

Responses to public questions submitted at the Walworth community council meeting held on 6 September 2010.

Question	Response
<p>Note: this question was raised at the meeting held on 21 June 2010</p> <p><u>Elephant and Castle Regeneration</u> Is a new library with a proper reference section still on the agenda as part of the elephant and castle regeneration? We were told the current arrangement at the Newington library is temporary.</p>	<p>The Council has committed to a vision for the Elephant and Castle that includes a range of high quality recreation and cultural facilities. The question of whether the Newington library facilities will continue as they are or if they will be replaced will depend on the choices that are made in the future depending on the funding available and on the results of consultation with the local community as to their priorities. We are already consulting on new leisure facilities as they had already been identified as an essential outcome of the regeneration of the area.</p>
<p><u>Wansey Street</u></p> <p>It has been brought to my attention that there may be plans, within the Elephant & Castle Regeneration Plan, to extend Wansey Street to make it into a through road. Could this be a possibility?</p> <p>Residents of Garland Court are very concerned and would like to see Wansey Street stay as the quiet cul-de-sac it is, free of all through traffic.</p>	<p>There are no proposals at present to make Wansey Street a through road. However the Heygate estate on the northern side of Wansey St is to be demolished and redeveloped as part of the Elephant & Castle regeneration. There will be consultation on proposals which will affect this area during 2011 as follows;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The planning application for the redevelopment of the Heygate estate including the area on the north side of Wansey Street. b. Supplementary Planning Document for the Elephant & Castle Opportunity Area which is to replace the 2004 Elephant & Castle Supplementary Planning Guidance. <p>Residents will therefore have an opportunity to comment on proposals for this part of the site and any implications the development may have for Wansey Street. Residents will also be able to influence the council's planning strategy for the area and make comments on this document. Further details on the consultation programme will be provided as part of the regular Elephant & Castle updates at future community council meetings.</p>
<p><u>Wansey Street</u></p> <p>Why have the owners and residents of flats in Garland Court not been directly consulted about proposals for altering the access and layout of Wansey Street? We have not received any communication from Southwark Council nor from Southern Housing regarding the possible alterations to the access or character of our road, which at present is a quiet cul-de-sac.</p> <p>What are the design proposals for the new housing fronting onto Wansey Street. Again, why have the</p>	<p>See above –</p>

<p>owners and residents of Garland Court not been consulted about these issues, which will have a great affect on our properties and immediate environment?</p>	
<p><u>Wansey Street</u></p> <p>I'm very concerned as a resident of Garland Court , Wansey St about the proposed plan to end the streets cul -de -sac status in the regeneration plans . Can the council assure me and fellow residents this will be re thought and the street kept as a cul-de-sac ?</p>	<p>See above –</p>
<p><u>Elephant and Castle</u></p> <p>Regarding the Elephant & Castle Master Regeneration Plan (version 16): Page 16 displays a map of the regeneration. This indicates a 'mid-high' block will be built exactly opposite Garland Court. How high is this exactly? When I bought my flat in 2006, the plans indicated that Garland Court would not be overlooked by a tall building.</p> <p>Can Southwark confirm that the trees lining Wansey Street will remain. These are central to the appearance of the street and the well-being of residents of Wansey Street.</p> <p>The plans also indicate that Wansey Street will be opened up at its Eastern end, but closed at its Western end to traffic. Can you confirm that Wansey Street will not become a through-road. This is a hugely important issue to residents living on Wansey Street.</p>	<p>The Elephant and Castle Master Regeneration Plan is not a formal planning application and nor has it been adopted by the Planning Authority. It is intended to provide residents with an indication of the approach that the council and it's partner Lend lease intend to take to the redevelopment of the area. As stated in the response to Q1 above formal proposals which will lead to the submission of a planning application for the site will be the subject of public consultation next year. These proposals will provide Wansey Street residents with information on the height of buildings on the north side of their road and the implications for existing trees</p>
<p><u>Regeneration</u></p> <p>I noticed Strategic director of Major Projects position is Vacant. When will this post be filled and who's overlooking / synchronising various regeneration projects meanwhile?</p>	<p>Given the difficult financial environment the council has reviewed its senior management team and to reduce costs has deleted the post of both the Strategic Director of major projects and Strategic Director of Regeneration. Staff within both departments will in the future be managed by the council's Deputy Chief Executive.</p>
<p><u>Elephant and Castle</u></p> <p>Will there definitely be a guaranteed new leisure centre at the Elephant or is this consultation exercise a bit misleading? When will it be opened?</p>	<p>The provision of a new leisure at the Elephant and castle is a key council priority. The council's objective is to open a new facility in early 2014. There was consultation on the new facility during the September-October and the council's cabinet will consider a report on next steps in November. Community council will be kept updated on the programme for the scheme as part of the regular Elephant & Castle updates.</p>

<p><u>Elephant and Castle</u></p> <p>The elephant and castle leisure centre consultation was very well advertised, but very limited. I received a letter by post and saw the advert in Southwark news yet the consultation was only to ask what services we wanted. Why was the consultation so basic? How much money was spent posting letters to residents, for the newspaper advert and at the public meeting?</p>	<p>We will of course consider all the feedback we have received on the consultation process and use this to inform how we carryout similar exercises in the future. However the council is pleased with the outcome of the exercise which generated over 1300 replies.</p>
<p><u>Bus Lanes</u></p> <p>Why is the bus lane on rodney place enforced 12 hours a day 7 days a week for one bus? Other bus lanes e.g. Old Kent Road are from 7-10 am and 4-7pm only 5-6 days a week.</p>	<p><i>This question is similar to a question submitted at the meeting held on 21 June 2010:</i></p> <p><i>Is it necessary for the Heygate bus lane to be enforced 12 hours per day 7 days a week (07.00-19.00) for one bus - the 343 when bus lanes elsewhere e.g. the Old Kent Road are only enforced 07.00 – 10.00 ad 16.00-19.00 6 days a week and cover hundreds of buses per hour.</i></p> <p><i>The following response was provided:</i></p> <p>The 343 route is extremely popular and serves many of the borough's deprived areas where car ownership is minimal and residents are dependant upon public transport links to key destinations and facilities. In line with Southwark's Community Strategy, residents living in deprived areas require priority access to key health facilities to enhance social inclusion. The westbound bus lane in Heygate provides essential journey time savings benefiting up to 800 passengers an hour. Bus Lanes also provide a facility for cyclists and taxis.</p>
<p><u>Parking</u></p> <p>Why has the council without warning removed our allocated 30 minute free parking bay outside our shops that has been in force since 2000? When we complained the council argued that they had no record of a traffic management order for this bay. The council has recently allocated 40 minute free parking bay for the Tesco store in Southampton Way. We are urging councillors to stop these injustices and discrimination and help to reinstate our parking bay our trade has plummeted and cannot services our shops</p>	<p>Some years ago, this bay was incorrectly signposted as a 30 minute free parking bay, whereas the traffic order here requires these bays to be for permit holders only. This has been brought to light following re-surfacing and the renewal of signs in the road and we have to ensure that the parking arrangements are in line with the legally made (adopted) traffic orders.</p> <p>The issue has been logged and the bay will be changed to the appropriate type of visitor parking, in line with policy, when funding becomes available.</p>

<p>We would also like to clarify that we do not have different policies for different businesses. The decision taken on the Tesco site in Southampton Way was made because it is not situated in a controlled parking zone, whereas Rodney Road is. Furthermore the Southampton Way amendment was part of a s106 commitment to change the physical road layout, introduce a new crossing and cycle facilities where, previously, there was absolutely no opportunity for loading or parking due to the presence of double yellow lines and “no loading” restrictions. Motorists are reminded that are entitled to load and unload in any permit bays and that there is a considerable amount of visitor parking adjacent to Rodney Road in Stead Street car park.</p>
