



WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Walworth Community Council held on Monday 13 December 2010 at 7.00 pm at InSpire at St Peter's, Liverpool Grove, SE17 2HH

PRESENT: Councillor Martin Seaton (Chair)
Councillor Catherine Bowman
Councillor Patrick Diamond
Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Abdul Mohamed

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Fiona Colley
Councillor John Friary

OFFICER SUPPORT: Simon Bevan, Interim Head of Planning and Transport
Jonathon Toy, Head of Community Safety & Enforcement
Jon Abbott, Project Director
Geri McLeary, Aylesbury Programme Director
Pauline Bonner, Neighbourhood Coordinator
Lee Griffiths, Community Council Development Officer
Alexa Coates, Principal Constitutional Officer

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked councillors to introduce themselves.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillors: Coyle, Garfield, Lauder and Morrissey.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Members made the following declarations of interest,

Agenda Item 9 Aylesbury Update.

Councillor Abdul Mohamed, Personal, as a trustee of the Creation Trust.

Councillor Martin Seaton, Personal, as a resident of the Aylesbury estate.

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2010 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chair made the following community announcements:

Dog Control Consultation

The chair invited residents to complete the dog consultation document. The purpose of the consultation was to find if residents wanted the council to introduce new powers, called dog control orders (DCOs), which would allow on the spot fines of £50 for such offences borough wide.

Civic Aware Nominations

The chair explained that the awards were for nominations which demonstrate a sustained contribution or commitment by an individual, group, organisation or business for the benefit of Southwark residents and/or the interest of the Borough more generally. The chair invited residents to complete the nomination forms.

Community Payback

The chair introduced Jackie Smith from the London probation service who explained the role of community payback and how it could benefit the local community.

Police Cadets

The chair introduced PC Scott Frost who explained the role of the police cadets and invited

residents to attend an open day on 18 January at the Walworth Academy from 7-9pm to learn more about the cadet service. PC Frost gave the following contact details for anyone interested in the cadet scheme.

Walworth police station – 020 7232 6111 sfrost@walworthacademy.org

8. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS - OUR SUCCESS SO FAR

The chair introduced the item on Safer Neighbourhood and invited Councillor Friary, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, to start with his presentation.

8.1 COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY

Councillor Friary presented on some of the work of the Council in terms of community safety. He highlighted some of the consultations which had taken place such as the Violent Crime Consultation and the Dog Control Consultation. Cllr Friary explained some of the developments in CCTV and how the council were working with partners in the police and TfL to make CCTV coverage better. Some of the priorities of the council included, extending and developing the Street Leader Scheme, improving road safety and making town centres safer. Cllr Friary gave an overview of some of the key crime statistic in Walworth.

Cllr Friary responded to public questions which had been raised at the last Walworth meeting: Can the community wardens report broken street lights and paving stones and can community wardens issue fines to fly tippers? Cllr Friary answered that they can and do this.

Cllr Friary took questions from the floor relating to population changes and the effect on crime statistics and the presence of the community wardens on the Aylesbury estate. In response he acknowledged that regeneration did impact on crime statistics as people moved out of estates and that sometimes population decrease can increase concerns around public safety and that safety on estates such as they Heygate needed to be addressed in ways such as: increased lighting and police and wardens presence to alleviate those concerns. Cllr Friary also explained that there was an intention to move the wardens to more of a response team rather than a location based teams so that they could respond better to community safety issues as they arose.

8.2 CHIEF INSPECTOR HARPER

Chief Inspector Harper explained that he was responsible for the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams, Safer Transport and Safer Schools for the Southwark area. He outlined some of the roles within the police that local people could get involved with, including the cadets scheme where young people assisted the police with test purchasing and policing at events such as the London Marathon. Southwark had around 70 volunteer constables who were unpaid and gave several hours a week of their time and had the same powers as other uniformed police. The Met also had a volunteer manager programme where people volunteered at least 10 hours a week to work in mainly back office functions, this released

police officers to patrol.

The Chief Inspector invited residents to take part in a review of Safer Neighbourhoods policing in the Borough. A questionnaire was available on the met police website which consisted of 9 questions around key areas of safer neighbourhood delivery. The consultation would be open until 21 January 2011. Chief Inspector Harper explained that the purpose of the review was to analyse whether the current model, of one sergeant, two constables and three PCSOs, was meeting the demands of local communities and whether it was appropriate to apply this model across all areas regardless of particular local needs.

The Chief Inspector took questions from the floor relating to the impact of saving cuts on policing, the level of police officers born in Southwark and the proportion of officers from BME backgrounds, the level of investment in safer transport in terms of road safety in the Borough. In response he explained that at a local level there was a commitment to at least the preservation of front line services and the community policing was the last place compromises would be made. He stated he would provide a written response to the questions on Southwark born and BME police officers and the level of investment in road safety as he did not have the statistics at hand.

Cllr Friary responded to additional questions on CCTV investment, the need for council and contractor staff to provide identification when visiting residents and premises licensing. Cllr Friary stated that the possibility of adding a community safety element to the information considered when the council takes decisions on planning and licensing applications was being explored.

Chief Inspector Harper finished the item by inviting residents to attend the next safer neighbourhood ward panel meetings:

East Walworth – Tuesday 21 December 7pm
Newington – Wednesday 2 February
Faraday – Wednesday 12 January

9. AYLESBURY UPDATE

Cllr Colley, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Corporate Strategy, updated the community council on the Aylesbury regeneration following the government announcement that £181 million of PFI funding was to be withdrawn. Cllr Colley explained that the regeneration would continue and the council would explore options available without the PFI.

Cllr Colley introduced Charlotte Benstead, Director of the Creation Trust an independent charity involved in the Aylesbury estate. Charlotte explained that the trust was working closely with the housing team to deliver decent homes and that the trust would open-up its board meeting to residents in the new year.

Cllr Colley took questions from the floor relating to the transport strategy for Aylesbury and the possibility of a cross river tram, the impact of the PFI withdrawal on re-housing residents and the impact of central government budget cuts to housing on tenancy

agreements. Cllr Colley explained that a major project such as a cross river tram would needed to be funded by TfL, that the re-housing was continuing but would take time and that the council would keep residents updated. She also explained that the council was awaiting confirmation from the HCA on how tenancy agreements would be affected.

10. ELEPHANT AND CASTLE UPDATE

Rob Deck and Susie Wilson introduced themselves to residents and explained the role of Lend Lease in the Elephant and Castle regeneration project. Susie outlined the timescales for the project and where to find information on the regeneration master plan.

Rob and Susie took questions from the floor around what opportunities would be available to local people on the project, the possibility of including a war memorial for Gurney Street in the development plans, the opportunities for resident comments on the consultation strategy, the format of the consultation process and the potential liaison groups and the level of affordable housing in the regeneration scheme.

Susie explained that Lend Lease had a non-profit organisation 'BeOnsite'. The aim of 'Be Onsite' is to find job opportunities for people who are furthest away from the job market. Susie also explained that Lend Lease has a long track record of providing training and employment opportunities, an example being The Learning Shop at Bluewater shopping centre in Kent, which has placed over 22,000 jobs over the last 12 years. Susie would report back to the community council on the consultation process. Rob explained that Lend Lease has an obligation to provide a minimum of 25% affordable housing.

Simon Bevan, Interim Head of Planning and Transport, informed the meeting of the role of the planning department in comparison to Lend Lease's role.

Attendees asked further questions about the level of affordable housing, viability checks at different stages of the development, the possibility of Lend Lease committing to the London Living Wage for people working on the development; when the leisure centre will be ready to use; when the first planning application will be made and how that application will fit with policy such as the supplementary planning document.

Simon re-iterated that Lend Lease had an obligation to provide a certain level of social housing some of which would include shared ownership.

Rob will check & advise whether Lend Lease can commit to the London Living Wage on the Project. Residents were advised that the first phase application was expected to be submitted within the next 12 months.

It was hoped the leisure centre would open in 2014 but this was not part of the agreement with Lend Lease.

Simon confirmed that any decisions on the planning applications submitted by Lend Lease would be taken in the policy and statutory framework which all planning decisions are taken. Simon advised that planning policy was being updated and that there would be a new supplementary planning document which would provide clear guidelines for applications to be considered against.

Some residents informed Lend Lease that they had undertaken surveys of some of the trees in the area and would be willing to share this information with Lend Lease to ensure the retained greenness of the estate. Susie invited residents to send any relevant information directly to her.

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

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

How will the community be supported by the council in establishing a meaningful dialogue with Lend Lease?

How will the masterplan for the Elephant and Castle regeneration enhance the existing habitat?

What efforts will the council be making to ensure that the regeneration project is directly benefitting local residents in terms of training and job opportunities at all levels?

How are the council going to monitor the safety aspects for wardens and the public during the demolition and rebuilding of the Heygate estate?

How many training schemes places did Lend Lease have on their Olympic sites?

How many socially rented homes will Lend Lease be building at the Elephant?

When will the steering group for the Elephant Regeneration be convened?

The transport issues at the Aylesbury and Elephant and Castle will be addressed in the Southwark Transport Strategy which is about to begin public consultation. Can we be given the timetable for this consultation and can there be a discussion on this at the community council during the public consultation?

How can local communities access police reports on incidents in their neighbourhood? At the same location on Townsend Street there have been a mugging in 2009 and a serious assault in 2010. Did the police report identify any factor in the local environment which are in need of attention (e.g. lighting, debris, overgrowth, building design). How can this information be obtained?

Meeting ended at 10.10 pm

CHAIR:

DATED:

