



WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Walworth Community Council held on Wednesday 2 November 2011 at 6.30 pm at Darwin Court, 1 Crail Row, London SE17 1AD

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

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle (Cabinet member for health and adult social care)
Councillor Richard Livingstone (Cabinet member for resources, finance and community safety)

OFFICER: Andrea Allen (Senior Project Manager)
Pauline Bonner (Borough & Bankside and Walworth Neighbourhood Coordinator)
Hasan Mahmood (Contracts Manager – Parking)
Fitzroy Lewis (Community Council Development Officer)
David Sole (Parking Services & Development Manager)
Mark Whitehouse (Community Council Development Officer)
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 Lorraine Lauder MBE (due to mayoral business), and Darren Merrill; and for lateness from Councillors Neil Coyle and Abdul Mohamed. Councillor Patrick Diamond gave his apologies for having to leave the meeting temporarily to attend to an urgent matter in his ward.

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 an accurate record, and signed by the chair.

6. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS

6.1 PETITION

The chair informed the meeting that the community council had received an e-petition from the Heygate Leaseholders Action Group in respect of Heygate Estate Access Route. It had been signed by more than 250 people, and had therefore exceeded the threshold required to be heard.

Adrian Glasspool, spokesperson for the group, outlined their case for re-opening the access route which had been blocked off by the council in early July. He questioned the council's rationale for removing access, and said that there was now a higher crime rate than before the closure. The properties, some of which were still lived in, provided natural surveillance through overlooking. He said the council was also failing in its duty to provide a safe, alternative access route. He called for the community council to refer this matter back to officers, to propose that the access route be reopened to the public, that all interim uses be included in the masterplan and that any further access restrictions should be brought to community council. Responding to questions from councillors, Adrian Glasspool outlined the urban gardening activities which had been going on over the summer, and explained that blocking off only one side of the estate effectively created no-go areas.

Councillor Richard Livingstone, cabinet member for resources, finance and community safety, explained the reasoning behind the decision to close the access way. He said he understood the concerns of the petitioners, but that the decision had been taken following advice from the police, after violent crimes had taken place in the vicinity of the alleyway. He emphasised that the council wanted to make sure that regeneration activity did not play a part in any further tragedies, such as the cases of Damilola Taylor and Zainab Kalokoh. It was his understanding that there was no natural overlooking, as nobody lived above the alleyway. The police had advised the council that people committing crimes on the New Kent Road had also used the alleyway as a means to escape. Furthermore, there had been the case of someone trying to drag a woman behind one of the walls.

In response to a question from the floor, the chair asked Sgt Daley from East Walworth SNT to give details of the levels of criminality they had encountered. PS Daley responded that since residents had started being decanted from the estate, the police had closed about 80 crack houses. There had also been two rapes (one of which had taken place at 10.30am), three indecent assaults, a series of robberies and various drug offences in which the alleyway had been used by perpetrators.

Petitioners and councillors then discussed alternatives such as taking down some of the walls to create a more open space and CCTV. Councillor Livingstone said that he was happy to take the suggestion of taking down the walls back to officers, and said that his decision had only been based on safety concerns. Jon Abbot, Project Director, explained that temporary horticultural activities on Brandon Street, and cultural activities on other parts of the estate had been discussed with LendLease.

Note: at this point, Councillors Richard Livingstone and Patrick Diamond left the meeting.

Further questions were raised by attendees to be passed on to Councillor Livingstone:

1. Could the SNT which had been taken off the estate in 2009 be brought back?
2. When would the Elephant and Castle shopping centre and train station be closed due to the high levels of crime they generated?
3. How had closing the alleyway made the area safer, as there was now only one way out?
4. Whether councillors had been informed by officers that the alleyway was going to be closed?

The chair said these questions would be responded to formally, and that he was pleased so many people had come to the community council to raise their concerns.

RESOLVED:

1. That the matter raised in the petition be referred to the relevant cabinet member.
2. That the community council ask the cabinet member to come back with a response to the petition, as a result of further dialogue with officers.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Community Safety update

PS Gage representing Faraday and Newington Safer Neighbourhoods Teams (SNTs) informed the meeting that while he was responsible for both wards now, the number of constables (PCs) and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) had not changed. Recent activities of Faraday SNT had included action on rough sleepers at the four towers estate, action on knife offences, and school visits on fireworks safety. Those in Newington had included action on dangerous dogs on the Penrose Estate, on drug offences and around firework safety. In terms of the issue of stop and search figures which had been raised at the previous meeting, there was a limit on what could be released in a public forum. There were more than a thousand "stop and searches" every month, which meant a closer analysis was not possible. The majority occurred in busy areas such as Elephant and Castle, and Walworth Road. In terms of the disorder in the Walworth area in August,

PS Gage fed back that, the perpetrators of this had not been solely from the Walworth area. Some had come from Lambeth, Peckham or even outside London.

PS Daly fed back that for East Walworth SNT's priorities were youth anti-social behaviour, and drinking and drug use in Nursery Row Park. A recent operation to get uninsured, improperly taxed vehicles off the road had resulted in more than £150,000 being recovered. The next ward panel was on 30 November in 52-59 Browning Street, at the nursery building.

Responding to questions from the floor the SNT officers explained that residents should only call 999 when there was imminent or immediate danger. In all other cases they should ring 101, or contact their local Safer Neighbourhoods Team directly. They also confirmed that burglaries on the Pullens Estate were among the local SNT priorities.

Northern Line Extension

Tony Whitehead, from the Northern Line Extension team, informed the meeting of the temporary works which were scheduled to take place within the next 2 to 3 years. He invited people to give their views on the options listed in the consultation material. For further information, please see <http://northernlineextension.com/>

Southwark Law Centre

Catherine Evans, Director of the Southwark Law Centre, outlined the services offered by the centre which was founded in 1976 and is based in Peckham. Its services include legal advice on family, private, immigration and asylum law, as well as advice on financial, disability and housing/homelessness related law. She informed the meeting that the organisation's AGM was going to be held on 14 November 2011 at London South Bank University. For further information, please see www.southwarklawcentre.org.uk

Elephant and Castle regeneration update

Rob Heasman from LendLease informed the meeting about the recent masterplan exhibition and the consultation hub. 300 people had attended the meeting, and 75 response forms had been received. The next consultation forum would meet on 10 November, while the three liaison groups would meet on 14 November 2011. For further information, please see www.elephantandcastle.org.uk

CCF Revealed Certificates

Fitzroy Lewis, Community Council Development Officer, introduced this item, and the chair presented the events management certificates to: Martin Heider (Walworth YCC) and Andrew Amuwat (Creative Innovation).

8. ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIR REGARDING BETTING SHOPS ON WALWORTH ROAD

The chair said that this item had originally been raised by the Walworth Youth Community Council, and would be deferred to the next meeting. Concerns were also raised about the pay-day loan shops on Walworth Road, which would also be discussed at the next meeting.

9. HEALTH FOCUS

9.1 OVERVIEW OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE IN SOUTHWARK

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, cabinet member for health and adult social care, gave an overview of health and social care in Southwark.

She explained that Southwark had taken a large cut to its budget equivalent to a 28% reduction. This meant that, over the next three years, changes to council services would have to be made. At the same time, a £3bn reorganisation of the NHS was happening which would cut up to £20bn from budgets and would lead to the abolition of Primary Care Trusts (PCTs). The council would be working through the Health and Well-being Boards which brought together the key players in health and well-being, such as GPs, councillors, council officers, health watch and hospitals, in order to make the transition as seamless as possible. One of the items the boards would be working on would be a regular report about the health of the borough authored by the Director of public health.

The council's objectives were delivering value, while allowing vulnerable residents to remain independent, safeguarding them and giving them control. In order to achieve this the council would work in partnership with leisure services, the NHS, the community and voluntary sector organisations, as well as the council's regeneration and housing departments and public health bodies. This would help create a seamless path between health and social care, and so help save money.

Councillor Dixon-Fyle said there was also some good news: new facilities for disabled people had come on-stream, the taxi card scheme would remain, as would meals on wheels (at half the previous cost) and that investment in healthy living, e.g. leisure centres would still go ahead.

9.2 HEALTH PROFILE OF WALWORTH RESIDENTS

Dr Jin Lim, Consultant in Public Health, from Southwark PCT gave an overview of the health profile in Walworth. Figures for Walworth showed multiple indicators of deprivation and highlighted that the community council area comprised three wards with average incomes among the lowest in the borough. He illustrated this using the 42 bus route as an example: on its way from Tower Bridge to Camberwell Green, life expectancy of those living in the areas it services dropped by 4 years.

There were risks that all residents could and should avoid in order to stay healthier, these included: smoking, unhealthy eating, lack of physical activity and alcohol. Taking these steps would bring the following benefits:

- Reducing weight by 10% which can decrease risks of developing heart disease
- Likely decrease in risk of joint problems, and some cancers
- Improved reproductive health & maternity outcomes
- Lower risk of developing Type 2 diabetes
- Prevention or delay of hypertension
- Improvement of mental health

NOTE: At this point Councillor Patrick Diamond rejoined the meeting.

9.3 CHANGES TO THE NHS

Dr Amr Zeineldine, from the Aylesbury Partnership outlined the changes from a GP's perspective:

£30m of funding would be switched to GPs every year for the next five years, so the commissioning would focus on improving access to services, self-care, and detection especially in terms of smoking cessation and HIV prevention. Another focus would be teenage conceptions and obesity.

For GPs to be able to commission effectively, they had to understand the problems in their area. In order to make the savings, especially in terms of management, it was important to provide services differently, especially with a view to improving access to services close to home and to preventing admissions. Important areas in these efforts were: sexual health, HIV, cancer screening, healthy lifestyles, flu and childhood immunisations. Systems had to be set up to allow for efficient referrals, community-based services, new urgent care needs, and access to mental health services. This would free up hospitals to innovate more.

The chair introduced Michael Parker, the current Chairman, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, and his successor Professor Sir George Alberti.

Mr Parker reminded attendees to have their say by becoming a member of the King's trust. He outlined that Guy's and St Thomas', King's and SLAM (South London and Maudseley) trusts were coming together to improve services. This would allow these hospitals to concentrate on world-class specialist, tertiary care. He went on to warn that the closure of facilities in Lewisham, Bromley and Greenwich would put increased pressure on services at King's. This made reconfiguring services more important, including an emphasis on self-care and self-advocacy. He urged people not to crowd A&E and trauma services with issues which could be taken care of in the GP surgery.

He then introduced his successor as chair, Professor Sir George Alberti who told the meeting that his main focus would be to continue providing safe, quality care while engaging with the community and stakeholders. This built on the work he had been doing around the medical aspects of preventing violence against women and children, as well as around diabetes and obesity. He reiterated the importance of patients becoming trust members and governors, and offered to come back to attend a future community council meeting.

The chair said he wanted to give recognition and thanks to Michael Parker for his service while chairman of the trust.

In response to questions from the floor, Michael Parker said that he was moving on to the NHS London Board. Councillor Dixon-Fyle said that the health and well-being boards would be instrumental in ensuring that services would be improving and commissioned locally.

In response to a question from the floor, Dr Zeineldine explained that 70% of consultations had stress-related elements to them, which in turn had mental health and physical effects. The meeting also heard that forms for becoming a trust member were available from the trust's website and at the hospital reception. Dr Zeineldine added that residents may also want to join locality participation groups which operated in many GP practices and helped practices review their services.

Responding to a question from the floor about how service users' feedback was going to

be included in shaping services, Cllr Dixon-Fyle said that patient surveys would be looked at and that the links with the health and well-being boards would also be used.

The chair thanked all speakers for attending.

10. PARKING AND PERMITS

This items was deferred to a future meeting.

11. CLEANER GREENER SAFER 2012/13

Andrea Allen, Senior Project Manager, informed the meeting that the application process for Cleaner Greener Safer funding 2012/2013 was now open.

She said that £246,000 would be available next year in the Walworth Community Council area, and that collaborative ventures were being encouraged. As in previous years, all proposed projects should fit in with the cleaner, greener, safer categories, for example projects in parks, improving access or pathways, extra safety measures or play facilities. The deadline for the receipt of applications was Friday 6 January 2012. For more information, please see http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200256/cleaner_greener_safer

Noel Cosgrove from Bridport Street TRA and Laura Kim from the Friends of Nursery Row Park whose suggestions had received funding, gave feedback about the success of the schemes they had proposed in the past.

12. DEVOLVED HIGHWAYS BUDGET

Executive Function

RESOLVED:

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

13. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The chair encouraged attendees to submit their questions in writing. The following public question was received:

- “Lendlease ignored the presence of asbestos in their environmental impact assessments submitted to the planning department in relation to the Heygate. Will the council ensure that, this is not ignored when considering the reopening of any pathways through the Heygate?”

14. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS

Executive function

RESOLVED:

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

1. East Street - Install one disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay
2. Beckford Place - Install At any time waiting restrictions along all that is public highway
3. Morecambe Street - Install school keep clear, relocate existing parking bay outside Nicholson House to fully on the footway and remove the parking bay from side of No.83 East Street

The meeting ended at 9.05 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: