



ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Rotherhithe Community Council held on Tuesday 13 March 2012 at 7.00 pm at Canada Water Library, 21 Surrey Quays Road, SE16 7AR

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

OFFICER SUPPORT: Barbara Ann Overwater, Senior Planning Policy Officer
Norman Coombe, Principal Lawyer
Forid Ahmed, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
Gill Kelly, Community Council Development Co-ordinator
Tim Murtagh, Constitutional Officer

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

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

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lisa Rajan. There were apologies for lateness from Councillors Columba Blango and Michael Situ.

3. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

4. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 January 2012 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting, and signed by the chair.

6. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Farhan Ghafoor, Manager of the Rotherhithe Youth Community Council explained that meetings were held every Friday at the Surrey Docks adventure playground. Some of the young people outlined their work in the forum, which aimed to improve the local area. Councillors and residents paid tribute to the excellent work of the young people involved.

Alice Fisher, Community Fundraiser from the The Royal British Legion outlined the work of the poppy appeal ahead of the 2012 appeal. Local volunteers were needed and anyone wanting to help should either call 020 7863 3347 or email AFisher@britishlegion.org.uk

The chair announced that this year there would be a Cleaner, Greener, Safer Revenue fund with a budget of £10,000 per ward. Residents were invited to submit their ideas. Contact forid.ahmed@southwark.gov.uk or Tel. 020 7525 5540.

Gary Magold explained that the community council had recently funded a Southwark photo competition in Southwark Park. It was open to all and the resulting exhibition would be in the gallery at Southwark Park that week.

7. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATES (IF ANY)

Sergeant Al Irvine, Surrey Docks and Rotherhithe Safer Neighbourhoods Teams explained that Surrey Docks ward had been experiencing a robbery problem near Greenland Quay. There had been two recent arrests of prolific offenders which should improve the situation.

In response to questions Sgt Irvine said the Police marine support unit based at Wapping had been supporting recent operations to tackle burglary. The planned closure of Rotherhithe Police station would lead to new safer neighbourhoods' bases. Local venues including the new and old libraries were being considered.

9. COMMUNITY COUNCILS

There was a discussion on the planned merger of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe community councils that would happen in the new municipal year 2012/13. Concerns were

expressed by councillors and residents about finding suitable venues to accommodate 18 councillors on the top table and the length and community relevance of future agendas.

There was general agreement from residents and the majority of councillors that the two community councils should not be merged and that a deputation would go to Council Assembly to that effect in March. A vote was taken which supported that idea.

10. THE LOCALISM ACT

Norman Coombe, Principal Lawyer and Head of the Governance Team, outlined the Localism Bill. According to the Department for Communities, Law and Governance: "The Localism Act will trigger the biggest transfer of power in a generation, releasing councils and communities from the grip of central government."

The Act itself had 241 sections and 25 schedules with 142 powers for the Secretary of State to make subordinate regulations. A plain English Guide was available. Under the General Power of Competence, a local authority had power to do anything that individuals may generally do.

Under the Community Right to Challenge:

- An authority must consider an expression of interest in relation to providing or assisting in providing a service provided by or on behalf of the local authority, submitted by a voluntary or community body, charity, parish council, or 2 or more employees of the authority.
- An authority may set out periods when an expression of interest may be submitted. Any such period must be published. Where no period is specified, an expression of interest may be submitted at any time.
- If accepted by the authority, the expression of interest triggers a procurement exercise.

Assets of Community Value:

- Requires local authorities to maintain a list of 'assets of community value'
- Assets can be owned by anyone, not just the local authority
- Land may only be included on the list in response to a community nomination or where permitted in regulations
- Community nominations defined as nominations made by a parish council or a voluntary or community body with a local connection
- When a listed asset comes up for sale there is a six-month moratorium, to give community groups time to develop a bid and raise the money to buy it.

Planning:

There will be rights for local communities to shape their local areas through,

- Neighbourhood Development Orders (NDOs);
- Community Right to Build Orders (type of NDO);
- Neighbourhood Development Plans (NDPs)

11. OPEN SPACES STRATEGY

Barbara Ann Overwater, Senior Planning Policy Officer, explained the background to

Southwark's draft Open Space Strategy currently out for consultation.

- Sets out a framework for open space provision in the borough
- The open space strategy replaces work previously undertaken in 2003 and updates the work carried out in 2010
- The document was an important part of the evidence base needed in the preparation of planning policy documents
- Public consultation on the draft strategy would run until 24 April 2012 with the final strategy adopted in September 2012

The residents' survey produced the following information:

- 750 telephone surveys undertaken stratified by age, gender and location
- Study identifies that levels of satisfaction in open spaces were high – Over 80% and highest amongst older age groups
- Almost 90% rated the quality of open space as good or very good
- Smaller open spaces, cemeteries and amenity spaces were considered to be of poorest quality
- Just 10% of residents stated that they do not visit open spaces. Majority of these due to time constraints/health reasons
- Value of smaller open spaces was reinforced, although larger parks also very popular

Open Space needs were analysed and a site audit carried out.

The following local sites were considered to have particular potential for improvement:

- Improve the quality of landscaping and security at Deal Porters Walk
- Bring Surrey Docks Sports Ground back into use
- Improve the quality of open space at St Pauls Sports Ground
- Introduce new open space uses at the Former Nursery
- Provide improvements to the athletics track and ancillary buildings at Southwark Park
- Investigate the potential to introduce new habitat creation at Kings Stairs Gardens

Contact: Barbara-Ann.Overwater@southwark.gov.uk or Tel. 020 7525 5451

12. BOWEL CANCER UK

Dave Morrison spoke on behalf of Bowel Cancer UK which aimed to save lives by raising awareness and campaigning for better treatments and care. Each year 40,000 people were diagnosed with bowel cancer and 16,000 died from this type of cancer. It affected both men and women but was very treatable if discovered early with over 90% surviving for five years. It was very important to raise awareness and be aware of the symptoms.

The symptoms of bowel (colorectal) cancer include:

- Bleeding from the bottom or blood in the stool (poo)
- Change in bowel habits lasting a few weeks
- Unexplained weight loss
- Extreme tiredness for no obvious reason

- A pain or lump in the tummy

Risks could be reduced by cutting down on red meat, eating fruit and vegetables, and living a generally healthy lifestyle. Also people were encouraged to take part in bowel screening when invited to do so.

If people were worried they should make an appointment with their doctor or call the Bowel Cancer UK information and support service on 0800 840 3540 or email support@bowelcanceruk.org.uk

13. UPDATE ON OLD LIBRARY / SHOPPING CENTRE UPDATE

David Taylor from Canada Quays explained that his group had been appointed by the Council as partners about seven years ago. The initial responsibility was to look at three sites on the Canada Water masterplan.

The new library and area around had been developed to a high standard. 108 local people had been employed during construction including 20 apprentices. Local people had been consulted throughout the phases of construction. There had been an active involvement with local schools who had participated in the project at various stages. The new library could be used for all sorts of community activities.

The second stage of the project was the shopping centre and British Land had committed £30 million initially to upgrade the existing centre and adding to it, within the context of the masterplan.

Initial thoughts for the old library were to flatten the existing building and to develop at ground floor level retail accommodation and a new police station. Above the ground floor there would be about thirty five flats in a five storey building. Both sides of Albion Street with various stakeholders involved could become the core of a revival of the area. Further consultation would take place.

In response to questions, David said that notes from the cafe consultations would be taken on board and worked through with local stakeholders. The proposed new sports facilities were predicated on the development of the whole master plan area but despite four years of effort the Conrad Phoenix site could not be acquired. There were no plans to cut down trees in the area.

14. CLEANER, GREENER, SAFER 2012/13 - CAPITAL

Executive Function

Members considered the information in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the decision be deferred to the next community council meeting, so that officers can clarify shortlisted schemes.

15. HIGHWAYS DEVOLVED CAPITAL FUNDING FOR 2012/13

Executive Function

Members considered the information in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the decision be deferred to the next community council meeting, so that officers can clarify shortlisted schemes.

16. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no public questions.

OTHER: The chair said that consideration would be given in light of the planned merger to set up a Rotherhithe Society to bring together local groups and to use some of the available revenue funding to do that.

17. SCHOOL GOVERNORS APPOINTMENTS

Councillors did not resolve to exclude the press and public from the meeting as they did not discuss closed information.

Executive Function

Members considered the information in the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That Ms Shital Shah be reappointed as school governor for Peter Hills with St Mary's & St Paul's Church of England Primary School.
2. That Mr Deri O'Regan be appointed as school governor for Albion Primary School.

The meeting ended at 9.25pm

CHAIR:

DATED: