



COMMUNITY COUNCILS
A voice for your community



Walworth Community Council

Main Meeting

Draft Minutes of the Walworth Community Council Meeting held on
Wednesday May 9 2007 at 7.00PM
at Thurlow Lodge Community Hall, Thurlow Street, SE17

Present

Councillors: Abdul Mohamed (Chair), Lorraine Lauder (Vice-Chair), Paul Bates, James Gurling, Jelil Ladipo, Martin Seaton, Caroline Pidgeon, Jane Salmon and Kirsty McNeil

The meeting opened at **7.10pm**.

PLEASE NOTE THAT ANY RESPONSES IN ITALICS HAVE BEEN SUPPLIED AFTER THE MEETING

1. Introduction and welcome by the Chair

Councillor Mohamed began the meeting by welcoming residents. He explained the process to be followed at the meeting and introduced Members and officers. He informed the meeting that the proceedings would be taped.

2. Apologies

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Caroline Pidgeon and Lorraine Lauder (both for lateness).

3. Disclosure of Members' interests and dispensations

None

4. Notification of any items the Chair deems urgent

The Chair informed residents of the launch of the 2007-08 Cleaner Greener Safer

5. Confirmation of minutes and matters arising

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on February 7 2007 be approved as a true and accurate recording of that meeting, and be signed by the Chair.

Matters arising: Mr Noble felt his questions were not answered. Mr Beedell said that if Chief Officers did not attend, Walworth Councillors should be briefed and answer questions for them.

RESOLVED: That the Director of Environment and Housing be invited to the next meeting.

6. Deputations (if any):

There were no deputations.

7. Crime Update: Newington Ward:

- A cross-team drugs warrant was executed on a public house, resulting in 3 arrests.
- There are targeted joint operations taking place with other agencies to deal with cyclists riding on pavements; a blind man was run over and his guide dog had to spend time in a veterinary hospital in East Street.
- Acceptable Behaviour Contracts have been signed
- A Road Safety project has been running with Newington schools

- Warnings have been issued to street drinkers

East Walworth

- A punch up on the bonnet of a Ford car resulted in the gang members involved being dealt with firmly by police
- Drugs warrants are being executed on public house landlords
- A number of illegally occupied flats on the Heygate Estate have been repossessed
- 3 drugs warrants have been executed on crack houses
- Joint operations have been undertaken with Trading Standards officers
- A high visibility anti-burglary initiative resulted in the conviction of two burglars
- Letters have been sent to parents of children indulging in anti-social behaviour
- With the Heygate Partnership, the 100 Days of Change initiative has resulted in an 87% reduction in burglary, and a 44% reduction over a longer period

Faraday

- Rough sleepers are being dealt with in Wendover and Taplow, together with long term problem drug users
- A survey has been carried out by Police Cadets of stall holders in East Street Market: their main concerns are theft, both pilfering and pickpocketing, pub disorder, street drinkers and pavement cyclists
- Years 5 & 6 at St Peter's School are designing a road sign for the approach to the school and market
- There are difficulties with vagrants, as it does not make sense to keep arresting the same people. The team is trying to get the vagrants to sign Acceptable Behaviour Contracts, and a few have signed contracts.
- The team is working with the 'Mainliners' charity, to gain information, but not to prejudice the work of the charity with its users
- The statistics for all categories of crime in Faraday Ward are falling

8. Aylesbury Area Action Plan (AAP): the Draft Consultation Strategy

Officers working on the AAP need to know how the residents of the Aylesbury estate and the wider area want to input to the Plan. The Council has engaged a consultancy 'Urban Initiatives' to help with this process, and their job is to make the Delivery Plan work.

The boundary of the area covered by the AAP is critical; it now includes Burgess Park. Open for discussion are the inclusion of the Conservation Area, the Walworth & Old Kent Roads, areas where changes is already taking place. The proposed projects must not overlap with other projects.

The following points/questions were asked:

- Mr Piers Corbyn said the AAP should be revisited in the light of the relaxation of financial constraints on local government housing by the Government; the Aylesbury estate should only contain Council housing.
- Mr Beedell felt all options under the AAP should be kept open. The Government is going to change the rules on Council housing. The developments on the Heygate estate include commercial enterprises; developers may have their eyes on buying parcels of land cheaply.
- Councillor Bates said the Minister for Housing had suggested that Councils build more homes on their spare land, but the Government is not reversing its policy.
- 'Jean' asked how Urban Initiatives would go about finding representatives of the community: the draft Consultation said pre-school children were going to be consulted.
- The representative of Urban Initiatives said the people working on the consultation would use case studies to get the widest representative consultation. A limited variety of residents would not be representative.

Following these points, residents formed four groups to consider possible means of consultation.

9. The Way Forward for Community Councils – Councillor Blango and Russell Profit

Currently, there are regular meetings of all Community Councils, where Councillors make decisions on Cleaner Greener Safer funding, small grants for discrete community events, certain planning decisions and the appointment of school Governors. Attendances have improved by 30%.

Possible changes in the powers of Community Councils include traffic, transport and streets, major local plans, area safety, improvement to local & Council services, work of voluntary & community groups and local bye-laws.

Councillor Blango, Executive Member for citizenship, equalities and communities, invited residents to take part in the survey on decision making in the community entitled Shaping Your Local Area.

Points made included:

- A number of residents expressed confusion over the dates in the consultation leaflets; many had received leaflets after the apparent closing dates.
- Residents said that many consultation leaflets were thrown away, as residents thought they had missed the deadline for the prize draw.
- Mr Beedell thought that local decision making was decided along political party lines
- A resident asked why there were no Community Council meetings in East Walworth, venues included Heygate hall, Browning & Victory Schools

RESOLVED: That the next meeting of the Walworth Community Council be held in East Walworth Ward.

10. The Walworth Road project

Residents were told that the first phase of the project would be completed in June 2007, with phase two starting in July 2007. This meant the project is halfway to completion.

The following questions/points were raised:

- Donna said it created problems if two consecutive sets of traffic lights was not working, as there would be a very long walk to somewhere she could cross safely. As a registered blind person, she had to wait for someone else to cross the road and walk with them, if the lights were out of order. She also expressed concern at the lack of covers over potholes. Andrew Downes said in response that the red lights by the post office, which Donna was referring to, had a pedestrian phase, when all traffic from all directions, was stopped.
- Residents complained about the lack of bus stops on the diversions, and there were also problems with the bendy buses driving down narrow side streets with sharp bends. Andrew Downes said in response that he was meeting with the bus companies running the Walworth Road routes on May 12 2007, and he would raise these problems with them.
- A resident said there must be shortfall on the Health & Safety Audit. Andrew Downes responded that this was reassessed every day.
- Jean said that crossing the Walworth Road was a nightmare. Some cars tended to move on amber, and some motorcycles ignored traffic signals completely. People tried to cross opposite Safeways, but motorcyclists roar up the inside. She was amazed no one had been killed.
- A resident said that there were no islands, but lorries going to Manor Place were a hazard. Andrew Downes responded that the pedestrian phase at the primary signal in Manor Place, with a secondary signal in the Walworth Road.
- A resident working in a local school expressed concern that rat runs are being created, as vehicles cannot turn right out of the Walworth Road. She also expressed concern that there were no kerbs – the street furniture would not form a barrier to stop children running into the road. She also had no opportunity to engage in the consultation about the Walworth Road project.
- Residents complained that there was no sign of the Pedestrian Marshal, who was supposed to be there to inform and help pedestrians using the Walworth Road. A resident who was using crutches had a particularly difficult time.
- Councillor Gurling expressed concern that people could not see the Pedestrian Marshal. Andrew Downes responded that he would investigate improving the visibility of the Marshal's uniform.
- A resident expressed concern about pedestrian diversions at night; people have to use dark side streets, which are unsafe. Perhaps extra police patrols could be mounted. Andrew Downes responded that a balance needed to be struck between getting the works done against the problems with diversions. Closures are necessary to complete the works, so there is no perfect solution.
- A resident asked if there could be a guarantee that the finished Walworth Road would not be dug up by BT, British Gas, Thames Water etc. Andrew Downes responded that he could not

guarantee this, as if there were new developments, the developers have the right to access utilities under the street. However, all utility companies have been written to about this problem.

- Councillor Bates said there was no sign of the Pedestrian Marshal, could some of the Wardens be drafted in? Andrew Downes replied that he would not rule out increasing the number of Pedestrian Marshals, as the work of the Marshal has made a difference.
- Councillor Lauder said that the project was a shambles, and not thought through. Traders had not been consulted and have lost business as a consequence of the project. The traffic lights opposite Safeways at the top of East Street have been removed, causing traffic problems. There will be only two-way traffic when the scheme is completed, what will happen with emergency vehicles? There are no drain holes between McDonald's and Penrose Street. Market traders have lost business, as the bus stop by the market has been removed. The scheme will be a waste of money unless further consultation takes place.
- Several residents said they supported the final outcome of the scheme.
- A resident said there had been a great deal of consultation over a three-year period. The project had been started because people had been killed by traffic at the junction of Walworth Road and Manor Place.
- A resident said that no one was condemning the outcome, but it is dangerous to cross the road now.

On May 15 Andrew Downes responded to the issues raised with the following:

After the points raised at Community Council on Wednesday last week the following actions were taken:

- *2 Utility covers were removed and lowered in front of A1 Stores to help level out the temporary pavement in this area.*
- *The temporary ramps outside A1 Stores and Michael Leigh have been softened to reduce the inclines.*
- *The barriers south of East Street were moved away from the shops to provide a wider footway.*
- *The all red phase after the northbound traffic green was extended from 15 to 20 seconds to allow more time for people to cross there without on coming traffic.*
- *The Pedestrian Marshall is now focusing on the crossing south of East Street between 9.30 and 11.30 and also 2pm to 4pm.*

These were the actions taken immediately on the morning of Thursday May 10 2007. It was hoped to finish the footway at this point on the night of Thursday May 10 2007, but the weather caused some minor delays. In addition to the above we have undertaken the following:

- *A new vest for the Pedestrian Marshall has been ordered with red lettering saying 'Pedestrian Marshall'. The jacket colour has to remain yellow, as this is required for operatives on road works.*
- *LBS and FMC has walked the pavement on the Penrose Street side to identify covers that need to be removed when the temporary pavement is in place and are looking at clearly marking a route through the temporary works.*
- *We are also investigating the use of a crossing patrol person but there are some limitations on this at traffic signals.*

My staff and the contractor's staff will keep the situation under close monitoring while the works are underway over the next 3 weeks.

RESOLVED: That Councillors be briefed regularly on the progress and problems of the Walworth Road project until its completion.

11. Partnership on the Heygate estate

The Partnership has been set up to resolve the problems on the Heygate estate. Agencies such as the Council's Environment & Housing Directorate are working with the police. Doreen Gee was concerned that the Tenants & Residents Association (TRA) had not been invited to the first meetings. Sergeant Daly commented that the Chair of the TRA had been present at part of a meeting of the Partnership. Councillor McNeill said that the TRA was represented on the Ward Panel of the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT), which set the SNT's priorities for the forthcoming quarter.

Residents made the following points:

- Doreen Gee said there had been problems with licensees on the estate.

- There had been a bloodstain left in a lift in Clayden for five days following a serious incident. Residents' children were frightened to go in the lift. Tracy Dickinson replied that she would email the cleansing manager.
- Councillor McNeill said that she had witnessed a crime, and the SNT were there within 3 minutes of being called.

12. The Brandon Youth Club Open Days

The Youth Club will be having two open days: one on 26 June, for young people and the second on the 28 June for parents and carers. These days will showcase the activities available, and the youth work done at the Youth Club. The Youth Club will be open on Saturdays for a trial period.

Members' decisions

Resolved: The proposed Disabled Persons Parking Place for outside number 11 Harmsworth Street be approved, subject to the outcome of any statutory processes.

The meeting ended at 9.50pm

Signed:

Councillor Abdul Mohamed (Chair) on (date):