



PECKHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Peckham Community Council held on Wednesday 21 September 2011 at 7.00 pm at Harris Academy at Peckham, 112 Peckham Road, London SE15 5DZ

PRESENT: Councillor Cleo Soanes (Chair)
Councillor Michael Situ (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Chris Brown
Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Catherine McDonald

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Veronica Ward, Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure Sport and the Olympics

OFFICER SUPPORT: Darryl Telles, Neighbourhoods Manager
Roger Young, Area Renewal Manager
Pam Usher, Library Service Manager
Alison Squires, Planning Policy Team Leader
Marian Farrugia, Neighbourhood Co-ordinator Nunhead and Peckham
Nadine James, Community Council Development Officer
Alexa Coates, Principal Constitutional Officer

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The chair welcomed councillors, members of the public and officers to the meeting and explained that the theme of the meeting was future Peckham. The chair thanked the staff at the Peckham Harris Academy for allowing the community council to use the venue.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for lateness were received from Councillor Michael Situ.

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 12 July 2011 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chair invited the following community announcements:

Plastic Free Peckham

Lesley Wetheimer explained that the group had received Cleaner, Greener Safer funding from Peckham and Nunhead and Peckham Rye community councils to conduct some research into why people use plastic bags and what would encourage them to stop. The group produced some shopping bags with the slogan 'plastic up' conceived by a local school child. Lesley invited attendees to take a bag with them.

Cemeteries Consultation

Deborah McKenzie, Parks Service Development Officer, explained that the council was currently consulting on options for burial space in the borough. The only new plots available were in Camberwell Old Cemetery. The council had measures to deal with burials in the short term but long term options needed to be considered. Deborah encouraged residents to complete the consultation questionnaire and to attend a consultation event on Saturday 2 September between 1-4pm at Honor Oak recreation ground.

Veolia – changes to recycling services

Ian McGeogh explained that following a pilot scheme changes to recycling services would be rolled out across the borough. He advised people to keep an eye out for leaflets explaining the changes which included details on collection schedules. The changes would only effect curbside collection and not those who used clear bags or communal bins. One change implemented across the borough was that TetraPacs could now be collected from recycling bins.

Peckham Shed performance

Peckham Shed gave a performance to the community council. After which they explained that they were a theatre group who provided theatre workshops for young people aged between 5-17. The group had set up the peace wall in Peckham following the disturbances.

The chair thanked Peckham Shed for their performance and invited attendees to record their comments and pledges for the community conversations.

8. THEME - FUTURE PECKHAM

The chair introduced the theme of the meeting, Future Peckham, which would focus on some of the work by the council to improve the area for people who live and work in Peckham.

8.1 TRANSPORT SCHEMES

Jack Ricketts, Transport Planner, updated the meeting on the transport delivery programme for 2012/13 following an allocation of funding from TfL. The complementary measures associated with the Cycle Super Highway route 5 would affect the Peckham area 2012/13, for which £120,000 had been allocated to improve permeability for cyclists. Possible measures include public realm improvements, dropped kerbs and cycle contraflows.

Jack also outlined some schemes across all the community council areas including, cycling training and travel awareness campaigns. Jack concluded by offering to chat with attendees in the break if they were interested in finding out more about the transport schemes.

8.2 LIBRARY CONSULTATION

Councillor Veronica Ward, cabinet member for culture, leisure sport and the Olympics and Pam Usher, Library Service Manager reported on the results of the library consultation.

Cllr Ward explained that the council had to look at making budget cuts across all services but the libraries were very important and that the library in Peckham feels connected to the local community. Some of the ideas gathered from the survey would be taken forward to cabinet when they take a final decision.

Pam Usher outlined some of the key headlines from the consultation. 9% of respondents didn't have a Southwark library card but used the libraries for other activities to borrowing books. Peckham library was a key library for young people for example as a place to study. Overall 46% of people agreed with the principle to use more volunteers and 31% preferred to keep the same opening times even if it meant fewer libraries.

In terms of preferred options for savings the following results were gathered:

- 41% said reduce opening hours
- 36% said reduce the number of smaller libraries
- 33% said reduce the budget for ICT

- 14% said reduce the number of staff

In Peckham the following options were preferred:

- 33% said reduce the opening hours
- 26% said reduce the budget for IT
- 49% said reduce the number of smaller libraries
- 17% said reduce the stock

Pam informed the meeting that the results of the survey and recommendations would be made to the cabinet at their meeting on 18 October 2011.

The chair thanked Cllr Ward and officers for their work on the consultation.

8.3 HOUSING AND AREA RENEWAL

Roger Young, Area Renewal Manager, gave a brief overview of the services and funds available as part of the Queens Road renewal area including:

- Climate energy – free or reduced rate loft installation was available to residents
- Group repair scheme
- Empty property – the council could help bring properties back in to use
- Handy person services
- Home improvement agency – could help older residents or people with disabilities

Roger explained that funds were available to improve the local area and encouraged residents to visit the stalls to find out more and to tell neighbours and other residents about the services available.

8.4 PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD AREA ACTION PLAN

Alison Squires, planning policy team leader explained that the area action plan was a 15 year plan which sought to build on the existing improvements in the Peckham area. The policy set in the plan would have to be followed by developers in the future. She advised that the plan was in draft form and the council was heading towards a preferred option. Officers had attended the previous Peckham community council meeting on 12 July 2011 to get specific views on: housing employment and retail. The consultation period on the current draft would end on 30 September 2011.

The document was available on the website and Alison encouraged people to comment through the formal consultation process, officers could be contacted via phone or email to help people have their say.

It was expected that a further draft would be prepared in early 2012 when officers would come back to the community council and the final consultation stage would be in October 2012.

8.5 AFFORDABLE HOUSING SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Alison also explained that the council was currently consulting on an affordable housing

supplementary planning document, the document would set the policy for developments in the future in relation to affordable housing.

Some of the key questions for Peckham included: should a policy required a minimum level of private as well as affordable housing be included and should there be an policy requiring more private family homes in the area. Alison explained that the council sought views on the document which included draft policies relating to these and other housing issues in the borough.

9. DEMOCRACY COMMISSION

The chair invited Councillor Richard Livingstone, Cabinet Member for Finance, Resources and Community Safety, to explain some of the budget context to the work of the Democracy Commission, which as part of phase 2 was focusing on the role and purpose of community councils. Cllr Livingstone explained that Southwark received approximately three quarters of its funding from central government and as a result of government cuts had to find £34 million of savings in 2011/12. As a result the council had to make savings across departments and this was an opportunity to review how community councils worked as well as identifying savings.

Darryl Telles, Neighbourhoods Manager, gave some more specific background into the budget available to community councils and explained the consultation process for the Democracy Commission phase 2 which had included: focus groups, questionnaires, and staff workshops.

Darryl took questions and comments from the floor relating to: how the membership of the focus groups had been selected, reducing the level of meetings, cutting food provided to meeting attendees and just providing tea and coffee, the format of meetings and the lack of participatory discussion and the possibilities of merging community council areas.

Darryl explained that a representative sample of meeting attendees had been selected to form the focus groups.

The meeting took part in a voting exercise on the options for community councils, the results of which are attached as an appendix to the minutes.

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The chair took questions from the floor. An issue was raised relating to markets on Peckham Square.

Cllr Barrie Hargrove, Cabinet Member for Transport, Environment and Recycling explained that the decision had been taken by the markets team of the council to allow stalls on the square during the week. Cllr Hargrove asked attendees if they objected on the principle of the stalls or the specific nature of the stalls. Councillor Michael Situ, suggested taking a vote to establish whether people were opposed to stalls on Peckham Square or not. 15 attendees were against any stalls and 0 were in favour. However, some attendees did express a view that the Sunday market was a positive development in the area.

Cllr Hargrove said he would discuss the issue with officers in his role as cabinet member and investigate the implications of terminating existing agreements and exploring alternative opportunities for traders.

A comment was also made relating to the quality of jobcentre services in Southwark compared to other London Boroughs. A suggestion was made that Peckham jobcentre did not provide a comparable service to other areas for young people. Councillor Catherine McDonald, Cabinet Member for Children's Services, outlined some of the measures the council was implementing to help young people with education and job opportunities including a youth fund over approximately £3million over three years which would assist young people to stay in education or find a job.

Councillors agreed to write to Councillor Fiona Colley, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Corporate Strategy, asking her to look into this issue and provide a response to the community council.

An issue was raised about cycle pathways through Peckham square, as a group of people had been noticed asking cyclists to slow down.

Cllr Hargrove explained that Southwark cyclists were the group and they were encouraging other cyclists to slow down on the route and think about pedestrians. He explained that it was an important route for pedestrians and that it was difficult to bring in physical measures to slow cyclists effectively and so it was thought that a publicity campaign was the best solution.

A question was raised relating to housing repairs and whether the work is supervised.

Cllr Livingstone explained that the housing repairs service had been subject of an overview and scrutiny review. As a result himself and Councillor Ian Wingfield, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing Management, would look into customer service and how the call centre was working and how it could improve.

In addition Cllr Situ who is a member of the Housing and Community Safety Scrutiny Sub-Committee added that the scrutiny report had made some specific recommendations about how the housing repairs service could be improved including: penalising contactors when they fail to meet their contractual commitments and better monitoring of contractors sent to complete works. He hoped that in the next year or so residents would begin to see significant improvements in the service.

ACTIONS

Cllr Hargrove to look into stalls on Peckham Square and report back to the community council

Councillors to write to Cllr Fiona Colley, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Corporate Strategy, asking her to look into the Peckham job centre issue.

11. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS

Executive Function

RESOLVED

That the following local parking amendments, detailed in the appendices in the report, be approved for implementation subject to the outcome of any necessary statutory procedures:

- Gervase Street – relocation of original disabled bay
- Asylum Road – installation of at any time waiting restrictions

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED:

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.

13. SCHOOL GOVERNOR NOMINATIONS

Executive Function

RESOLVED

That Ms Daniela Miscichowski be appointed as school governor for Nell Gwynn Nursery School

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: