



WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Walworth Community Council held on Tuesday 3 May 2011 at 6.30 pm at Darwin Court, 1 Crail Row, London SE17 1AD

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

OFFICER SUPPORT: Nicky Costin, Business Unit Manager
Rob Bristow, Group Manager West Team
Kate Johnson, Planning Policy Officer
Pauline Bonner, Neighbourhood Coordinator
Alexa Coates, Principal Constitutional Officer

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Lauder and apologies for lateness from Councillors: Bowman, Coyle and Morrissey.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

5. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 1 March 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the chair.

6. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chair started the community announcements by expressing congratulations to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridgeshire on their recent wedding.

Public Spaces research

The chair invited David Yeates to tell the meeting about some research he was conducting into public space in Walworth. David explained that he was from the University of Kent and was conducting a study of public space in South London. He was interested in speaking to people who had lived in the area for a long and collecting their stories. David explained the aim of the research was to inform government and organisation to help them build better spaces in the area. David committed to feedback quarterly as he conducted his research. He asked people interested in taking part to speak to him at the break.

Council Assembly Themed Debates

Councillor Mohamed, cabinet member for equalities and community engagement, explained that the next themed debate at council assembly would be held in July on Sport and Young people. The July meeting will also be the first time a council assembly meeting had been held outside of the town hall. The chair encouraged people to keep an eye on the website to find out more information.

Community council fund launch

This item was scheduled at item 8 but the chair explained he would take the item as a community announcement. The community council fund will be open for application from 4 May and the closing date for applications is 16 June.

Application packs were available and residents could speak to the Neighbourhood Co-ordinator in the break about how to apply.

The chair asked Melanie from Cooltan Arts to explain how they used their community council fund grant. Cooltan Arts, is a charity which provides mental health support through the arts. They had arranged an open day which included an art exhibition, a poetry reading,

and taster workshops. The event had been part funded by the community council grant.

Residential Design Standards

The chair invited Kate Johnson from planning policy to tell the meeting about a consultation on an update to the residential design standards. The update includes additional guidance on new minimum dwelling sizes. The proposed update would mean that the minimum size for new dwellings would increase, so larger units for new houses would be built.

The consultation is open until Thursday 2 June, consultation forms can be completed online.

Carter Place Appeal

Rob Bristow from the planning department attended to explain an administrative error which had occurred at the inspector's site visit on 13 April. The planning case officer had arrived late as he had been given the wrong date due to an administrative error. Rob apologised for the officer arriving late and stated that this would not undermine the council's case in anyway as the case would be judged by written submissions alone and verbal submission at the site visit were not allowed.

Elephant Amenity

Celia from elephant amenity announced that they would be holding a visioning event on Saturday 4 June from 11am-4pm at Crossways church on the New Kent Road. The event would consist of workshops where people could talk about what they wanted for the area, the event was open to everyone. More information was available at www.elephantamenity.wordpress.com

Walworth Road Update

Nicky Costin from the environment department updated the meeting on repairs to the Walworth Road. He explained that there were three main issues:

- 1) When utility companies need to dig the road up to make repairs they don't always reinstate the road to an adequate standard. The council was seeking to take enforcement action against the utility companies for particular failures in this area.
- 2) Some maintenance fixes haven't proved adequate. The council was seeking different technical fixes to ensure this didn't happen again.
- 3) Difficulties with the road levels, it was anticipated that the work needed to remedy these issues would be completed before the autumn, but this would take time as the work would require new surveys and new design work.

Nicky advised that any remedial works in relation to 3 will be paid for from existing Walworth Road budget as some monies had been retained in case remedial works were needed.

8. CHARGES FOR RESIDENTIAL PARKING BASED ON CO2 EMISSIONS

Nicky Costin gave residents some information on proposals to base residential car parking charges on Co2 emissions outlining the potential costs for different models of car. He presented two options one for a flat rate charge and secondly for a charge based on Co2 emissions and engine capacity if the vehicle pre-dates 2001.

Option 1

- The cost of a residents parking permit will increase from 99.30 to £125.
- The increase will be across all residents permits
- Even with this increase Southwark are still below the inner London average

Option 2

- Charging motorists for permits based on CO2 emissions, and CC if your vehicle pre-dates 2001
- What this means is cheaper permits for residents with low emission vehicles and higher charges for cars that emit more CO2
- With this option 47% of car owners will be paying less for their permit than the Option1 flat rate of £125
- The scheme will be based on the DVLA Model with 6 bands

Nicky took questions and comments from the floor. Residents questioned the effect of the charges based on Co2 emissions on those who could not afford new cars and requested that an impact assessment accessing why people use cars be carried out. Residents and councillors also questioned the format and level of the consultation and felt they should have something to digest and consider or an online facility to respond to the consultation.

Cllr Seaton advised he would write to the relevant cabinet member to express these concerns.

9. ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The chair introduced the review of the year where he asked councillors summarise the work of the Walworth community council over the year.

Open Spaces

Cllr Diamond talked about the open spaces workshops which had taken place in March 2011. He explained that the meeting had been well attended with over 60 people taking part in workshops around the themes of: types of open space, quality of open space and linking open spaces.

The chair added that at that meeting the community council has agreed to look into the possibility of establishing an open spaces network. The Walworth Green Spaces, Open Spaces network would soon have their inaugural meeting. He informed residents that this would be an independent body which would feed comments into the community council and as such would have an independent chair. He asked residents interested in taking part to complete a form so they could be kept informed of meeting details.

Burgess Park

Cllr Garfield updated the meeting on the Burgess Park Revitalisation Project. The council had £6million to spend on the development of the park and it was expected that work would be completed by March 2012. As part of the project the lake would be reformed and the fountain replaced, new meadow flowers and new trees would be planted. Cllr Garfield explained that some parts of the park would be closed, but not all, whilst the work was completed.

Residents raised concerns relating to the lack of toilets and supervision in the park, some felt that a full-time park attendant should be employed.

Aylesbury Update

Cllr Garfield also updated the meeting on the regeneration of the Aylesbury estate. He explained that PFI funding had been removed just before Christmas. He stated that the council were committed to regeneration on the estate and that scheduled demolition had begun. He also stated that the regeneration was not just about the building being built but the facilities around the estate, such as the revitalisation of Burgess Park. Cllr Mohamed added that residents should be credited for their role in the Burgess Park project as they had helped to raise £2million of the funding.

One resident questioned the validity of the Aylesbury regeneration as the project had been designed at a time when more funding was available. Cllr Garfield explained that the Aylesbury Action Plan was in effect a 20 year plan for the regeneration of the area and although finances were limited at this time that would not always be the case.

Housing Repairs

Cllr Merrill updated the meeting on the housing repairs theme of the November meeting. He explained that Cllr Edwards had attended as scrutiny had been conducting a review into the housing repairs service. The recommendations of that review were being implemented by the council, As a result of the review the service was being made more transparent, satisfaction would be monitored by resident survey rather than reports from contractors, the collation of satisfaction results would change and improvements were being made to the contact centre which included one reference number per job.

The chair added that a new Director of Housing had been appointed to the council and it was intended that contracts would be more closely monitored.

Sex Establishments Consultation

Cllr Coyle spoke about the meeting on the sex establishment consultation where the council was seeking views on whether any area in the community council area were considered appropriate for sex establishment licenses. Cllr Coyle added that the majority view of the meeting had been that there were no suitable locations in the Walworth community council area and this had been supported by written submissions after the meeting. A report to the Licensing Committee to approve the final policy was being worked on and the final stage would be for this to be considered by Council Assembly. When the final policy was agreed the community council would be updated.

Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre

Cllr Morrissey provided an update on the leisure centre consultation to find out what people wanted from the new leisure centre and why they would use the centre. A new swimming pool was the most desired option. Existing customers of the leisure centre voted

for the swimming pool, gym and sports hall as their top three priorities. Non-users of the leisure centre voted for the swimming pool, gym and exercise/studios as their top three properties. The results of the consultation exercise helped define the leisure centre design brief which was then issued to the project architects to define. Construction is programmed to commence Summer 2012.

10. ELEPHANT & CASTLE REGENERATION UPDATE

Susie Wilson and Rob Deck from Lend Lease attended to tell residents about the Elephant and Castle regeneration. Susie explained that 70 organisations had been contacted. A forum was being established to discuss plans for Elephant and Castle and the first meeting was being planned for 26 May, invitations would be sent to key groups in the week beginning 9 May. It was expected that the forum would exist for the lifetime of the project. There were also plans to hold a public exhibition to showcase some initial plans in June or July.

Residents asked if the list of organisations being contacted would be made available and whether there would be opportunities for the community to talk directly to the architects and planners involved in the project so they could understand their aspirations for the development. In response Susie explained that the list of the organisations contacted would go on the new website. Rob thought it was a good idea for architects and planners to meet the community and thoughts that the forum and public exhibition would be good opportunities to do this.

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The responses to public questions submitted on 1 March 2011 were noted.

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

When will the work on the Walworth Road (to deal with the water levels and residents being drenched) commence and how long will it take?

Burgess Park

Are there any plans for the council to start charging for the use of open space in Burgess Park?

What are the plans for the play area in Burgess Park which is of poor design and in need of change?

When will the cost of the development to Burgess Park be provided to the community council?

How much was spent on consultants?

Housing Repairs

Have any contractors been sacked as a result of poor performance?

Will any independent satisfaction survey been consulted after repairs are completed?

What training is given to people on the helpdesk and is this monitored as residents experience conflicting information when they call?

Have council staff and contractors been warned that they must wear identity badges at all times?

Is there any scrutiny of contractors to ensure they are wearing ID?

Have any contractors been suspended for not wearing IDs during visits to residents?

How many random visits did council environmental health and safety officers make in 2010/11 and how many are planned for 2011/12?

Can blue recycling wheelie bins be placed on Pullens estate to prevent a return to the old situation when black bags were just dumped on the pavement?

Are you going to protect/expand allotments?

Elephant and Castle Leisure Centre

How much is being spent on the project?

Elephant and Castle Regeneration

Can each Walworth community council agenda include a list of consultation meetings for the Heygate regeneration?

Will the residential development of the Elephant and Castle comply with the New London Plan and the new space standards proposed by the Council? Also will there be houses built in the scheme that also comply with these space standards?

Are residents consulted about large buildings in the area – tower blocks that might not be close to be affect their environment. E.g. the enormous new tower and the Elephant? If not why?

Can we have written updates at community council meetings as well as slide shows?

Can all major planning applications be sent to all the TRAs in the relevant ward?

It has been brought to the council's attention that there is a portacabin at the end of Larcham Street which is there without planning permission. Why is this dangerous obstacle still there?

Why are only questions allowed from the floor? This limits comments and input from the public. This makes it undemocratic and a 'fake consultation'.
How and to whom, were the open space workshops publicised?

Why are officers unable to answer so many questions? And why are the answers postponed?

12. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS

Executive Function

Members considered the local parking amendments report

RESOLVED

That the following local parking amendments be approved for implementation subject to the outcome of any necessary statutory procedures:

- Larcom Street – Install one disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay
- Olney Road – Install one disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay

The meeting ended at 9.10 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: