

## Feedback about issues raised at previous community council meetings

Question	Response
<p><b>ACTION:</b> Parks/events team to report back on where the Carnival del Pueblo will be held this year, and next year.</p>	<p>Carnaval del Pueblo historically takes place at Burgess Park, but will not take place this year. <a href="http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200157/festivals_and_events/1784/carnaval_del_pueblo">http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200157/festivals_and_events/1784/carnaval_del_pueblo</a></p> <p>Carnaval del Pueblo taking place at Burgess Park in August 2012 has been conditionally supported by Southwark Council in principle.</p>
<p><b>ACTION:</b> Officers to provide an update on the situation around the markets in the area.</p>	<p>The following actions have been taken in relation to markets in the Walworth area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 foot pitches introduced on East Street after completion of road improvement works.</li> <li>• Westmoreland Road market traders will move to East Street on a permanent basis on Sundays.</li> <li>• Westmoreland Road will have a reduction in pitches on other days located at the Walworth Road end.</li> <li>• A new legislative framework for markets has been agreed and will come into effect from November 2011.</li> <li>• There will be special themed markets in East Street starting with extended Christmas Markets on selected days - more information shortly.</li> </ul>
<p><b>ACTION:</b> Licensing department to provide feedback about the situation regarding alleged sale of alcohol to underage customers on Walworth Road.</p>	<p>This matter was discussed with the area licensing staff and the trading standards officer who organises the under-age sales covert operations. Neither have had any intelligence around any specific premises.</p> <p>Because of the demands of RIPA (Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000) and the need that now exists to obtain specific authorisation for each test purchase undertaken we cannot carry these out speculatively. As the community council did not identify any particular premises we have nothing to go on at present.</p> <p>However, enforcement officers will speak to the local area Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) and see if they have any information around this situation. Officers have also been asked to pay a couple of visits to the area to see if they note anything.</p>
<p>Article in the Evening standard, Mon 27 June 2011: Southwark failed to collect £6 million in council tax. How are you going to rectify this problem?"</p>	<p>The council has taken the Revenues contract back in-house to focus on and improve council tax collection. The £6 million referred to in the article relates to council tax billed for in 2010/11 but uncollected at the end of that financial year - 31st March 2011. All methods of recovery action will be explored</p>

	<p>and exhausted to ensure we continue to collect any arrears outstanding for that year. Significant progress has been made to address both in year collection and focus on the collection of arrears, improvements in the resolution of customer service enquiries are currently being worked through &amp; initial results have been encouraging.</p>
<p>“Has the print shop on the corner of Browning Street/Walworth Road put up too much advertising? On 15 June 2011, they covered the outside of four windows next the entrance of York Mansions with large advertising boards.”</p>	<p>Officers can confirm that numerous placard/poster signs were being displayed on the flank wall windows of this shop facing Browning Street, SE17. A letter was sent informing the business that Southwark Council planning department had received complaints about the posters/placards which had been placed and remained without advertisement consent.</p> <p>Following this letter, the business in question promised to remove the signage by Friday 26 August 2011. Officers will continue to pursue this matter, and give further updates to the community council.</p>
<p>“I am a tenant in Darwin Court, Barlow Street and some of the questions relate directly to that area and the green space there:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Why does the council use large grass cutting machines on this area which are too large to cope with undulations in the ground and consequently scrape off the surface down to the mud? And will you rectify this.</li> <li>2. Why does the grass cutting etc follow a timetable regardless of the need. It has been cut at times of no growth - in very dry weather - to the detriment of the grass - and at a needless cost presumably?</li> <li>3. Could some areas be left free to grow? Flowers grow then, and wild flowers could be encouraged.</li> <li>4. What are you doing about light pollution?</li> <li>5. There is a surplus of street lighting?</li> </ol>	<p>The grounds maintenance supervisor for this area has inspected this site and there was a small area of scalping on one of the higher areas. He has now advised his team to trim this area in future.</p> <p>Due to scheduling pressures and the area's size, it would not be appropriate to use a smaller machine on this grassed area. This year has been an exceptional one in terms of growth, which would mean that while it would appear that the area has been cut excessively, it has not been cut any more than would normally be scheduled. In other years, once the 'growing' season ends the grass would not require cutting as much due to slower growth.</p> <p>(Awaiting answer from officers)</p> <p>To help tackle light pollution we have adopted the use of energy efficient white light lanterns that have a shallow glass bowl and effective optics. These ensure that the light goes where it is intended with no light being produced above the horizontal plain of the lantern. This means that no light is shone directly in to the sky from these lanterns.</p>

<p>6. Has the luminosity in Darwin Street been changed or increased recently?</p> <p>7. If any more large tower blocks are planned can everyone in the entire area be consulted as they affect a wide area and not simply the neighbouring streets? (Frankly we have enough. They are intrusive, dominant and - as it happens - of no particular merit)</p> <p>8. Not all residents have been properly consulted about all developments in the past. If there are to be any future changes, of whatever kind, will you make sure they are [consulted] in the future</p>	<p>The lighting in Darwin Street was replaced in 2004/2005 and has remained the same since.</p> <p>The planning authority follows best practice and the Council's Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) when it notifies neighbours about planning applications. Notices are provided by different means including press notices, site notices, the Council website, and neighbour letters to those most likely to be affected by a proposal. These are the same methods used in practice by all planning authorities and accord with statutory requirements. Should members of the public wish, there is a weekly list of all planning applications available by subscription. More information about consultation on planning applications can be found on the Council's website, or by using the link provided below.</p> <p><a href="http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/485/planning_applications/686/consultation_on_planning_applications">http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/485/planning_applications/686/consultation_on_planning_applications</a></p> <p>It should be noted that the required statutory consultation (planning authority notices) and public consultation undertaken by applicants are not linked. The planning authority is not aware of any recent incidents where the statutory consultation has been improperly handled. Developers and applicants are encouraged to undertake consultation with area residents and local stakeholders at the earliest stage possible as set out in the Council's SCI. At present, it is not a requirement for the applicant or developer to undertake such public consultation prior to the submission of a planning application, but this may become a requirement as proposed under the current Localism bill. Where such voluntary public consultation is conducted by an applicant or developer, the results thereof are considered and set out in both delegated and committee reports.</p> <p>Any changes to the Council's SCI are subject to public consultation in line with all planning policy documents. For more information on the SCI, please consult the Council's website, or by using the link provided below.</p> <p><a href="http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/856/planning_policy/1238/statement_of_community_involvement_sci">http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/856/planning_policy/1238/statement_of_community_involvement_sci</a></p>
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<p>“Is it necessary to enforce the Heygate Street bus lane 7 days a week for 12 hours a day? This slows up traffic for cars wanting to turn left and go along Walworth Road. Those signs are wrong. It should be 7-10am Monday to Friday and no more. The one bus would not be held up, if the enforcement was only at the peak time in the morning.”</p>	<p>This road and its bus lane are operated and controlled by Transport for London, not Southwark. Officers will pass these comments to the suitable managers at TFL for a response.</p>
<p>Southwark Play Rangers - Can the council tell me about the cutting off the grant for this group. As it's used by many local children in the area. It's particularly used when it comes to the local park. The grant is due to be cut off in November.”</p>	<p>The Play Ranger team is one of four mobile units currently delivering supervised play opportunities in Southwark. All are resourced as part of a three year Big Lottery programme ( 2009-2011).</p> <p>The Play Ranger team and the Mobile Play Unit are both run by the Southwark Play Service, the remaining two are delivered by partner organisations, 'Play In Your Manor' (Bankside Open Spaces Trust ) and Play Out Southwark (Woodcraft Folk).</p> <p>Although the main Big Lottery grant comes to an end in November of this year, the Play Service has been permitted to carry over some under spend from the first year of the programme and this will be targeted at keeping one of the mobile teams in operation, at least until September 2012.</p> <p>This will result in a reduction in the overall service provided, but the project will continue to operate across the borough while the Play Service pursues additional avenues for funding for the service.</p> <p>Once the new timetable has been produced, details of the Walworth sessions can be provided to the Community Council (October).</p>
<p>“All neighbourhoods had targets in rent collection put together. Are we getting a good return to enable us to do repairs to housing as you indicated.”</p>	<p>The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is required by legislation to set a budget each year which is balanced between income into the account and expenditure on items charged to the account.</p> <p>The major items of income into the account are rental income, service charge income, other rents and subsidy.</p> <p>The major items of expenditure charged to the HRA are Repairs and Maintenance (R &amp; M) of stock, Housing Management and debt charges.</p>

In setting the budget at the beginning of the year estimates are made of the rental income arising from Central Government legislation on rent restructuring and estimates on the potential costs arising from the expenditure items. These will take into account previous years spend as well as any requirement for savings and growth. This process was followed last year and in balancing the budget adequate provision was made for Repairs and Maintenance.

The income from rents and expenditure relating to R & M is monitored on a monthly basis to ensure that actual spend is in line with estimates and if not that remedial action is taken. There is however no direct correlation between individual items of income and individual items of expenditure and that is why the income target is set as an overall figure.

Targets for rent collection are set annually and are monitored closely. As at the end of July 2011, rent collection performance was 97.87% for the department. Moving forward, the responsibility for income collection is being centralised into one team reporting to a new Operations Manager. We will focus our efforts through a twin tracking process; concentrating on low-level arrears to avoid them spiralling into large debts which can prove difficult to recover and also on high-level arrears.