

<b>Item No.</b> 4.1	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> February 22 2006	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Deputation request	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Chief Executive (Borough Solicitor)	

## RECOMMENDATION

1. That council assembly consider whether or not to hear a deputation from the Four Squares tenants and residents association. .

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. When considering whether to hear the deputation request, council assembly can decide to:
  - Receive the deputation at this meeting or a future meeting; *or*
  - That the deputation not be received; *or*
  - Refer the deputation to the most appropriate committee/sub-committee.
5. A deputation shall consist of no more than six people, including its spokesperson. Only one member of the deputation shall be allowed to address the meeting for no longer than 5 minutes. After this time members may ask questions of the deputation for up to 5 minutes. At the conclusion of the questions, the deputation will be shown to the public gallery where they may listen to the remainder of the open section of the meeting.

## KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

### Deputation request from the Four Squares tenants and residents association

6. The letter from the Four Squares tenants and residents association states: -

“The Four Squares tenants and residents association would wish to bring to the attention of the council, the lack of maintenance and management of the Four Squares estate. We as a tenants association have to fight long and hard for the most basic of amenities such as the regular replacements of light bulbs on dark stairwells, and the proper collection of refuse. We are living in conditions that are seeing not only paint peeling from window ledges, but the actual window ledges falling away through both sheer negligence and lack of maintenance.

“Pavements that are in pieces causing countless trip hazards, ground that is sinking with rat holes that are constantly being filled up with damp sand by pest control to prevent the rodents from surfacing and running around the

estate. We have a rodent problem, as the regular dead rat carcasses will testify.

“We also have garages by the score destroyed by fire and vandalism, also there is the problem of youths riding motorcycles up and down Drummond Road and through the estate Although we have recently had a series of walkabouts on the estate with a group constructed of various units (Southwark council, SASBU, Police etc) which calls itself TAZ (together action zone). While some elements of this group have no doubt made progress, almost all of the recommendations that were put forward (cut back bushes that can hide potential attackers / hide drugs, improve lighting etc) have not been carried out. Now it turns out that we have been requested to put forward a "top ten wish list" of what we would like to see done. Surely this is insulting when we are still waiting on the first set of recommendations to still be fulfilled?

“It is well documented that the neglect of a property is the very fuel that is required to encourage the presence of undesirables. This in turn equates to crime, anti social behaviour, and therefore unnecessary distress to the many that have to dwell here.

“Up until a few years ago, the Four Squares estate was a marvellous place to live. It was clean, quiet and the people had respect for each other. We wish to see a return to that. It is by no means impossible, but we cannot do it without the much needed support of Southwark council, and unfortunately we feel this is where it all falls down.”

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

### **Comments from the strategic director housing**

To follow.

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager
<b>Report Author</b>	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer
<b>Version</b>	Final version
<b>Dated</b>	10.2.06