

Southwark democracy commission survey

**If you have some experience of the council assembly please tell us here what you think doesn't work well.**

	Response Count
	61
<i>answered question</i>	<b>61</b>
<i>skipped question</i>	<b>201</b>

Response Text		
1	N/A	Jul 28, 2010 2:54 PM
2	n/a	Jul 28, 2010 3:16 PM
3	In a fairly recent planning meeting for a development in the Downton SE16 area, a vote was tied, so the chair had a casting vote leading to a planning decision in favour of developers which was clearly not popular with the public.	Jul 29, 2010 11:21 AM
4	I have observed such antics as I mention above. I was made to feel small-fry and a wretched nuisance when I brought my question to the floor of the Council. Some so-called 'executive' Councillors were arrogantly contemptuous and dismissive, and I took away an abiding hatred of two of those individual councillors for the rest of my life for trying to humiliate and abuse me in such an unnerving public event. They are despicable, and all Councillors should be sternly required not to treat members of the public in such a disgusting fashion, if you want to justify yourselves.	Aug 2, 2010 2:34 PM
5	Being made to feel I was inferior, told that I did not have a voice.	Aug 2, 2010 3:00 PM
6	Boring, waste of time, you all know how you're going to vote so the debates are irrelevant and change nothing. You might as well stay at home and vote electronically.	Aug 5, 2010 12:52 AM
7	lack of information	Aug 5, 2010 4:42 AM
8	Public gallery at Townhall is not 'user friendly' for residents attending CA.	Aug 8, 2010 5:40 PM
9	I haven't been to a Southwark meeting but elsewhere, there are processes through which residents can get involved (deputations, petitions etc) that come across as merely playing lip service to public engagement. This can be damaging to the democratic process, discouraging people further from bothering to get involved.	Aug 12, 2010 2:39 PM
10	Meeting in the same place all the time  Not listening too local voices enough	Aug 12, 2010 3:08 PM
11	I have no direct experience of the assembly but as an ordinary citizen the image of it is slightly remote, austere and procedural. I get this impression primarily from having read minutes of meetings. Very, very dry...	Aug 12, 2010 4:49 PM

Response Text		
12	items of concern to many people are sometimes "sidelined" in favour of councillors interests	Aug 12, 2010 5:42 PM
13	I have never heard of the council assembly outside of Gerald's invitation, and I would consider myself relatively "switched on." It should be easy to access the agenda for the meetings, know which officials are attending, and perhaps a primer on what a newcomer should expect.	Aug 13, 2010 9:05 AM
14	not everyone can meet in the evenings have you thought of a Saturday time slot?	Aug 14, 2010 3:23 PM
15	It seems that the tendering for the Elephant regeneration has not been well handled.	Aug 16, 2010 9:11 AM
16	Please see my comments in Section 4.	Aug 20, 2010 9:21 AM
17	There must be some flexibility in the meetings	Aug 22, 2010 10:04 AM
18	Too much flunkery and formality at the start of the meetings. Reams of paperwork for those attending mean that it can be difficult to follow the meeting. Papers need to be more easily accessible and less legalistic so people can follow proceedings.	Aug 24, 2010 7:44 AM
19	The format is dry and crusty and ever-so-boring. Some meetings used to go on past midnight. The councillors talk in gobbledegook. The councillors hurl insults across the floor at each other. There's too much point scoring and ego trips and not enough discussion on an even level. Opposing parties don't want to agree anything on principle and people up in the gallery walk out or fall asleep.	Aug 27, 2010 5:01 PM
20	This needs to be promote from the begining, what is purpose, aims and objective, can residents make a different to discussion and influence changes, if so, how?	Aug 29, 2010 6:32 PM
21	See above from the public gallery there is little or no feeling of involvement, more a feeling of exclusion	Sep 1, 2010 7:43 AM
22	See previous page. Many Members need microphone training.	Sep 1, 2010 8:52 AM
23	Too much wasted time ie proceedings etc.	Sep 1, 2010 9:00 AM
24	Discussions.	Sep 1, 2010 9:13 AM
25	Not enough public space. Papers not available easily except if you have contacts.	Sep 1, 2010 9:25 AM
26	Public gallery	Sep 1, 2010 10:00 AM
27	A Lib Dem Councillor failed to answer a question I had gone to the Town Hall to ask. I was far from pleased and haven't been to the Council Assembly since that experience.	Sep 1, 2010 10:14 AM
28	N/A	Sep 1, 2010 10:21 AM
29	None	Sep 1, 2010 10:31 AM
30	N/A	Sep 1, 2010 10:58 AM
31	N/A	Sep 1, 2010 11:08 AM
32	When you pay a blind eye.	Sep 1, 2010 12:00 PM
33	Introductions are extremely poor. Members should wear name badges describing their role. Council toggles just don't do it. AV is poor or non existent. Members appear to use the time before the meeting to catch up with their chums rather than get round the room and meet people.	Sep 1, 2010 12:15 PM

Response Text		
34	Completely out of touch.	Sep 1, 2010 12:19 PM
35	I don't know.	Sep 1, 2010 12:40 PM
36	N/A	Sep 1, 2010 12:53 PM
37	Council unclear objectives.	Sep 1, 2010 1:24 PM
38	The public can't ask questions.	Sep 1, 2010 1:35 PM
39	Shouting and violence in the gallery.	Sep 1, 2010 1:39 PM
40	Dictating telling people what to do.	Sep 1, 2010 1:42 PM
41	Please see above.	Sep 1, 2010 3:40 PM
42	When a meeting is cancelled at a moments notice. The council assembly seems to already have a decision made and to communicate a different reply to different groups.	Sep 2, 2010 8:48 AM
43	N/A	Sep 2, 2010 8:51 AM
44	Questions and deputaation been determine by an unelected officer.	Sep 2, 2010 6:03 PM
45	You must know that each assembly period is with different type of mission that may wish to carry out or that people will expect from the assembly.	Sep 3, 2010 10:54 AM
46	N / A	Sep 3, 2010 12:16 PM
47	No experience	Sep 3, 2010 12:40 PM
48	The Council Assembly has the weakness of its strengths. Involving non-council people may be brilliant or disastrous. Party whips can remove creativity and co-operation / consensus.	Sep 3, 2010 1:24 PM
49	process of action take to long no direct decision and waste alotof time on bureaucracy	Sep 3, 2010 3:37 PM
50	N/A	Sep 5, 2010 3:06 PM
51	The labour councillors are very insulting towards the lib dems and the tories. I have to leave when they start making rude remarks to their fellow members.	Sep 7, 2010 4:28 PM
52	Venue. No decision-making - all agreed before the meeting.	Sep 9, 2010 3:39 PM
53	Matters arising.	Sep 9, 2010 3:43 PM
54	No experience	Sep 9, 2010 3:45 PM
55	Councillors vote on political lines.	Sep 9, 2010 3:53 PM
56	Not enough involvement from the public.	Sep 9, 2010 3:56 PM
57	N/A	Sep 9, 2010 4:10 PM
58	Questions - too political point-scoring. Debates - too pre-determined result.	Sep 10, 2010 9:08 AM
59	Lots of people are scared of big meetings - so small events to give feedback to relevant councillors would be good as well. Democracy doesn't just involve big meetings. It means getting feedback from bottom to top and top to bottom - in different formats and ways.	Sep 10, 2010 11:02 AM
60	Decisions already made. Public gallery is very bad. Too slow paced. Better to go to Cabinet.	Sep 10, 2010 1:48 PM

**Response Text**

61

The Council Assembly seems to me a very imperfect way of involving residents in council decisions and making the council more responsive to their concerns. No doubt the format could be improved but it stills seems to me a gathering that is too large and too formal.  
The Community Councils established by the previous administration seem to me a better mechanism for interaction between council and citizens because they are smaller, local and informal.  
I very much hope that the attempt to revive the Assembly is NOT a prelude to abolishing the Community Councils.

Sep 10, 2010 1:59 PM