



ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Rotherhithe Community Council held on Wednesday 2 November 2011 at 7.00 pm at Links Community Centre, 353 Rotherhithe New Road, London SE16 3HF

PRESENT: Councillor Jeff Hook (Chair)
Councillor David Hubber
Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Michael Situ

OFFICER SUPPORT: Jonathon Toy, Head of Community Safety
Ruth Backhurst, Area Manager of Community Wardens
Joanne Littleton, Noise Manager and Enforcement
Franklin Uwakaneme, Public Realm Manager
Nadine James, Community Council Development Co-ordinator
Gill Kelly, Community Council Development Co-ordinator
Tim Murtagh, Constitutional Officer

1. INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

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

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Wilma Nelson. There were apologies for lateness from Councillors Richard Livingstone, Paul Noblet and Lisa Rajan.

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 14 September 2011 be agreed as a correct record of the meeting, and signed by the chair.

6. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The chair announced the details for ceremonies on Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday.

The Pumphouse, Lavender Road would be the venue for Blackbirds, a play about the Blitz and its effect on Londoners. The play would run from 11 November to 13 November 2011.

The chair drew residents' attention to the latest Southwark Connect2 newsletter that had been circulated.

Public Questions

The chair asked residents if there were any initial public questions ahead of the main public questions time later on the agenda.

In response to a resident's question about not getting Infinity broadband, due to lack of planning permission, the chair said the matter had not come before councillors.

In response to a request for Transport for London (TfL) to install more of the Barclays bikes around the Rotherhithe loop, the chair said TfL were looking to expand the scheme along the north of the river initially then rolling it out further. The chair said he would follow the matter up.

7. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATES

Safer Neighbourhoods Teams

PC Rebecca Lamb from Rotherhithe Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) explained that one sergeant was now managing both Rotherhithe and Surrey Docks SNTs.

PC Lamb said there were concerns over the Halloween / fireworks season. Officers had been working a lot of late shifts to tackle the problem.

Operation Bumblebee was a London-wide campaign to raise peoples' awareness about burglaries, in particular bogus callers who approach vulnerable residents. There was also advice on keeping Christmas presents discrete where possible. Current ward priorities were burglary, drug dealing and using.

The chair highlighted the spate of recent burglaries around Elephant Lane. PC Lamb explained that officers had been working more in the area and had spoken to residents and leafletted homes. The investigation was ongoing.

In response to concerns raised over muggings in the Greenland Dock area, PC Lamb said the area had been identified as a robbery hotspot and plain clothes teams were deployed in the area.

PC Lamb said she would look into issues raised around Cherry Gardens where there were issues of anti-social behaviour (ASB) and motorbikes in the evening.

Sergeant Jeff Jenkinson from the Livesey SNT said that current ward priorities were drugs, ASB on the Acorn and other estates, and street drinking. There had only been one robbery and twelve burglaries in September spread across the whole ward. Sgt. Jenkinson said the Police were looking to promote and support neighbourhood watch schemes and anyone interested in establishing one should contact their local SNT.

Community Wardens update

Ruth Backhurst, Area Manager of Community Wardens explained that following a restructure there was no longer a dedicated team for Rotherhithe but there were two teams with a borough wide remit. A response team and a problem solving team. There was also a parks liaison officer for each of the major parks. The current issues in Rotherhithe for wardens were ASB on the Osprey Estate, muggings and ASB in the Surrey Docks and Rope Street areas. Contact: 020 7525 5846 for the wardens.

9. COMMUNITY PRESENTATIONS

Friends of Russia Dock Woodland

Steve Cornish (Chair) along with John Wells and Ben Dewhurst outlined the work of the group. Russia Dock Woodland consisted of 35 acres of land through the spine of the Rotherhithe peninsula. In the late 1990s the area was run down and there was anti-social behaviour and motorbike tracks. Families were intimidated and felt discouraged from visiting. A steering group was formed to bring back the area to the community. The groups worked with the parks department, the trust for urban ecology and local schools. The long-term and multi-agency approach had transformed the area and brought people together by encouraging young and old to take ownership. A number of awards had been won including the Mayor of London's safer parks award. Over the last five years reports of crime in the woodland had fallen 75%.

Friends of Southwark Park

Pat Kingwell explained that the main community safety issues in the park were:

1. Dog control - Recently a child had been attacked in the playground and was hospitalised for a couple of days. Dogs also damaged trees when owners allowed them to strengthen their jaws through biting trunks.
2. Dangerous cycling was an occasional menace to pedestrians. Some cyclists went

- too fast and were not treating walkers with appropriate respect.
3. Vandalism was much reduced, although the bowling club roof had been damaged through theft.
 4. Toilets were too few and inadequate.
 5. Some private properties had unauthorised access to the park which was a concern.

10. BOROUGH COMMANDER - POLICE OVERVIEW

Wayne Chance, Borough Commander (BC) gave an overview of crime in the borough. He said that this was his third year as BC and he had made it an early priority to reduce violent crime in the area, whilst also tackling robbery and burglary.

The statistics for the year so far were very encouraging, with most crime categories falling.

Current Crime Statistics 2011	Year to Date
- Most Serious Violence	- 8%
- Violence	-17%
- Common Assault	-18%
- Assault with Injury	-19%
- Serious Youth Violence	-19%
- Gun Crime	-44%
- Knife Crime	-4%
- Non Residential Burglary	+10%
- Personal Robbery	+8%
- Commercial Robbery	0%
- Theft from Shops	-10%
- Fraud	-18%

BC Chance, said that 90% of serious calls within the borough were responded to within 12 minutes. The average response time of 8 minutes was the best in South London.

The disorder in August had been a low point, but also a high point in terms of the community's positive response.

During the 8 hour period of unrest in the borough:

- 337 crimes were committed
- 36% of crime was non residential burglary.
- 139 business venues were targeted
- 67% of those charged with an offence lived in Southwark
- 18 to 24 years was the largest age group charged
- The majority of offending was not linked to gangs

In response to questions, BC Chance said that burglary was up 4% on last year but he was confident it would fall soon, and it was being targeted. With regard to domestic violence convictions, he said it was complicated by the victim frequently not reporting the crimes early. Also, lawyers tended to drag out the process which meant some victims

eventually decided not to go to Court. There was room for improvement in the process and in Police work on domestic violence.

A representative of Bede House praised the work of the Police team at Walworth and the support given to victims.

In response to an enquiry about the future of Rotherhithe Police station, BC Chance said it would be closing. There were five SNTs using it at the moment. Two would move to the Lantern base at Trundle Street. A base for the others was being considered. The new location would have a front counter. There would be no sharing with a bank or a bakery or similar.

11. CCTV AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

Jonathon Toy, Head of Community Safety, said that the council had an excellent working relationship with the Police and over many years a lot of work had led to a fall in local crime.

In Rotherhithe there were about 105 CCTV cameras. There were 10 Transport for London cameras that officers had access to, and about 89 cameras located on housing estates. Jonathon paid tribute to the Police and the community leaders for their work and courage on the evening of the riots in Peckham. About 4,000 – 6,000 images were being looked at to identify those responsible for crimes during that period.

Jonathon explained that in a typical month there were about 100 arrests made from the images viewed on the Southwark CCTV network. Officers were looking at the location of housing estate cameras following feedback from residents on where they should be. Money had been invested in cameras that could be moved to a particular area where necessary.

In responses to questions, Jonathon made the following points:

- He would welcome the opportunity to walk around the Hawkstone Estate, and other estates, with tenants and residents associations to assess what was needed.
- The cameras on Russia Dock Woodland were working again.
- There were some relocatable cameras available in Southwark and if residents wanted those in their area they were encouraged to contact officers.
- Through investment there would be more digital technology in future to enable good usable images to combat crime.
- He would look into the Bonamy estate cameras being put right over the next few months.

12. NOISE ISSUES

Joanne Littleton, Noise Manager and Enforcement, said that the Noise team was recently reduced from a 24 hour service to an out of office hours service due to budget pressures. Most London boroughs never had a 24 hour service and Southwark's service was still more comprehensive than those of neighbouring boroughs. The current rota structure enabled 91% of calls to be answered. The other 9% were followed up the next working

day.

Some residents had asked why it took so long for the noise team to respond. Joanne explained that there were one or two teams operating in the borough depending on the day and the aim was to get to the resident within 60 minutes of the call. That was achieved 75% of the time.

Noise nuisance could be reported at any time during the day but there were some variables. For music nuisance at 1pm it would have to be extreme. The team relied on noise officers witnessing the noise and making a judgement. The council could not deal with transport noise or everyday living sounds such as vacuuming or washing machines unless usage time was unreasonable.

In response to questions, Joanne made the following points:

- People fed up with noise should phone as soon as it starts being annoying.
- The noise team had to witness the nuisance.
- The noise team would look into the problem of noise on Quebec Way.
- The noise team were looking to reduce the calls lost at the call centre stage which occasionally happened.

13. WORKSHOPS ON THE DEMOCRACY COMMISSION

Ebony Riddell Bamber, Community Participation Manager, presented the item. She explained that the Democracy Commission was a cross-party group of councillors asked by Council Assembly to review community councils and identify savings of £344,000. The Democracy Commission had set up focus groups and circulated questionnaires at meetings.

The current budget of £1.3million was divided as follows:

Neighbourhoods Team - £684,800

Constitutional Team - £528,100

Service Legal Agreements (e.g. IT) - £88,500

Suggested ways to reduce costs included:

- fewer meetings
- larger/fewer community council areas
- reducing venue and equipment costs
- less publicity
- changes to decision-making powers

Councillor Paul Noblet, a member of the Democracy Commission, said if the planning function was withdrawn that would find half the savings but people may feel that they want the planning meetings to remain but perhaps in a different form. He encouraged residents to take part and that their views would be considered when the Commission made recommendations in December 2011.

14. CLEANER, GREENER, SAFER 2012/13

Franklin Uwakaneme, Public Realm Manager, said that the Cleaner, Greener, Safer

(CGS) programme had been going since 2003. There was a visual display of before and after images of previous CGS projects.

For 2012/13 the budget was £1.88 million of which £229,000 was allocated to Rotherhithe. Applications would be accepted between 31 October 2011 and 6 January 2012. Forms were available and officers would assist where possible. There was no limit on the sums applied for but they had to be capital projects in the relevant community council area and must be completed within two years.

15. HIGHWAYS DEVOLVED CAPITAL FUNDING FOR 2012/13

Members were concerned that there were no shortlisted schemes situated in Livesey ward and that the choice was limited. Councillors said they would prefer the money to be spent on footpaths instead of roads and for a selection to be listed in the report that goes to the January 2011 meeting.

Executive Function

RESOLVED:

That the decision on this item be deferred to the next community council meeting.

16. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

A resident asked how a recently added roadside salt box would be managed in the cold weather. The chair said it was officer use only.

17. CAR CLUB EXPANSION

Executive Function

RESOLVED:

That the following car club locations, detailed in the appendices to the report, be approved for implementation subject to the outcome of any necessary statutory procedures:

1. Ann Moss Way
2. Norway Gate
3. Rotherhithe Street (Lavender Road)
4. Rotherhithe Street (near Katherine Close)

18. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The chair thanked everyone for attending and announced that the next meeting would be on Wednesday 11 January 2012.

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.

19. SCHOOL GOVERNOR APPOINTMENTS

Executive Function

RESOLVED:

1. That Rev Pat Alden be reappointed as school governor for Federation of Pheonix and Ilderton Schools.
2. That Miss Gilda Chambers be reappointed as school governor for Federation of Pheonix and Ilderton Schools.
3. That Ms Juliette Young be reappointed as school governor for Pilgrims Way Primary School.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm

CHAIR:

DATED: