



## **ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

MINUTES of the Rotherhithe Community Council held on Thursday 3 March 2011 at 7.00 pm at Links Community Centre, 353 Rotherhithe New Road, London SE16 3HF

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Jeff Hook (Chair)  
Councillor Wilma Nelson (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor David Hubber  
Councillor Richard Livingstone  
Councillor Catherine McDonald  
Councillor Michael Situ

**OFFICER SUPPORT:** Forid Ahmed (Neighbourhood Co-ordinator)  
Gill Kelly (Community Council Development Officer)  
Beverley Olamijulo (Constitutional Officer)

### **1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

The chair welcomed members of the public, councillors and officers to the community council meeting.

### **2. APOLOGIES**

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Columba Blango, Paul Noblet and Lisa Rajan; and Councillor Catherine McDonald submitted her apologies for lateness.

### **3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were none.

### **4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT**

The chair agreed to accept the following item as late and urgent as the report was received after the agenda despatch deadline which also had to be considered in conjunction with the Council's transport planner. In addition the outcome could have cost implications for the Council and the Public Inquiry has to be heard by 19 & 20 April 2011:

**Item 15, Pacific Wharf, 165 Rotherhithe Street, London SE16 5QF – Application 10-AP-1536.**

**5. MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 20 January 2011 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting and signed by the chair.

Note:

The motion concerning the business case for a new secondary school in Rotherhithe, submitted at community council on 20 January 2011 and its subsequent response from the relevant cabinet member for children's services at the community council on 3 March should be appended to the minutes.

**6. CHAIRS ANNOUNCEMENTS AND COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS**

The chair announced:

Council Assembly on 6 April 2011 will be considering "the future for Southwark developing our plan for the Borough". This is a council led initiative for Council Assembly to develop closer links with community councils. People were told to keep an eye on the council's website to post your views or submit a question or raise a deputation at the April meeting from mid-March: [www.southwark.gov.uk/democracy](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/democracy)

Southwark Council has set up a Democracy Commission with the aim of bringing the Council closer to its residents, making it more accountable to them and more connected with their concerns.

There were also displays and artefacts at the meeting from ECO Schools, the Pumphouse Educational Museum and Surrey Docks Farm. Representatives were there to highlight what they do.

**7. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS**

There were none.

**8. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE**

The community council noted the safer neighbourhood teams updates on community safety matters.

The SNT representative reported that a PCSO arrested a suspected burglar who has already been charged with several offences relating to burglary. The safer neighbourhood teams have been dealing with anti social behaviour on local housing estates and are

currently working with the families that live on the estates and the Council.

The priorities for Surrey Docks ward are: Drug warrants on the Opsrey Estate, training on speed guns on Salter Road. The next stage is enforcement training and automated recognition for number plate reading to catch those committing road offences, stolen vehicles and immigration offences.

Questions were asked about the spate of burglaries in Surrey Docks ward which include those committed in the Downtown area. The person arrested was also part of a gang responsible for this sort of crime. The Police representative said he was confident the individual would be charged and serves time for his offences.

People were encouraged to increase their awareness, get to know their neighbours and if you suspect anything report it to the Police.

Further updates would be given at the next meeting.

## **9. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

The following questions were submitted:

Q1: What is the latest position on the proposed routes for the Thames Tunnel and proposed use of King Stairs Gardens and St John's Estates?

A1: Recent press release suggests that Thames Water are considering alternatives sites but no other information has been provided.

Q2: Please could you confirm whether the future proposals for community councils are to pair them up in accordance with the areas e.g. Bermondsey with Rotherhithe and the like?

A2: Cllr Richard Livingstone: Southwark faces the biggest challenge due to the cuts however no decision has been made about merging community councils.

Q3: Please could the community council explain what the Council are doing to help those in the armed forces particularly with regard to assisting them with housing?

A4: At a recent full Council meeting a deputation was heard about the Southwark Tribute to Heroes to provide support and housing for those in the armed forces. A motion was passed at the meeting to prioritise people who have served in the armed forces particularly after serving the country.

Q5: Since the last community council meeting a public question was raised about the pathway at Surrey Docks Water Centre which still remains closed.

A5: The Chair: I understand the relevant cabinet member for culture, leisure, sport and the Olympics was to take the appropriate steps to visit the centre.

Cllr Hubber mentioned at this segment of the meeting that Thames Clippers river travel would be reducing their journey times which would affect those working late or who attend

social events. A meeting took place with GLA member, Caroline Pidgeon, local Councillors and representatives of Thames Clippers who have now decided to reinstate some of the operation times.

## **10. EDUCATION THEME**

### **Early Years representative, Rotherhithe Primary School**

A representative from Rotherhithe Primary School was present to outline that the school were able to secure funding for a children's centre which provides a range of activities for the pupils. He explained that he would like parents to become more involved like the Parents Forum which encourages them to run activities.

The parent representatives are committed and are encouraged to be active and develop their skills. The Forum meet on Wednesdays at 1.00pm – 2.45pm.

### **General overview of education, secondary and primary**

Pauline Armour, Assistant Director of 05 – 11 services & inclusion was present to give an overview of education provision in Southwark. She said that the quality of education has improved and is reflected in the league tables, it is also due to good partnership because exam results are now in line with the national average.

Ofsted considered most schools in the area had reached their targets and raised attainment even though the Council are still looking at new ways to raise standards in Southwark Schools. In Rotherhithe, proposals are being forward to raise attainment in some primary schools whereas had exceeded the national average in line with more wealthier boroughs like Richmond.

### **Admissions Policy**

Cllr David Hubber spoke in his role as a member of scrutiny children's services explained the sub committee are seeking information about admissions, visiting schools and talking to parents. The current policy is too detailed and difficult for those whose English is not their first language. He encouraged people to put their views across to local councillors, the scrutiny clerk or the Rotherhithe neighbourhood coordinator.

People expressed their views about the admissions policy at Bacon's College stressing that the policy should change. Demographically it is not sustainable, needs forward thinking and planning. Local children who live in the Downtown area leave home early to attend neighbouring colleges in other parts of the Borough and in cases outside the Borough.

### **School Governor Support – role and responsibilities**

David Lister, Manager of School Governor Support was present to talk briefly about the team's role and responsibilities. He explained that previously governors did not have the powers they have now. Since 1986 the local authority has less powers but the school, head teacher and governing body have more of say.

The support team also provide training sessions at Schools, provide topic training in general and provide advice and support to those wishing to be a school governor.

### **What do Governors do?**

They are in charge of the strategic element of the running of the School but not day to day running, that is the role of the head teacher.

The 2002 Education Act explains what the role of a school governor is a crucial role on of which is to appoint a head teacher and on a rare occasion dismiss a head teacher.

A school governor is involved in strategic planning, oversee the budget and looking at children's attainment.

### **The different types of governors**

- Parent governors, you do not have to be a parent or know about education matters. No qualifications are necessary but you must show a genuine commitment for the four year period. You would be expected to attend three meetings per term and the visit the School during the day.
- Local authority governors are appointed by the local authority that maintains the school. Authorities can decide to fill these posts to reflect the local political balance, although such governors are primarily appointed with a view to their commitment to raise standards at the school concerned.
- Community governors are appointed by the governing body. They are intended to enable the governing body to add specific areas of expertise. Also they could be local business people or a parent of a school. All categories of school, except voluntary aided schools, have community governors. Community governors cannot be employed to work at the school, be pupils currently at the school or be an elected member of the local authority.
- Foundation governors (at voluntary aided, voluntary controlled and some foundation and foundation special schools only) are selected by the appointing body to which the school is attached i.e. church schools. They are appointed to preserve and develop the religious character of the school.

### **Role of the clerk, governing body meetings**

The clerk is responsible for producing agenda, minutes and provide advice. The officer stressed that it was important to have a professional clerking so the person's relevant skills are adhered to guidelines.

### **Cabinet member for children's services**

Cllr Catherine McDonald introduced herself as cabinet member for children's services. She stated that there is an urgent need for a new School in Rotherhithe after the previous administration put forward a business case under the Southwark Building Schools for future decided to withdraw the funding.

In light of this proposals are being put forward to fund extra class rooms spaces and to

confirm with central Government how much money the Council could have to explore ways of providing those additional school places.

Cllr McDonald urged people to take part in the consultation process. Reference was also made in regard to the motion submitted at the last meeting concerning the above explaining that it was the present central Government who decided to withdraw funding.

The chair, Cllr Jeff Hook stated no confirmation has been given from central Government to withdraw the £20 million funding for the new school in Rotherhithe.

Simon Hughes MP stated that there is clearly a demand for a secondary school in the Borough. It is important that the site should be council owned because if it were private land then it could be more expensive. He stressed that if the Council could make a case then central Government would respond to that. In his views there is a case which should go ahead based on the previous administration's recommendations as there is an urgent need for a secondary School.

Simon Hughes MP explained that if the proposal went ahead the Council should consider a non denomination school to give parents a choice and that he hoped it would be also be a secular school this could prove popular like Bacon's College.

Cllr Catherine McDonald said it was important to note that both the present administration and local MP agree for this school to go ahead.

Some local residents felt the new school should be somewhere in the Hawkstone area and a 1300 student school is likely to be too small.

At the end of questions and discussion there was a general consensus that a catchment school was needed in the Rotherhithe area and the Council should immediately pursue a business case to central Government.

The chair confirmed that any issues of local concern that are raised at community councils could be submitted by way of a deputation or public question at Full Council.

Therefore the urgent need for a secondary school in Rotherhithe would be highlighted to the next Full Council and feedback given at the next meeting.

## **11. SOUTHWARK RENEWABLE ENERGY DISTRICT HEATING**

This item was withdrawn.

## **12. DRAFT AIR QUALITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN**

Bill Leggasick, Principal Environment Officer presented this item.

Air quality affects us all in our daily lives and we breathe in pollution from a variety of sources which cause health effects. As part of reviewing and assessing air pollution the

process which identifies all pollutant concentration objectives were met in Southwark with the exception of NO<sub>2</sub> (nitrogen dioxide) and PM<sub>10</sub> (particulate matters) dust particles. The Council were consulting on the air quality strategy and improvement plan which has to be updated. The London Mayor has also introduced a quality strategy emphasising the importance of reducing emissions from vehicular transport and protect public health and monitor air quality.

The main objectives are:

- To tackle carbon emissions – transport sources i.e. pollution coming out of diesel engines.
- To protect public health and monitor air quality.
- To reduce emissions from new development.

Those present at the meeting were encouraged to go online so their views could be taken into consideration. Other consultees include GLA (Greater London Assembly), DEFRA (Dept for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs) as well as local residents. The period for consultation was from the 1 March until 20 April 2011. It would then be taken to the Council's cabinet meeting in September 2011.

Comments were expressed about the air quality monitoring equipment at the Rotherhithe roundabout and the air quality data in surrounding areas of Surrey Canal and Surrey Docks.

The chair thanked the officer for his presentation.

### **13. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1 and 2, Access to Information Procedure rules of the Constitution

### **14. LEA SCHOOL GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS**

Executive decision

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Sophie Kilvert be appointed as a school governor at Federation of Eveline Lowe and Ilderton Primary Schools.

**15. DEVELOPMENT CONTROL ITEM - PACIFIC WHARF, 165  
ROTHERHITHE STREET, SE16 5QF**

**Development Management planning appeal:**

Refusal of Full Planning Permission to change the use of A1 retail unit at ground floor into six residential units with outdoor amenity space, including erection of walls.

**Planning application number: 10-AP-1536**

**PROPOSAL**

*Parking study submitted to address reason for refusal 3 in connection with Planning Appeal: APP/A5480/A/10/2138387/NWF*

The chair agreed to accept the item for reasons of urgency and lateness as set out in the report.

The planning officer was present to respond to questions from Members.

No objectors were present.

**RESOLVED:**

That the Community Council agreed not to pursue the third reason for refusal.

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**