



WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Walworth Community Council held on Wednesday 14 September 2011 at 7.00 pm at Walworth Methodist Church, 54 Camberwell Road, London SE5 0EN

PRESENT: Councillor Martin Seaton (Chair)
Councillor Darren Merrill (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Catherine Bowman
Councillor Patrick Diamond
Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Helen Morrissey

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Veronica Ward

OFFICER SUPPORT: Pauline Bonner (Borough & Bankside and Walworth Neighbourhood Coordinator)
Fitzroy Lewis (Community Council Development Officer)
Deborah McKenzie (Parks Service Development Officer)
Gordon Mole (Project Development Manager: Enterprise and Programmes)
Barbara-Ann Overwater (Senior Planning Policy Officer)
Ebony Riddell Bamber (Community Participation Manager)
Fitzroy Taylor (Area Youth Manager)
Adrian Whittle (Head of Culture, Libraries, Learning and Leisure)
Nick Wolff (Project Development Manager)
Gerald Gohler (Constitutional Officer)

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

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

2. APOLOGIES

There were apologies for absence from Councillors Neil Coyle and Dan Garfield.

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 2 July 2011 be agreed as an accurate record, and signed by the chair.

6. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cemeteries

Deborah McKenzie, Parks Service Development Officer, explained that there were three cemeteries in the borough, but that these were rapidly running out of burial space. About 30% of people opted for burial, as opposed to cremation. For this reason, there had been a public consultation running since July on which long-term strategy stakeholders would like the council to adopt. A further consultation event would be held on 24 September 2011 from 1pm to 4pm at Honor Oak recreation ground in Brenchley Gardens. An expert cemetery designer would be on hand to talk about sustainable options. She encouraged people to pick up a questionnaire from her, or to go online to do the survey.

Recycling/Waste management

Sharon Ellis from Veolia introduced the new services rolled out across the borough regarding food waste and recycling. She highlighted that Tetra Packs, too, could be recycled now. In answer to questions from members, Sharon explained that not all properties would be receiving additional wheelie bins, but that it would depend on the size of the property. If residents had been given bins they didn't require, they should call the council and Veolia would come to take them away. She promised to look into people's individual cases, if they provided her with their address.

ACTION: Sharon Ellis to report back where food waste was being composted.

Pilot study on East Street Market

Dave Yates introduced his study explaining that it focused on one street market, and that it was aimed at understanding the importance of public places to people in the area, and the role the market has in community cohesion. The research was funded for another three years, in which time he would be looking at options regarding the interim use of the Heygate estate, new public spaces formed as part of the Elephant and Castle regeneration by Lend Lease, and at a comparison of the role of different street markets across Southwark.

In answer to a question from the floor, Dave responded that the research was funded by the Economic Research Council and that he tried to include all sections of the community.

Olympics / Paralympics

Fitzroy Taylor, Area Youth Manager, spoke to the meeting about what the council was doing to get young people involved in the Olympics. He explained that there were many volunteering opportunities for 16-26 year olds, and some for 14-16 year olds. The programme had been launched on 23 July 2011 and would close on 30 September. There were spaces for 120 volunteers. The young people on the programme would be able to attend a final event, enjoy exciting placement opportunities, develop new skills & knowledge, enhanced their curriculum vitae, get a volunteer T-shirt and a £10 high street voucher. The chair encouraged all those in attendance whose organisation had a youth wing to put them in touch with the council about volunteering.

In answer to questions from the floor, Fitzroy responded that volunteering could help young people acquire skills and experience. The programme would help them with their skills portfolio and connect them to various services. It tried to attract those not in employment, education or training (NEETs). All schools were part of the Olympic volunteer network, so the council was mainly trying to recruit those who had already left school. The programme was also designed to be inclusive, so young disabled people were welcome to volunteer, too. In total, 40 young people had signed up.

For further information, please contact: fitzroy.taylor@southwark.gov.uk or on 020 7525 1531.

ACTION: Fitzroy Taylor to report back to the next community council meeting about any new developments regarding the programme.

Affordable Housing Strategic Planning Document (SPD)

Barbara-Ann Overwater, Senior Planning Policy Officer, explained that this guidance document followed on from the 2008 document and subsequent ones like the Aylesbury Action Plan and the Core Strategy. The new document incorporated the new guidelines on student accommodation, the minimum of 35% affordable housing on developments with 10 or more units, and payments in lieu of on-site affordable accommodation. The consultation would finish on 30 September 2011.

