



WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Walworth Community Council held on Wednesday 6 October 2010 at 5.30 pm at Walworth Academy, Shorncliffe Road, London SE1 5UJ

PRESENT: Councillor Martin Seaton (Chair)
Councillor Catherine Bowman
Councillor Patrick Diamond
Councillor Dan Garfield
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Abdul Mohamed

OFFICER SUPPORT: Jon Abbott, Elephant and Castle Programme Director
Geri McLeary, Aylesbury Programme Director
John McHenry, Markets Development Manager
Robin Campbell, Head of Communications
Linda Webb, Principal Transport Planner
Pauline Bonner, Neighbourhood Coordinator
Lee Griffiths, Community Council Development Officer
Alexa Coates, Principal Constitutional Officer

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME BY THE CHAIR

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and ask councillors to introduce themselves. The chair noted that it was the first meeting held in the East Walworth ward and at the Walworth Academy. The chair thanked the academy staff for allowing the meeting to be held at the venue.

The chair invited Cllr McDonald to introduce herself, Cllr McDonald explained that she was attending the youth themed meeting as Cabinet Member for Children's Services to listen to the view points of younger residents.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from councillors Coyle and Morrissey.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 June 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The chair opened the youth themed element of the meeting.

7.1 CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Pat Shelley, Head of Youth Commissioning and IAG, gave an overview of the youth services and the type of youth programmes the council offered. He introduced Beverley Parchment, who had worked with the Walworth Youth Community Council to produce a short film for the meeting.

7.2 FILM PRESENTATION

Beverley Parchment introduced a film presentation produced by members of the Walworth Youth Community Council which considered issues affecting young people in the Walworth area. The topics raised included: racism, underage drinking, anti social behaviour and lack of activities for young people.

In terms of solutions to these issues young people interviewed suggested advertising the activities and facilities available to young people through schools and providing more facilities for young people such as youth clubs. It was suggested that by making more activities available and promoting activities such as sports this could take young people away from hanging around the streets.

It was also suggested that local role models be used to speak to young people through schools and explain how they became successful in order to help young people realise

what they can do.

Cllr Seaton was interviewed in the film and he stressed the importance of giving young people a voice in the decision making process of the council.

7.3 WALWORTH ACADEMY

Mr Hanson, principal of the Walworth Academy, where the meeting was held, spoke about the academy. He stressed the importance the academy and other schools in the borough had in transforming the lives of young people through educational opportunities. Mr Hanson welcomed the theme of the meeting and the opportunity for councillors to listen to young people.

7.4 YOU SAY WE LISTEN

The meeting broke into workshops 'you say we listen'. Different groups considered: East Street Market, crime and the fear of crime and employment opportunities. These workshop themes had been suggested by the Walworth Youth Council.

7.5 FEEDBACK FROM YOU SAY WE LISTEN

After the break some of the young people feedback some of the ideas discussed as part of 'you say we listen.' The following ideas and suggestions were raised.

East Street Market

- the council should invest more in the regeneration of East Street Market so that the local community could feel proud of the market
- young people should be given a level of responsibility in the market
- the council should encourage young people to become traders and encourage young people to use their skills in a positive way, for example young people involved in drug dealing may have business skills which they could use as traders
- a connection needs to be made between East Street and the Walworth Road, young people identified that it feels like to distinct places and there is no flow between the spaces, which need to be better connected.

Crime and the fear of crime

- Participants highlighted that positive behaviour starts at home and there is a role for parents and guardians
- There needs to be more things for young people to do
- Activities that are available to young people need to be promoted through innovative means such as facebook
- Young people also worry about crime and feel threatened

Employment opportunities

- Schools could be used to bring people together to share ideas, e.g. a forum for young business students
- The community should take responsibility for students who don't enjoy study and identify the barriers to their learning

The chair stressed the importance that the council act on what young people had said at the meeting and invited Cllr McDonald, Cabinet Member for Children's Services to respond to some of the ideas. Cllr McDonald identified some of the points she had picked up on whilst circulating the workshops which she would take forward:

- The need to improve the reputation young people had in the media
- Ensuring the right activities were provided for young people and that they were publicised in the right way, such as facebook
- Young people should be involved in the community councils
- Cllrs should engage with young people and go to them
- Young people should be involved in the decision making process of services which affect them, it was planned to allow young people to make decisions on one fifth of the youth service budget

Cllr McDonald took questions from the floor relating to: the closure of Connexions in Peckham, the help available to young people in finding work once they had completed training and the number of apprentices the council employed.

Cllr McDonald explained that she was not aware of the closure of Connexions but would take more details and investigate the matter, that the council was involved in a match-up scheme and that she had set a challenge for local employers to recruit 100 apprentices in 100 days, the council currently employed 37 apprentices but hoped this would rise to 70 within the year.

The chair thanked all the young people for taking part in the youth themed element of the meeting and invited them to stay for the main items.

8. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair made the following community announcements:

Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Faraday ward priorities

- 1) Antisocial behaviour on the Gateway Estate – focusing on late weekend patrols and youth engagement
- 2) Antisocial behaviour on East Street – extended drug warrant arrest for drug supply and troublesome premises closed
- 3) Cycling on pavements – enforcement initiative, numerous penalty notices issues

East Walworth ward priorities

- 1) Antisocial behaviour at Dormstone House – executed a search warrant, disruption of offenders by high visibility patrols and stops
- 2) Antisocial behaviour at Ivy Church Lane – joint partnership approach with mediations service, housing officers and Southwark antisocial behaviour unit and members of the Somalian community
- 3) Antisocial behaviour on the Heygate estate – estimated 18 residents, targeted patrols to vulnerable areas and all insecure premises secured

Newington ward priorities

- 1) Drug issues/antisocial behaviour on the Newington estate – enforcement patrols with the antisocial behaviour unit, dog awareness event to raise awareness of dangerous dogs where 15 dogs were micro chipped free of charge
- 2) Drug issues/antisocial behaviour on the Brandon estate – four youths signed up to antisocial behaviour contracts and given curfews, one arrest for drug offence and three seizures of drugs
- 3) Traffic speeding issues – four speed gun operations and one automatic number plate reading operation

Burgess Park

John McHenry, Public Realm, updated the meeting on the Burgess Park revitalisation project and directed participants to look at the display.

Street Leaders

Dave Taylor, Sustainable Services Officer, explained what the Street Leaders programme was and how residents could get involved. Street Leaders were local volunteers who helped the council tackle environmental issues in the borough by, for example, conducting visual audits, reporting issues to the council and removing graffiti. He invited residents to speak to him about signing up to take part in the scheme.

Violent Crime Consultation

The chair advised meeting participants that the Safer Southwark Partnership had produced a consultation on violent crime which was available for people to complete. The results would form a key part of the partnership's strategy.

Transforming Southwark's NHS

Rosemary Watts, from patient experience, informed residents that there would be a meeting on how NHS Southwark are taking plans forward following last year's consultation on Transforming Southwark's NHS. The meeting was scheduled for 9 October and Rosemary invited residents to contact her if they wished to attend.

Petition

The chair notified the meeting that he had been advised of a petition submitted to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Corporate Strategy requesting a swimming pool at the new Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre.

Cooltan Arts

The chair announced that Cooltan Arts were organising a sponsored walk on 9 October to celebrate World Mental Health Day.

9. A FAIRER FUTURE FOR ALL IN SOUTHWARK

Councillor Mohamed, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Community Engagement, introduced the item a 'fairer future for all' which outlined proposals for the budget consultation. Cllr Mohamed explained that the council expected to receive a cut of 25% in funding from central government but the council would know more following the announcement on the Comprehensive Spending Review on 20 October 2010, the council had already had to make £5 million worth of cuts in 2010/11. He explained that

consultation would take place and that cabinet members would attend the community council meeting again in November and the outcomes would be reported in March 2010.

Cllr Mohamed took questions from the floor relating to: protecting public sector jobs, explaining the level of local choice in budgeting and what money is ring-fenced, the impact of the census and population information on the level of government funding received, the regeneration agreement for elephant and castle and how meaningful the budget consultation would be and whether a breakdown of how the budget was spent across services could be provided.

In response Cllr Mohamed explained that the cabinet wanted to include people in the budget process in order to find solutions to the expected reductions, that the council would know more following the announcement on the Comprehensive Spending Review on 20 October, that the census was extremely important in determining the level of funding the council would receive in the future and that it was hoped the consultation would influence the final decisions taken by the council.

10. REGENERATION PROJECTS

10.1 UPDATE ON AYLESBURY REGENERATION PROGRAMME

Geri McLeary, Aylesbury Programme Director, updated the meeting on a 20 year plan to regenerate the Aylesbury Estate. He explained how the programme would be funded in a variety of ways, including: selling land to developers to provide social, intermediate and private housing; developing partnerships with registered providers to provide social, intermediate and private housing and using the Government's Private Finance Initiative (PFI) to provide social, intermediate and private housing. However, the £181 million available through the PFI is insufficient to complete the scope of the original bid to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) based on developing phases 2 & 3 of the Aylesbury Area Action Plan. In order to make the scheme more affordable to the council the PFI monies would be applied to several other sites on the estate (parts of Phase 1 & 3). If the HCA agrees to this change and approves the council business case for the work then the work would commence in 2014 with the first homes completed by 2016.

Geri took questions from the floor relating to: the decision to demolish existing flats to build new ones, the future of the Homes and Community Agency, improvements made to flats which would eventually be demolished and the level of private housing in the redevelopment.

In response Geri explained that: the council had considered refurbishing the existing flats but the business case for re-building the estate confirmed that it delivered better value for money for the council and tenants. HCA activities in London are likely to be transferred to the Greater London Authority (GLA); the flats to which improvements had been made where in Phase 4 of the Aylesbury Regeneration Programme and not due developed for many years and because the council has a responsibility to ensure those homes meet the decent homes standard improvement works needed to be carried out. Geri also explained that the council was committed to providing affordable housing and this would be through tenancy and shared ownership.

10.2 EAST STREET MARKET

John McHenry, Market Development Manager, outlined the vision for East Street Market, explaining that the plan was to replace the footway with paving from Walworth Road to Portland Street, resurface the road down to Dawes Street, carry out safety works by raising carriageway at Portland Street Junction, and improving junction with East Street and Walworth Road. It was anticipated that the works would commence in January and finish by February 2011. The council had been informed that Thames water intended to relay some water mains so the work may be delayed to ensure a joined-up approach.

John took questions from the floor relating to: the affordability of rents on the market and members commented on the need to ensure an integrated approach to development between Walworth Road and East Street as highlighted earlier in the meeting.

John explained that there had been a rent review across the borough which had addressed inconsistency in rents charged across the borough and rent increases had been kept to a minimum. As an example, permanent rents at East Street had risen by less than £1.50 a week. The Southwark Association of Street Traders had been consulted on the review and were satisfied with the overall outcome.

10.3 UPDATE ON REGENERATION OF ELEPHANT AND CASTLE

John Abbott, Elephant and Castle Project Director, updated the meeting on the regeneration of Elephant and Castle. Jon highlighted that there was a consultation on the leisure centre and invited meeting attendees to take part before it closed on 8 October 2010. He advised that they could be kept informed of the developments at the proposed Elephant and Castle leisure centre by registering at: www.southwark.gov.uk/elephantleisure

Jon took questions from the floor relating to: the terms of the agreement with Lend Lease, contributions by Lend Lease to build the leisure centre, and the lighting of the Heygate estate.

In response Jon explained that by removing the leisure centre from the terms of the Lend Lease agreement the project could be progressed quicker and that any planning agreement would require contributions to a range of things not just the leisure centre. Jon explained that there were still 16 households in residence of the Heygate estate and therefore the council had an obligation to continue lighting the area for the safety of the residents still living on the estate and for people who passed through the estate.

11. TRANSPORT

Linda Webb, Principal Transport Planner, updated the meeting on the Transport Improvement Plan. Linda explained that next year, providing funding was provided by

Transport for London, pedestrian improvements to West Walworth were proposed to address problems in the area including: a lack of dropped curbs, insufficient crossings, poor signage and street clutter. Linda advised that the new transport plan was currently being developed and the community council would be consulted in the new year.

A resident asked if there was a possibility of an overground railway station in Walworth to encourage people to use public transport rather than cars. Linda explained that she was not aware of any plans for this and that there would be significant funding implications to creating a new station.

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following public questions were submitted, the chair advised that written responses would be provided at the next meeting.

1. It has been brought to my attention that there may be plans, within the Elephant & Castle Regeneration Plan, to extend Wansey Street to make it into a through road. Could this be a possibility?
2. Residents of Garland Court are very concerned and would like to see Wansey Street stay as the quiet cul-de-sac it is, free of all through traffic.
 - Why have the owners and residents of flats in Garland Court not been directly consulted about proposals for altering the access and layout of Wansey Street? We have not received any communication from Southwark Council nor from Southern Housing regarding the possible alterations to the access or character of our road, which at present is a quiet cul-de-sac.
 - What are the design proposals for the new housing fronting onto Wansey Street. Again, why have the owners and residents of Garland Court not been consulted about these issues, which will have a great affect on our properties and immediate environment?
3. Regarding the Elephant & Castle Master Regeneration Plan (version 16):
 - Page 16 displays a map of the regeneration. This indicates a 'mid-high' block will be built exactly opposite Garland Court. How high is this exactly? When I bought my flat in 2006, the plans indicated that Garland Court would not be overlooked by a tall building.
 - Can Southwark confirm that the trees lining Wansey Street will remain. These are central to the appearance of the street and the well-being of residents of Wansey Street.
 - The plans also indicate that Wansey Street will be opened up at its Eastern end, but closed at its Western end to traffic. Can you confirm that Wansey Street will not become a through-road. This is a hugely important issue to residents living on Wansey Street.
4. I noticed Strategic director of Major Projects position is Vacant.

When will this post be filled and who's overlooking / synchronising various regeneration projects meanwhile?

5. I'm very concerned as a resident of Garland Court , Wansey St about the proposed plan to end the streets cul -de -sac status in the regeneration plans. Can the council assure me and fellow residents this will be re thought and the street kept as a cul-de-sac ?
6. Will there definitely be a guaranteed new leisure centre at the Elephant or is this consultation exercise a bit misleading? When will it be opened?
The elephant and castle leisure centre consultation was very well advertised, but very limited. I received a letter by post and saw the advert in Southwark news yet the consultation was only to ask what services we wanted. Why was the consultation so basic? How much money was spent posting letters to residents, for the newspaper advert and at the public meeting?
7. Why is the bus lane on rodney place enforced 12 hours a day 7 days a week for one bus? Other bus lanes e.g. Old Kent Road are from 7-10 am and 4-7pm only 5-6 days a week.
8. Why has the council without warning removed our allocated 30 minute free parking bay outside our shops that has been in force since 2000? When we complained the council argued that they had no record of a traffic management order for this bay. The council has recently allocated 40 minute free parking bay for the Tesco store in Southampton Way. We are urging councillors to stop these injustices and discrimination and help to reinstate our parking bay our trade has plummeted and cannot services our shops.

Residents also commented on the use of One Stop Shops to provide information and consultations and commented that local libraries may be more appropriate venues due to more flexible opening times.

13. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS - INSTALLATION OF A DISABLED PERSONS (BLUE BADGE) PARKING BAY, DAWES STREET

This item will be considered at the next meeting.

14. EXEMPTION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2 of the access to information procedure rules of the constitution.

15. SCHOOL GOVERNOR NOMINATIONS

Members considered the school governor nominations report.

RESOLVED:

1. That Mrs Freya Monk be re-appointed as school governor to Crampton primary school
2. That Miss Gabriel Robertson be appointed as school governor to Cobourg primary school
3. That Miss Emelie Helson be appointed as school governor to English Martyrs catholic primary school

CHAIR:

DATED: