



BERMONDSEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Bermondsey Community Council held on Wednesday 21 March 2012
at 7.00 pm at Harris Academy, 55 Southwark Park Road, SE16 3TZ

PRESENT: Councillor Linda Manchester (Chair)
Councillor Graham Neale (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai
Councillor Michael Bukola
Councillor Denise Capstick
Councillor Mark Gettleson
Councillor Paul Kyriacou
Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Nick Stanton

**OFFICER
SUPPORT:** Jillian Houghton, Regeneration Officer
Alison Squires, Planning Policy Team Leader
Forid Ahmed, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator
Gill Kelly, Community Council Development Officer
Tim Murtagh, Constitutional Officer

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

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

2. APOLOGIES

There were apologies for lateness from Councillor Denise Capstick.

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 18 January 2012 be agreed as an accurate record of that meeting and signed by the chair.

6. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Update on St James Churchyard

Jillian Houghton, Project Officer in Regeneration, explained that during previous consultation there had been comments about opening up the churchyard with the pathway lit. The parks department had agreed for the pathway to be lit and that would now proceed. A combination of materials would be used for works including some York stone and consultation would take place regarding the planting in the area. Councillor Al-Samerai said that a ramp for access was being looked into and that money from any scrap metal should be put back into the project.

Poppy Appeal 2012

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

Bermondsey Youth Community Council (BYCC)

Local Members of the BYCC outlined the work of the forum. The BYCC represented 13 to 19 year olds and organised local projects. It provided a voice for the young people to the powers that be.

The Salmon Youth Centre

Andy Wilson, Mission Manager, explained that he was a community organiser for the Diamond Jubilee's Big Lunch. He encouraged residents to take part in a community event to celebrate the special occasion and that he would help with forms and planning where needed. At the Salmon Youth Centre there was a project called Building Belonging Together which was aimed at tackling loneliness in the wider community. Contact: info@salmoncentre.co.uk or Tel. 020 7237 3788

Bede House Awareness

Dave Morrison, Ambassador for Bede, said Bede was a local charity set up in 1938. It helped people to overcome their difficulties and feel like valued members of society. Over 2,000 people contacted Bede each year. There were youth adventure clubs and a minibus. Bede had turned derelict land into a nature garden, organised events, helped people find work and generally lead safer happier lives.

Tenda Road and Bishop's House Nurseries

A resident highlighted the threat of closure to two local nurseries. There was a petition to help save those valued facilities. Councillor Al-Samerai said she would be meeting with the Director of Children's Services to talk through the issues and what could be done to save Tenda Road. Members gave a commitment to oppose all proposals to cut funding from any nurseries in Southwark.

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.

Bermondsey in Bloom would take place again in 2012. Two volunteers from each ward were being sought to be part of the committee. Councillor Mann asked for help from the London Bridge Team with this year's project.

7. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

An information sheet for each Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) was circulated which detailed local priorities and recent actions.

In response to questions, the SNT officer said that crime prevention was very important and residents should be particularly aware of their environment when making phone calls as the snatching of smart phones was a problem.

9. DRINK AND DRUGS - HOW THEY AFFECT THE COMMUNITY

Ian Gray, Drug and Alcohol Abuse Team (DAAT) explained that every local authority in the country had a DAAT and it was a partnership between local authorities, health trusts, the probation service and the Police. DAATs were funded by central government and tasked with implementing the national drug strategy. There were various treatment surgeries available in the area that helped and supported people to achieve healthier lifestyles. Some of the services were walk-in, and assistance for the homeless and those with mental health issues was provided. There were also case workers to assist drug offenders where referrals were appropriate. Much of the national strategy was aimed at recovery and DAAT sat within community safety.

Callie Martinez, Insight Southwark, explained that the group had been operating for two years following its commission by DAAT and was a young person's service based at the Elephant & Castle. Insight was a tier 2 and tier 3 service offering information, treatment and intervention. It was a voluntary service operating six days a week. Insight worked mainly with 11 to 24-year-olds and had links with other service providers along with schools.

Steve of Alcoholics Anonymous said AA's primary purpose was to help members stay

sober and help other members achieve sobriety. It was a group of people wanting to get well and stay well. Throughout London there were about 700 AA meetings every week. Alcoholism affected people from all walks of life. AA supports itself, there were no fees or funding from members or other bodies. There were no chiefs in AA and all members were treated equally. There were many open meetings that people could attend if they wanted to find out more. If people phone the helpline, someone would accompany them to their first meeting to simplify that part of the process. See www.alcoholics-anonymous.org.uk or Tel 0845 769 7555

Eammon Egerton, St Mungo's street population outreach manager, explained that the group was funded by Southwark to reduce rough sleeping in the borough. St Mungo's worked with rough sleepers and had advice centres. Some of the street sleepers had deep and complex problems which made it difficult for them to leave the streets. The group believed that no one should sleep rough and that people could change. There was a team that worked late at night and early in the mornings that made offers to street sleepers to improve their situation. St Mungo's relied on local information and hoped to tackle problems early. Often the solution would be to attempt to reconnect them with their home towns but some were resistant to offers. There were lots of street sleepers from Eastern Europe and St Mungo's worked with agencies in Poland and elsewhere.

The four speakers then took part as a panel and took questions.

In response to questions, the panel explained that the services available were broad and flexible to the needs of those who needed help. The range of services available in Southwark would give one assessment and then the person would be referred to the most appropriate programme. There was a success rate of about 40% which compared well with other areas.

In terms of licensing and saturation policies for premises selling alcohol, councillors said Neighbourhood plans would increase the powers of councils to limit the number of shops selling alcohol and also betting shops.

10. OPEN SPACES STRATEGY

Alison Squires, Planning Policy Team Leader, 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.

Measures to improve quality and value of spaces included:

- Working with Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Green Enthusiasts (BARGES) to introduce new natural green space to existing sites, including the potential to introduce new habitat creation.
- Improved access to existing open spaces, including strong links to Burgess Park and Southwark Park, as well as the Thames Path.
- Look for opportunities to increase the provision of parks to get closer to the borough's recommended standard.

In response to questions, Alison said she would take back to colleagues a request for an outdoor gym in Spa Park. The open spaces strategy had set a borough wide target provision of 0.76 hectares per 1,000 population though some areas including Bermondsey were likely to have less than that.

Simon Hughes MP said that the Friends of Southwark Park and Bankside Open Spaces Trust had shown a lot of community willingness to look after local green spaces. He added that a strategy to engage local people to care for their near green spaces should be developed. Alison said that idea could go into the Action Plan and that there may be scope in the strategy document for a ward list of open spaces so residents could see what was available. She would also report back on the cost of the strategy.

Contact: Alison.Squires@southwark.gov.uk or Tel. 020 7525 5644

11. CLEANER GREENER SAFER: FUNDING REALLOCATION

Executive Function

Members considered the information in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the £7,000 of Cleaner, Greener, Safer under spend in the Bermondsey Community Council area be reallocated to the 2012/13 programme.

12. CLEANER GREENER SAFER 2012/13: FUNDING ALLOCATION

Executive Function

Members considered the information in the report.

RESOLVED:

That the cleaner, greener, safer capital funding 2012/13 be allocated as set out below:

Bermondsey Community Council area	Allocation
Bermondsey hanging baskets	£30,000
Grange	
Purbrook Estate / Car park lighting; Safety railings for planting at SPAM Hall; Bollards around Thetford blocks / Prevention of pavement damage	£8,500
Rose bed (Hazel Way)	£659
Bee-friendly planting in Mary Magdalene Churchyard	£5,200
iCommunity Action Art (SHACCA T&RA Improving our Environment)	£20,600
Tanner Street notice board	£2,500
Whites Grounds and Tyers Estate in Bloom! A genuine partnership of residents and London Bridge based businesses helping bridge local social, economic and environmental divisions.	£21,600
Whites Grounds Interpretation board	£3,780
Whites Grounds / Crucifix Lane lighting improvements	£2,160
Alaska Information board, Grange Road	£2,900
Riverside	
Wickfield House playground	£25,899
Dickens Estate play area	£36,000
Perryn Road fencing and gate	£7,800
Tower Bridge buildings – Lockable gate to bin area	£5,200
South Bermondsey	
Gate at Galleywall Nature Reserve	£4,900
Bermondsey Scouts' Story Tent	£1,500
Flo Weller Memorial Tree and Plaque, The Blue Market Square, Southwark Park Road	£1,000
Improvements to the Citizens Advice Bureaux shop windows	£400
Brick wall on Ash House, on Dunton Road	£18,200
Cadet Drive walkway improvement	£12,500
TOTAL	£211,299

13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There was a discussion on the planned merger of Bermondsey and Rotherhithe community councils that would happen in the new municipal year 2012/13. There was general agreement from residents and councillors that the two community councils should not be merged and that a deputation would go to Council Assembly to that effect in March.

Members and Simon Hughes MP asked for a review of play spaces to be carried out in the Bermondsey Community Council area. That would enable local children to play safely, and healthily. The review could lead to some of the existing facilities being improved.

Councillor Al-Samerai said she would follow up on a resident's request for a suitable empty space for a boxing club, as it was about to lose its existing premises.

Members asked for a future meeting to have workshops on the type of businesses that people wanted to see in the area and how that could be developed.

14. HIGHWAYS DEVOLVED CAPITAL FUNDING FOR 2012/13

Executive Function

Members considered the information in the report.

RESOLVED:

That £97,200 of the highways capital budget be allocated as follows:

Grange		
Rouel Road	Carriageway	£9,200
Alscot Road	Footway	£45,000
Riverside		
Barnham Street	Footway	£43,000
Total		£97,200

15. SCHOOL GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

Executive Function

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

Members considered the information in the report.

RESOLVED:

1. That Mr Anthony Craig be re-appointed as school governor for Kintore Way Nursery School.
2. That Mr Tobias Latham and Mr Earl Legister be re-appointed as school governors for Grange Primary School.
3. That Mr Marc Hadfield be appointed as school governor for Riverside Primary School.

The meeting ended at 9.55pm