



SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE B

MINUTES of the OPEN section of the meeting of the SCRUTINY SUB-COMMITTEE B held on WEDNESDAY JANUARY 21 2009 at 7.00 P.M. at the Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB

PRESENT: Councillor David Hubber (Chair)
Councillor Jenny Jones, Anood Al-Samerai, Alison McGovern (Deputising for Paul Bates).

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT Councillors Dora Dixon-Fyle (Chair of Camberwell Community Council), Ian Wingfield (Vice-Chair of Camberwell Community Council), Sandra Rhule (Brunswick Park Ward), Veronica Ward (South Camberwell Ward)

ALSO PRESENT : Poddy Clark – SE5 Forum
Don and Doreen Phillips – Friends of Camberwell Baths

OFFICER SUPPORT: Stan Dubeck – Neighbourhood Renewal Manager
Debbie Gooch – Legal Services
Shelley Burke – Head of Overview and Scrutiny
Sally Masson – Scrutiny Project Manager

APOLOGIES Councillors Lorraine Zuleta, Althea Smith, Paul Bates

NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR DEEMED URGENT

There were none

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none

MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on December 3 2008 be agreed as a correct record

1 CAMBERWELL REGENERATION

- 1.1 The Chair thanked the all of the Community Councillors for their help and support over the course of this review.
- 1.2 It was agreed that the report with some minor amendments proceed to the Executive. The Chair re-iterated the need for an action plan which draws together the various streams of work and the sub-committee felt this should figure in the recommendation which looked at Town Planning.
- 1.3 Members discussed the fact that air monitoring sites have been discontinued. The sub-committee felt that these should be re-instated if there was no adequate reason for stopping them.
- 1.4 It was thought that the report should emphasise that Kings College hospital is land locked and is looking for other sites.
- 1.5 The location of the library is seen as less than ideal in relation to the town centre. It is a key facility and should be linked more closely with the town centre. The sub-committee felt that questions of how to obtain funding was now for O&S to comment on.
- 1.6 Councillors reported that young people felt there was a lack of places to go and that the facilities that are currently in place should be reviewed, updating and expanding them where necessary.
- 1.7 Regarding street drinkers, the partnership board was going to look at provision in the area. The sub-committee wanted to recommended to the PCT and other service providers that moving these services should take place. There is a convergence of Drug and Alcohol treatment services in the borough which may assist with the convenience of delivering treatment but has an adverse impact on the immediate community. It was felt that the Executive Member should formally write to the PCT to recommend that services were relocated.
- 1.8 The committee felt that obtaining a list of where all of the treatments services were located would be very helpful in re-organisation of any change and be a useful tool in monitoring where provision is set up in future.
- 1.9 With regard to transport planning, there was still hope that a tube station may come to Camberwell as an extension to the Bakerloo line. It was discussed that Camberwell is still a poor area and that Councillors should press for more transport to come to the area to add benefit to economic growth.
- 1.10 It was also felt that Camberwell would benefit from being a part of the 'Legible London' Scheme as signage in the borough was felt to be very poor.
- 1.11 The Vauxhall bus interchange was said to be problematic because of the location of the bus stands; far from the railway station and each other making it difficult to locate the appropriate stop.
- 1.12 There was a clustering of buses at the bottom of Denmark Hill which led to traffic congestion and congestion on the pavements. It was thought that TFL should look at reorganising those bus stops which should tie in with the bid for a better transport interchange.

- 1.13 People on the Elmington Estate were increasingly frustrated living close to dwellings which have had significant improvement work, whilst their own properties had not been scheduled for any work.
- 1.14 With regard to creating a hub for creative industries, it was acknowledged that there were problems with the economics of sustaining such projects. That Councillors need to continue to push hard to raise awareness of the potential for businesses in the area. It was thought that a specific building could be designated the purpose of combining modern technology ventures with creative start up businesses. The Council needs to start looking for potential opportunities within the town centre.
- 1.15 Members felt there were inadequate signs in the borough. That the streets are dirty and badly maintained. It was thought that it would not be too difficult or costly to deal with this as a matter of urgency. A dirty, unkempt environment will have an effect on people's general perceptions of the area and could have a demoralising effect.
- 1.16 Street maintenance needs to be ongoing with special attention to the unlawful encroachment onto pavements by businesses. Where the pavements are narrow, actions should be taken to stop shops from using the pavement to display their stock.
- 1.17 Cottage Green and Southampton Way need further examination to ascertain what can be done to improve traffic problems.

2 WORK PLAN

- 2.1 The sub – committee examined the proposal to look at bus service operations in Southwark.
- 2.2 It was noted that TFL have a draft business plan which is due for publication shortly. It was also noted that Southwark have 3 GLA Members and as such, this would be a very good time to look at aspects of the bus service and the borough's transport needs.
- 2.3 It was reported that there is going to be a freeze on the bus service despite Southwark's increasing population.
- 2.4 The Mayor has said that there is no demand for orbital routes.
- 2.5 The sub-committee felt that TFL should be looking to extend the shorter bus routes and increase the frequency in services where significantly major areas can link.
- 2.6 Members felt that significant players should be seconded onto the committee and the Chair and Vice-Chair should invite Caroline Pidgeon and Val Shorecross, to take part at committee, mentioning that there is a suppressed demand for orbital routes.

- 2.7 The sub-committee discussed the possibility of involving the local press in the review and including tenants and residents associations along with the community councils.
- 2.8 Other organisations to be approached include: Transport user groups, Service providers (the commissioners of services), David Brown, Head of Service at the GLA and Peter Hendon. It was also agreed that Boris Johnson should be invited to answer questions from the committee.
- 2.9 It was also agreed that a general view of the services be sought from disabilities groups.
- 2.10 All Councillors to submit their views on transport in Southwark.

RESOLVED:

The Chair and Vice-Chair to write to Caroline Pidgeon and Val Shorecross to take part in the review and attend meetings.

Letters to be drafted to transport user groups, transport commissioners and GLA officers.

The meeting closed at 8pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: