



WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Walworth Community Council held on Saturday 2 July 2011 at 2.00 pm at Unit 226-228 (first floor), Elephant & Castle Shopping Centre, London, SE1 6TB

PRESENT: Councillor Martin Seaton (Chair)
Councillor Darren Merrill (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Catherine Bowman
Councillor Neil Coyle
Councillor Patrick Diamond
Councillor Dan Garfield
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Helen Morrissey

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Peter John

OFFICER SUPPORT: Jon Abbott (Project Director, Regeneration and Neighbourhoods)
Pauline Bonner (Borough & Bankside and Walworth Neighbourhood Coordinator)
Ashoke Chaudhury (Area Manager, Libraries Service)
Gerald Gohler (Constitutional Officer)

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

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

2. APOLOGIES

There were none.

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 3 May 2011 be agreed as an accurate record of that meeting, and signed by the chair.

6. A SHORT ADDRESS BY THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF SOUTHWARK COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER MBE

The Worshipful The Mayor of Southwark Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE led a tribute to the former Mayor Councillor Tayo Situ who had died in office in May. This was followed by one minute's silence in remembrance of the former Mayor.

7. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

8. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following community announcements were made:

Elephant Amenity Network

Elephant Amenity Network had held a workshop for residents and local green groups to give their views about what they wanted to see for the area, as a result of which a document was produced. Attendees were encouraged to pick up a copy and to feed back to the group about the regeneration of the area.

Council Assembly

The chair announced that as part of the first phase of the Democracy Commission, themed debates had been introduced at Council Assembly meetings as a way to make these meetings more relevant, responsive and accessible to local people. The Council Assembly meeting on Wednesday 6 July would involve a themed debate on Sports and Young People, and would take place outside the Town Hall for the first time – at the Walworth Academy. The chair encouraged attendees to email their views on themed council debates to the Democracy Commission and to raise questions or deputations on the theme of Sports and Young people. He invited them to also come along to the informal session at 6pm before the debate, which would feature contributions from young people sharing their experiences and vision for sport in Southwark. He also invited residents to stay on and listen to the debate during Council Assembly which started at 7pm.

Democracy Commission Phase 2

Councillor Abdul Mohamed, Cabinet Member for Equalities and Community Engagement explained that the Democracy Commission was a cross-party group of councillors tasked with bringing the council closer to residents and making it more accountable to them and connected with their concerns. The second phase of the Democracy Commission, which started in May 2011, involved a review of the eight community councils that would include: looking at ways to make savings, discussing what community councils currently do, how this could be improved and identifying what residents particularly value about community councils. The Democracy Commission was seeking the views of local people as part of this review. Councillor Mohamed encouraged residents to fill in the questionnaires provided and to return their responses to officers at their local community councils by Monday 29 August 2011, email their views directly to the Democracy Commission at democracy@southwark.gov.uk, or speak directly to officers at their local community councils. The next Democracy Commission would be on Friday 8 July 2011 at 7pm.

Green Spaces / Open Spaces network

The chair said that the first meeting of the green spaces/open spaces network had been held recently. This group was distinct from the Elephant Amenity Network which mainly looked at planning applications. He explained that there were many plots of land and green spaces which needed to be preserved, as they were part of Walworth's heritage. The group could be a precursor of a Walworth Society modelled on the Camberwell Society. The next meeting of the network would be on 14 July 2011 at 7pm in Browning Community Centre. He encouraged attendees to contact himself or Councillor Merrill, if they had further questions, and went on to say that the group hoped to influence important issues and have involvement at several levels.

Topics for future agendas

The chair encouraged attendees to fill in the green sheets indicating which topics they would like to see discussed at future community council meetings.

Libraries consultation

Ashoke Chaudhury, Area Manager in the Libraries service, informed the meeting that a public consultation about libraries was being conducted over the next two months. Residents would be asked to help the council to think through how to maintain a high quality library service within the context of the council having to make savings of £60m in this year's budget and further savings in the years ahead.

Residents would be able to complete a survey at their local library. This asked about the way people currently use the library service and then went on to ask people to give their opinions and preferences for various options which could potentially save money. The survey also offered a chance for people to give their own ideas on ways the council could make savings. This survey would be available at all libraries except Peckham for 3 weeks from 27 June until 17 July, and at Peckham Library from 8 to 28 July (due to the by-election in this ward on 7 July). The survey would also be available on line on the council's website for 3 weeks from 27 June. Details of all the consultation meeting dates and times are available on the website and at the libraries. The meeting at Newington Library would be on 14 July and started at 7pm. Officers would attend the September community council meetings to report back on the review. A formal report would be presented to Cabinet in November 2011.

The chair encouraged people to participate in the survey, as libraries were a very

important service.

Other events

Councillor Garfield informed the meeting of the following events:

Southwark Community Games are running summer activities for young people aged eight to 16 years old.

Football Sessions:

- @ Fusion Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre, Elephant & Castle, SE1
Date: 28 July; 4 and 11 August Time: 4pm to 6pm
- @Aylesbury Wolverton Football Pitch, Thurlow Street, SE17
Date: 26, 29 July; 2, 5, 9 and 12 August Time: 3pm to 5pm

Multi-sports:

- @Kinglake Cage, Opposite Surrey Square Primary School, SE17
Date: 26 July; 2 and 9 August Time: 12pm to 2pm
- @Faraday Gardens Playing Cage, Portland Street, SE17
Date: 28 July; 4 and 11 August Time: 12pm to 2pm
- @Wendover Cage, Aylesbury Estate, Off Thurlow Street, SE17
Date: 27 July; 3 and 10 August Time: 4pm to 6pm
- @Gayhurst Cage, Off Portland Street, SE17
Date: 29 July; 5 and 12 August Time: 12pm to 2pm

50+ IN SE17 JULY 2011

For more information on the following 50+ events, contact Julia on 020 7708 4556 or at julia.honess@southwarkpensioners.org.uk

Four Corners Exhibition

An invitation to Four Corners Exhibition of Work by over 50s and Caribbean Food Tasting

Date: Monday 11 July 2011

Time: 11.30am-1pm

The Elephant and the Nun

5 to 14 August 2011

Southwark's new creative indoor festival with events and activities over 8 days. For more information call Southwark Events: 020 7525 3422

Email: events@southwark.gov.uk

Art in the Park

Chumleigh Gardens, Burgess Park, SE17

Free event. Call Art in the Park on 0207 277 4297 to book a space

Well-Being Workshops - Chi Kung

Tykes Corner, Unit 7 Thurlow Street, SE17 2UZ

Date: Wednesday 6th, 13th, 20th July

Time: 6pm-7pm

£2 contribution for each session

Keep Fit

Pembroke House, 80 Tatum Street SE17

Date: Fridays
£1 contribution for each session

Time: 10am-11am

Creation Event
Blue Huts, 1 Thurlow Street, SE17 2US

Date: Thursday 14th July Time: 3pm-7pm

Events and activities to let residents know what is on offer in the area and to put the new Creation office on the map. Please note that new members must live on the Aylesbury Estate or in SE17 to take part in activities and advice sessions.

Councillor Coyle informed the meeting that Pullens Yard was hosting an event that weekend which included pottery, books, and arts and craft on this fantastic, historic site.

On Saturday and Sunday 16/17 July 2011 Pembroke House in Tatum Street would host an event around the "Wonderful Walworth" theme which would showcase local groups and activities.

A resident asked whether the South American festival which normally happened in Burgess Park would be moved to Brockwell Park, while the former was being renovated, and whether the festival would it be coming back next year.

ACTION: Parks/events team to report back on where the Carnival del Pueblo will be held this year, and next year.

9. YOUTH FOCUS

The chair introduced Ben and Martin from the Walworth Youth Community Council. The youth community council had been working with the main community council and with the East Street market traders to follow up on issues raised by young people. This was part of young people having more of a say in how services were going to be delivered.

Ben and Martin informed the meeting that the Youth Community Council had been in existence for one year and that its members ranged in age from 13-19. They came from all over the area and met every two weeks to discuss local issues. Last year they had organised several events and activities, e.g. a boat-trip called 'postcodes united' attended by more than 100 young people. They had also produced a video documentary about how young people on estates felt about where they lived. Currently, they were working on a petition about betting shops on Walworth Road, and on organising a tea party event to which all members of the community were invited.

In answer to questions from the floor, Ben and Martin responded that their film had been shown at a Youth Community Council meeting, and that they were planning to show it at other meetings. They explained that the petition was there to gauge opinions about betting shops, and asked whether TRAs could help publicise it. There were several offers of help with the petition from the floor. Ben and Martin went on to explain that the Youth Community Council did not have its own website, and was required to go through the council's communications department. Asked what the Youth Community Council could do to prevent gun and knife crime and gangs in the area, they responded that the education system and families all had to work together, and that families had a big role to play.

The chair thanked the representatives of Walworth Youth Community Council for attending and offered councillors' help with the petition. He said that he would like to see 100 new members of the Youth Community Council by this time next year.

A question was raised about the future of the market traders in the area.

ACTION: Officers to provide an update on the situation around the markets in the area.

A complaint was raised that some shops on Walworth Road sold alcohol, late at night, to underage young people who consumed it in front of and inside the shops. The chair said this information would be passed on to the council's licensing department.

ACTION: Licensing department to provide feedback about the situation regarding alleged sale of alcohol to underage customers on Walworth Road.

10. CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

The chair announced that the consultation feedback about the sex establishments policy would be taken at a future meeting.

Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) – Southampton Way

Councillor Dan Garfield gave feedback on the consultation on the proposed CPZ in the northern section of Southampton Way: there had been only a small number of responses (94) despite a large number of questionnaires having been sent out. 54% of respondents had been against the introduction of the CPZ, 39% had been in favour.

Elephant and Castle consultation

Councillor Merrill fed back about the consultation on the new leisure centre at the Elephant and Castle: 8,000 letters had been sent out and 1,300 responses had been received which represented a return rate of 16%. Residents would like to see a swimming pool, a gym and some had asked for squash courts. Officers would be looking into this. Formal plans would now be drawn up and consulted on. A planning application was scheduled to be submitted in winter 2011 and construction would start in 2012.

In terms of the Heygate Estate demolition, this was on its way and the consultation was in phase two which included the Wansey Street end of the estate. He invited residents to email John Abbott, if they had suggestions about the works.

Steve McAdams, a consultant from Soundings, said that they had come on board to ensure that the community's voice would be heard by developers.

At the last community forum meeting the following had been announced:

1. Lendlease have acquired the block directly behind the leisure centre
2. An independent chair for the community forum has been elected - Sarah Gaventa
3. Architects have been appointed for the Rodney Road development
4. Consultations would be conducted via the Community Forum, but sub-groups on the following issues were being looked at:
 - a. Employment, retail and business
 - b. community focus
 - c. TRAs

40,000 flyers had been printed to advertise the consultation events. These would be distributed on the weekend of 8 and 9 July. The events would commence on 14 July 2011 and last for 2 weeks. A small temporary consultation hub had been set up at 182-184 Walworth Road. The hub would be open from 11am to 6pm on Wed, Fri, Sat, Sun; and from 11am to 8pm on Thursdays. More details were available on the website www.elephantandcastle.org.uk

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME WITH THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND CABINET MEMBERS

The chair welcomed Councillor Peter John, Leader of Southwark Council, to the meeting.

Councillor Peter John said the council's mission was to provide a fairer future for all, and to have transparency and openness in its processes. It was important to involve people in the difficult decisions which had to be made. The council had faced a £34m reduction in its budget this year, and was faced with a further £20m reduction next year and the year after that. This meant that at the end of the three years the council's overall budget would have shrunk by 25%. The council had put some measures in place to help voluntary sector groups and young people in the borough, e.g. with the voluntary sector transition fund and the youth fund. A £2m Olympic legacy fund had also been put in place. There was also a pilot scheme in some primary schools for free, healthy school meals. There had also been other developments, for example the redevelopment of the Heygate Estate, a corporation agreement with the company which owned the shopping centre, St Modwen, and plans for the new leisure centre.

Future challenges included further cuts; and delivering these would be tough. However, the council was committed to deliver on its promises, one of which was a 5-year programme to make homes in the borough safe, dry and warm.

Responding to questions from the floor, Councillor John said that:

- he would speak to officers about alternative meeting spaces for the groups which currently use the leisure centre, during the refurbishment. The new leisure centre would be built on a smaller site to allow for a housing development, so there were space constraints and not all facilities (e.g squash courts) could be recreated, but this would be looked into again;
- he would speak to officers about the possibility of making the street names around Walworth more reflective of the area's Latin American community;
- the council was 100% behind the market traders in East Street and Elephant and Castle. The latter would be getting a new market square as part of the redevelopment, and East Street was being resurfaced to make it more attractive;
- the refurbishment of the Elephant and Castle was a 15-year process that had started in 2010. New homes would come on-stream in 2014;
- the demolition and refurbishment of the Heygate estate would also take place over that period of time. It would be tough to achieve the council's target of 30% affordable homes, in the light of reduced funding from central government to housing associations. The council would work on getting more capital receipts to

offset this, as had happened in the New Bankside development;

- charging 80% of the market rate for rents related to housing associations and other, non-council social landlords. Council rents would not be charged at this rate. The council would, however, be facing the problem of people on Housing Benefit in private rented accommodation not being able to afford their rent anymore, due to the changes introduced by central government;
- in terms of pub closures, councillors would support local campaigns or initiatives for the community to take over pubs threatened with closure. However, there wasn't anything the council itself could do, if a brewery decided to close a pub;
- it was important to have free school meals for all so that all children received good nutrition and that the stigma attached to them would be reduced;
- voluntary sector organisations who had lost or were looking for funding should contact Councillor Mohamed, Cabinet Member for equalities and community engagement, and explore the voluntary sector transition fund;
- the council would try to enhance the shopping centre and promote local people doing their shopping in the borough, which currently only 20% did;
- in terms of the housing repairs contract, Gerri Scott, the new director of housing, was addressing this issue and was sorting out the contractors and the department's management structure. He urged residents to inform the council, if they were dissatisfied with the service, as this was an absolute priority
- local jobs were part of the regeneration package and there was a commitment by the developers to provide apprenticeships. These would be rolled out within the next year.

The chair thanked Councillor John for attending.

John Abbot, Project Director, updated the meeting that the council were working with the police in order to increase the safety of people walking through the now mainly empty Heygate estate.

12. COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND ALLOCATIONS

Executive Function

AGREED:

That the following amounts of Walworth Community Council funding (2011/2012) be allocated to:

Name of the group	Name of Activity	Funding Awarded (£)
Art In The Park	Art In The Park - Open Day At Art In The Park	Please see note under project W1110 ("Friends of Burgess Park")
Browning St Community	October Black History Month	£1,000
Camberwell After School Project	Be Safe Project For Children	£ 700
Commus House T&RA (working with Alvey TRA, Mardyke TRA, Congreve & Barlow TRA)	Community Cohesion Fun Day	£1,200
Creative Innovation	E-business Start -up Programme	£1,000
Dyason Preschool	Outdoor Play Equipment	£1,000
Friends of Burgess Park	Burgess Park Revitalisation engagement	£1,500
<p>NOTE: The Community Council agreed this funding on the understanding that Friends of Burgess Park will work together with Art in the Park. If this is not possible, Art In The Park (Project reference W1101) shall receive £1,100 of this £1,500 and the £400 underspend will be brought back to a future meeting.</p>		
Gateway T&RA	Fun Day	£360
Latin American Multicultural Group (LAMG)	Latin Meets Asian Dance Through the Chakras - The River - 'Within And Without'	£960
Catherine Lawrence	Holistic Health & Well Being Day	£980
New Image Youth Centre	Music Lessons For Youth In The Summer	£1,000

Pullens T&RA	Healthy Living And Eating	£600
Rodney Road Resident Association - Peabody Estate	Latin American Party - Peabody Estate	£995
Royal British Legion Club	90th Anniversary Dinner & Dance Of Royal British Legion	£650
Southwark Sea Cadets	Our Naval Heritage	£865
Southwark Somali Refugee Council	Somali Education And Family Engagement Project - Walworth And Aylesbury Area	£1,000
Studio At The Elephant	Studio At The Elephant	£750
Mrs A Vaughan	Community Garden Wall And Plants	£200
Walworth Youth Community Council	Walworth Tea Party	£500
Total amount allocated		£15,260

The chair informed the meeting that some groups had been awarded funding jointly in order to foster working together. Councillors also informed the meeting that all those listed were linked to bonafide organisations, and that some organisations which had received funding in the past had not done so this time in order to give an opportunity to new groups.

13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following public questions were submitted in writing:

- “Is it necessary to enforce the Heygate Street bus lane 7 days a week for 12 hours a day? This slows up traffic for cars wanting to turn left and go along Walworth Road. Those signs are wrong. It should be 7-10am Monday to Friday and no more. The one bus would not be held up, if the enforcement was only at the peak time in the morning.”
- “Article in the Evening standard, Mon 27 June 2011: Southwark failed to collect £6 million in council tax. How are you going to rectify this problem?”

- “Southwark Play Rangers - Can the council tell me about the cutting off the grant for this group. As it’s used by many local children in the area. It’s particularly used when it comes to the local park. The grant is due to be cut off in November.”
- “All neighbourhoods had targets in rent collection put together. Are we getting a good return to enable us to do repairs to housing as you indicated.”
- “Has the printshop on the corner of Browning Street/Walworth Road put up too much advertising? On 15 June 2011, they covered the outside of four windows next the entrance of York Mansions with large advertising boards.”
- I am a tenant in Darwin Court, Barlow Street and some of the questions relate directly to that area and the green space there:
 1. Why does the council use large grass cutting machines on this area which are too large to cope with undulations in the ground and consequently scrape off the surface down to the mud? And will you rectify this.
 2. Why does the grasscutting etc follow a timetable regardless of the need. It has been cut at times of no growth - in very dry weather - to the detriment of the grass - and at a needless cost presumably?
 3. Could some areas be left free to grow? Flowers grow then, and wild flowers could be encouraged.
 4. Not all residents have been properly consulted about all developments in the past. If there are to be any future changes, of whatever kind, will you make sure they are [consulted] in the future.
 5. What are you doing about light pollution?
 6. There is a surplus of street lighting?
 7. Has the luminosity in Darwin Street been changed or increased recently?
 8. If any more large tower blocks are planned can everyone in the entire area be consulted as they affect a wide area and not simply the neighbouring streets? (Frankly we have enough. They are intrusive, dominant and - as it happens - of no particular merit)

ACTION: Relevant officers to respond to the above questions.

A resident complained about the time it took to receive parking permits, which caused the old permits to expire, before the new ones had arrived. Councillor Garfield responded that residents could leave their old permits in the car, if the new ones had not arrived. Attendants would honour the old permits as they could see on their systems that new permits had been issued. He urged people to get in touch with their councillors, if the system was not working. The chair said officers from the council’s parking section would be invited to a future meeting.

ACTION: Officers from the council's parking section to attend a future meeting to inform residents about parking/permits.

In answer to questions from the floor, the chair explained that the process of allocating the community fund budget had been an open and transparent dialogue, and that members had carefully considered all applications.

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 GOVERNORS APPOINTMENTS

Executive Function

RESOLVED:

That Miss Valerie Collins be reappointed as school governor for St. John's Walworth Church of England Primary School.

The meeting ended at 4.40 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: