



**COMMUNITY COUNCILS**  
A voice for your community



## Walworth Community Council

**Draft** minutes of the Walworth Community Council held on Wednesday 7 January 2004 at 7.00PM at the Aylesbury Day Centre, 2 Bradenham Close, SE17.

---

*Due to overrun of the Walworth Community Council Planning Meeting, the present meeting started at 7:20pm.*

### **PRESENT**

1. Councillors Jelil Ladipo (Chair), Neil Watson (Vice Chair), Paul Bates, Catherine Bowman, Caroline Pidgeon, James Gurling, Lorraine Lauder.
2. 40 members of the public signed in to the meeting.

### **Introduction and welcome by the Chair**

3. The Chair welcomed members of the public. He went through the housekeeping matters.
4. The Chair announced the sad passing of Councillor Margaret Ambrose over the Christmas period. A minute's silence was observed. Councillors Bowman and Bates also said a few kind words in remembrance.

### **Apologies**

5. Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Abdul Mohamed.

### **Notification of any items of business that the Chair deems urgent**

6. There were no late items of business.

### **Disclosure of Member's Interests and Dispensations**

7. No interests or dispensations were disclosed.

## DRAFT

### Matters Relating to the Previous Meeting

#### Confirmation of the Minutes of the meeting on 13 November 2003

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the meeting held on 13 November 2003 be approved as correct records and be signed by the Chair subject to the following changes:

- Item 7: Sentence 1 under the Burgess Park subheading should refer to Astro turf, not tennis courts
- Item 10: 'Furlow' Road should be spelt 'Thurlow'  
'Brown' Street should refer to 'Browning' Street

#### Updates

8. Ian Smith (Environment and Leisure Officer) provided an update about issues raised at the previous meeting:

##### The presence of travellers on the Astro turf at Burgess Park

Ian outlined the background to this situation and said that the Council would be going to court that Friday to request that the travellers be moved from the site. In response to questions from the public he noted that the Council had asked the travellers to move by early December 2004, but the travellers had been stalling for time. If the Court decided in favour of the Council, they would determine the timeframe for vacating the site and where the Travellers could go. He clarified that the road to the Astro turf had been laid to minimise damage to the grass area.

##### Lighting at the bus stop near Camberwell Road

Ian said that the lights would be operational by the end of January 2004. The funding was almost guaranteed by Transport for London, the fallback was that the Council would pay.

#### Questiontime

9. Issues raised in questiontime related to the following:

##### Closure of the Aylesbury Day Centre

Concerns were raised about the proposed closure of the Aylesbury Day Centre. The response was that no decision had been taken yet about whether the centre would be closed down. The Executive were expected to consider the review strategy in about March, and they would make the decision about the closure following this. The review would ensure that the day care provided would meet current need of all community care groups, and took account of the legal framework and people's needs.

##### Elephant and Castle Regeneration

Linda Bailey (Pulmans TA) asked whether the Elephant and Castle regeneration was being discussed that night – as had been stated in a newspaper article. Councillor Watson said that Walworth Road was on the agenda, and that this was a significant part of the regeneration process.

## DRAFT

### Planning Applications

Linda Bailey also raised concerns about receiving information about planning applications in the area and asked if the information could be automatically sent out to the Chairs of TRAs. This request was noted. A member of the public added that people could ask the planning department to be added to the mailing list – a revised list was sent out every two weeks. From that night onwards, information would also be displayed at Community Council meetings.

### Council Agenda

A representative from the Black Awareness Group stated that the Council, particularly the Planning Department, appeared to be following their own agenda and pursuing a policy of gentrification. The Councillors said they were aware these issues had been raised, any concerns should be raised as a deputation with the Council Committee. A District Auditor had been appointed to investigate such concerns, the report would be publicly available and recommendations would be implemented with urgency.

### Black Businesses

A request was made for the Community Council to help black businesses to avoid problems they were currently facing with putting forward planning and licensing applications. Officers offered to talk to the person in the break about this.

## **Policing in Walworth**

10. Sergeant Jacquii Nicholas spoke on behalf of Sector Inspector Chris Hafford, who was attending the Borough and Bankside Community Council meeting that night. She gave an update on policing in Walworth:
  - Information was provided on the Hotspot teams activity over November and December 2003. Different types of patrols were used (high visibility uniform patrols, plain clothes and push bikes). This variety allowed the team to prevent crime by a visible presence and detect crime by being covert.
  - Search warrants had been conducted on addresses on the two-hotspot areas for people handling stolen goods. It was important to target this type of crime as robbers and burglars needed to dispose of stolen goods.
  - Following the last Community Council meeting, information on drug-dealing occurring in Victory Park was passed to the hotspot team. Subsequently two arrests were made at the park for possession of drugs, and two arrests were made for supplying drugs. These were believed to be the main people concerned. The park was being monitored for activity and at this stage appeared quiet.
  - The vagrancy patrols/ begging initiative was still being carried out by the sector team - six arrests had been made so far. The Kennington area would be targeted in the future.
11. In response to questioning Sergeant Nicholas said the following:
  - Police were not aware of any issue with regard to illegal street traders around the East Street area

## DRAFT

- Police were concerned about the arrest of Council officers for illegal street trading in the Borough and Bankside area.
  - President Bush's visit did not appear to have a significant impact on the sector or the hotspot team
  - There were two dedicated police officers responsible for educating school children about drugs. A suggestion was made that role models (such as ex-drug-users) would be an effective and inspirational way of getting the message across in schools - such initiatives were occurring in other South London schools.
12. Sergeant Nicholas undertook to pass on contact details and intelligence to the sector officer to deal with issues raised about drug dealing and people hanging around stairwells on Salsbury Estate and anti-social behaviour / drug dealing around Pullens buildings.

### Walworth Road Project

13. Roy Turner (Traffic and Transport) introduced the agenda item, and discussed the outcome of the Transport for London bid for approval. This was followed by a presentation from Richard Abraham (Consultation Unit) about consultation that had been carried out to date, and a presentation by the Project Centre about traffic engineering and urban design studies for the Walworth Project. The Project Centre had been appointed to come up with design solutions along Walworth Road.
14. The presenters then responded to questions:
- The project team would consider key linkages to Walworth Road, including side roads, as well as take into account other related development projects and proposals in the area.
  - There was currently a £1.8million budget, a detailed expenditure plan had not been determined. No Council resources were being used, and the bulk of the money came from the Department of Transport.
  - Safety was both an enforcement and design issue. The Project Centre said the Council had challenged them to consider innovative design solutions along the road.
  - It was not the intention to divert traffic along residential roads. The Council was monitoring the increase in traffic along Albany Road – this was related to congestion charging. Nor was there an intention to reduce safety by increasing traffic speed/flow along Walworth Road.
  - The project timescale was more than two years.
15. There was also discussion about the consultation techniques to date, and how this would be carried out during the life of the project. It was suggested that the consultation might raise expectations that could not be met. The real consultation had not yet started, techniques would include focus groups and street surveys. A suggestion was made to include Neighbourhood Housing Forums.
16. The presenters noted that they were available to attend future Walworth Community Council meetings to consult and discuss progress on the Walworth Road Project.

## DRAFT

### Open Session on Transport Issues

17. The Chair said that this item would not now take place. However, there were forms at the back on which people could provide their written suggestions. These suggestions would be compiled, with the intention of raising the issues with Transport for London at a future Walworth meeting.

### Traffic and Transport Bids

18. This item was deferred until the next Community Council meeting. A progress handout was available at the meeting.

### Trees Bins and Lighting

19. Ian Smith (Environment and Leisure) outlined progress with the trees, bins and lighting proposals. A handout was available at the meeting detailing these.
20. In response to questions, Ian said the following:
- There was a programme of lopping trees, this depending on tree growth and most were on a three-year cycle.
  - He offered to take the contact details from the member of the public who was concerned about root-growth disturbing the pavements on her estate and discuss this with the Walworth Housing Estate manager.
  - There were major problems with flooding on the Elephant and Castle bypass – Transport for London were involved and the issue affected subways in the entire area.
  - The Council was working with the Rough Sleeping Unit to detail with rough sleepers in the area.
21. Ian undertook to look into the following issues and report back to the Community Council:
- Overhanging trees on Thurlow Road
  - Overflowing litter bins in Tooley Street (by London Dungeon).

### Members' Decisions

22. The member's made the following decisions:

**RESOLVED:** That the relevant officer attend the next Community Council meeting to give the item on Traffic and Transport Bids.

**RESOLVED:** That officers give a bigger push to consultation on the Walworth Road Project, and that consultation information is provided to Tenants and Residents Associations, Neighbourhood Housing Officers, forum representatives, and libraries.

**RESOLVED:** That issues with the street scene and traffic management at the end of Walworth Road/Albany Road be investigated.

**DRAFT**

**Closing comments by the Chair**

23. The Chair thanked everyone for attending. He announced that the next general meeting would be on Wednesday 4 February 2004 at the Pasley Tenants Association, Stopford Road, SE17.

24. The meeting closed at 9:45PM.

**Chair:**

**Dated:**