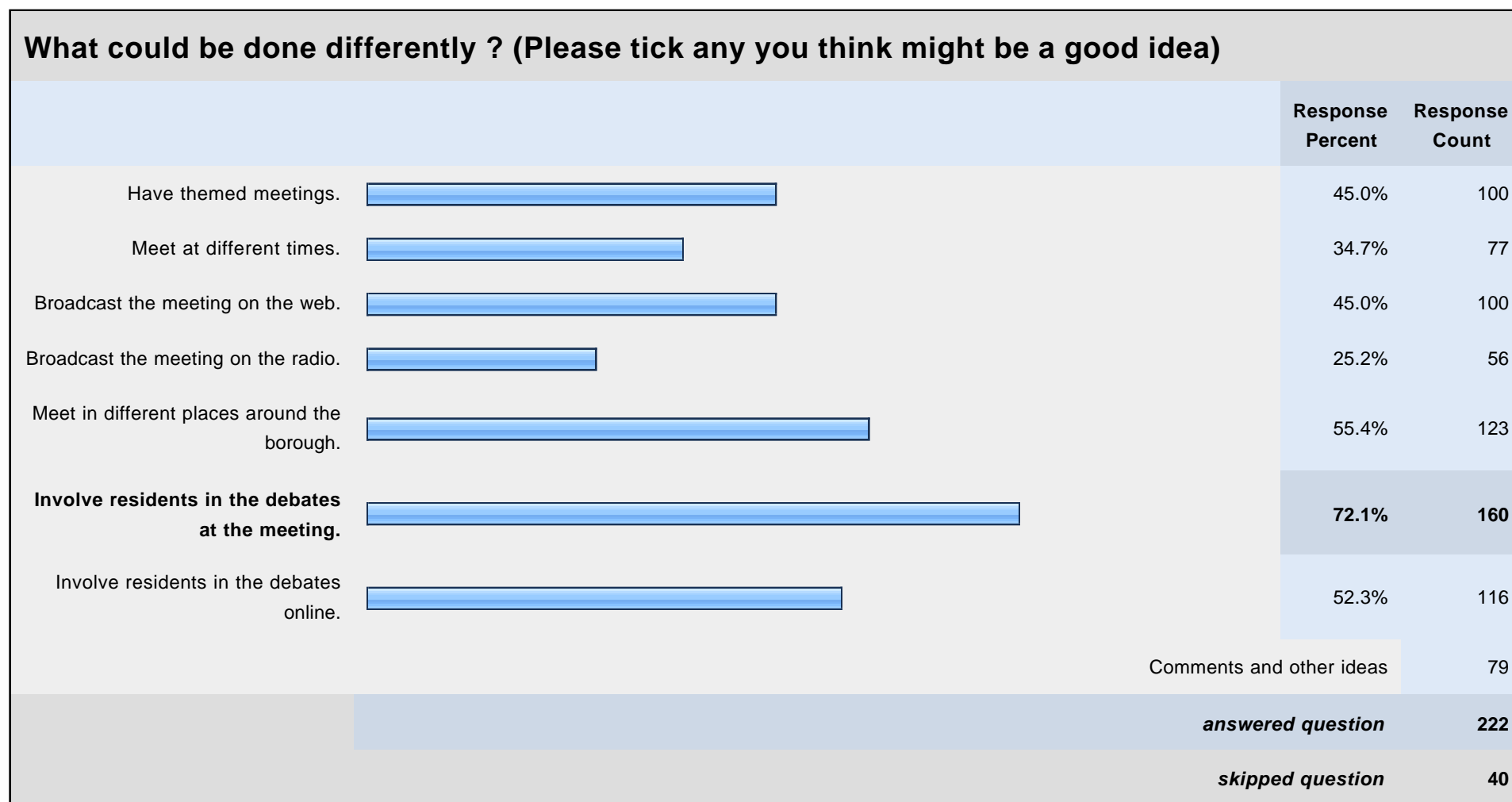


Southwark democracy commission survey



Comments and other ideas		
1	As long as it is a whipped political meeting attendance is pointless.	Jul 28, 2010 3:50 PM
2	publish the agenda to assembly and community council meetings ahead of event, not all agenda items can be known at publication but it will give a basis for public discussion and feedback prior to meeting. publish meeting minutes within time limit, three days?, this gives everyone a chance to find out what happened and those who attended the opportunity to have altered any part they disagree with	Jul 30, 2010 8:55 AM
3	I STRONGLY support the idea of meeting in other places around the Borough. You could use Community Council locations	Jul 31, 2010 1:32 PM

Comments and other ideas

4	see suggestion re selling off town halls earlier in survey	Aug 2, 2010 12:57 PM
5	<p>Council assemblies have never been magnets for public attendance. If the aim is to make them a 'draw', there will be no interest in a powerless talking shop, from the public, or the media, which once did bother to attend these events, not least because they had some civic dignity and gravitas, they represented something important about local life, until and unless there are some real decisions made at these meetings.</p> <p>If a decision is going to be made at an assembly there should be pre-publicity about that: like an important or finely-balanced vote in the House of Commons.</p> <p>If an issue was raised by the public via a Petition or Deputation, which clearly commanded great and genuine support - not falsified or co-erced - and it was within the Council's powers to do something about it, it should be flagged up in advance and given a decent time-slot, not two minutes up front, to be sniffily dismissed by some spotty barrister wannabee politico as an affront on his intellectual prowess, as in 'how dare the plebs question my right to govern them'.</p>	Aug 2, 2010 2:34 PM
6	Persuade us you will listen, and not just be reactive. Otherwise what is the point of us coming to hear you all speak about what you are going to do anyway. Public consultation is an oxymoron. The council does what it wants whether we like it or not. persuade us this is not true and we will come.	Aug 2, 2010 3:00 PM
7	Publicise meetings and agenda via website, local forums (eg: East Dulwich Forum), local press,	Aug 2, 2010 5:53 PM
8	Have councillors interviewed on LBC &/or BBC London	Aug 2, 2010 6:59 PM
9	Seperate official council business out from meetings where residents can actually participate and put forward their views on impornat local issues.	Aug 12, 2010 2:39 PM
10	<p>Use local tenant halls and community council venues for these meetings</p> <p>Attend community council evenings to discuss the local developments and what is interesting them</p>	Aug 12, 2010 3:08 PM
11	A roadshow could be a way of engaging local people. I'm not sure if it is possible (or legal?) to set aside a certain amount of the agenda to deal specifically with issues in that one community council area. Doing so might ensure that local people might come along. Like me, if I come to a general meeting, a lot of the discussion might have no direct relevance to me.	Aug 12, 2010 4:49 PM
12	Free refreshments always go down well eg tea, coffee, biscuits, (you may do this already!).	Aug 12, 2010 5:02 PM
13	Have sandwich and coffee/tea break for Councillors to meet those sitting in gallery.	Aug 12, 2010 6:13 PM
14	Give residents a chance to send in "requests / questions / issues" beforehand, keep the meeting "short and sweet"	Aug 12, 2010 6:53 PM
15	Abolish cabinet government and have the council run by all the councillors.	Aug 14, 2010 1:05 PM
16	Live updating online and discussion via a web forum; swift preparation and publication of minutes online.	Aug 16, 2010 9:11 AM
17	In my experience, people prefer to meet at the same venue, and going somewhere like Peckham Town Hall, or Tooley Street does bring them closer to the Council. That said, if you meet in different places around the borough, you will attract new faces from that particular locality.	Aug 16, 2010 11:45 AM
18	Keep meetings to time ie. Less than 1.30 hours. Chairperson needs to stop rambling talkers and keep to agenda. Short comments from residents should be taken.	Aug 17, 2010 6:38 PM
19	There are live conferencing internet arrangements available for use with meetings, including allowing discussion/question contributions (usually through a moderator) . My professional institution (I Civil Engineers) uses it very successfully for lectures and similar, and I think it could easily be adapted for council meetings.	Aug 19, 2010 9:58 AM
20	Please see my suggestions in section 4.	Aug 20, 2010 9:21 AM

Comments and other ideas

21	Meetings should take place outside of a normal working day. Support should be provided in the form of an "independent friend" to encourage deputations. More general participation in council business should be through consultation stages leading up to the production of reports and recommendations.	Aug 20, 2010 10:33 AM
22	make the decisions including the people not separately from them and then pretend to listen. If you don't want to be influenced - don't ask the questions	Aug 20, 2010 11:32 AM
23	I just need to experience some procedure that will explain how my involvement could possibly contribute to anything!	Aug 21, 2010 9:47 AM
24	Some of the meetings I have attended in the past have gone on until the early hours of the morning. This makes them inaccessible for most residents who have either to work the next day or have caring responsibilities etc.	Aug 24, 2010 7:44 AM
25	T&RA's heavily involve elderly people who don't use the web, Facebook or Twitter so don't exclude them by using such things. The assembly does not meet at the Town Hall, it meets at the old town hall in Peckham. You have to be clear what you mean if people are not to miss out or have a wasted journey.	Aug 27, 2010 5:01 PM
26	all is applicable for decemocracy	Aug 29, 2010 6:32 PM
27	Regular date (eg 2nd Tues of month), time and location helps. If you have an issue you want to address, you can anticipate assembly meetings and plan for them.	Aug 30, 2010 4:55 PM
28	A "webinar" available live AND as a download/podcast accompanied by written content would be very helpful, allowing me to select the parts of the event that are of particular interest to me. I assume this would also allow for direct feedback online.	Aug 30, 2010 5:46 PM
29	Create a news letter/email for recipients who wish to sign up/be kept notified.	Aug 31, 2010 12:49 PM
30	Never been to one so don't know.	Aug 31, 2010 4:14 PM
31	Home visits	Aug 31, 2010 4:20 PM
32	Thyere has been a tendency for political points scoring at these meetings to the detriment of the debates for a resident point of view	Sep 1, 2010 7:43 AM
33	Don't know.	Sep 1, 2010 8:41 AM
34	Council Assembly meetings are just that and although the public can attend it should be a Council Assembly meeting. Encouraging the public to participate will only extend matters / meetings further. Community group meetings are the place for community participation.	Sep 1, 2010 8:46 AM
35	Move the debates to a public gallery you can see proceedings from. The venue should be near a tube / railway station.	Sep 1, 2010 8:52 AM
36	Find ways of linking issues that are of signifiacne to local neighbourhoods all the way through to the council level - Community Council - Cabinet - Scrutiny - Assembly. Help people make the link from the very local to the borough-wide issues, and vice versa.	Sep 1, 2010 9:06 AM
37	As above. Assembly hall where many people can attend.	Sep 1, 2010 10:00 AM
38	Making meetings more informal.	Sep 1, 2010 10:09 AM
39	None	Sep 1, 2010 10:31 AM
40	Success will depend on resulting action and responsiveness, not resistance, of councillors.	Sep 1, 2010 10:40 AM
41	I have ticked involving residents in the debates, but this needs to be done very carefully! I wide range of representative people must feel able to do this, rather than a few same old individuals droning on about their pet subjects.	Sep 1, 2010 10:51 AM
42	Sounds like the local Community Council to me.	Sep 1, 2010 10:54 AM

Comments and other ideas

43	Publish agenda in communal residents' noticeboards and on Southwark's network of wheelie bins.	Sep 1, 2010 10:58 AM
44	- although this exludes those with no internet access.	Sep 1, 2010 11:05 AM
45	Clearer principles eg evidence. Clear willingness to respond / be open.	Sep 1, 2010 12:08 PM
46	I do not think people can be bothered to attend Assembly meetings as there is a feeling that the Assemblby does what it likes/does not make the effort to explain issues/provides no feedback to groups who have petitioned, etc. It feels like an insiders club.	Sep 1, 2010 12:15 PM
47	Meetings in the 7 Community Councils areas.	Sep 1, 2010 12:19 PM
48	Is not everybody have access.	Sep 1, 2010 12:40 PM
49	And listen to the residents. Penalise councillors who don't attend meetings who wonder if their salary has been paid in.	Sep 1, 2010 12:47 PM
50	Have some meetings in the day-time.	Sep 1, 2010 12:50 PM
51	Have the meeting on the web for a prolonged period of time so people can see what happened.	Sep 1, 2010 12:53 PM
52	Sat mornings for those at work.	Sep 1, 2010 1:18 PM
53	Initial reminder before the day through local shops, betting shops, schools, voluntary organisations. More grass root publicity.	Sep 1, 2010 1:24 PM
54	Inform through local press and tenants meetings.	Sep 1, 2010 1:39 PM
55	Meet in the daytime for pensioners. Meet in different places around the borough to help elderly get around. Attend tenants association meetings.	Sep 1, 2010 1:42 PM
56	Local items of concern/interest could be topic based	Sep 1, 2010 3:07 PM
57	There are a number of issues here. There is the issue of the meetings being interesting. I think that interesting will means more broadly "of concern or interest to people in Southwark" - that I think is an issue of the content/topics of the subjects being discussed and the way the meeting handles them (ie how long the debate goes on for and how long people speka for and whether what they say has any relevance to the topic being discussed). Secondly there is the issue of how easy it is to take part. Here the big question is whether it is a forum for Councillors or the the broader citizenry.	Sep 1, 2010 3:40 PM
58	It could be done earlier, the town hall has more space and is easily more accessible.	Sep 2, 2010 8:48 AM
59	Meet in main local libraries.	Sep 3, 2010 10:45 AM
60	7 times a year in the evening is not at all adequate to serve the community that one belongs to or will live to servce. This should be reviewed as this might have long been established in the 'dark ages' but modern world should promote constancy or constant attention which will give council Members more public recognition and appreciations for services being rendered.	Sep 3, 2010 10:54 AM
61	Provide light refreshments - this often gets people out.	Sep 3, 2010 12:16 PM
62	- Reduce jargon - Demonstrate to people theat their suggestions and concerns will be taken seriously and acted on. eg by publicising examples where issues have been resolved.	Sep 3, 2010 12:40 PM
63	Put out news not just about that fact that it is meeting, but also about what it is discussing. People are interested in specific topics, not meetings for the sake of meetings.	Sep 3, 2010 12:50 PM

Comments and other ideas

64	Themed meetings are essential. Officer presentations are meaningless. Online debates sound ok. I haven't the skill. I think local CC could have a 'public conversation' time. The Your Shout approach is just too in-house and formality. The key way to help this would be to share in the round rather than front to back and inevitably party political. Have a 'speak to your ward councillor' 15 mins in different areas if this might help establish another way of engagement.	Sep 3, 2010 1:17 PM
65	Increase number of meetings.	Sep 3, 2010 1:24 PM
66	Planning Committee needs to meet earlier in the day. I have been to said meetings until the early hours of the day, when both councillors and public are nodding off!	Sep 9, 2010 3:43 PM
67	Meeting dates to be put in council publications for residents not on-line to remember to attend and observe.	Sep 9, 2010 3:48 PM
68	Make it eye-catching.	Sep 9, 2010 4:06 PM
69	Many older people still use Tele-text / Ceefax to get info. There are community / network sections on these sites that could be used. There are many excellent community websites that could advertise these meetings like SE1.com	Sep 10, 2010 8:46 AM
70	Not everyone listens to the radio. Not everybody is on-line.	Sep 10, 2010 8:52 AM
71	Email.	Sep 10, 2010 8:55 AM
72	Let the input of the residents at the meetings be made manifest in decision making.	Sep 10, 2010 9:23 AM
73	- Overview and Scrutiny Reports to go to Full Council / Assembly - Community Councils to be able to refer major issues to Full Council / Assembly - Assembly to receive 'green papers.'	Sep 10, 2010 9:26 AM
74	Have some informal meetings - to meet Councillors in an unpressured, unthreatening situations.	Sep 10, 2010 11:02 AM
75	Themes should not replace urgent issues. Meet next to major transport hub. Too many councillors FAIL AND NEGLECT to represent the views of all their constituents. It is VERY IMPORTANT to have more direct channels of communication - bottom to top. ROTHERHITHE IS TERRIBLE!	Sep 10, 2010 1:48 PM
76	Meet at London Bridge.	Sep 10, 2010 1:51 PM
77	Local school newsletter.	Sep 10, 2010 2:27 PM
78	Walk about and make yourself / your function known. Get community development workers more involved.	Sep 10, 2010 2:38 PM
79	Leaflets. Not everybody has computer.	Sep 10, 2010 2:40 PM