

Acknowledgements

We would like to begin by paying tribute to Council Officer Garry Martin for his genuine help and support for all the young people who use Peckham Rye without his co operation the users and in particular Southwark Caribb might not have achieved all that they have.

We would also like to thank Des Waters for his efforts in trying to improve the strained relationship that existed with those directly responsible prior him taking over management.

A special thanks to Tim Hetherington and his team for the help and training for our annual tournament.

1. A small sample of negative history

1.1. 3 weeks before planning permission was granted for a 40' storage container officers some users less than a week to remove all equipment, from the 40' storage container already on site, without offering an alternative means of storage

1.2. this is an email from an officer "...the club would have to pay for the removal of the present container, the purchase/hire and installation of a bigger container and would need to aquire a license from the Council, the Council would not charge rent but a condition would be that the container is available to all users".

1.3. Once we had secured funding for the temporary changing facilities we were informed that each time we need to access or secure the facility only a respresentive of the cafe would do so, on one occasion it was opened and closed more than 20 times, sometimes with a delay of up to half an hour.

Background

2.1. In 2001 the original purpose built facilities on a site less than 20 metres from the current proposed site were demolished after lying derelict for several years (prior to Southwark Caribb), there was no consultation other than through the planning process for the current inadequate permanent facilities and no consultation regarding the detail of the inadequate temporary facilities

2.2. The vision for the future is a Multi Use Centre on Peckham Rye not a youth club or social club but a centre where all groups no matter what age, gender, ethnic origin, ability or disability can come together like the 1 o'clock club for under 5's, IBA charity for the young disabled, Friends of Peckham Rye and workshops for a variety of subjects from knife crime, teenage pregnancy and bike maintenance sponsored by the Police.

2.3. Currently we are awaiting for a report from consultants on the feasibility of the project we understand officers met with the consultant on 2nd June and will announce the date for a public meeting in due course.

2.4. Should the report be favourable we hope to raise the necessary £30,000 to appoint an architect and submit an application to the Planning Committee, part of the consultants brief is to identify suitable funding streams.

2.5. There is a possibility that the new boys school opposite the Park might be a source of funding for much needed ground/pitch improvements.

2.6. Whilst Southwark Caribb are leading on this project the facility will be for the use of the whole community and we would hope Southwark Council might consider allowing the community to manage the facility along the lines of a Tenants and Residents Association.

2.7. In the past the majority of users have worked well together, we need to encourage young people to take responsibility and be accountable, this gives them a sense of achievement and empowerment, if management remains with the Council we are sending out the wrong message unless young people feel trusted there will always be resentment.

2.8.. During our time in the P.O.W. hut which we occupied for over 2 years kids as young as 9 helped to clear it out into skips, cleaned it and organised it with section's partitioned into changing areas and an admin. area, during that whole time there was not one incident of vandalism or complaint from other clubs or park users that was attributed to the Southwark Caribb.

Matters for consideration

3. (1) Management of the temporary changing facilities
- (2) Where necessary pitches to be upgraded (increase membership)
- (3) Storage container (permission granted no container provided)
- (4) Disused toilets (as shared office space + multi use area)
- (5) Priority use of pitches for current users
- (6) Extend season to the end of May each year
- (7) Casual players/Circus/Fun Fair

4. Positive future

4.1. Currently the number of officers dealing with the various aspects make the whole operation disjointed with junior officers making decisions that are not necessarily supported by senior management, some form of documentation needs to be provided that can be referred to by both sides, Our preferred option for a coordinating roll, if it were at all possible, would be Garry Martin.

4.2 We would be happy to continue our quarterly meetings with Des Waters but would hope that other users would now be invited to participate.

4.3. All users would like to take this opportunity to invite Members of the panel to visit Peckham Rye and see for themselves not only the facilities currently available but also the potential site for the Multi Use Centre in addition Southwark Caribb would like to invite you to attend our annual presentation on Saturday 26th July, 7pm. Harris Girls School, Homstall Road.

4.4 Finally all users look forward to improved co operation and communication always bearing in mind that what Southwark Caribb and other clubs and

organisations offer is an opportunity for youngsters to feel they are an integral part of society and will become the next generation to take on the legacy that will ensure future generations will feel valued and in turn become responsible members of society.