



Scrutiny Sub-Committee A

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the meeting of the Scrutiny Sub-Committee A held on Tuesday 16th September 2008 at 7.00 P.M. at the Harris Sports Centre, East Dulwich, Homestall Road, London SE22 0NR

PRESENT:

Councillor John Friary (Chair)

Councillors Columba Blango and Robin Crookshank-Hilton

ALSO PRESENT:

Councillor Fiona Colley
Tevin French – Southwark Caribb Football Club (SCFC)
Prince Amiwero – SCFC
Jacob Otoo – SCFC
Cejay Scafe – SCFC
Jordan Campbell – SCFC
Steven Truong – SCFC
Carlton Scafe – SCFC
Phillip Dawkins-Alder – SCFC
Erroll Alder – SCFC
Ben Evetts - Local resident
Tom Denning – Dulwich Harps Gaelic Football Club
Jama Mohamoud – SCFC
Tarig Abdelrahman – SCFC
Jack Pearson – SCFC
Daniel Pearson – SCFC
Janet Scafe – SCFC
Mick Barnard – SCFC
Mark Pearson – SCFC Chairman

OFFICER

Des Waters – Head of Public Realm

SUPPORT:

Gillian Jeffery – Legal Services
Fitzroy Williams – Scrutiny Project Assistant

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Skelly and McCarthy.

NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMED URGENT

None.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were no disclosures of interests or dispensations.

MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the open section of the meeting held on July 1st 2008 be agreed and signed by the Chair as a correct record, with the following amendments:-

Paragraph 1.16 – Line 1 – insert “permanent” before insurance.

Paragraph 1.27 – Line 4 – insert after fairs and circuses “moved to another part of the park” and delete line 5.

Chairs announcement

The chair announced that Councillor Anne Yates had died after the last meeting and sent a message of condolence to her family and friends from this Sub-Committee.

1. Peckham Rye Park – Review Of The Provision And Management Of Sports Facilities (see page 1)

- 1.1 The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated he was happy to see so many people in attendance. He reported that this meeting was to discuss the report and recommendations which would go next of this sub-committee for agreement before going to the executive for a decision.
- 1.2 The chair then reported that he had visited the park on two occasions, the first being the Irish festival where the weather was pretty bad due to rain. The second was on Sunday 14th September 2008, where he spoke to users of the park some were frustrated and saw the facilities being used. It was also reported that one of Caribbs youth teams had to be moved to Bel-air park due to the lack of marked pitches available on Sunday.
- 1.3 On checking the temporary changing rooms the specifications used must have been for 10's and under. The specification needs to be consulted on with the user groups of the facility. There was also a need for a larger storage container, it is presently 20 feet and the site has capacity for a 40 foot storage container.

The cafe is managed very well and was very busy on the Sunday that I visited the park, and I believe the issue regarding the keys has now been solved.

The points highlighted by the visit were as follows:-

1. pitch numbers and allocations
2. size and numbers of changing rooms
3. storage facilities
4. cafe manager and keys
5. mix of activities
6. park maps.

- 1.5 Councillor Robin Crookshank-Hilton reported that it was a real struggle to get funding and facilities for football in the Dulwich area and that youth provision was very important especially these days with the youth problems. She also stated she was in agreement with regards to park users forming a user management group, where any user issues could be resolved.
- 1.6 Des Waters informed the sub-committee that there were presently 27 park user groups in the borough and they would need to be constituted. The friends of Peckham Rye Park are more focused on the horticultural side of the park.
- 1.7 The chair asked if there were any problems with drainage in the front part of the park? And pointed out that there were pretty large open spaces that perhaps could be used for football.
- 1.8 The officer responded that due to the quality of land and poor drainage caused parts of the park not to be used for sporting activities, the cost to the council to rectify this problem would be £30,000.
- 1.9 Mick Barnard then presented his information to the sub-committee, the following issues were raised:-
1. management of temporary changing facilities
 2. where necessary pitches to be upgraded
 3. storage container
 4. disused toilets
 5. priority use of pitches
 6. extend season to end of May each year
 7. casual players/circus/fair
 8. feasibility study
 9. pitch allocations
- 1.10 The sub-committee were informed that of all the independent clubs in Southwark, Southwark Caribb is the only club not have priority use of pitches despite providing more services to the community and winning more awards than any other club.
- The 3 teams allocated to Peckham Rye Park are Bosco (2 years), Allstars (2years) and Caribb (10 years).
- 1.11 All of the following teams have priority use of pitches in Southwark:-
- Athenlay
 - Caribb (not Southwark Caribb)
 - Peckham Town
 - Pelo
 - Tulse Hill
 - Harps
- 1.12 We attended the planning meeting where an application was submitted to Planning Committee, which was agreed for a 40 foot storage container on site, where the foundations were set for the container. It was also agreed that refurbishment of the POW hunt until the development of the cafe was completed, but within 12 months this had been demolished. Mr Barnard reported that it would take £10,000 to build an all purpose facility in Peckham Rye Park.

- 1.13 Tom Denning (Dulwich Harps Gaelic Football Club) stated that storage is needed in the park for the equipment used by the teams. Members were also informed that notices needs to be placed by pitches that are booked, so that there can be no misunderstanding as to which team is playing.
- 1.14 The sub-committee were also informed that he had attended an Olympic 0212 meeting, the previous week, he reported that 7 games will be held in south London which will need to accommodate 500 children. It was also made clear that 2 or 3 pitches will be required in Peckham Rye Park a week before next years Irish festival, funding will be made available from this group for all the required equipment.
- 1.15 Des Waters stated that due to the success of the park that people wanted to use it as much as they can, which means that the park is sued from dawn to dust. The problem is that there is limited space and this was the challenge for officers to manage and balance the demand for the park, with increased use creates limitations of changing room facilities. The pitches were managed by Park Facilities and are responsible for key-holding, cleaning and managing all changing rooms. Grounds maintenance were responsible for marking out pitches, a parks manager is based at the park.
- 1.16 Tom Denning stated that the Gaelic football team were happy with the facilities, but pointed out that the signage and maps to the park needed updating as they were out of date. He also pointed out that priority should be given to junior teams so that they should not have to travel too far for their games.

With regards to pitch allocation, he felt that teams that used the park regularly should be given priority and should be written too and asked what their needs will be for the coming season. He also pointed out that there were limited resources to facilities in the park.

- 1.17 The officer undertook to look at the use of junior pitches. He further stated that facilities in the park needs to managed for all users, users who pay fees also need to be able to use them properly. The officer congratulated Caribb for all their hard work.

He also reported that a light touch by officers would be the best approach and that users would need to communicate with each other on a local level. The board would be a good idea for all teams that use the park and each team should have a representative involved with the board.

- 1.18 The sub-committee discussed the proposed football academy which would be managed by children's services, funding was being sought from the football association.

Members were informed that the football academy proposed base was to be at Homestall Road, there was room for 3 pitches only which really was not big enough for the number of teams that use this park only. It was felt be members that a feasibility study was required for this project.

- 1.19 Erroll Alder informed members that there was no way all their teams (12) could use these pitches, presently they have 150 boys involved with their teams, he explained that they would have to reduce their teams by 80% to be able to use the proposed facilities.

1.20 Mick Barnard reported that £10,000 had been raised for a feasibility study in may 2008, but no officer from the council had met with Caribb representatives to discuss or update on this request. He also stated that they wanted the community to use these facilities but due to the intensive use of the park by casual users most junior teams had to play most of their games away.

1.21 At this point members of Caribb FC stood up to display cards showing organisations that supported the club, the names are as follows:-

- Brayards T&RA
- I.B.A Disabled Children
- St John BOSCO F.C
- Metropolitan Police
- Ivydale Junior School
- Nunhead & Brookstone T&RA
- Community Wardens
- Bethwin F.C
- Southwark Tigers F.C
- Harriet Harman
- Dulwich United F.C
- St Thomas Apostle Church
- St Anthony & St Silas Church
- South East Elite F.C
- Peckham Rye Ward Branch Labour Party
- Harris Academy for Girls
- Rye Hill Park T&RA
- Waterloo F.C
- Peckham Society
- One O’Clock Club
- Val Shawcross
- Cossal Estate T&RA

1.22 The chair stated that there seemed to be a lack of management and there did not appear to be a clear plan for the future of the park. He suggested with the agreement of the sub-committee that a short, medium and long term strategy would be useful as well as priorities and rules would be required for all park users. The sub-committee felt that a clear detailed policy would address many of these issues.

1.23 Des Waters stated that whatever system is set up will have to be fair and equitable and have the necessary rules, if people do not abide by the rules they must accept ruling judgements. He further reported that the key issue seemed to have been corrected and is now working well.

He reported that the park pitches needed 3 to 4 months to be rested so that they are playable during football season.

1.24 The issue regarding Caribb players changing at the park before travelling to away matches, and then returning back to change at the park, was discussed and the constitution of any league would state that if a team cannot provide proper changing facilities they should not be in the league.

- 1.25 Councillor Crookshank Hilton stated that there were serious problems with regards to open spaces, due to the pressure to build more homes. There was a real need to try and review open spaces available under section 106 and this should be included in future plans.
- 1.26 The officer informed members the first meeting of the corporate play and strategy officer group had met the previous week and one of their main tasks would be to seek funds needed to create more open spaces.

RESOLVED:

1. That the sub-committee prepare a report to the executive with recommendations regarding management of Peckham Rye Park with main themes as follows:-
 - Management to control booking allocations, with a clear procedure of pitch usage.
 - Best use of Peckham Rye facilities
 - The need for a full feasibility study
 - Provide information on the proposed football centre.

The meeting concluded at 9:00 p.m.

CHAIR:

DATED: