



SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE A

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the meeting of the SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE A held on TUESDAY JULY 01 2008 at 7.00 P.M. at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT:

Councillor John Friary (Chair)

Councillor Danny McCarthy

OFFICER SUPPORT:

Des Waters- Head of Public Realm

Shelley Burke – Head of Overview & Scrutiny

Gillian Jeffery - Legal Services

Fitzroy Williams - Scrutiny Project Assistant

ALSO PRESENT :

Vernon Neve-Dunn (Schools Sports Partnership)

Andrew Claye (Cafe on the Rye)

Tom Denning (Dulwich Harps Gaelic Football Club)

Mick Barnard (Southwark Caribb Football Club)

Liz Brough (Friends of Peckham Rye Park)

Michael Akiule (Player of Southwark Caribb Football Club)

Bernard Carlton (Player of Southwark Caribb Football Club)

Mark Newell (Parks Community Warden/Referee)

Brian Kasule (Player of Southwark Caribb Football Club)

George Rolfe (St John Bosco Football Club)

Rodney Bonnick (Southwark Libraries Football Club)

Nsikan Etuk (Metropolitan Police)

Helen Ndigwekings (Mum)

Ejike Ndigwekings (Player of Southwark Caribb Football Club)

Peter Frost (Peckham Society)

Duncan Fdyenu (IBA for Disabled Children)

Ann Marie Anderson (Voluntary Worker SCFC)

Landel Kennedy (Southwark Caribb Football Club)

Steven Truong (Player of Southwark Caribb Football Club)

Cejay Scafe (Player of Southwark Caribb Football Club)

Ben Jackson (Player of Southwark Caribb Football Club)

Jama Mohamoud (Player of Southwark Caribb Football Club)

Michael Aklene (Player of Southwark Caribb Football Club)
Mark Pearson (Chairman of SCFC)
Tarig Meghie (Player of Southwark Caribb Football Club)
Angela Meghie (Mum)
Beverly Bauff (Southwark Caribb Football Club)
Anita Wisdom (South East Elife Football Club)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Anne Yates, Robin Crookshank-Hilton and Ann Crawford (St John Bosco Football Club).

NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMED URGENT

There were none.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

1. PECKHAM RYE PARK (see pages 1 – 2)

- 1.1 The Head of Public Realm welcomed the attendance of so many park users to tonight's meeting and stated that there was certain to be a positive way forward with how the park was used and managed. The park is well used and has been awarded a 3rd green flag and is seen as an asset valued by the community. Other authorities have said it has the best facilities in the country, but investment was required for the park changing room facilities.

This meeting was a good opportunity to engage with many of the park users and to make sure there was a sustainable future with ground rules which required to be adhered to. The officer stated that he was in attendance of this meeting to listen to the views of the users of the park.

- 1.2 The sub-committee were also informed that the football pitches need to be rested after the normal season so as to maintain the standard of the pitches. It has been brought to officer's attention by users that the changing room facilities needed to be managed properly.
- 1.3 It was also reported that the prisoner of war hunts were no longer fit for purpose and as such all but one were demolished.
- 1.4 The Chair of the sub-committee reported that the next meeting of this sub-committee was to be held on Tuesday 16th September 2008 (7 p.m.) at/or close to the park and all park users were invited to attend.
- 1.5 The Chair then informed the sub-committee that they would heard from anyone present at the meeting who wished to share their views on the park and the facilities.

- 1.6 Vernon Neve-Dunn (Schools Sports Partnership) informed members that he worked with a number of schools and was a volunteer who helps to run the Tigers Rugby Club. He stated that they always booked pitches in advance but more fixtures were needed. The facilities were always locked and users cannot get access to changing rooms, this raises the question of the user responsibilities, which in turn takes a negative light on sports, members were also informed that they would like to have their own keys to the facilities.
- 1.7 Mr Mick Barnard then addressed members and reported that the council should provide facilities for the youth in this borough. The facilities could not accommodate 11 people and was certainly not a state of art facility. He further stated that no one was ever consulted about the size or any other requirements user might need, more and improved pitches were required.
- 1.8 The officer reported that planning permission had been agreed for changing facilities, but the council did not have the resources to fulfil these plans.

It was reported that every year there were problems, the current users would like to have priority use of the pitches during August to May with block bookings on a first come first use.

- 1.9 Members were informed that officers do write to all users to provide a fixture list so as to have a working programme of fixtures. It was also understood that fixtures do tend to get cancelled due to weather conditions and as such users have requested an extension to the season to the end of may for that purpose.

The Sub-Committee also heard that the funfair and circus causes a lot of wear and tear to the ground and this occurs annually.

- 1.10 The representative from the Peckham Society reported that the facilities at Burgess Park were excellent but there were also problems with changing rooms facilities. The park had a urban area and a go kart track, water area with paddling pool, and 2 types of cycling tracks and improving field surface but it was not always a safe place for children, this was due to the traffic surrounding the park.
- 1.11 The sub-committee then heard from a park and community warden and referee, who stated that the club (Caribb FC) should be valued by the borough as it gives children and young people a sense of being a part of something valued with a place to meet and develop a sense of identity and instils discipline. This club should grow and be accepted.
- 1.12 Members then heard from the representative of the Dulwich Harps Gaelic Football Club, who informed the Sub-Committee that the club was 30 years old and had its own goal posts and marked their own pitches. They had paid £800 towards repair of the pitches used by the club. They have 5 teams which were multiracial. It was also reported that the club were not allowed home matches until changing room facilities were available.
- 1.13 Things have happened in the park without any consultation, the changing rooms have been redecorated, it would be great if everyone had a key to the changing room, the council could guarantee a 4 year deal where we could store our equipment and make clubs responsible for their own kits and balls.

- 1.14 He added that they can get 15 players into the changing room and the away teams were also very happy with the facilities. The Irish people in the community are very concerned with the way things were going within the community and there was a clear need to work together.

He further reported that his club did not receive a penny from the council, as the club received their funding from the businesses in the community and were happy with the facilities available.

- 1.15 The officer reported that the council does not mark out Gaelic pitches, but does mark out football pitches and provides goal posts. The council has sought permission for a 40 foot storage unit for users and this has been granted and now a license is required.

- 1.16 The franchise with the cafe includes cleaning and insurance and this has been in place since November 2007 as part of the contract, The changing rooms are always booked in advance and changing rooms are always available for matches and not for training, this is standard for all boroughs. Health and safety requires changing rooms and toilets to host matches. The sub-committee were also informed that Gaelic football would be included in the 2012 Olympics as a new event.

- 1.17 The officer reported that when the pitches are booked the changing room facilities came as part of the contract, this was not the same as training where groups used the park for training sessions. He further reported that Carrib Football Club wanted to change at Peckham Rye Park and then travel to away matches, which was quite usual and would require unique treatment.

- 1.18 Members heard from a number of representatives from the Caribb Football Club and the following points were raised pitch marking, storage and larger changing facilities were needed.

- 1.19 An instance was given where the keys were requested and the player had to wait for 10 minutes, he stated he did not wish to be running back and fourth with the keys. The keys were held by the cafe manager, who on one occasion refused to pass the keys on to open up the storage container and changing facilities, this was disputed by the manager who insisted that this was not the case.

- 1.20 The officer explained that when the cafe was opened it was negotiated that the manager would be responsible for the keys to the changing rooms and storage facility.

A representative of the Friends of the Park reported that they did support Carrib. Changing facilities need to be paid for by the users and should be placed where the adventure playground used to be which is close to the pitches. Football is played right throughout the year and the changing rooms should serve the pitches users.

- 1.21 A serving police officer reported to the sub-committee that it was important to reduce crime on the streets, and positive programmes for young people were needed and could prove to be beneficial and fruitful to the community. He continued by stating that there were many role models in this room and he fully supported them. Carrib give these young people the opportunity to be part of a team who are supported by the club and coaches. The club was developing groups from under 7s to under 18s which is quite a wide band of youths.
- 1.22 Councillor McCarthy informed members that football is played all year, players play during the season (August to May) and then train during the summer to ensure they are fit for the start of season. Youths need to be involved in discussion and included for future planning, the facilities are for all the clubs that use the park and it was his view that management are doing a good job.
- 1.23 Another user addressed members to report that they used the park facilities and found that the service from the cafe was very quick but considered that the changing room was now not considered good enough.
- 1.24 The officer reported that this was an excellent opportunity to hear the user's voice and scrutiny will look at this point. The decision for the cafe was taken over 6 years ago and there was a need for everyone should get together and work for the children and users of the park, this service needs to be managed well.

The officer reported that they would be happy to look at the how the keys are controlled, i.e. £10 handed over for the keys and returned to cafe after use, the £10 would then be returned to the users with the clause that the changing/storage area be left as found.

- 1.25 It was felt by some users that some people are being ignored i.e. bowling clubs and elderly. Other users enjoyed playing football at the park on Saturdays and Sundays, but the size of the changing rooms were too small. Storage for equipment does vary depending on the age groups and the equipment used can be very heavy.
- 1.26 The cafe manager reported that the cafe served up to 500 per day and maybe there should be a limit to the number of pitches. It was also noted that the cafe closes at 4.30 p.m. The link being that the cafe holds the keys to the changing room facilities for pitch users.
- 1.27 Mr Mick Barnard stated that all users needed to be involved and facilities should be for all, access needs to be addressed and people should be responsible. The boys need to feel that they are trusted and wanted. The ground needs to be updated and there was a strong feeling that fairs and circuses need to be placed to another park due to the wear and tear on the park.

- 1 That the sub-committee agreed that the next meeting would to be held on Tuesday 16th September 2008 (7 p.m.) at/or close to the park and all park users were invited to attend.

At 8.36 p.m. the meeting adjourned for a break, the meeting reconvened at 8.45 p.m.

2. **ADDITIONAL SCOPING OF REVIEWS** (see pages 3 – 6)

- 2.1 The sub-committee were informed that all the other parks in Southwark had received heritage/lottery grants, the only one not to receive anything was Burgess Park, it has good sports facilities and needs to attract long term investment. The council needs to adopt a master plan for this park and seek future regeneration from the Aylesbury regeneration programme.

If investment were to be made available Burgess and Southwark Park could ideally be used for training by many teams.

Officers reported that Southwark Enterprise and Employment Strategies was awaiting news from central allocation in central government, news may be available after the meeting on Saturday 5th July 2008 with central government officers.

1. That the Sub-Committee receives further information/report on Burgess Park for the next meeting which is scheduled for Tuesday 16th September 2008.
2. That officer report back to the sub-committee at the next meeting on Tuesday 16th September 2008.

3. SUB-COMMITTEE SCRUTINY REVIEWS 2008/09 (see page 7)

- 3.1 The Sub-Committee noted the items of business i.e. Peckham Rye Park, Burgess Park and Southwark Enterprise and Employment Strategies.

The meeting concluded at 9:20 p.m.

CHAIR:

DATED: