



BOROUGH AND BANKSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Borough and Bankside Community Council held on Wednesday 11 January 2012 at 7.00 pm at Charles Dickens School, Toulmin Street, London SE1 1AF

PRESENT: Councillor Poddy Clark (Chair)
Councillor Geoffrey Thornton (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Claire Hickson
Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor David Noakes

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Barrie Hargrove
Councillor Martin Seaton

OFFICER SUPPORT: Pauline Bonner, Borough & Bankside and Walworth Neighbourhood Coordinator
Wendy Foreman, Senior Campaigns Officer
Alison Squires, Planning Policy Team Leader
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 Councillor Tim McNally.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Members declared interests in the following agenda items:

16. Local parking amendments

Councillor Geoffrey Thornton, personal and non-prejudicial, in relation to the Brook Drive item discussed under item 16 on the agenda, as he is a resident of Brook Drive.

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

The chair informed the meeting that item 9 "Southwark Civic Awards" would be taken under item 7 "Community announcements".

5. MINUTES

Members asked for the following amendment to be made: on page 4 of the minutes, under 12. Public Question Time – line 2: "coverted" to be changed to "converted".

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2011, including the above amendment, be agreed as an accurate record of that meeting, and signed by the chair.

Councillor Adele Morris asked for the Olympics to be brought to the next meeting, and stated that it should have been on the agenda for this meeting. The chair explained that the agenda for this meeting had already been too full to do justice to the item at this meeting, and that it would be taken at the next meeting.

6. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS / VOLUNTEERING SLOT

Southwark Civic Awards

Ken Hayes, Honorary Chair of the Southwark Civic Association, spoke to the meeting about the Civic Awards. He explained that the Civic Association, which is independent of the council, had been in existence since 1995, with the first Civic Awards having been awarded in 1996. There were three levels of award: Letter of Commendation, a liberty of one the old metropolitan boroughs and "Of the Year" awards. He went on to say that this year, following the riots a new category, for acts of civil responsibility during or after the disturbances, had been created. These awards were a source of enormous pride for those who received them, as they were being honoured by their fellow citizens. He invited people to submit their nominations for the awards on the forms which were available from all libraries or via the website. The deadline for nominations was 31 January 2012. He reminded people that the awards were aimed at outstanding civic activity outside of paid employment. More information was available at www.southwarkcivicassociation.org.

The meeting also heard that for outstanding achievements in a professional capacity, there were other awards, for example the new year's honours list. The chair thanked Ken Hayes for attending.

Support choices

Wendy Foreman, Senior Campaigns Officer, introduced the council's new "Support Choice" resource for adult social care services, which she said was designed to provide all the information about these services in one single place. The resource had been user tested and was therefore easy to use. The advantage of the system being electronic was that updates could be made continuously, which ensured the information was always up-to-date. 60 providers were currently listed, but this number would further increase, as more information was being added. Wendy went on to explain that staff in the council's libraries had been trained to help people navigate the resource, and were also on-hand to help those people who did not access to the internet, or who felt they could not use the system. More information at <http://www.southwark.gov.uk/mysupportchoices>.

The chair thanked Wendy for attending.

Veolia Update

Sharon Ellis, from Veolia, informed the meeting that the new waste management plant, off the Old Kent Road was now operational, having opened on 4 January 2012. It replaced the old Manor Place depot which had become too small for handling the volumes of waste and recyclables the borough produced. The new facility sorted all waste and recyclables.

Budget 2012/2013

Councillor Barrie Hargrove, Cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling introduced this item, saying that the council was keen to receive feedback on the budget proposals from residents. Cuts in the central government grant meant that £33.7m in cuts had to be made last year, and £16.2m would have to be cut this year. A 3-year framework budget had been agreed by the council last year, so there were no new cuts in the coming year above those decided last year. The proposals for the coming financial year, would be going to cabinet on 25 January 2012 and would be decided at full council in February. The council was keen hear from residents, and sheets were available for submitting feedback. There was also a possibility for groups, who were affected, to send a deputation to the cabinet meeting. The documents detailing the proposals were available on the council's website. He went on to say that he also wanted to highlight some positive developments: some new funding had been put into adult and social care, free healthy school meals had been introduced for years 2, 3 and 4 in primary schools, and all council staff (direct employees and agency staff) were now receiving a London Living Wage. There was also a new Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) revenue budget of £10,000 per ward which was to be decided at Community Councils. Following the August disturbances, the council had made £1m available in community restoration.

In answer to questions raised from the floor, Councillor Hargrove explained that the new CGS funding was additional to the regular CGS funding, but could be used for revenue items. Moreover, the council was trying to help voluntary sector organisations in these tough times to find alternative sources of funding. The detailed budget proposals were available online, but broadly speaking, all parts of the council had to find savings. He apologised for not being able to provide in depth information about adult services, as this was not his portfolio.

The chair said she had been informed the deadline for submitting deputation requests to cabinet was three clear working days. Councillor Noakes said that the cuts in adult services were roughly £3m in supporting people, £1m mental health services, £1m in the

learning disability service, a £1.2m cut in staffing and a £300,000 cut to the advocacy and befriending services. Charges would also go up. More information was available on the Southwark website.

Councillor Hargrove responded that organisations who had applied to the transition fund last year could do again, but that he wasn't sure whether organisations could receive funding two years in a row. He said that he was certain there would not be a return to the situation pre-2009, in which the council had received increasing budgets from central government. In terms of the council raising its own resources to make up for the shortfall, there would be an increase in fees and charges to the London average (except for those which would be deemed to create extra hardship, for example business market trader permits which had been frozen).

The meeting also heard that some of the cuts the council had to make were necessitated directly by central government which had cut some ring-fenced funding. The council was obliged to pass on these cuts.

The chair thanked Councillor Hargrove for attending.

United St Saviour's Charity

Jim Wintour from United St Saviour's charity informed the meeting that the charity had been in existence since 1540 and that they offered sheltered housing in Croydon which was exclusively for older Southwark residents who required this sort of service. To apply for a place in one of the schemes, people would have had to have lived in Southwark for a minimum of 3 years. He encouraged people to check for more information on the website: <http://www.ustsc.org.uk>

LINK Southwark

The chair made the following announcement on behalf of link Southwark:

"LINK Southwark are looking for interested individuals and parties to become part of their Leadership Group. Collectively, they will develop LINK Southwark activities and work plan, and oversee its transition into local HealthWatch (subject to the passing of the Health and Social Care Bill).

LINK Southwark is a local involvement network made up of local organisations and Southwark residents to improve health and social care services. LINK Southwark was provided with statutory powers from the Secretary of State for health in order to assist LINK in performing its functions and activities effectively. Each local authority has to ensure that there is an adequately performing LINK in the borough.

Currently, as the health and social care bill is passing through parliament, all LINKs will be changing into Local HealthWatch, an independent consumer organisation (patients, public) to improve health and social care services in Southwark.

Deadline for application statements is 27th January 2012."

8. COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

PC Osborne from Cathedrals Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) fed back on the latest

activities and priorities of his team:

Activities:

- Operation Reach aimed at crime around homelessness / rough sleepers
- Increased anti-robbery activities
- Operation Hawk – combined days of actions around certain types of crime with other police forces
- Operations designed to get uninsured vehicles off the road and arrest people involved in crime
- Operation Big Wing – aimed at arresting of people with warrants out for their arrest over Christmas
- Rough sleepers / street drinking on Blackfriars Road
- Anti-drug action and operations around anti-social behaviour

Responding to questions from the floor, PC Osborne explained that whether or not people had been detained, and when they had been arrested as part of operation Big Wing, had depended on the circumstances of the individual cases. The presence of children had been a part of this. In terms of knives, the police had increased their patrols, due to the long winter nights. PC Osborne also confirmed that Operation Reach was ongoing.

The next ward panel meeting for Cathedrals SNT would be on 7 Feb 2012 7pm at Southwark Police Station.

In terms of Chaucer ward their priorities and actions were:

- Rough sleeping
- Begging on Borough High Street
- Drugs and Anti-social behaviour
- Burglaries on the Tabard estate

Inspector Richard Barton who was responsible for all SNTs in Southwark introduced himself.

The chair thanked both for attending.

9. SOUTHWARK CIVIC AWARDS

This item was taken under “7. Community Engagement.”

The chair drew attendees’ attention to the Community Council Event Diary which contained a great number of local events and meetings and was available from the Community Engagement Officers.

10. DEVOLVED HIGHWAYS BUDGET

Councillor David Noakes gave an update on Borough High Street. TfL had undertaken the asset management of Borough High Street, and had refurbished the pavements partially with York Stone, as well as the highways. They also did a general de-cluttering of Borough

High Street. He reported back that most of the scaffolding on Borough High Street was gone, with the exception of 131-143 Borough High Street which belonged to Kings College London. Residents and members had campaigned for this to be removed for many years and an agreement had been reached to move the scaffolding to the inside of the building. This would necessitate changes to the inside of the building, and Councillor Noakes said he expected a planning application to be submitted about this. Residents and members also wanted the buildings to be developed. He would meet with officers about this in the near future and explore putting pressure on the Kings College to develop the site.

Residents and members then went into ward-based workshops to discuss possible projects to be funded from the devolved highways budget 2012/13.

11. DEVOLVED HIGHWAYS BUDGET - FEEDBACK

The chair announced that this item would be deferred, as officers needed time to write up the proposals. These would be added to the minutes of the meeting (please see minute annex).

Cllr Noakes fed back that he had had some suggestions by email:

- Geraldine Street
- Isabella Street (improved lighting)
- Spurgeon Street
- Pedestrian crossing on Southwark Street, where Redcross Way divides
- Burrell Street (pavements)

FEEDBACK FROM WORKSHOPS

12. CLEANER GREENER SAFER UPDATE

Councillor Geoffrey Thornton gave a quick update about the new round of Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) funding. He informed the meeting that the deadline had now passed and that the schemes received were on lists, which had been put up in the hall. He advised people to check that their projects had been received.

The chair reminded the meeting that the proposals would now have to be assessed as to their viability. Members discussed that there been some miscommunication between CGS officers and the applicants regarding one application for a traffic scheme in Copperfield Street, and that members would liaise with officers and the applicant to clear this up.

The meeting also heard that a list of submitted schemes was available on the Southwark website.

13. ELEPHANT AND CASTLE OPPORTUNITY AREA SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Alison Squires, Planning Policy Team Leader, introduced the Elephant and Castle

Opportunity Area supplementary planning document (SPD) which was currently being consulted upon. The draft document was about how change was going to be managed, in terms of housing, transport, urban design, environment infrastructure, retail and business. The adopted document would be consulted by officers and councillors to judge new development in Elephant and Castle, in the future.

She invited people to feed back online, or to attend the Walworth Community Council on 21 January 2012 at 1pm, at the Walworth Academy where there would be workshops around the different topics. After this, there would be an exhibition at the 182 Walworth Road space managed by LendLease.

Members fed back that the SPD should include a commitment to three- and four-bedroom affordable properties, of which there was a lack in the area and in the borough as a whole. These kind of properties were being lost, and not replaced. Concerns were also expressed about what constituted “affordable” housing, which was more costly than council flats.

There were also questions about the plans to change the direction of traffic in London Road and St George’s Road. Fears were expressed that this would have a detrimental impact on the area and on the residents who lived there. Responding to a question, Alison said that the SPD document was a joint document with the Mayor of London who had agreed the contents with Southwark. While the council could not enforce this, the Mayor’s office had signed up to it. Alison encouraged attendees to invite the planning policy team to any of their TRA or neighbourhood meetings, as they would like to hear from as many people as possible.

The meeting heard that there would be a meeting of the Elephant and Castle Amenity Network on 28 January 2012 from 10am to 4pm at the Crossway Church, on the New Kent Road.

Councillor Noakes informed the meeting that Regeneration and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny sub-committee would have a meeting about the Elephant and Castle on 8 February 2012, and invited residents to email him with their comments and concerns.

ACTION: Alison Squires to check whether policy 10 included a plan to make London Road bus traffic only.

14. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There was a discussion about the proposals of the Democracy Commission to merge Borough and Bankside and Walworth Community Councils. Some members of the Community Council voiced their opposition to this.

15. COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUND

Executive Function

Members considered the report and an addendum which had been circulated clarifying the recommendations.

Councillor Adele Morris requested that in future the recommendations be more clear.

RESOLVED:

1. That Rockingham Tenants Association be authorised to use the remaining £300 of their Community Council Fund allocation, on a holiday play scheme in February 2012.
2. That Borough and Bankside Youth Community Council be authorised to use the remaining £108 of their Community Council Fund allocation originally awarded at the Community Council meeting on 15 June 2011, on recruiting new youth council members, on condition that, if the money cannot be spent by 31 March 2012, it must be returned to the Community Council.
3. That Borough and Bankside Youth Community Council be awarded an additional £500 from the remaining Community Council Fund under spend, on condition that, if the money cannot be spent by 31 March 2012, it must be returned to the Community Council.

NOTE: Decisions 2. and 3. supersede the decision taken by the Borough and Bankside Community Council at the meeting on 7 November 2011.

16. LOCAL PARKING AMENDMENTS

Executive Function

Members considered the report.

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:

- Webber Street – Install one disabled persons (blue badge) parking bay
- Brook Drive and surrounding streets – Install ‘at any time’ waiting restrictions on junctions and in narrow streets

Councillors discussed alerting residents to the consultation around this, as many residents had been unaware of similar applications in the past.

The meeting ended at 9.50 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: