



NUNHEAD AND PECKHAM RYE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Nunhead and Peckham Rye Community Council held on Thursday 12 January 2012 at 7.00 pm at St Mary Magdalene Primary School, 48 Brayards Road, London, SE15 3RA

PRESENT: Councillor Victoria Mills (Chair)
Councillor Sunil Chopra
Councillor Fiona Colley
Councillor Rowenna Davis
Councillor Nick Dolezal
Councillor Gavin Edwards
Councillor Renata Hamvas
Councillor Althea Smith

OFFICER SUPPORT: James Mc'Connell, Project Manager
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 everyone to the meeting and asked councillors and officers to introduce themselves.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Mark Glover and apologies for lateness from Councillor Gavin Edwards.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillors declared interests in the following agenda item:

Agenda item 15, School Governor Nominations

Councillor Renata Hamvas, Personal and Non Prejudicial, as the councillor's children attended the school which the school governor nomination related to.

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

The chair announced that she had accepted agenda item 16 local parking amendments, as a late and urgent item as a decision had to been taken for implementation in the current quarter.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2011 be agreed as a correct record of that meeting, and signed by the chair.

6. UPDATES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The updates received from the previous meeting were noted, including responses received after the agenda was published.

7. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

8. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following community announcements were made.

Civic awards – Peter Frost from Southwark’s civic association explained that the awards recognised anyone who had done good work in the borough. Application forms could be requested from the clerk or forms could be completed on line at the civic association’s website. There would be an awards ceremony in May and the closing date for applications was the end of January.

Supporting choices web pages - James McConnell outlined that new adult social care web pages had been developed to help people live well and safe in the borough. The aim was for people to find all the information they needed to meet their needs in one place. The site had been user tested by a variety of audiences and was very accessible. People could use the site for things like finding out about community events or finding a volunteer for maintenance. If people were unsure about using the internet there were free internet courses available at local libraries.

Linda Upton from the SNT announced that Charlie Griggs had been appointed as Borough Commander.

9. RECYCLING

Ian McGeough from Veolia spoke about the new waste management facility off the Old Kent Road which was replacing Manor Place. The facility was now operational and people could use the facility to recycle the same materials as Manor Place and pick up compost bins and wormeries. The facility also sorts recycling materials for the borough.

Councillor Rowenna Davis asked Ian what was the most irritating item that ends up in recycle bins. Ian responded that it was nappies. Councillor Rowenna asked what time the facility would be open to purchase compost bins and drop off bulky waste. Ian stated that the facility was open from 8am to 6pm 7 days a week.

Ian took questions from the floor. A resident asked if there were any plans to recycle polystyrene in Southwark as he had heard that it could be used as a building material. Ian stated there were currently no plans as there was little value in this but as things developed that may change in the future. Another resident asked if the plant was functioning to capacity and if there were plans to extend to other boroughs. Ian stated at the moment it wasn't at capacity as the facility had only recently opened. Further questions were asked on whether small things such as mobile phone chargers could be recycled and whether there were plans to extend food waste recycle to residents who used the clear bags. Ian responded that small electrical goods could be recycled but were collected as part of the bulky waste collection. There was a plan to trial food waste recycling services in some housing estates and Ian asked for people to get in touch if they were interested in taking part in a pilot scheme.

Councillor Althea Smith asked about how this would work on estates in terms of brown bin provisions when there were currently issues with waste collection on some housing estates. Ian agreed that they needed to make sure the services residents received were up to scratch and encouraged residents to get in touch if there were any issues on their estate.

Ian explained that wood could be recycled. Some materials would be resold to be reused if they were not recyclable. If they were not reusable then they would go to landfill as waste.

10. RECYCLED TEENAGERS

Carl Campbell, introduced the recycled teenagers who were a group of pensioners who danced as part of an active and healthy lifestyle. The group had received recognition on national TV on the Paul O'Grady Show and Carl showed a film of their performance. Carl then led the group in a performance asking councillors and meeting attendees to get involved.

The chair thanked the recycled teenagers for their energetic performance and encouraged people to get in touch with Carl if they were interested in joining the group.

11. SOUTHWARK'S BUDGET 2012/12

Councillor Richard Livingstone, cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety, outlined the budget process for 2012/13. Overall the council had a budget of about £1.6 billion, around £320 million of that was considered in terms of spending as the other elements were restricted or ring-fenced. There had been massive cuts in the public sector and it was expected that these would last 6 years rather than the four initially outlined by central government. Local government was one of the areas hit the hardest by the cuts and Southwark sought savings of around 28% over the next three years. Southwark was reliant on government funding for about three quarters of its spending and around one quarter came from council tax.

The cabinet aimed to keep some money to freeze council tax and aimed to ensure all primary school children received free healthy school meals. Cllr Livingstone explained that last year Southwark had introduced a pay increase to its lowest paid employees and that it was hoped in 2012/13 the London Living wage could be introduced to those who worked indirectly for the council such as contractors. £1million was going to be used to set up a community restoration fund to provide facilities for young people and to help small businesses affected by the disturbances. The cabinet also aimed to introduce a Cleaner, Greener, Safer revenue fund to community councils.

In response to questions from the floor Cllr Livingstone explained that growth items in the budget were areas which required additional funding for example the youth fund or free school meals. There were benefits to providing free school meals across the board rather than asking parents to contribute. Firstly, Southwark had an obesity problem and the meals were healthy as well as free. Also, by providing across the board it de-stigmatised the receipt of free school meals.

Councillor Renata Hamvas added that there was nothing to stop parents contributing to schools in other ways for example by giving a donation to school events. She stated that she took part in some of the parent feedback groups and there was lots of anecdotal evidence from parents relating to the benefits of free school meals.

Cllr Livingstone was asked about concessionary fares and would they continue to be provided. He explained that they hoped to continue the service but there were new pressures to absorb as fares went up so did the cost to the council. There were also pressures for other boroughs without the level of public transport use as in Southwark to contribute less to the scheme.

In response to questions on the transition fund and partnerships with the voluntary sector Cllr Livingstone explained that the council was considering how best to work with the voluntary sector in order to maximise resources, the council would give organisations three months notice if they planned to reduce their funding in order to give them time to plan ahead, the transition fund was available for organisations to apply for in order to help them adapt to change. Cllr Livingstone welcomed new ideas on partnership with the voluntary sector. The council were looking at if services could be set up as social enterprises and if there were opportunities to work with other London Borough's to deliver services in a better way.

Cllr Mills asked about the youth restoration fund and Cllr Livingstone explained that around

half of that would be available for youth facilities and that the council would work with bodies in the voluntary sector involved in youth provisions to work out a criteria for that funding. Residents suggested that the council look beyond youth organisations in establishing the fund as other groups also had ideas, for example grandparents.

A resident asked about the level of council tax Southwark expected to collect. Southwark had brought services in house to improve the rate of collection and it was expected that around 96% would be collected as more people move into the borough more would be collected from council tax but this would increase pressure on services.

In response to further questions Cllr Livingstone explained that it was not clear what level the GLA element of council tax would be set at. Adult social care was one of the biggest elements of the council's budget and the council were working to keep some housing shelters open compared to other boroughs which had closed all of theirs. The council was also working with other organisations such as the police and immigration services identifying that the Olympics may add pressures.

12. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident asked about traffic issues on Astbury Road which had been raised at several meetings previously, producing photographs of lorries getting stuck on the road. Councillors responded that the issue had been raised with TfL on numerous occasions and they had promised to undertake a traffic survey which had not yet been done. The issue had been raised with Harriet Harman and Val Shawcross, councillors urged residents to keep the pressure on TfL to complete the survey.

Councillors were asked about plans for the Golden Jubilee and the Olympics and what the impact would be on the borough. Councillors responded that they hoped a legacy would be built from the Olympics and funding had been made available to local groups for that purpose. There would also be cultural events in the borough around the Olympics and the Southbank would be dressed. There would of course be additional costs associated with more visitors to the borough.

13. HIGHWAYS DEVOLVED CAPITAL FUNDING FOR 2012/13

Executive Function

Members noted that officers had not prepared a report in time for consideration at the meeting and took further suggestions for investigation by officers as follows:

- St Mary's road at the junction of Queens Road – pavement damaged by lorries
- Bellwood Road – road surface
- Homeleigh Road – carriageway

16. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS

Executive Function

Members considered information in the report.

RESOLVED

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

- Ansdell Road – Install one disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay
- Maxted Road – Install one disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay
- Kirkwood Road - Install one disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay
- Goodrich Road – Install one disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay

14. 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.

15. SCHOOL GOVERNOR NOMINATIONS

Executive Function

RESOLVED

That the re-appointment is not agreed at this time and that school governor development team provide further information on the candidate's attendance record at school governor meetings.

The meeting ended at 9.30 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: