

Item No. 5.	Classification: Open	Date: 15 September 2004	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Deputation Requests	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive (Borough Solicitor)	

RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly decide whether or not to receive the following deputation and should it agree to do so, at which meeting it should be received from the Black Awareness Group. The subject matter of the deputation's request is Southwark Council's public apology to Imperial Gardens.

BACKGROUND

2. The subject matter of the deputation's request is set out above..

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3. In accordance with council procedure rule 3.7 (3) the request that a deputation be received stands referred to council assembly to decide whether or not it wishes to receive the deputation, or whether it wishes to refer the deputation to an appropriate committee/sub-committee.

Council procedure rule 3.7 (9) sets out the procedures to be observed at council assembly meetings:-

Composition of Deputations

The deputation shall consist of no more than six persons, including its spokesperson.

Speech on Behalf of the Deputation

Only one member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the Council Assembly, her or his speech being limited to 5 minutes.

Questions

Members of the council assembly may ask questions of the deputation which shall be answered by their spokesperson or any member of the deputation nominated by her or him, for up to 5 minutes at the conclusion of the spokesperson's address.

Debate

At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation may remain (subject to any resolution excluding attendance of the public) but shall take no further part in the proceedings.

COMMENTS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE ON THE BLACK AWARENESS GROUP DEPUTATION

On the 21 July 2004, council assembly agreed to apologise to the directors of THK Entertainments Ltd, who managed Imperial Gardens, for the failings identified in the district auditor's public interest report on the award of planning permission at 295 - 297 Camberwell New Road and 299 Camberwell New Road and the local ombudsman's report of an investigation into complaint no. 02/B/08100.

On the 23 July, the council issued a press release to publicise the fact that it had apologised to the directors of Imperial Gardens nightclub and accepted responsibility on behalf of councillors and officers for the events that led up to the district auditors report and a second report by the local government ombudsman.

On 10 August, the strategic director of regeneration wrote to two of the three directors to formally notify them that the council had accepted the findings of the Ombudsman and to offer them compensation, as recommended; in his letters, he also formally apologised to them on behalf of the council.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Deputation Request File	Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager
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