



ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Rotherhithe Community Council held on Wednesday 8 December 2010 at 7.00 pm at Bacon's College, Timber Pond Road, Rotherhithe, London SE16 6AT

PRESENT: Councillor Jeff Hook (Chair)
Councillor Columba Blango
Councillor David Hubber
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor Michael Situ

OFFICER SUPPORT: Forid Ahmed, Neighbourhood Coordinator
Gill Kelly, Community Council Development Officer
Beverley Olamijulo, Constitutional Officer

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The chair welcomed members of the public, councillors and officers to the community council meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lisa Rajan and Wilma Nelson.

Councillor Catherine McDonald submitted her apologies for lateness.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None were declared.

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2010 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting, and signed by the chair.

6. FEEDBACK FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The following issues were highlighted at the meeting:

Fish Farm, Southwark

A local resident mentioned that £80,000 of cleaner greener safer funding was allocated to the Fish Farm, Southwark Park which was to clear the site and bring it back into use. It appears under the current spending review the proposal has now been shelved.

It has also been mentioned that other CGS schemes in the area would no longer go ahead under this review.

Those present asked if assurances could be given that the site in question would not be sold to developers and the possibility of other CGS schemes being withdrawn.

Cllr Richard Livingstone explained that there is no intention to sell the site.

A resident suggested this should be brought back into Southwark Park and should be referred to as 'the Nursery' and not the Fish Farm.

Highways and Lighting/Traffic

Richard Harris from Environment and Housing reported that site inspections and work on designs could take up to 3 weeks because of the Christmas holidays. Therefore the timetable for works to commence would be between 6 – 10 weeks.

Albion Street

Richard Harris: Encourage residents to join the Steering Group to move proposals forward for Albion Street. The officer stated that in light of feedback from the workshops the Council officers are holding discussions with the Norwegian Church. Officers are hoping to move forward with the idea of opening a market in the area to encourage people to use the street.

Public toilets

Requests have been made for a compulsory purchase which is generally for larger schemes which the officer has agreed to pursue under the devolved powers of community councils particularly as the issue of toilets has been an ongoing problem in the Borough. Unfortunately there are no plans to re-open any that have been closed.

Trees along Pavements

The Council maintains a programme of dates etc on tree pruning – this information is available to view on the Council's website. Generally decisions about cutting or keeping trees could be difficult. As this issue has been overlooked for sometime now the proposal is to produce a rolling programme of dates.

Public question

A local resident referred to item 12, of the minutes when a public question was raised about the allocation of the cleaner greener safer funding being used to transfer statues from the Heygate to Southwark Park. Apparently this project should have been completed twelve months ago.

AGREED:

Officers to provide at a future community council a list of all CGS projects that have been successfully completed or are yet to be completed.

Thames Water presentation

There were some inaccuracies in the Thames presentation given at community council on 8 November 2010, these were highlighted as follows:

- Phase two consultation is scheduled for summer 2011, not January 2011.
- Thames Water realised that some customers were omitted from their original mailing, they sent new letters out immediately so they could be included in the phase one consultation and not have to wait until phase 2.
- Since the November meeting, Thames Water also announced the closing date for phase one comments was extended to 14 January 2011.

7. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

None were received at this meeting.

8. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

Members noted the following announcements:

- The United St Saviour's Charity are operating two grant making programmes – small and large grants. The focus of both programmes is to bring positive benefits to improve the lives of residents of North Southwark and Bermondsey and areas close by. Applications are available from the Charity's website <http://www.ustsc.org.uk>

Completed applications should be returned to Michael Juffs, United St Saviour's Charity, St Saviour's House, 39-41 Union Street, London SE1 1SD, email: michael.juffs@ustsc.org.uk

- Consultation on the Dog Fouling Control order, information was available at the meeting.

Community presentations:

Jonathan from the Bubble Theatre was present to show the Blitz Film which was made in May 2010 and the voices of those who narrated their experiences were taken from actual interviews. They referred to the 1940 bombings, air raid shelters, and the Anderson shelter and the bombing of hospitals that included a maternity ward.

Representatives from Time and talents spoke about the role of the Association and what they offer the local community. Most of the work involves intergenerational work where young and older people interact with each other, some of this is done through the mosaic project.

The presenter responded to questions.

9. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATES

The community council noted the safer neighbourhood teams updates on community safety matters.

The SNT representative reported that there would be some changes to the police boundaries and the Police safer neighbourhood teams might be merging. Further information about these proposals were circulated at the meeting and people were urged to complete the questionnaire about neighbourhood policing.

The priorities for Surrey Docks ward are burglary, smart water targeting and robbery. Arrests were made and stolen property returned back to the owners. It was mentioned that a PCSO was commended for arresting a suspect. Other priorities include targeting drug dealing and motor theft, the Police have been leafleting Surrey Quays Shopping Centre.

The SNT representative responded to questions about various scams from individuals claiming to be from a courier company. Although no reports were given to the police, people were advised to be on their guard. He also said anyone interested in receiving training for the speed guns or motor plate reading, a device to track down speeding motorists should contact the traffic unit at Southwark Police Station.

Further updates would be given at a future meeting.

10. YOUTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Farhan Ghafoor, a Rotherhithe youth worker and three representatives from the Surrey Docks adventure playground project were present at the meeting to highlight some facts about teenage pregnancy.

They provided information about:

- Abortion facts, teen pregnancy rate in 2008 - considered the fifth highest in the developed world.
- The kind of information available for a young person who decides to keep their baby. This includes seeing a GP, get a check up what role the parents would play and the support network available to them.

The chair and Cllr Catherine McDonald, cabinet member for children's services thanked the representatives for their presentation.

11. SOUTHWARK PENSIONERS CENTRE

Neil White from the Southwark Pensioners Centre was present to talk about the role of the centre which was set up in 1987 and based in Camberwell, SE5. The project works with other pensioner groups across the borough, provide administrative support, offer room hire at the centre and training courses for older people. Many of the users are from Camberwell, Walworth, Dulwich and Peckham.

The centre offers advice on writing out wills and debt advice and publishes a monthly newsletter which many consider a valuable source of information. The centre also offers excursion trips and monthly shopping trips and work alongside other voluntary groups.

They run an extensive range of activities a few days a week which includes a well attended dance and fitness class at the Aylesbury centre and ICT classes. In addition look at health and wellbeing by working in conjunction with health organisations.

Neil explained that the lease on the premises runs out next year but eventually he would like to see a pensioners hub that could provide a whole raft of services for older people. He concluded by stating that there needs to be more joined up and cross border working. It is likely that the lease would be renewed for a further 12 months.

A few residents asked about the old Library which they said could be used as a intergenerational hub for both young and older people. The response was once the new Library opens as part of the Canada Water regeneration the old Library would be sold, this situation remains unchanged.

The meeting were informed that Time and Talents has a ICT suite which members can attend if they are also members of the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Partnership Board.

The meeting were also told that the Pumphouse Museum would be looking at a memory cafe for those who suffer dementia.

The chair thanked the presenter for attending the meeting.

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following public questions were submitted:

Q1: Old Library, Albion Street – please can you tell residents who is likely to move there?

A1: The old Library would be put up for sale even though work is still going on around the library. One of the options which has been considered is to have a Scandinavian market.

Q2: Do we know who the buyer would be and does the Council have a remit on its use – that is would it be considered for community use?

A2: Those community groups that have an expressed interest need to go through the planning process regarding change of use.

Q3: If the old Library is being sold off what about BEC Ltd - adult education centre?

A3: The Council are working with Morley College, so negotiations are taking place and BEC would be given notice if the old Library is sold off.

Q4: What is the current situation with Odessa Street?

A4. The plan is to re-develop Odessa Street, accommodation for the users and building is yet to be decided.

Meeting ended at 9.30 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: