



WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Walworth Community Council held on Wednesday 10 November 2010 at 7.00 pm at Pasley TRA Hall, Stopford Road, SE17 3BP

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

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Gavin Edwards

OFFICER SUPPORT: Daniel Rankine, Repairs Control Centre Manager
Richard Harris, Senior Project Manager
Darryl Telles, Neighbourhoods Manager
Pauline Bonner, Neighbourhood Coordinator
Lee Griffiths, Community Council Development Officer
Alexa Coates, Principal Constitutional Officer

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked councillors to introduce themselves.

The chair welcomed the Mayor of Southwark who was joined by a delegation of councillors from Clichy in France, one of Southwark's international partners, who were visiting the meeting to see how community councils worked.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Bowman.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were no urgent items.

5. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2010 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Southwark Legal Advice Network

Sally Causer, from the Southwark Legal Advice Network, informed residents of the independent advice services the network provided such as helping with debt issues and council tax issues.

Carter Street Campaign

Mr Leech announced that there was a petition against a development on Carter Street that participants could sign. The chair advised members that the application was due to be considered by the Walworth Community Council Planning meeting and members who would be taking a decision on the application should not express a view until they considered all the evidence and representations at the planning meeting.

Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Sgt Brown updated the meeting on the ward priorities for the community council area:

Faraday ward priorities

1. Antisocial behaviour on the Gateway estate
2. Antisocial behaviour on East Street
3. Cycling on the pavement

Newington ward priorities

1. Antisocial behaviour on the Brandon estate
2. Antisocial behaviour at Pasley Park

East Walworth ward priorities

1. Antisocial behaviour and nuisance caused by young people on Ivy Church Lane
2. Antisocial behaviour and drug users

8. A FAIRER FUTURE FOR ALL

Councillor Richard Livingstone, Cabinet member for Finance and Resources, introduced the budget consultation: 'the Southwark Spending Challenge.' Cllr Livingstone explained the budget situation and that a large proportion of the money available to the council was provided by government funding which would be reduced significantly over the next three years. Cllr Livingstone asked residents for their input in setting the council's priorities by taking part in the Southwark Spending Challenge.

Cllr Livingstone took questions from the floor relating to: how the consultation would feed into the decision making process, the impact of the underestimated population statistics for Southwark, the outsourcing of council services, the input of voluntary organisations, the need for the council to be radical in making savings and how the information gathered in the consultation will be made public.

In response Cllr Livingstone stated that: a decision on the budget and council tax would be taken by Council Assembly in February following recommendations by the Cabinet, the cabinet would be given the results of the consultation when making their recommendations. Cllr Livingstone explained that the council lost around £5 million a year in funding due to the inaccuracy of the census results, he stressed the importance of the survey and that the information gathered in the survey could only be used for that purpose. The revenues and benefit contract which had been outsourced would be brought back into the council from 1 April with the intention of improving the performance of the service. Some voluntary groups had been consulted, Cllr Livingstone acknowledge that the could need to work more sensibly with the voluntary sector to provide savings. Cllr Livingstone welcomed suggestions for making savings and explained that the results of the consultation would be available to the public.

Residents were given 27 red cheques (each representing 1 million of savings) and 7 green cheques (each representing 1 million of investment). Participants were asked to place their cheques in 8 boxes representing the different services delivered by the council. Participants were asked to write comments on the cheques explaining what they wanted the council to do.

When everyone had used all their cheques Cllr Livingstone gave a brief overview of some of the suggestions which had been made which included: outsourcing services, reduce overhead costs in regeneration, invest in prevention for problems on roads, invest in youth provision and utilising the voluntary sector more.

Cllr Livingstone thanked for their input into the consultation.

9. HOUSING

The chair introduced the theme of the meeting which was housing. He explained that most of the remainder of the meeting would focus on housing repairs in relation to which the councillors, on the community council, received a large number of queries.

9.1 HOUSING REPAIRS

Scrutiny Review

The chair invited Councillor Gavin Edwards, chair of the housing and community safety scrutiny sub-committee, to explain a scrutiny review on housing repairs that was currently being undertaken. Cllr Edwards explained that the review was focused on the performance indicators used to assess the housing repairs service. The performance indicators stated that the council was performing well in this area but councillors had anecdotal evidence that this was not the case, from contact with local residents.

Cllr Edwards invited participants to take part in a questionnaire about housing repairs, which would feed into the scrutiny review. The results from the meeting and the comments collated are attached.

Housing Repairs Service

Daniel Rankine, Repairs Control Centre Manager, gave an overview of the housing repairs service. Following his presentation Daniel took questions from the floor, the chair asked that participants also submitted their questions in writing as part of the public question item. Some of the issues raised included: contractors turning up without agreeing an appointment/cold calling, penalties imposed on contractors, the role of the contact centre, how the repairs team tackled water penetration, the contract arrangements with service providers. Members requested information on the performance of individual contractors on a ward by ward basis.

In response Daniel explained: penalties were imposed on contractors and information recorded on calls made and number of complete jobs, contract managers monitored the performance of contractors, contractors were required to make appointments before visiting residents unless the repair was an emergency, and sanctions were imposed when this was not done. Daniel stated that the Council has a commitment to carry out repairs to make homes warm, safe and dry. He welcomed comments and feedback on the telephone service and hoped to use the time on the phone to provide useful information to tenants about the housing repairs service. Daniel explained that he would be available after the meeting to take specific examples of residents' issues.

9.2 SOUTHWARK REACH

Peter Krakowiak from Southwark Reach explained about their work in supporting vulnerable adults in the borough. Peter gave contact details for anyone who needed to access the support service or wanted to refer someone who need help.

Telephone:0808 168 0708

Freepost RRBL-ETAU-CRST, Southwark Reach, 48-54 Denmark Hill, London, SE5 8RZ

Email: contact@southwarkreach.org.

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The following public questions were submitted the chair advised that written responses would be provided:

Minutes

Why are the names of people asking public questions not minuted?

East Street Market

Why has the council put the market rates up when the market is failing to attract traders?

Parking Liverpool Grove

Why are parking tickets being issued by a smart car with a camera?

Car Parking Shop

What are the council's plans for the parking shop?

Does Southwark Council support the closure of the parking shop? Why doesn't the council take over the contract and retain the staff?

Debt

How does the council help those who are in debt?

Community Wardens

Can community wardens' be asked to report broken street lights and paving stones?

Can community wardens be allowed to issue fines to flytippers?

War Memorial

Can a memorial be placed at or near the site of the wartime tragedy in Gurney Street (now under the Heygate) when an unexploded landmine blew up a year after being dropped in 1942?

Housing Repairs

Do you interview contractors on their competence to do the work required by tenants, i.e. is he a carpenter sent to do a plumbing job? Then do you get rid of contractors with consistently bad reports from tenants?

Do the council pay for contracts not complete?

Why isn't there anybody from the council overseeing that the work has been carried out by contractors?

Can all Type 2 and Type 3 asbestos surveys for estates in Walworth be made available at future community council meetings?

Note: A resident questioned the response to the bus Lanes question submitted on 6 September 2010, and that the figure of 800 passengers was not accurate.

Note: some questions related to specific issues and have been forwarded to the housing repairs team to respond to directly.

11. COMMUNITY COUNCILS HIGHWAYS AND LIGHTING CAPITAL INVESTMENT 2010-11

Executive Function

In addition to this year's £75,000 allocation for lighting, there was an under spend from 2009-10 of £51,958.62. This under spend was available for the community council to allocate this year.

RESOLVED:

1. That the £126,958.62 of lighting funding be released to fund lighting schemes in the Walworth area at the levels estimated below

Stopford Road (Ward – Newington) - £6,000

Pelier Street (Ward – Newington) - £8,000

Delverton Road (Ward – Newington) - £8,000

Occupation Road (Ward – Newington) - £10,000

Blackwood Street (Ward – Faraday) - £10,000

Aronside Street (Ward – Faraday) - £12,000

Dartford Street (Ward – Faraday/Newington) - £14,000

East Street (Ward – Faraday) - £8,900

Walworth Place (Ward – Faraday) - £16,000

Cooks Road (Ward – Newington) - £34,000

2. That the £100,000 allocation for highways surface improvements be used to complete the refurbishment works for East Street that will include footway replacement as outlined in the presentation to the Walworth community council on Wednesday 6 October 2010

12. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS REPORT

Executive Function

RESOLVED:

That the following local parking amendment is approved

Dawes Street (1011Q2021)

Installation of a disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay.

CHAIR:

DATED:

The meeting ended at 9.50pm