sectors; integration of RCOs into mainstream structures and the promotion of refugee participation at all levels; identification of resources and development of capacity.

For more information or to work with SRCF call 020 7277 4400, email southwarkrcf@btconnect.com

Tackling anti-social behaviour in Bermondsey Four Squares

The police and council housing and environment departments have joined up to tackle problems on the Four Squares Estate. Called Bermondsey Together Action Zone (TAZ), the group's action plan emphasises enforcement, prevention and better communication for residents. Its work includes:

- Gathering, sharing and responding to intelligence
- Targeting young offenders and those at risk of offending and warning letters sent to arson suspects
- Issuing anti-social behaviour orders and Acceptable Behaviour Contracts where necessary

- Mobile CCTV on estate
- Exploring funding for Neighbourhood Watch
- Public reassurance on community safety
- Drugs education for young people

For a copy of the Four Squares action plan please visit the Bermondsey Community Council page:
www.southwark.gov.uk/YourCommunity/Bermondsey

Click on 'community council', then 'agendas and minutes.' The report is filed under 'Four Squares Action Plan' in the November 9 2005 section.

For further information contact David Johnson, community safety, 020 7525 7696 or Dave Simpson, council's anti-social behaviour unit, 020 7232 7037

Bermondsey Spa update

The refurbishment of Spa Park is on target, and due for completion on January 1 2006 – a great way to bring in the new year! The light columns have been erected and the landscaping finished. Unfortunately, four mature trees had to be cut down. But the good news is, that over 100 more will be planted. The construction of the new health centre is well under way and on target to be finished by the end of 2006.

One of the main focal points of the regeneration scheme is the Salmon Youth Centre, which is planned and on target for a summer 2006 opening.

For general questions about the regeneration plans contact Southwark Council's regeneration department on 020 7525 5321, email pascale.rosenbloom@southwark.gov.uk For queries on sites E to H (Jamaica Road) contact Iain McPherson at Hyde Housing Association 020 8297 7660, email iain.mcpherson@hyde-housing.co.uk

Police update

- Halloween and bonfire night both went well with a joint control room having been set up by the council to monitor the situation, particularly on estates.
- Two new police have been employed at the Rotherhithe station.
- A surgery was held at the Blue Beat office specifically for residents of the Four Squares estate to talk about their grievances.



Southwark Multi Faith Forum (SMFF)

SMFF is for faith-based organisations such as churches, mosques, temples and other community organisations, which define themselves in some way by their religion/faith.

The main objectives of the Forum are:

- To promote good relations between different religious and ethnic groups.
- To support religious organisations in Southwark to get more involved in projects to improve the quality of life for Southwark residents, particularly the socially excluded.
- To support religious organisations in the borough to access further funds to help them develop projects to improve the quality of life of Southwark residents.
- To lobby the council and other government and voluntary agencies to ensure that the views and needs of faith communities are recognised in their policies and their actions.
- To elect the faith representatives to Southwark Alliance, the local strategic partnership.

Contact the SMFF on 020 7525 5601, email richard.ladipo@southwark.gov.uk or www.smff.org.uk

New Academy at Aylwin

Cathy Loxton, headteacher of Aylwin Girls School, attended the meeting to talk about her hopes for the future transition of Aylwin Girls School from a community school to an academy. If successful, Aylwin will become the first girls' school to do so.

An academy is a new type of school, which is independent from the state but still funded and supported by it. Lord Harris - who was born and bred in Peckham - is the sponsor of the school. He also sponsors the Peckham Academy and others. Lord Harris's schools follow the 'Harris Vision', which offers a different way to look at education and all schools have access to one another's facilities. So far the Harris family of schools has benefited 10,000 students.

Mrs Loxton confirmed that no buildings will be knocked down in the process of turning the school into an academy. There will be large-scale refurbishment and a possibility of new buildings for sixth-form students and/or science classes. Temporary classrooms will be erected while refurbishment takes place for minimal disruption for pupils.

To find out more contact Aylwin Girls School on 020 7237 9316, email headteacher@aylwings.biblio.net



Aylwin to follow in the footsteps of the Peckham Academy.

Aylwin excels in vocational courses and the head feels that their transition to an academy will allow this to flourish. They hope to specialise in 'enterprise', acknowledging that most youngsters have more than one job in their lifetime and need to be multi-skilled and ready for the workplace when they leave school.

Aylwin intends to extend their pastoral care, mentoring capacity and open up facilities – including a large, new, fully equipped hall – to the local community.

Secondary school access and improvement

Jane Bailey and Terry Reynolds from the council's education department described the application process for secondary school access.

They explained that last year they were unable to check children who had no places due to IT problems, but that these issues had been resolved and their current priority is to ensure that every child receives an offer letter on March 1 2006 for at least one school.

They clarified that the Local Education Authority (LEA) is the clearing process and that schools themselves apply their own criteria to each application. Parents were concerned that schools saw where they were placed on the applicant's list of preferences and may have turned them down on this basis. Both of the council's representatives stressed that this does not happen and parents need not be concerned about this. However they also said that since the LEA only clears the applications,

appeals must be made *directly* to the school rather than the LEA. Since parents have 15 days to appeal after an application rejection it is important they know what to do.

They gave the following advice:

- If you get a school place, accept it. Securing a place is the most important thing. Possible changes can be looked at later.
- Look at schools – don't always listen to gossip or opinion
- Consider schools in your own communities – this way children do not have to travel far and are not exhausted before they have started their school day, so can concentrate on their work; can make friends in their own areas; and can engage with their community as a whole. Councillor Stanton added that there are currently enough secondary school places for those leaving primary school and that studies are being done to project the future need.

To find out more about secondary school access visit the Bermondsey Community Council web page www.southwark.gov.uk/YourCommunity/Bermondsey/ Click on 'community council', then 'agendas and minutes.' The report is filed under 'Secondary FAQs' in the November 9 2005 section. For general enquiries about access contact Jane Bailey on 020 7525 2674, email jane.bailey@southwark.gov.uk

Your next Bermondsey meeting is on
February 1 2006, 7pm at Aylwin Girls School, 55
Southwark Park Road, SE16 3TX. Everyone welcome.

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