

TAKEnote

Bermondsey Community Council



Notes from the meeting on Wednesday March 15 2006
 Aylwin Girls School, 55 Southwark Park Road, SE16 3TZ

Issue no. 7

southwark.gov.uk/communitycouncil

Main items at this meeting:

- Cleaner, Greener, Safer fund update
- Parking and traffic in Blue Anchor Lane
- Spa Parks opens
- Campaign against 'distraction burglary'
- Traffic options for Bermondsey Street
- Bermondsey Community Fund
- South Bermondsey Partnership

Cleaner, Greener, Safer scheme: many projects finished and more in progress

There has been a bumper crop of completed projects under the community councils' cleaner, greener, safer scheme throughout 2005 and 2006. Residents at this meeting praised the bicycle stoppers and tree guards at Oxley Close and Lynton Road, and the new fencing at Lynton Road. Work has been completed on new lighting for Leathermarket Gardens. Other completed projects include the Hamilton Square and Guy Street garages and the MotorProject@Bermondsey which helps to reduce vehicle crime in the area.

Projects on track for completion in the near future include the Setchell Estate football pitch which should be finished in April, art installations at Stephenson Crescent and work on the Tooley Street mural which is due to begin in April.

The renovation of Pattison Park has been postponed due to the finding of contaminated soil in the ground, which means work on the multisport pitch will commence next year. Blue Market Square is awaiting planning permission before work on the statue can start.

If you have an idea for a project to improve your neighborhood, make sure you get along to the next Bermondsey Community Council meeting and put your suggestions forward.

Blue Anchor Lane: what can be done?

Residents have complained about obstacles in Blue Anchor Lane, making a simple stroll down the street potentially hazardous for pedestrians, and particularly for people with disabilities. Parked cars awaiting repair by the garages in the street cause these problems, together with large wheelie bins containing industrial refuse.

Consultation with residents and businesses on the street has taken place, but about half of all respondents wanted the street to be kept as it is. The housing service can help by dealing with cars parked illegally on council estates.

Residents can help the situation by calling the environment line to report a particular problem, or give times when the obstructions are particularly bad.

The Environment Line is 020 7525 2000 or email environment@southwark.gov.uk

A spring opening for Spa Park

Spa Park celebrated its transformation with a family fun day on March 18. Held in the park and adjacent buildings to show off the new facilities to local people, there was an official ribbon cutting ceremony and entertainment for kids. Around £2million has been spent on the rejuvenation of the park.

Keep an eye out for your Bermondsey Spa summer newsletter for other developments in this exciting regeneration project or visit www.southwark.gov.uk/regeneration for up to date news.

For more information call 020 7525 5321 or email pascale.rosenbloom@southwark.gov.uk





South Bermondsey Partnership

Forty young people took part in the finals of the Bermondsey Fame Academy in February, organised by the South Bermondsey Partnership. There were 10 finalists, who performed in front of an audience of over a hundred people.

This is just a small part of the work of the South Bermondsey Partnership, which is involved in learning, young people, health, lack of employment, community involvement, preventing crime and improving the environment within South Bermondsey.

For more information or to get involved with the work of the partnership call 020 7740 0893.

Cash grants awarded to Bermondsey community groups

Forty voluntary groups, tenants' and residents' associations and projects applied for small grants from the Community Fund, and of these 19 were successful. The projects awarded grants include a smoothie bar on an estate, a community garden, pensioners' trips to the seaside, football kit for a team and a celebration of the Queen's Birthday.

There is money available for some groups and communities who are considered out of the mainstream. This will be spent on an arts and cultural event on the riverside or visits to local places of historical and cultural significance.

For further information, please contact Abdullahi Mohamed on 020 7525 5549

Distraction burglary: a new campaign gives residents the tools to keep thieves away

Mrs Smith answered the door to her flat to find a man and a woman on the doorstep. They said they were from the council and were checking that she had her full entitlement to benefits. They flashed something with a photo on it, but she didn't have time to see what it was, and anyway her eyes weren't as good as they used to be. She asked them in, said she would make a cup of tea. While she was walking back to the living room with the tray, she heard the front door bang. Then she found her handbag gone, with the cash she had just collected from the post office...this crime meant that Mrs Smith lost money that she could ill afford to lose, but much, much worse, led to Mrs Smith no longer feeling safe in her home.

This is 'distraction burglary'.

Old people and vulnerable members of the community are particularly at risk from this crime. These criminals knock on the door and pretend to be legitimate callers, such as utility meter readers, housing officers or water board officials. The bogus official and possible accomplices then gain entry to the home, and steal valuables or money while the occupier is not looking.

To tackle this crime, a scheme has been launched by the Safer Southwark Partnership to provide all residents with a card to place in their front door or window. On one side there is a notice saying that 'this door will not be opened to callers without a prior appointment'. The other side advises the occupier on how to deal with unexpected unknown callers. The police hope that all householders in Southwark will display the notice, in order that elderly householders do not particularly stand out by displaying it.

The cards will be distributed directly to residents through networks such as housing officers, Safer Neighbour Teams and community wardens, rather than through letterboxes. This is so residents know what the notice means and what they should do with it, before they get it. So far, notices have only been distributed in the Dulwich community council area, to see how effective this indirect means of distribution works. Police officers will be visiting tenants and residents associations to brief residents.

For further information on the campaign, please ring 020 7232 6673.

Bermondsey Street: open to all?

Barry Mason, spokesperson from the Southwark Cyclists' Group's, raised making Bermondsey Street safer for all users. Roger Stocker, the projects officer said that council was considering a range of options to make this happen.

The first step is to consult with local people and traders on the Street Scene Design Guide, followed by formal consultation through the community council in May or June 2006.

Approximately 3,000 cars use Bermondsey Street every day, some driving illegally.

Some funding to improve the street is available for the London Cycle Network, and the council is considering its input. The street has a great deal of character and improvements made for pedestrians will also benefit cyclists.

More news at the next Bermondsey Community Council meeting.

Further information from Roger Stocker 020 7525 5459 or Southwark Cyclists at www.southwarkcyclists.org.uk

Cllr Stephen Flannery 1970-2006

Bermondsey Community Council held a minute silence in the memory of Cllr Stephen Flannery, who died at the age of 35 last month.

Residents will remember Cllr Flannery for his energy in working for them as a ward councillor, and for his work as chair of the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee Panel and as the council's executive member for housing.

He attended the February meeting of the community council shortly before his death.



Information regarding the next meeting dates will not be available until after the local elections.

Please contact 020 7525 7514 after June 1 2006 or visit www.southwark.gov.uk

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