



ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Rotherhithe Community Council held on Thursday 20 January 2011
at 7.00 pm at Bacon's College, Timber Pond Road, Rotherhithe, London SE16 6AT

PRESENT:	Councillor Jeff Hook (Chair) Councillor Wilma Nelson (Vice-Chair) Councillor Richard Livingstone Councillor Paul Noblet Councillor Lisa Rajan Councillor Michael Situ
OFFICER SUPPORT:	Forid Ahmed (Neighbourhood Co-ordinator) 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

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Columba Blango, David Hubber, Catherine McDonald, and for lateness from Councillor Richard Livingstone

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

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

6. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS

There were none.

7. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

Southwark Civic Awards

The meeting was reminded that completed nomination forms for the Southwark Civic Awards should be sent in by the end of January 2011.

Forms were available from the Southwark Civic Association website: <http://www.southwarkcivicassociation.org>. The Awards Ceremony takes place in May 2011. Contact the Civic Association on 020 7525 7303 for a copy of the form, or email: info@southwarkcivicassociation.org.

Consultation on licensing policy on sex establishments

Richard Parkin, licensing manager announced that the team were consulting all community councils on the draft licensing policy for sex establishments.

The draft document on sex establishments have recently been ratified at the Licensing Committee on 6 January 2011 for the purpose of public consultation which had started on 10 January 2011 and ends on 4 March 2011. Community councils were being asked for their views on the draft policy as well as hearing the views of local residents, businesses and community groups to comment and consider whether different areas of Southwark which may be suitable or unsuitable.

The draft policy proposes that applications would not be granted where the premises are located near residential accommodation, near places of worship, community facilities or public buildings, near schools, youth clubs, shops, parks, leisure and recreational establishments or any other similar premises directed at, or primarily used by children or families.

Further information is available online at www.southwark.gov.uk

8. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following questions were submitted:

Q1: The local parking amendment on Rotherhithe Street (1011Q2009) was approved at the Rotherhithe Community Council meeting on 7 October 2010, when will the work be done?

A1: **ACTION:** The chair asked if this could be followed up by officers in network development, environment & housing department.

Q2: Is the community council aware that there were some changes to the Taxicard scheme which came into effect on 4 January 2011. Southwark residents and other London Boroughs would be affected by this change?

A2: **ACTION:** The chair agreed to ask the relevant Greater London Assembly (GLA) member to provide any information about and feedback at the next meeting.

Q3: Gritting during the severe winter – what if any, is the strategy for spreading salt during snow /icy conditions? I had particular concerns on Salter Road during the 10 December 2010.

A3: There are significant stock supplies of grit boxes and salt bins around the borough. The Council's priority is to keep major roads clear, however there is not enough salt to clear all roads.

The housing officer stated the Rotherhithe housing office has a list of priority areas which get cleared of snow which is around accommodation where there are vulnerable and older adults or those live in sheltered housing.

Q4: I rang the Council and left several messages about having salt delivered to clear ice and snow on the pavements and never received a response to my request. Also preference should be given to those that live in hilly roads that link on to the main roads.

A4: Members note the comments made.

Q5: The pathway at Surrey Docks Water Sports Centre remains closed despite the fact this was raised 6 months ago and a resolution was passed at a recent community council it is still closed.

A5: **ACTION:** Ask the cabinet member for culture, leisure, sport & Olympics to look into this.

Q6: A Cleaner Greener Safer project ' Karretts' received funding of £40k, what progress has been made on this scheme as it was due to be completed by March 2011?

A6: **ACTION:** The chair said he would request the CGS officer to attend a community council meeting or provide a written response concerning this project.

9. UPDATE ON FAIRER FUTURE FOR ALL

Cllr Richard Livingstone, cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety, addressed the meeting about the budget consultation process. He referred to the budget consultation report (circulated at the meeting) which set out the results of the consultation document that took place at the community council meeting on 8 November 2010.

The following information was noted:

- Spending cuts from central government are very severe during this and the next financial year. These would amount to about £29.7m less from the formula grant. The council would be as open and transparent as possible and the consultation exercises that are taking place are a part of that.
- Government allocation of 11.3% grants, cutting millions in public spending starting from April 2011.
- Southwark to receive significant cuts overall with a possible 18% cut within the first year.
- At least 26 out of the 32 boroughs would use the formula grant this is used to assess the basic expenditure needs of local authorities by combining estimates of the level of provision required for each service.
- The question is whether the right population figures are being used to determine how much is allocated because the last census most probably undercounted Southwark's population. The Council want to ensure census forms are filled out correctly.
- That residents wanted to protect the most vulnerable in Southwark from the cuts: vulnerable adults and children's services.
- That the draft revenue budget report has now been published on the council's website. Cllr Livingstone encouraged people to look at the report and make comments.

After the cabinet meeting on 25 January, there would be a period of consultation, before the report is considered at cabinet on 8 February 2011 with further recommendations. The final version of the report would then be sent to Council Assembly on 22 February for agreement.

The chair thanked Cllr Livingstone for his presentation and responding to questions.

10. GENERAL OVERVIEW OF HOUSING MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Allen Macpherson, area housing manager presented this item. He outlined the structure of the teams: area management, asset management, investment planning, business support services and home ownership which deals with sales and leaseholders.

The area housing office in the Rotherhithe area is responsible for:

- 3500 tenants
- 1000 leaseholders
- 640 garages
- Covers Rotherhithe & Surrey Docks plus part of Livesey wards
- Some non-estate properties
- Housing estates include: Bonamy, Tustin, Canada, Abbeyfield, Albion, Hawkstone, Osprey, Chilton, Swan, Adams Gardens
- 2 estates with concierge
- 2 sheltered Housing Units

Key activities

- Rent income - £17.8m annual debit
- Arrears – currently £680k
- Notice to seek possession (NSPs) currently 600 per year
- New lettings – currently 220 per year
- ASB & nuisance currently 150 cases
- Tenancy checks
- Cause for concern particularly for vulnerable adults
- Customer visits/calls
- Resident Involvement work
- Estate checks every 6 weeks – communal repairs
- FRAs – Fire Risk Assessments

Rotherhithe major works

- Maydew House: Cabinet agreed all tenants needed to move out. 17 households have found a new home. A further report is to be considered at cabinet to set out options for the building.
- Hawkstone Estate: Major scheme agreed as part of programme by the previous Executive. The work involves refurbishing John Kennedy House and low rise properties. Consultation for this is underway.
- Lift renewal and refurbishment: Major work to lifts on Silverlock and Silwood Estates planned but currently delayed with no start date.
- Minor refurbishment work to Maydew House lifts due to start 30 January 2011.
- Fire Risk Assessment (FRA) related work undertaken at Canada estate recently.

Your Service Your Choice

- What is Your service, your choice?

The next few years will see big changes in the way the council run their housing service and *Your service, your choice* is the name for the conversation the housing service want to have with residents to involve them in the decision making.

Further information would be provided to community councils, area housing forums and Tenants and Residents Associations (TRAs).

Vangent Customer Service

Adrian Jones from the client side of the service centre was present to discuss the call centre figures for housing repairs. During his presentation he referred to the waiting time for calls, including the volume of the calls. He mentioned that the one stop shop at Spa Road would be relocating but remain in the north east of the borough – hoping to find a more accessible location.

Adrian responded to questions regarding the long delay in the service centre answering calls, drop call after waiting etc. Adrian explained the call is traced back and the person is then contacted. Any delay with calls is an exception rather than a general rule.

The chair thanked the presenters for attending the meeting.

11. HOUSING REPAIRS

Daniel Rankin from Housing service repairs presented this item and spoke about the Customer Service Centre processes on how housing repairs are dealt with and what the protocol is when raising a works order for a repair request and booking an appointment for the contractor to attend. It covers a range of responsibilities which to assess repair requests by the contractor or the housing technical team.

The client receives a works order reference number from the service centre and a further appointment is made if the contractor is unable to complete the repair during the first visit.

A customer feedback call is made to evaluate your opinion of the service after the contractor states the repair job is completed, the team calls to ask for a satisfaction survey.

Daniel explained that not all the contractor recommendations would be ordered or agreed which is the reason the Council are governed by law to undertake certain repairs (Right to repair). Some repairs could be affected by budget restrictions or have health and safety implications and major works could be considered as part of the Decent Homes programme.

You can make a claim for missed appointment through the service centre which can be done in writing, email or at the One Stop Shops.

The chair thanked the presenter for attending the meeting.

12. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS

Executive decision

RESOLVED:

1. The following local parking schemes were approved as set out in the report subject to the outcome of any necessary statutory procedures:
 - Timber Pond Road (1011Q3032) – Proposed at any time waiting restrictions. In addition, Rotherhithe Community Council requests the ‘School Keep Clear’ sign be repainted and an enforcement plate be installed where required.
 - Devon Street & Devonshire Grove (1011Q3013) – Proposed parking restrictions as part of the Old Kent Road Integrated Waste Management Facility.
 - Silver Walk (1011Q2001) – Proposed at any time and Thursday 7am – 12 noon waiting restrictions.
 - Rotherhithe Street (1011Q2044) – Proposed at any time restrictions.
2. The local parking amendment for Hawkstone Road (1011Q2029) was not approved because Members felt that further consultation should take place so that consideration could be given for additional ‘loading only’ parking bays to be installed further along Hawkstone Road.

13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the public 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, Access to Information Procedure rules of the Constitution.

14. LEA SCHOOL GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

Executive decision

RESOLVED:

That Miss Sian Elsby be appointed as a local authority governor representative at Alfred Salter Primary School.

Meeting ended at 9.20 pm

CHAIR:

DATED: