



COMMUNITY COUNCILS
A voice for your community



Walworth Community Council

Main Meeting

These minutes are subject to approval at the next meeting

Monday April 27 2009

Thurlow Lodge Community Hall, Wendover, Thurlow Street, Walworth SE17 2US

Please note all text in italics is an addition to the minutes after the meeting.

Present

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

The meeting opened at 7.05pm.

- Apologies:** Councillor Ladipo (lateness), Pidgeon (lateness) and Simon Hughes MP.
- Notification of any items the Chair deems urgent:** None were notified.
- Disclosure of Members' interests and dispensations:** None declared.
- Deputations:** There were none,
- Chair's Announcements:** The Chair reminded residents that they could apply to the Community Council Fund for small awards from between £100 to £1,000 for community events.
- Minutes of the meeting held on March 16 2009**

Decision: That the minutes of the meeting held on March 16 2009 be confirmed, with the following amendments:

- Item 4: Mr Beadle said he had used the word 'capping'.
- Public Question 9: 'Sortwood Grove' should read 'Saltwood Grove' (*runs between Merrow Street and Liverpool Grove*).

Matters arising: Mr Flynn asked if the Chair had heard from Councillor Humphreys about site 39P; details were to have been provided on the 420 social housing units planned for the site.

- Deputations (if any):** None submitted.
- Police/Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNTs) & Community Wardens**

Sergeant Julia Croft reported for the three Walworth SNTs:

Faraday Ward

The Ward Panel priorities are: Robberies in the Walworth Road

Youth engagement
Anti-social behaviour on the Portland estate, specifically Lulworth,
Studland, Broadmayne and Woodsford.

There had been an Open Day at Thurlow Lodge as part of the priority of youth engagement organised by the Community Wardens. The day included crime prevention advice, dog-tagging, face-painting, back massages etc. It was a big success and was well attended.

The St Peter's Church (and In-Spire), Liverpool Grove grounds were cleared up by a very industrious team under the Community Payback scheme.

A parenting workshop was held at In-Spire: parents attended a week long course, and the SNT attended near the end of the course to discuss issues of mutual concern. The workshop was judged to be a success and useful to parents.

A local youth was stopped under the provision of Section 60 on the east side of the Ward, and was found to be carrying a knife. He was arrested and charged.

A weapons sweep was held in conjunction with the Community Wardens in and around Chiltern, rear of Chartridge and rear of Wendover. A knife was found in the undergrowth behind Chiltern by a warden: the knife has been submitted for forensic analysis as part of Operation Blunt.

A 'Stranger Danger' presentation has been made at two primary schools and the Karrot bus has been to Wendover.

East Walworth

The Ward Panel priorities are: Anti-social behaviour in Burgess Park and safe routes
Anti-social behaviour and prostitutes on the Kinglake estate
Anti-social behaviour on the Barlow and Congreve estates

The SNT arrange Community Payback in Burgess Park, after complaints from fisherman about the lake. Work was done to clear the area.

The SNT have secured funding for youth club to be set up in Victory House, which will be open to all young people living in Southwark. The SNT are in contact with the church and regularly attend the youth groups meeting there.

A Crime Prevention Day was held in Congreve and Barlow estates. The SNT, the Community Wardens, the

Newington

The Ward Panel priorities are: Burglaries in Sutherland Square
Anti-social behaviour and street drinkers on the Walworth Road
Anti-social behaviour on the Newington estate
Anti-social behaviour in Pullens buildings

The SNT delivered crime prevention advice door-to-door in Sutherland Square and have attended a committee meeting. Plain clothes police and mounted officers have attended the Square in response to requests.

The team is working on a business plan for funding for outreach work with young people in the Ward.

All three SNTs are working on the problem of street drinkers in the Walworth Road.

The following questions were asked:

- Councillor Bates said there had been a number of complaints about street drinkers using the new seats outside Somerfield's in the Walworth Road. He had made a request to Public Realm to remove the benches, but the benches were there for the elderly. In response, Sgt Croft responded that the Faraday and East Walworth SNTs are working with the Community Wardens and will ensure the area is patrolled on a daily basis. The whole of Southwark is an Alcohol Control area, which means the police and Wardens

have powers to confiscate alcohol from street drinkers etc, but there is a need to find somewhere for the street drinkers to go.

- Norma Lawrence said that some vulnerable users of the Southwark Community Project on a day trip had been seen sitting in a chartered bus in a Rotherhite street; their driver and care assistant were sound asleep. Sgt Croft said there had been a miscommunication on the telephone between the person who raised the alarm and the officer on the 999 service, which meant that the response was not the appropriate level of priority. Sgt Croft said she would be in touch with the Chair after investigating the slow police response.
- Councillor Seaton asked how the police selected those youths who were searched; and of those searched, how many turned out to be carrying weapons. Sgt Croft said that the police were guided by intelligence, but she would investigate the statistics and report back.

Paul Jeffery, from the Community Wardens Service, said that the Wardens are targeting the benches outside Somerfields and Burgess Park for 3 days last week, and had seized alcohol. Blackfriars and Camberwell Green are also places where street drinkers gather. 5 Wardens will be based in the Chaplin Centre and funded by the Aylesbury NDC.

- Councillor Seaton said there is a problem with dog fouling in Surrey Square park. Paul Jeffery said that this sort of problem needed to be reported to the Wardens, so they could focus on that particular area.

9. Cleaner Greener Safer Update

The project officer for Walworth is now Jeremy Iankov, who has taken over from Charlotte Glazier.

71 applications for CGS projects have been received from Walworth residents. Residents can present their ideas at the next Community Council meeting, with a two minute slot for each application.

- Mr Beadell said that the East Street market traders had been given permanent bags to give out to customers instead of plastic disposable ones, but he had seen only one stall holder giving out bags. Steve Douglass said that all the money awarded had been spent on bags, which had been given out over two periods; more bags are on the way. Councillor Lauder was giving out bags herself in the market and stallholders were also giving out bags on Saturday.

10. Burgess Park Plans

Residents were assured that monies set aside for improving Burgess Park had to be spent within strict timescales: the money from the Greater London Assembly has to be spent by 2012 and money from the Aylesbury NDC has to be spent by 2011. There is a proposal for an international design competition and hence the creation of a masterplan. Stakeholder groups will be set up.

- In response to the Chair, Walworth Community Council will be represented on the Stakeholder Representative Group and the Project Board by Walworth Councillors
- In response to Councillor Salmon, CGS projects for Burgess Park will be carried out during this financial year, but the main project is about unifying the park, so some projects will not necessarily be possible.
- In response to Councillor Gurling, the GLA are keen that this project employs and provides training for local people
- Michelle from Cooltan Arts said the organisation had taken 200+ people through the park; the sculptures introduced to the park will be made by outsiders. What engagement will there be for people/local organisations other than consultation? Ruth Miller asked that residents let her know how people would like to contribute. It was hoped that the park would become a setting for art
- Councillor Bates asked if it was sensible to hold an international design competition, when some of the money has to be spent by 2010. Ruth said that this was the only way given the restrictions on procurement. It is necessary to get the project right and not to go for a piecemeal approach.
- Councillor Pidgeon said that she would like the community involved with maps and workshops. How big a percentage of the money spent will go on employing consultants? **Action: Response in writing** A progress report will be brought to each meeting of the Community Council, and workshops run. A spaceshaper event will be held in the park itself
- The Chief Executive said that the officers did not need to go through the OJEU and the design competition; this was the most complicated way. The way the procurement was packaged is important; as there is a risk the Government will decide the procurement does not meet the rules. The officers agreed to arrange to meet the Chief Executive

Agreed: That Burgess Park be a standing item on future Walworth Community Council agendas.

'Pride of Place': Southwark Council's Chief Executive

Minutes of the Walworth Community Council meeting – April 27 2009

Annie Shepherd, the Chief Executive, said that she couldn't see all of Walworth in the 7 hours she spent on the day of the meeting. She was producing a document about the different areas of the borough. Annie said that the highlight was the visit to Walworth Academy and the opportunity to talk to some of the pupils. She was impressed by the aspirations of the pupils, how the school is changing and influencing parents; there has been a transformation in Parents' Evenings with 90% attendance, when before few parents attended. The new Head Teacher was inspirational and all at the school are looking forward to the new building.

The Elephant & Castle Shopping Centre is keeping small businesses, is vibrant and increasing the footfall of customers. A new space has been made available above Tesco's for community artists, and the centre is not being allowed to decay.

Annie recognised that there were difficulties for tenants in getting repairs done and that this was frustrating; she will look at some of the issues with officers.

The Chief Executive said she had been approached by the Community Project, and will be visiting them.

Members and residents raised a number of points:

- Mr Beadell alleged that consultations of Walworth residents was very light, and that no real consultation took place; on many issues there was no consultation at all. Annie responded that she did not agree: there is a history of excellent consultation. Mr Beadell should give any examples of poor consultation to elected Members
- A resident said there had been a complete lack of consultation on the Southwark Plan. Plans are in hand to build on Nursery Row Park, which all goes back to the Southwark Plan. Members responded that there had been consultation on the Southwark Plan at an earlier meeting
- Ms Norma Lawrence said that there were dangerous holes in the pavement in Walworth Road. The Council should ask for its money back from the contractors, Mr Yuriten said that there were not enough lights and the pavement is too narrow. The Chief Executive said that the 'snagging' operation following the completion of a contract should pick up these items, but she would ensure that action is taken.
- Ms Celia Cronin asked why the new Southwark Plan had not been brought to the Community Council for consultation, but Members told her that it had been to a previous meeting
- A representative of Cooltan Arts asked if there was a strategy for transferring redundant properties to community groups. Annie said she would follow this up.
- Councillor Lauder said the crossing in the Walworth Road had not been done properly, and should be resurfaced. Annie said she would take this up.
- A consultation meeting on the 'Open Spaces Strategy for Parks' in Peckham had been scheduled, but the people who turned up found that the venue (Unity House) was locked up. The meeting needs to be rescheduled.
- Mr Crawford asked if the Chief Executive was aware of the levels of traffic and pollution on the edge of the Congestion Zone, and to reduce these, the top of the Walworth Road should be closed. Nothing is heard about the pollution levels around Elephant & Castle. The Council needs a traffic strategy, to which residents should be able to contribute. Annie said that the Council was doing everything it could to encourage people out of their cars and on to public transport.
- The Elephant & Castle circle is badly designed.
- Is the Chief Executive aware that Thurlow Lodge is part of Wendover, which will be pulled down in 9 years time. People live and work in the building, please inspect the slabs at the back of the building which are about to fall off.

Public Questions

Please see Appendix 1 (attached).

Member Decisions

Local Parking issues

A parking amendment to restrictions in Penton Place could not be decided as the report was not enclosed with the agenda.

Signed:

Date:

Revised Appendix 1 to Walworth Community Council Minutes for April 27 2009

PUBLIC QUESTIONS

No.	Question
1.	<p>What is an Equality Impact Assessment Stage 2 ?</p> <p><i>The Council has a statutory duty to assess the likely impact of its services on parts of community, and Southwark has extended this to embrace the whole community. This assessment is helping to deliver service improvements. Stage 1 is a description of the service, and attempts are made to consider potential issues for sections of the community. Issues such as access to the service, communications, and contributions to community cohesion are examined. Workshops of managers and staff are recommended, and a report may be given to the Equalities and Diversity Panel. At Stage 2 consideration will be given to the level of need for the service (who needs to use it) and the level of use (who is using it) to identify gaps (ie who needs to use the service but is not using it). Also positive and negative impacts need to be assessed from the point of view of different ethnic groups, disabled people, male and females, different faiths, age groups and people of different sexual orientations. Work would be done to see how negative impacts could be mitigated.</i></p> <p><i>Further information can be found at: http://www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=8017247</i></p>
2.	<p>A resident complained that the computer facilities had collapsed in Southwark Libraries.</p> <p><i>The Chief Executive responded that the system in libraries had been badly affected by a virus, and the current estimate for the resumption of normal service is September 2009. She was well aware of the problem, but the contractor dealing with it has the priority of protecting the network.</i></p>
3.	<p>Why has the number of social housing units been reduced on the Heygate redevelopment?</p> <p><i>The Chief Executive responded that the number of rooms has not necessarily been reduced; there was a need for larger units to accommodate bigger families.</i></p>
4.	<p>There is a shortfall of units available for Heygate residents.</p> <p><i>The Chief Executive said that Heygate tenants had access to the whole Southwark housing register. However, developers are not coming forward to take up sites on the Heygate. 1212 units will be produced on the Council's own sites or on private developments.</i></p>