In answer to questions, Barbara-Ann responded that the council did not have an agreed position on central government's plans to allow social housing providers to charge 80% of the market rent, but this was being looked at. The SPD may have to be amended later to reflect the council's position on this. The draft document included maps showing where social housing was located. The stipulations around student accommodation were actionable now, and the rule about payments-in-lieu of £100,000 per habitable room was

applicable across the borough. The approach taken to this was robust, and decisions would be taken on a site by site basis.

ACTION: Barbara-Ann Overwater to feedback on the following questions raised:

- What is the council's position regarding central government's plans for "affordable rent"?
- Does the strategy document recently passed by the GLA override the Southwark document, especially in terms of the conditions for payments in lieu of providing affordable housing on site?
- Are there any provisions in the document about co-ops and mutual housing providers?

Update from Lend Lease

Rob Deck from Lend Lease told the meeting that the consultation forum was meeting regularly, and was discussing the public realm, retail and the employment, and the community aspects of the redevelopment of the Heygate estate. The next forum meeting would be on 6 October 2011 and another event to discuss the detailed application submitted for the Rodney Road/Balfour Street/Victory Place site was taking place on 7 and 8 October (venues to be confirmed). The consultation hub on the corner of Walworth Road and Amelia Street was now operational and helped Lend Lease to engage more effectively with the local community. A consultation exercise in July with 600 people had yielded 200 written responses outlining people's issues and concerns. Outreach work which had started in July would continue, and efforts were being made to reach all parts of the community. The hub represented a regular presence and would be opened additional hours on Fridays from 1.00pm to 4.00pm. Further information was available at www.elephantandcastle.org.uk

In response to questions from the floor, Rob explained it was not possible to circulate every document to community groups, and that the recent environmental assessment papers about asbestos were scoping documents, and full assessments were to follow. He invited people to visit the hub, to raise more specific concerns. Lend Lease were also going to engage with the East Street Market traders, so that the regeneration activity tied in with the market. Support for community groups was also being considered, e.g. use of the hub.

St Modwen/Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre

Tim Seddon, from St Modwen, who have owned and managed the shopping centre since 2002, spoke to the meeting about the future plans for the shopping centre. As the market had changed, these now focussed on refurbishing the existing structure rather than tearing it down. The company was keen to engage with all the stakeholders about the plans for the centre. The aim was to make the centre an 18-hour-a-day resource and to utilise some of the space which is not used at present. There would be additional housing on top of the current structure. This work was scheduled to start by 2015. In response to questions from the floor Tim responded that St Modwen would be liaising with the council about employment opportunities for local people.

Black History Month

The chair informed the meeting that October was Black History Month, and that a brochure outlining events were available at the back of the room, and on the council's website at http://www.southwark.gov.uk/events/200286/black_history_month.

8. DEMOCRACY COMMISSION / COMMUNITY COUNCILS

Ebony Riddell Bamber, Community Participation Manager, spoke to the meeting about the work of the Democracy Commission Phase 2. This was conducted against the backdrop of:

- having to save £344,000 from April 2012
- the role and function of community councils being looked at
- trying to identify improvements to community councils.

As part of the work of the Commission, officers were engaged in a process to find out what residents think about community councils. This was done at focus groups, via questionnaires, and in workshops and discussions at community councils.

The questions asked were:

- What works well at community councils?
- What could be improved about your community council?
- Which ways of making savings at your community council would you support?

Attendees were then asked to vote for their own priorities with the aid of voting pads. The results were as follows:

What I value about CC meetings

Influencing decisions	49%	Consultations	40%
Contact with councillors	46%	Finding out what happens in my area	53%

What could be improved

Better publicity	36%	More time for questions	61%
More community input into agendas	50%	Better feedback	46%

Savings suggested

Fewer meetings	28%	Larger CC areas	38%
Changes in planning at CCs	40%	Reduce venue/ equipment costs	59%
Reduce publicity	46%		

Ebony said that officers would come back to future community council meetings to give further updates about the feedback received, and the decision taken by cabinet. Councillor Abdul Mohamed invited attendees to come to the meetings of the Democracy Commission which were held in public. He said that the council had been forced to make savings due to the £35m cuts by central government, and that the savings target for community councils next year was £344,000. It was in light of this that the Democracy Commission was looking at options. He reminded the meeting that the Democracy Commission had been instrumental in changing the way council assembly was conducted, with many meetings now taking place in the community.

9. CONSULTATION FEEDBACK

Adrian Whittle, Head of Culture, Libraries, Learning and Leisure, presented the headline results of the consultation about possible changes to the library service. This had been conducted in the light of having to identify £395k of savings. There had been more than 5,000 responses, from questionnaires and from the summer activities conducted with young people who use the libraries.

In answer to a question, Adrian explained that all comments and questions, which had been submitted by consultees, would be fed into the report to cabinet and its recommendations which were due to be heard in October. Councillor Veronica Ward, cabinet member for culture, leisure, sports and the Olympics, said that the savings in libraries would have to be made over two years, and emphasised the importance of libraries, especially for young people and those who relied on them to access IT. She said the council would continue to operate the services as best they could.

The chair thanked Adrian and Councillor Ward for attending.

10. WE LOVE WALWORTH / COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

The chair said that in light of the recent disturbances, it was important to look forward positively and focus on how the Walworth area could be improved.

A representative of the East Street Market traders and businesses said that a lot of business had disappeared from the area and that rents had gone up, making things difficult for many businesses.

Support for riot-affected businesses

Gordon Mole, Project Development Manager: Enterprise and Programmes, outlined what help there was available to the 141 businesses which had reported direct damage, looting and disruption to trade as a result of disturbances. The majority of businesses affected were smaller independent retailers, with approximately 70 per cent of traders suffering damage being non-chain operations. Patrols and surveys by Community Wardens had been stepped up, and the Southwark Council Business Desk had been activated to provide advice and support. Some of the support provided was:

- Business rates hardship relief for affected businesses
- £100,000 Emergency Small Business Recovery Fund for affected businesses
- Providing information on other sources of support – insurance, legal, funds (e.g. Riot Damages Act and High Street Fund)
- Accessing funding through Mayor of London's recovery fund.

In addition to this, Southwark provided the following types of business support:

- Prioritising affected businesses for business support
- Launched new Business Advisory Service with GLE-One London and Lewisham Council to support new and existing businesses
- Advisers can visit businesses to advise on business planning, pitching for finance, marketing and contingency planning.

Answering questions from the floor and from councillors, Gordon responded that the

council had put in for a bid for funding to support businesses with the Mayor of London. The council's emergency fund had a turn around time of five working days. Gordon gave important numbers for businesses to call in relation to this. He advised all business to get their claims in as soon as possible. The council's business advice section would be able to provide help:

- Southwark Council Business Desk: 020 7525 5353
- Business Rates Hardship Relief: 020 7525 5505
- Business Support (GLE-One London): 020 7403 0300

ACTION: Gordon Mole to feedback on the progress of the bid to attract funding for businesses in Southwark from the Mayor of London, and how much had been applied for, and how much funding has already been given to Walworth businesses.

ACTION: Gordon Mole to provide feedback as to the number and nature of the training and construction jobs for local people the Elephant and Castle regeneration will generate.

The chair encouraged attendees to speak to their councillors if they had further comments to make.

Supporting young people

Nick Wolff, Project Development Manager, said that unemployment for young people 18-21 had gone up to 8.3% from 4.2% in June 2008. It was predicted that there would be 1,000 more young people unemployed in the next three years in Southwark. Answering questions from the floor, he outlined that the council had the following approaches to support young people, in economic terms:

- Delivering the Connexions service, and working with Southwark College to get some European funding to provide training for young people
- Working with the Education Business Alliance to provide education through Southwark Works
- Council apprenticeships with 20 new apprentices starting this October
- A three-year council programme, called Youth Fund, which provided the following:
 - Help those young people affected by the loss of their educational maintenance allowance,
 - Five annual scholarships for university tuition fees, and
 - Signposting of work placements with different providers, skills training for people 16-24 who are leaving education and who have problems finding their first job.
- Large regeneration activities, such as the Heygate estate and the Elephant and Castle shopping centre, would also create apprenticeship opportunities.

The chair requested for this topic to be brought back to also get views of young people.

Answering questions from the floor, Nick Wolff said that by doing apprenticeships and work programmes, young people would acquire skills which could lead to employment. The council had invited proposals from providers for training programmes, and would be happy for these to include some incentives for young people to join the programmes. The 14-19 team was leading these efforts and from April next year, a new strategy would be in place. In terms of using the detached youth teams and linking in with the Elephant and Castle regeneration, he said that these efforts were on-going and had been for several years. The parties were in the process of agreeing a strategy and outcomes.

Police feedback

PC Haughey and PC Webster from East Walworth Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) said that on the whole robberies around Elephant and Castle had decreased and anti-social behaviour (ASB) on the Salisbury Estate had fallen. Following the disturbances in August, high visibility patrols had been stepped up. Arrests for violence, disorder and looting were continuing, and more than 1,500 people had been arrested. CCTV was being used to identify offenders.

The dates of the SNT meetings were as follows:

- East Walworth: Public meeting - Tue 04 October 2011, 19:00 - Salisbury TRA SE17 1BY
- Faraday: Street briefing - Thu 06 October 2011, 14:30 - Outside Trafalgar house, Bronte Close, SE17 2XE
- Newington – Street briefing - Wed 05 October 2011, 11:00 - Maddock Way, Brandon Estate, SE17 3NH

Questions were raised about how some groups' concerns about stop and search policies were going to be addressed, what the local stop and search statistics were, and what would happen, if there were further disturbances. PC Webster explained that there was a stop and search committee which invited young people to come and give their views on stop and search procedures and practice. He went on to explain that the experiences of the recent disturbances were being fed into plans about how to respond in case of future disturbances.

ACTION: SNTs to provide information on the following to the next Community Council meeting:

1. Stop and search figures for Walworth
2. Whether those causing the disturbances in the Walworth area had been local people, or whether they had travelled there

A resident commented that higher council rents, and the tightening of the rules on Housing Benefit would push more people into the hidden economy which needed to be addressed.

The chair thanked the police for all the hard work they had done in the face of recent events.

11. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were public questions about:

1. When the pavement on Elephant Road was going to be reinstated. This was vital, as the current set up was very dangerous to pedestrians.
2. Why Transport for London (TfL) referred residents back to the council about the bus lane on Heygate Street, while the council said it is TfL's responsibility.
3. Whether the black bag refuse collection in Surrey Square could take place later in the morning. Rubbish should not be allowed to be left outside overnight as this attracted animals which tore open the bags.

4. Whether the broken lights on the boards in Elephant Road could be fixed urgently.
5. Whether the zebra crossing in Browning Street should be moved, because of the trees obscuring the line of vision.
6. When the flooding problem on Walworth Road would be addressed. The chair responded that the works should be completed by the end of November 2011.
7. Whether anything could be done to stop motorbikes starting up between blocks of flats and disturbing residents.

ACTION: Chair to report back on the pavement issue in Elephant Road (Question 1).

ACTION: Councillor Merrill to report back on the outcome of his member's enquiry about the crossing in Browning Street (Question 5).

The following public questions were submitted in writing:

8. "How can I get a plot [...] for my burial? Some undertaker thinks it might be ineligible for the long time planning?"
9. "Why did the government send everyone a Community Council registration form, asking what colour people are and their religion etc?"
10. "This year we were given forms to make tenants association funding easier. We had our AGM in April, sent in [the] application, continually enquired by phone, email, personal visit. There is a backlog. This is the opinion of associations who I have met. No indication when we will receive any funding."
11. A Ray Gunter House resident: "Why did you not let us know about the changes in the rent office by letter?"
12. A Ray Gunter House resident: "Why have you cut the shelter house so much? We only see the warden [only] on a Friday 9 o'clock to 11 o'clock. We felt left out very bad."
13. "Will the council publish/put on its website, their response to all the documents and scoping reports submitted by Lend Lease and other documents submitted by developers involved in the redevelopment of the Elephant and Castle and the Heygate Estate."
14. About the Elephant and Castle shopping centre: "The development is harsh and has very hard lines. It needs softening, greening the roof. Living roofs and [a] more environmentally friendly structure. What are the environmental impacts?"

A further question was submitted in writing which referred to two live planning applications. The question therefore falls out of the remit of public questions at Community Councils, according to Community Council procedure rule 7.3.4e. The points raised in the question have been forwarded to the case officers responsible.

12. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS

Executive Function

RESOLVED:

That the following local parking amendment, detailed in the appendix to the report, be approved for implementation subject to the outcome of any necessary statutory procedures:

- Berryfield Road – Install one disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay

13. COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND

Executive Function

RESOLVED:

That no funding be awarded to the application set out in the report.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

The chair thanked everyone for attending and announced that the next meeting would be on Wednesday 2 November 2011.

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.

15. SCHOOL GOVERNORS APPOINTMENTS

Executive Function

RESOLVED:

- That Mr Richard Turney be reappointed as school governor for Michael Faraday Primary School.
- That Mr Malcolm Ward be appointed as school governor for Keyworth Primary School.
- That Miss Rachael Wallach be appointed as school governor for Michael Faraday Primary School.

The meeting ended at 9.40 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: