

<b>Item No.</b> 3.1	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 22 March 2023	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Community Evidence on the Themed Debate	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Proper Constitutional Officer	

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### Introduction

1. The council assembly business panel agreed that the theme for council assembly in March 2023 should be “Safer Southwark communities”.

### Community evidence on the theme

2. The deadline for community evidence was 11.59pm, 16 March 2023.
3. The following requests have been received by the deadline for consideration by this meeting and they are listed in the order received below.
4. Which community evidence shall be considered and the length of each submission will be established by way of a programme motion at the start of council assembly. Community evidence shall be conducted under the existing rules for public participation.
5. If the community evidence is not dealt with by council assembly, the matter shall be referred without debate to the relevant cabinet member who shall, after consideration, respond with an open reply to the sender.

### Submissions

#### 1. **Detective Chief Superintendent Seb Adjei-Addoh**

The community evidence requests states:

“Detective Chief Superintendent Seb Adjei-Addoh (AS- Southwark and Lambeth) BCU Commander would like to address Council Assembly in order to introduce himself to the Council and talk about his plans going forward as BCU Commander of Southwark and Lambeth, as he is new within this post.”

#### 2. **Anna Solar-Bassett, Nicholas Porzig, Jenifer Swallow**

The community evidence requests states:

“**Safety on Green Dale**

There has been a serious spate of safety incidents in the vicinity for the past year, including targeting of women, children and parents within the area.

This includes a number of incidents of serious violence, e.g. but not limited to:

- multiple stabbings, with a local worker on Lordship Lane incurring the partial loss of his hand
- Physical battery of young children outside their homes
- Sexual assault and rape attempts on women
- Violent muggings, particularly targeted to women with children and / or prams, involving knives and/or weapons to steal items.

The areas which criminals target to attack vulnerable victims are clearly known.

Anti-social behaviour is also on the rise in Greendale, such as drug use and dealing during both night and day (including class A drugs), rough sleeping, substantial fly tipping, use of the area as a toilet etc. There is a significant safeguarding risk for children.

**Community-led solution:** We have worked hard with local Councillors, Police, Friends of Greendale and the Club to come to a clear action plan on what to do to address these safety concerns while respecting the nature of the Greendale and not incurring on the planning challenges associated with the site.

In particular, we worked with everyone to agree a plan last year in Q3 2022.

- Additional CCTV and lighting down the bike path
- Cut shrubbery and other trees back to below knee height to minimise hiding places
- Look at replacing the bike bollards with speed humps (they are a known choke point for muggings and knife crime)
- Regular clear up of fly tipping in the car park and near the gates to Greendale
- Funding to be sought for a mural on the back wall running next to the club down to the bike path, to reduce anti-social behaviour and fly tipping
- Moving the table in Greendale to where line of sight is better, reducing anti-social behaviour and drug use
- Removal of the large metal shed on the astroturf, which has been used to try to lure and rape women in
- “Blitz” police patrols prioritised and police patrols increased in the Greendale, along the bike path, and around our streets, to deter the perception that the area is unmonitored (similar to action undertaken by the Police a few years ago to deal with similar issues).

**Deputation – next steps:** Little progress on these steps – agreed across the community between stakeholders with a range of interests - has been made.

While we respect that there are a number of parties involved, and that the future planning/development of the site is under ongoing discussion, but we will not delay improving safety where we live for years while this resolves.

We ask the Cabinet Members responsible to take leadership to ensure that actions are taken at pace.”

### 3. Anna Birley, Reclaim The Streets

The community evidence requests states:

“I will be giving community evidence on the work of Reclaim The Streets, and what we would like to see from local council and the Government.”

### 4. Rubel Ahmed, Active Communities Network

The community evidence requests states:

“Active Communities Network is a sport for development charity which uses sport as a pathway into education, training and employment. They use sport as an alternative way of engaging and inspiring young people into positive activities. Partnership is critical to what Active Communities do. Active Communities work with trusted local delivery organisations who have an excellent knowledge base in the areas we operate. Local knowledge enables Active Communities to deliver training and development which is specifically targeted to meet local needs.”

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Constitution	160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Constitutional Team <a href="mailto:constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk">constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk</a> 020 7525 7228

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Chidilim Agada, Head of Constitutional Services	
<b>Report Author</b>	Virginia Wynn-Jones, Principal Constitutional Officer	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	17 March 2023	
<b>Key decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer title</b>	<b>Comments sought</b>	<b>Comments included</b>
Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	No	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	17 March 2023	