

Feedback about issues raised at previous community council meetings

<p>ACTION: Sharon Ellis to report back where food waste was being composted.</p>	<p>The mixed organic materials (food and garden waste) are composted at an In Vessel Composting (IVC) plant in Sittingbourne in Kent</p>
<p>ACTION: Barbara-Ann Overwater to feedback on the following questions raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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? 	<p>The Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) provides guidance on adopted planning policy. At the time of preparing the draft SPD, the updated definition of affordable housing to include affordable rent was not adopted. As set out in section 2.4 of the draft SPD, the revised Planning Policy Statement 3 (which includes the definition affordable rent) was published on 9 June 2011. The draft SPD sets out that it may need to review this and take into account changes in national and regional policy before the council takes this SPD to cabinet for adoption in November 2011. The council is looking at the implications of affordable rent, and will be reviewing whether the draft SPD needs further amendment and consultation before adoption.</p> <p>The SPD provides guidance on existing planning policy in the council's Core Strategy, saved Southwark Plan and area action plans. These policies are in general conformity with the London Plan. The SPD does not set new policy, but provides guidance and information on implementing the adopted policies. The Mayor's Housing Strategy is not a planning policy document, but is used to inform planning policy. At present, the Mayor is consulting upon his initial proposals for a new Housing Strategy with the London Assembly and the GLA wider group, and it is not a full draft housing strategy yet. The public will be consulted on a full draft strategy at the end of the year and it is proposed that a final draft will be submitted to the Secretary of State in mid 2012. We continuously review our SPDs, and if the updated housing strategy has implications which need to be addressed in the SPD, we will look at revising the SPD.</p> <p>Housing Co-operatives have currently a very limited role in the development of new affordable housing in London. In order to access capital resources they would currently need to work in partnership with a Registered Provider (RP) that has been allocated funds under the 2011-15 Affordable Housing Programme from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA), rather than having direct access to funds. We understand that the 2011-15 is fully committed, with RP that have received funding committed to delivering a set number of units during the course of the programme. Therefore, a Housing Co-</p>

	<p>Operative working with an RP would need to show how they could assist the RP in delivering on their targets.</p> <p>Southwark Housing service currently provides informal advice to people who are interested in entering into a housing co-operative, and directs people to contact the Commission for Co-operative & Mutual Housing who represent the interests of housing co-ops and other tenant-controlled housing groups and who provide a forum for networking between housing co-ops nationally. Co-operative homes can be advertised on the council's housing website 'Homesearch' and residents are able to bid for these homes.</p> <p>Additional information about on-site provision of affordable housing:</p> <p>The guidance contained within the draft Affordable Housing SPD is a material consideration when making a decision on a planning application, and the sequential approach set out in the SPD for the provision of affordable housing is applied to all types of housing development including small schemes and student housing developments. It is in accordance with national and regional policy. Southwark historically has delivered some of the largest amounts of affordable housing in London, the majority of which is on-site.</p> <p>The general presumption as set out in the draft SPD, is that the affordable housing should be provided on the development site as part of the application. Applicants are required to submit a financial appraisal to demonstrate why the policy requirement amount or mix of affordable housing cannot be delivered on-site. This is set out in the SPD, and the onus is on the applicant to demonstrate through the application of the sequential test if they cannot provide the policy requirement on-site.</p> <p>The sequential approach is set out on Page 41 of the draft SPD and is set out as below:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All housing, including affordable housing should be located on the development site. 2. In exceptional circumstances the council may allow the affordable housing to be provided off-site. In these circumstances we require that affordable housing is provided on another site or sites in the local area of the proposed development. 3. In exceptional circumstances the council may allow a pooled contribution in lieu of on-site or offsite affordable housing. In these circumstances we require a payment towards providing affordable housing instead of the affordable housing being built as part of the proposed development.
<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.</p> <p>Officers have been liaising with the business to remove the third placard without resorting to prosecution. This is action is on-going.</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> <p>Could some areas be left free to grow? Flowers grow then, and wild flowers could be encouraged.</p>	<p>Answer not received at time of printing. Update to be provided.</p>
<p>ACTION: SNTs to provide information on the following to the next Community Council meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<p>Answer not received at time of printing. Update to be provided.</p>
<p>When the pavement on Elephant Road was going to be reinstated. This was vital, as the current set up was very dangerous to pedestrians.</p>	<p>Answer not received at time of printing. Update to be provided.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Answer not received at time of printing. Update to be provided.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Answer not received at time of printing. Update to be provided.</p>

<p>Whether the broken lights on the boards in Elephant Road could be fixed urgently.</p>	<p>Answer not received at time of printing. Update to be provided.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>Answer not received at time of printing. Update to be provided.</p>
<p>Whether anything could be done to stop motorbikes starting up between blocks of flats and disturbing residents.</p>	<p>Answer not received at time of printing. Update to be provided.</p>
<p>ACTION: Chair to report back on the pavement issue in Elephant Road (Question 1).</p>	<p>Verbal update to be given at the meeting on 2 Nov 2011.</p>
<p>ACTION: Councillor Merrill to report back on the outcome of his member's enquiry about the crossing in Browning Street (Question 5).</p>	<p>Verbal update to be given at the meeting on 2 Nov 2011.</p>
<p>"How can I get a plot [...] for my burial? Some undertaker thinks it might be ineligible for the long time planning?"</p>	<p>Answer not received at time of printing. Update to be provided.</p>
<p>"Why did the government send everyone a Community Council registration form, asking what colour people are and their religion etc?"</p>	<p>This question seems to relate to the community councils monitoring form. New attendees are asked to complete the form at registration. The monitoring form was drafted to include questions about faith/belief, age and ethnicity so that they are aligned with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) categorisation based on the 2011 census. This will enable officers to make comparisons with ward profiles.</p>
<p>"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</p>	<p>In past years, officers have called for all tenant fund applications from tenants' and residents' associations (TRAs) once in the year with a closing date. This has always created a backlog of applications lasting several months. Payments were made, mostly in arrears and covering the TRA's last financial year. The application forms also provided an important check that TRAs were following their constitution,</p>

<p>associations who I have met. No indication when we will receive any funding.”</p>	<p>particularly that they were accountable through general meetings and that their books had been independently inspected and their accounts agreed by the AGM. In practice, the old system meant officers could be looking at this information relating to a period of up to a year before the closing dates for applications.</p> <p>This year, the council is moving to a new system, where payments will be made one year in advance based on checks on the previous year. This will mean that in future, applications will be spread throughout the year and we will avoid the automatic backlog that the old system caused. We will also be checking information that is current rather than out of date. Unfortunately, this year it means we have double the backlog as in June we invited applications for two years at once.</p> <p>Officers apologise for the inconvenience this will cause many TRAs, but I believe that the move to the new system will mean that TRAs will get their grants processed far faster in future once we have finished making the switch. Your TRA should recently have been contacted with details of your named resident involvement officer. Please feel free to contact them for an update on your grant application.</p>
<p>A Ray Gunter House resident: "Why did you not let us know about the changes in the rent office by letter?"</p>	<p>Large posters were placed inside and outside both Walworth and Peckham cash offices on Friday 12 August 2011 where we notified our local residents in advance of the council's planned change in cash office opening hours. The Finance Directors "important information about cash offices" letter was circulated (in Walworth and Peckham cash offices only) from Monday 15 August 2011 until mid September 2011.</p> <p>The main reason why the council did not write to all local residents about the reduction in cash office opening hours is because the council has 43,000 Council properties and over 17,000 leasehold properties. We would also need to write a letter to the Council tax and business rate payers who pay at the cash offices which would add another 20,000.</p> <p>The cost of sending a letter notifying all residents of this reduction of cash office opening hours by first class post would in the region of £38,000 without the printing cost of the letter.</p> <p>Since the council provides 8 different methods of payment (e.g. direct debit, standing order, internet, automated telephone, swipe card, bank giro credit, hand till machine and postal remittance) the council decided to focus on the main service users who frequently use the cash offices. All of the publicity surrounding the reduction in cash office opening hours was made at the two cash offices to save money and provide the Council with the opportunity to make more efficient use of limited financial resources (see also letter below).</p>

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT CASH OFFICES

Dear Sir or Madam,

Following the 2010 Funding Review, the Council is facing some very difficult decisions to reduce costs. Government funding to Southwark alone has been cut by **£33.7M** in 2011/12 and a further **£16.2M** in 2012/13.

All Council services have been subject to review. Where appropriate, surveys have been carried out to provide evidence of where changes could be made that reduce costs while limiting the impact on the service being provided.

As a result of the review of cash collection facilities, I need to inform you that the Council will be changing the Walworth and Peckham cash office opening hours with effect from **Monday 5 September 2011**.

Owing to a decline in the total number of income transactions being processed at weekends, Walworth and Peckham will no longer open on Saturdays after **Saturday 27 August 2011**.

The new cash office opening times for both Walworth and Peckham cash offices will come into effect from Monday 5 September 2011 and are listed as follows:

Monday to Friday	8.30am until 4.00pm
Saturdays	Closed

The decline in income transactions processed on Saturdays has resulted from the increased use of direct debit, automated telephone, internet and swipe card payment facilities provided by the Council. The current method of collecting cash income through cash offices is expensive compared with direct debit and other electronic methods of payment. The Council now offers a wide range of alternative payment methods, all of which are far easier and cost effective to process than cash. These changes to the income collection service will also reduce costs to the Council so that it may support other important services.

For those customers who still prefer to pay by cash, Walworth and Peckham cash offices will remain open to the public from Monday to Friday and accept all methods of payment (e.g. cash, cheque, chip and pin debit and credit card). The longer term future of these cash offices will of course be subject to further review.

In addition, our customers can pay their housing rent, housing garage rent, council tax or adult health non residential care charge in cash by swipe card at any Post Office or Pay Point outlet nationwide. To find out more about paying

by direct debit, internet or by automated telephone please visit the Council's web site at www.southwark.gov.uk or speak to a customer service advisor.

Yours sincerely

Duncan Whitfield
FINANCE DIRECTOR

<p>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."</p>	<p>The Sheltered housing service has not been reduced since 2009. The reason for the cutbacks at that time was financial and to ensure that the service provided is targeted at the most vulnerable tenants. Vulnerable tenants can request individual welfare visits from their support workers, if required.</p> <p>Whilst the service is limited to an extent, part of our role is to encourage tenants to live as independently as possible. Support workers can also advise tenants about a range of services available from both the council and voluntary sector such as Age Concern, day centres, meals on wheels, SMART and carers etc.</p> <p>The council also provides an emergency out of hours service that will respond to sheltered housing tenants 24 hours a day every day of the year.</p> <p>If tenants are not satisfied with the current visiting times at their scheme they can speak to staff to express their preferences for a change in the visiting times. If assessed as vulnerable they can also receive personal visits on a regular basis also.</p>
<p>"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."</p>	<p>With regards to Planning any formal submission for scoping or screening will be recorded on the "accolaid" system and put on the website. However all pre-application discussions, which we are currently undertaking, are confidential.</p> <p>Lend Lease have a public information programme involving meetings, forums etc so a lot of the material we are dealing with they will put in the public domain. However any formal response we make in relation to our pre-application discussions will not be released as they are confidential.</p> <p>Lend Lease release a lot of information on their website, but as far as the council formally making these available, nothing will be uploaded on to the council's website until scoping and or screening reports have been formally submitted.</p>
<p>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?"</p>	<p>From St Modwen:</p> <p>"Thank you for your interest in the evolving proposals for a redeveloped Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre. The images you have seen are very much concepts - an indication of what the new scheme could look like.</p> <p>They are not final plans and may well not be the designs we progress.</p> <p>However, you can see from them our broad intention to have a significantly different shopping centre to that we have now.</p> <p>We still have much work to do to move from concepts to final design and at this stage we cannot yet be prescriptive about the scheme's environmental impacts. However, please be</p>

	assured that these will be fully considered as the concepts are developed further.”
<p>ACTION: Fitzroy Taylor to report back to the next community council meeting about any new developments regarding the programme.</p>	<p>Southwark Young people Olympic (2012) Volunteer project :</p> <p>70 volunteers have signed up (x41 Female, x29 Male)</p> <p>Ages: x28 aged 13-15 x32 aged 16-19 x8 aged 20-25 x2 awaiting info</p> <p>Location (Community Council Areas): x3 Bermondsey x3 Borough & Bankside x21 Camberwell x4 Dulwich x8 Nunhead & Peckham Rye x9 Peckham x2 Rotherhithe x4 Walworth x13 live outside of Southwark but school in Borough x3 awaiting info</p> <p>Ethnicities: x4 Asian Bangladeshi x1 Asian Indian x1 Asian other x11 Black African x1 Black British x7 Black Caribbean x1 Black other x4 Dual Heritage: Black Caribbean & White x2 Other ethnic group x1 Chinese x1 Bulgarian x2 White British x34 awaiting info</p> <p>Additional info specified (optional on form): x2 Disabled x1 Living in a hostel x1 In care x3 Low income</p> <p>Information correct as of 30.9.11 from Y volunteer project.</p> <p>Please see also flyer reprinted overleaf.</p>

Southwark Youth Volunteering

2012 Olympic Offer

Is your organisation willing to offer a young person aged 16- 25 years, an opportunity to grow?

Southwark Youth Service is preparing 120 young people to volunteer across the borough from October 2011 to 2012 and beyond. We need organisations such as yours to provide a placement.

What we're doing

- Recruiting young people aged 16- 25
- Getting young people CRB checked.
- Providing induction and training for all young people

Benefits for young people

- Receive a £10 High Street voucher when volunteering for more than 15 hours.
- Receive a free T-shirt

- Gain valuable skills and work experience
- On going support for young person

Benefits to organisations

- You get a young person who is 'volunteer ready'
- The young person will have a current CRB.
- A great opportunity for your organisation to engage with a possible future employee.
- A chance for your organisation to give something back to the community.

For more information or to discuss how you can get involved, contact Fitzroy Taylor on 020 7525 1531 or email fitzroy.taylor@southwark.gov.uk

Southwark Youth Volunteering

16 -25 Years Old

2012 Olympic Offer

Sign up Today

23 July 2011 – 26 July 2012

Sign up to become a *volunteer* and do something worthwhile in your local community

Engaging young people

London 2012 brings once in a lifetime opportunities to inspire our young people. We will encourage and support as many young people as possible to get involved in cultural, sporting and volunteering activities that support learning, skills and personal development.

Southwark Council 2012 vision

The benefits

Not only will you be able to gain a qualification, but you will also;

- Receive a £10 High Street voucher when you volunteer for more than 15 hours.
- Receive a free T-shirt.
- Gain valuable skills and work experience

What next?

You'll be able to start volunteering from October 2011, but before you start, we will need to get you ready! That means you'll be asked to;

- Complete a form telling us about what interest you.
- Complete a CRB form.
- Attend various training events to gain new skills, getting the support you'll need to fulfil your volunteering role.

For more information email michelle.devall@southwark.gov.uk or contact Fitzroy Taylor on 020 7525 1531 or fitzroy.taylor@southwark.gov.uk