



**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(ORDINARY)**

MINUTES of the open section of the ordinary meeting of Council Assembly held on Wednesday, March 22 2006 at 7.00 p.m. at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Vicky Naish

Councillor Alfred Banya	Councillor Dermot McInerney
Councillor Mick Barnard	Councillor Kenny Mizzi
Councillor Beverley Bassom	Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Paul Bates	Councillor Alison Moise
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Gavin O'Brien
Councillor David Bradbury	Councillor Dr. Abdul Rahman Olayiwola
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Michelle Pearce
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Caroline Pidgeon
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Toby Eckersley	Councillor Tony Ritchie
Councillor John Friary	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Norma Gibbes	Councillor William Rowe
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Jane Salmon
Councillor Aubyn Graham	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor James Gurling	Councillor Tayo Situ
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Robert Skelly
Councillor Alun Hayes	Councillor Robert Smeath
Councillor Jeffrey Hook	Councillor Charlie Smith
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor Kim Humphreys	Councillor Richard Thomas
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Dominic Thorncroft
Councillor Billy Kayada	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Paul Kyriacou	Councillor Neil Watson
Councillor Jelil Ladipo	Councillor Sarah Welfare
Councillor Lorraine Lauder	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Linda Manchester	Councillor Anne Yates
Councillor Eliza Mann	Councillor Lorraine Zuleta
Councillor Daniel McCarthy	

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor announced that the Mayor's ball had raised £3,190.00 for the head and neck cancer unit at Guy's hospital and the diabetic unit at King's College hospital.

The Mayor stated that Southwark has received beacon status for the success of its partnership with Southwark Primary Care Trust, voluntary groups and older people representatives.

The leaders of the three political groups paid tribute to those members leaving the council.

The leader of the council announced that from Friday March 17 2006 Councillor Beverley Bassom had taken over the portfolio of executive member for housing management.

1.2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

The Mayor accepted the following items as late and urgent:-

- Motion without notice to item 4.2B – Four Squares deputation to be moved by Councillor Nick Stanton.
- Motion without notice to item 4.3 – Leaseholder Association of Southwark 2000 deputation to be moved by Councillor Jane Salmon.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

As leaseholders the following members declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in items 4.3, 4.3A, 8.1, 8.3 and 8.4 relating to leaseholders issues - Councillors Linda Manchester, Jane Salmon, Tony Ritchie, Tayo Situ, Catherine Bowman and Elisa Mann.

As a user of the No. 315 bus service Councillor Fiona Colley declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in motion 5 – 395 bus route.

As a users of the No. 3 bus service Councillors Kim Humphreys, Lewis Robinson and Tony Ritchie declared a personal and non-prejudicial interest in motion 7 – No. 3 bus service.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jonathan Hunt, Richard Porter and Mark Pursey.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the ordinary meeting held on Wednesday February 22 2006 be agreed and signed as a correct record of the proceedings.

3. PETITIONS

Councillor Veronica Ward presented a petition on behalf of Champion Hill Tenants and Residents Association relating to a new block of flats on Dog Kennel Hill. The Mayor stated that it would be forwarded to the relevant executive member and chief officer.

4. DEPUTATION REQUESTS

4.1 DEPUTATION FROM THE RESIDENTS OF CHAMBERLAIN COTTAGES (see pages 1 – 4, supplemental agenda 2, page 1)

The meeting agreed to hear the deputation. Members were addressed by the deputation's spokesperson. Councillors Ian Wingfield, Richard Thomas and Toby Eckersley asked the deputation questions. The Mayor thanked the deputation, which then withdrew to the public gallery.

4.1A MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE - CHAMBERLAIN COTTAGES (see supplemental agenda 1, page 8)

Councillor Ian Wingfield, seconded by Councillor John Friary, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillors Tony Ritchie, Danny McCarthy, Richard Thomas and Alison Moise), Councillor Ian Wingfield exercised his right of reply.

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED: That in light of the true intentions of the residents of Chamberlain Cottages wishing only for a gate to be sited at the entrance to their cul-de-sac for safety reasons, this council assembly requests the council's executive to consider progressing negotiations with residents and agreeing funding for the gate as soon as possible.

Note: The motion was referred to the executive for consideration.

4.2 DEPUTATION FROM THE FOUR SQUARES TENANTS AND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION (see pages 1 – 2, supplemental agenda 1, pages 1 - 7)

The meeting agreed to hear the deputation. Members were addressed by the deputation's spokesperson. Councillors Peter John and Beverley Bassom asked the deputation questions. The Mayor thanked the deputation, which then withdrew to the public gallery.

4.2A MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE TO FOUR SQUARES ESTATE DEPUTATION - MOVED BY COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH (see supplemental agenda 1, pages 8 - 14)

Councillor Peter John, seconded by Councillor Charlie Smith, moved the motion.

At 7.45 p.m. there was a disruption in the public gallery which lasted until 8.00 p.m. when the debate continued.

Following debate (Councillors Nick Stanton, Columba Blango, Tony Ritchie and Michelle Pearce), Councillor Tony Ritchie made a point of personal explanation. Thereafter, Councillor Peter John exercised his right of reply.

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

4.2B MOTION WITHOUT NOTICE TO FOUR SQUARES ESTATE DEPUTATION - MOVED BY COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON.

Councillor Nick Stanton, seconded by Councillor Eliza Mann, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillors Danny McCarthy, Charlie Smith and Andy Simmons), Councillor Nick Stanton exercised his right of reply.

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED: That the following be noted:

1. That in common with many estates in Southwark the Four Squares is suffering from a legacy of under-investment and poor maintenance over many years.
2. That a previous package of major works had to be cancelled due to the overspend on the Canada Estate
3. That funding has been secured from the London Housing Board to introduce security measures
4. That a contract is being awarded this month for the installation of security measures including CCTV and security doors in New Place Square.
5. That tenants and leaseholders in Lockwood Square are currently being balloted on whether they want similar security measures.
6. That consultation is about to begin with residents of Marden and Layard Squares about security measures.

7. That a programme of lift replacements on each of the Four Squares is well underway.
8. That each of the Four Squares will benefit from the package of decent homes works to be completed over the next 4 years.
9. That part of the section 106 agreement for building works at Southwark college includes funds for improving play facilities on the Four Squares.
10. That the Four Squares has suffered from many years from arson attacks and that the council is one of the first in London to produce an arson reduction strategy which highlights the need to tackle arson in this area.
11. That the Bermondsey Together Action Zone has been concentrating resources on tackling complaints of anti-social behaviour on the Four Squares including issuing acceptable behaviour contracts, regular police and community warden patrols, and enforcement against complaints of noise nuisance and overcrowding in homes in multiple occupation (HMOs).
12. That both Bermondsey East housing area forum and Bermondsey community council have prioritised efforts to deal with concerns raised by residents of the Four Squares and receive regular updates on progress.

Note: The motion was referred to the executive for consideration.

4.3 DEPUTATION FROM LEASEHOLDER ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHWARK 2000 (see pages 1 – 2, supplemental agenda 2, pages 1 – 3)

The meeting agreed to hear the deputation. Members were addressed by the deputation's spokesperson. Council assembly agreed to suspend council assembly procedure rule 3.9 (iii) (Speeches on behalf of deputation), in order that the deputation could finish their address. Councillors Fiona Colley, Beverley Bassom and William Rowe asked the deputation questions. The Mayor thanked the deputation, which then withdrew to the public gallery.

The meeting considered motions 8.1, 8.3 and 8.4 elsewhere in the minutes.

The motion without notice to be moved by Councillor Jane Salmon was withdrawn.

At 9.50 p.m. the meeting adjourned for a refreshment break, reconvening at 10.00 p.m.

5. MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME – QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULES 3.9 and 3.12 (see the blue paper and pages 1 - 48 of the yellow papers circulated at the meeting)

Councillor Peter John had submitted one urgent question to the leader. The question and the written answer are attached at appendix 1.

Forty-four questions were submitted, the answers to which were circulated round the chamber. Twenty supplementary questions were asked. Following the expiry of time, questions 30-44 and the written answers were noted. The questions and responses are attached at appendix 2.

6. REPORTS FOR RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE
6.1 CHILDREN & YOUNG PERSON'S PLAN (see pages 15 – 107 and supplemental agenda 3, pages 1 - 2 recommendations from March 14 2006 executive)

Councillor Catherine Bowman, deputy leader, presented the report.

Following debate (Councillor Toby Eckersley), the recommendations from March 14 2006 executive were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED: That the Children and Young People's Plan (attached as appendix 1 to the council assembly report), be approved.

Note: In accordance with the budget and policy framework, the decision set out in the resolution is implementable with immediate effect.

6.2 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE (see pages 108 - 115 and supplemental agenda 2, pages 3 - 9)

There was one question submitted by Councillor Barrie Hargrove on the issue of rail pricing to the executive member for environment and transport, the written answer to which is attached as appendix 3.

RESOLVED: That the content of the report be noted.

7. OTHER REPORTS
7.1 ANNUAL AUDIT AND INSPECTION LETTER 2004/05 (see pages 116 - 145)

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.15(2) the Mayor formally moved the recommendations contained within the report.

Following debate (Councillor Toby Eckesley), the recommendations were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED: That the Annual Audit Letter for 2004/5 be noted.

8. MOTIONS (see pages 146 -155)

8.1 MOTION 1 – LEASEHOLDER SERVICES (see pages 147 – 148)

Councillor William Rowe, seconded by Councillor Toby Eckersley, moved the motion.

Councillor Beverley Bassom seconded by Councillor Jane Salmon, moved Amendment A. Following debate (Councillors Peter John, Catherine Bowman, Ian Wingfield and Anne Yates), Councillors Ian Wingfield and Caroline Pidgeon made points of personal explanation. Thereafter, Councillor William Rowe exercised his right of reply.

Amendment A was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly notes the continuing dissatisfaction of leaseholders with the overall service they receive from Southwark council, particularly in respect of:
 - forward planning of major works so that leaseholders are able to plan savings for major works;
 - information and consultation on both major works and annual service charges;
 - the overall level of both major works and annual charges.

2. That council assembly notes that much work has already been undertaken to address these concerns, including:
 - preparing five-year plans of major works under Decent Homes to be submitted to area forums;
 - calculating bills on a block-by-block basis since January 2004, following requests from leaseholders;
 - ensuring that surveying and scoping of works is carried out by qualified surveyors, with specific training in the decent homes standard and the council's contract approval process;
 - developing a new procurement strategy for major works to improve delivery and make savings on the works and materials;
 - setting up a working group with residents and project teams to look at the scope and specification of works.

3. That council assembly notes with concern that leaseholders are having to bear a proportion of the costs of decent homes major works and further notes that the council is legally obliged to recover these costs from them. Council assembly therefore supports calls for national legislative reform to assist leaseholders in meeting these financial demands.
4. That council assembly therefore calls on the executive to instruct officers to draw up plans during the first half of 2006 to alter computer systems, officer deployment and training as necessary to allow a step change in Southwark's service to leaseholders to be implemented at the earliest opportunity, including the following, where appropriate:
 - a) Clear forward planning to help leaseholders save to meet major works charges;
 - b) Significantly improved information and consultation on major works and annual charges ensuring that costing is properly prepared on a block-by-block basis;
 - c) Improved pre-contract inspection and specification procedures;
 - d) Improved purchasing and contract supervision procedures to reduce costs and improve value for money in both annual and major works charges;
 - e) Involve leaseholders appropriately in pre-contract specification and in contract monitoring and review procedures.

Note: The motion was referred to the executive for consideration.

8.2 MOTION 2– LONDON BRIDGE TO VICTORIA TRAIN SERVICES (See pages 148 - 149 and supplemental agenda 1, pages 15 -16)

In the absence of Councillor Paul Kyriacou and with the consent of council assembly, Councillor Beverley Bassom, seconded formerly by Councillor Graham Neale, moved the motion.

Councillor Robert Smeath, seconded by Councillor Veronica Ward, moved Amendment B.

Following debate (Councillors Kim Humphreys and Peter John), Councillor Beverley Bassom exercised her right of reply.

Amendment B was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That council assembly notes with concern the consultation by Network Rail on the Cross London Utilisation Strategy (CRUS), which includes proposals to divert the London Bridge to Victoria train service to Clapham Junction.
 2. That council assembly believes that this will have an extremely adverse impact on Southwark residents travelling to London Victoria from South Bermondsey, Queens Road Peckham, Peckham Rye and Denmark Hill Stations, as well as those coming into Southwark to work and visit.
 3. That council assembly notes recent debates that have concluded that good transport links in and out of the borough are vital to Southwark's economic and social development and believes that Network Rail's proposals would diminish transport links to and from Southwark. Furthermore, rather than considering cuts to these South East London lines, Network Rail should be increasing and promoting services to these stations, which are located in a part of London which is currently very poorly served by transport options.
 4. That council assembly further notes the strong feelings against the plans within the community, notes the formal response of the council which states the council does not support these proposals, and fully supports the robust objections to these proposals made by local representatives, such as the MP for Dulwich and West Norwood, the Greater London Authority member for Lambeth and Southwark, and members of this authority.
 5. That council assembly therefore calls on Network Rail to abandon any proposals to cut services between London Bridge and Victoria, and asks the Mayor of London and the secretary of state for transport to ensure that this vital rail link continues to operate and also to increase services to these South East London stations.

Note: The motion was referred to the executive for consideration.

8.3 MOTION 3 – LAS 2000 (see pages 148 – 149 and supplemental agenda 2, pages 10 - 11)

Councillor Charlie Smith, seconded by Councillor Peter John, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillors Aubyn Graham, Alison Moise and William Rowe), Councillor Charlie Smith exercised his right of reply.

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

8.4 MOTION 4 – LEASEHOLDER ACCOUNTING (see pages 149 – 150 and supplemental agenda 1, pages 17 - 18)

Councillor Kim Humphreys, seconded by Councillor William Rowe, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillors Andy Simmons and Beverley Bassom), Councillor Kim Humphreys exercised his right of reply.

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly notes the continuing dissatisfaction of leaseholders with apparently incorrect and unreasonable annual service charges over a number of recent years, including significant queries researched by LAS 2000. Council assembly notes that officers acknowledge that there are problems with some charges and have been working, within the resources they have available, to progress these matters but they have not yet been resolved after some considerable time.
2. That council assembly calls on the executive to instruct officers to:
 - a) prioritise the work and resources to investigate these matters;
 - b) where errors are identified to make corrections and where appropriate refunds; and
 - c) provide leaseholders with an appropriate level of re-assurance on the process and resulting revised charges by involving independent auditors and other independent professionals as necessary to an appropriate extent in order to work with both officers and leaseholder council.

Note: The motion was referred to the executive for consideration.

8.5 MOTION 5 – 395 BUS ROUTE (see page 150 and supplemental agenda 1, pages 18 - 19)

The motion was proposed by Councillor Lisa Rajan and seconded by Councillor David Hybber.

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That council assembly notes with concern plans by Transport for London (TfL) to close the 395 bus route which runs from Surrey Quays shopping centre to Limehouse.
 2. That council assembly notes that this is the only bus route that goes through the Rotherhithe tunnel and therefore provides a vital transport link across the River Thames.
 3. That council assembly believes that TfL's plans would adversely affect elderly people in particular as well as reducing access to local shops and services for those residents on the Rotherhithe peninsula.
 4. That council assembly therefore calls on TfL to reverse its plans and consider how public transport can be enhanced in light of the Canada Water regeneration, not diminished.

Note: The motion was referred to the executive for consideration.

8.6 MOTION 6 – EAST DULWICH STREET LIGHTING (see pages 150 – 151 and supplemental agenda 1, pages 19 - 20)

Councillor Charlie Smith, seconded formerly by Councillor Sarah Welfare, moved the motion.

Councillor David Bradbury, seconded formerly by Councillor Kim Humphreys, moved Amendment C.

Amendment C was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Councillor Richard Thomas, seconded formerly by Councillor Bob Skelly, moved Amendment D.

Amendment D was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly notes that many residents in Southwark place crime and the fear of crime high on their list of concerns. Poorly lit streets are recognised as a major contributory factor for this concern. The majority of the street lights in the East Dulwich ward are the old yellow lamps that give the roads within the ward a grim and dark appearance which causes local residents to feel uneasy when walking in many of the back streets and are reluctant to venture out of their homes after dark. Such lights are also common elsewhere in SE22.
2. That, council therefore calls upon officers to carry out an audit of the lighting in SE22 to identify the yellow lamps in need of replacement and to give estimates of costs for replacing the existing street lights with the new generation of lamps and columns that brighten the pavements and roads but do not pollute the night sky.
3. That council assembly calls for a full report complete with a timetable for the replacement of the street lighting in East Dulwich to be brought to the executive before the summer recess.

Note: The motion was referred to the executive for consideration.

8.7 MOTION 7 – NO.3 BUS SERVICE (see page 151 and supplemental agenda 1, pages 20 - 21)

The motion was proposed by Councillor Lewis Robinson and seconded by Councillor Kim Humphreys.

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly notes the cuts to the No.3 bus service implemented last year by Transport for London (TfL), and the claim by TfL that cutting the frequency of the service was designed to improve the reliability of the route (i.e. the bus will turn up when the timetable says).
2. That council assembly further notes that the No.3 bus provides a vital, and in many cases the only, service to many residents in the south of the borough, an area already poorly served by public transport to their work, local hospitals and schools.

3. That council assembly is therefore disappointed to learn the results of a recent survey of frequent users of the route, the key findings of which are as follows:
 - Of 114 respondents, 94 stated that their journey had become longer and more difficult since the cuts;
 - 73 stated reliability had got even worse, 33 no difference, and only 5 said it had improved;
 - The most common complaints remain those of speeding and “bunching” of buses, the very problems which TfL claimed would be resolved by cutting the frequency.
4. That council assembly therefore requests the executive to consider these findings and the council to support ward member’s representations to TfL and London TravelWatch that these cuts be reviewed.

Note: The motion was referred to the executive for consideration.

8.8 MOTION 8 – ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS (see pages 1512 – 152 and supplemental agenda 1, pages 21 - 22)

Councillor Richard Thomas, seconded formerly by Councillor Jane Salmon, moved the motion.

Councillor Barrie Hargrove, seconded formerly by Councillor Paul Bates, moved Amendment E.

Following debate (Councillors David Hubber, Danny McCarthy and Tony Ritchie), Councillor Richard Thomas exercised his right of reply.

Amendment E was put to the vote and declared to be lost

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That council assembly notes that Southwark has become the first-ever recipient of a new environmental award, the “Overall Winner” of the Environmental Campaigns (ENCAMS) Cleaner Safer Greener network awards.
 2. That council assembly further notes that a waste management & transport manager from the environment and leisure department had won the Environmental Champion award and that Southwark took second place in the Innovation award.

3. That council assembly believes these awards are fitting given the huge achievements in making Southwark cleaner and greener, including:
- Cleaning up Southwark's streets from the 5th dirtiest in London in 2002 to the 4th cleanest last year, following the decision to replace multiple contracts with one newly created in-house service (Southwark Cleaning) in 2002;
 - Quadrupling recycling over the last four years, by introducing doorstep recycling for all street properties, brown bins for garden waste, mini-recycling centres for blocks of flats, and trialing door-to-door collections on council estates;
 - Becoming the first London borough to use bio diesel and switching nearly 50% of the council's vehicle fleet to renewable bio fuels, reducing greenhouse gas emissions from each vehicle to virtually zero;

 - Cracking down on enviro-crimes, such as fly tipping, graffiti, littering and dog fouling through rigid enforcement, issuing 3,745 fixed penalty notices in the last four years and pursuing successful prosecutions.
4. That council assembly notes that there is still much more it can achieve but believes that Southwark's environment has improved massively and thanks all those officers who have worked hard to achieve this success, congratulates them on winning the ENCAMS award and further commits to redoubling our efforts to make Southwark cleaner and greener.

Note: The motion was referred to the executive for consideration.

8.9 MOTION 9 – YOUTH FACILITIES IN PECKHAM RYE (see pages 152 – 154)

Councillor Aubyn Graham, seconded formerly by Councillor Robert Smeath, moved the motion.

Councillor Columba Blango, seconded formerly by Councillor Catherine Bowman, moved Amendment F.

Councillor Aubyn Graham exercised his right of reply.

Amendment F was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

- RESOLVED:**
1. That council assembly notes with concern the lack of youth club facilities in the Peckham Rye area, and requests the relevant executive member to bring an urgent report back to council assembly on what steps are being taken to improve activities for children and young people in the area including the provision of full time club-based youth activities.
 2. That council assembly further notes that the executive member for equalities, culture and sport announced a full review (including consultation with young people) into youth and sports provision in the Peckham Rye area at the opening of the newly refurbished Peckham Rye Park on March 11 2006. Council assembly believes that the results of this review should provide the basis for further reports.

Note: The motion was referred to the executive for consideration.

8.10 MOTION 10 – POWERS TO COUNCIL ASSEMBLY (see page 155 and supplemental agenda 1, pages 22 - 24)

The motion was proposed by Councillor Toby Eckersley and seconded by Councillor David Bradbury.

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED: That this council assembly puts on record for the benefit of its successor its view that the conduct and effectiveness of council assembly meetings, the perception of the assembly as the council's sovereign body, and the morale of councillors generally, would be enhanced by the assembly reserving to itself as many powers as it can reasonably and lawfully exercise under the Local Government Act 2000 and other relevant legislation.

CLOSE OF BUSINESS

The Mayor concluded the meeting by thanking members and officers for their assistance during her Mayoral year and wished everyone success for the future.

The meeting closed at 11.25 p.m.

MAYOR:

DATED: