



WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Walworth Community Council held on Saturday 21 January 2012 at 1.00 pm at Walworth Academy, 34 - 40 Shorncliffe Road, London SE1 5UJ

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

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Richard Livingstone

OFFICER SUPPORT: Jon Abbott (Elephant and Castle Project Director)
Pauline Bonner (Borough & Bankside and Walworth Neighbourhood Coordinator)
Rumi Bose (Planning Policy Officer)
Tim Cutts (Acting Head of Planning Policy)
Wendy Foreman (Senior Campaigns Officer)
Emma Fenton (Senior Planning Policy Officer)
Michael Glasgow (Policy Planning Officer)
Tim Gould (Transport Group Manager – Strategic Projects)
Kate Johnson (Senior Planning Policy Officer)
Barbara-Ann Overwater (Senior Planning Policy Officer)
Alison Squires (Planning Policy Team Leader)
Michael Tsoukaris (Design and Conservation Manager)
John Wade (Temp Parks & Open Spaces 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 Councillor Lorraine Lauder due to mayoral duties.

3. DISCLOSURE OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

There were none.

4. ITEMS OF BUSINESS THAT THE CHAIR DEEMS URGENT

There were none.

5. MINUTES

ACTION: Members requested that the following be added to minutes of meeting held on 2 November 2012, under item 7 "Community Announcements":

"There was a discussion about the fact that Southwark Law Centre was going to lose a significant amount of funding due to the cuts in Legal Aid."

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 2 November 2011, including the above amendment, be agreed as an accurate record, and signed by the chair.

6. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS (IF ANY)

There were none.

7. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, Liberty of the Borough and "Of the Year" Award. He went on to say that this year, following the riots a new category of Citizenship Award for acts of Civic Responsibility had been created, for acts of civil responsibility during or after the disturbances. 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 until 31 January 2012. He reminded people that the awards were aimed at outstanding civic activity outside of people paid employment. More information was available at www.southwarkcivicassociation.org.

The meeting heard that for outstanding achievements as part of one's profession 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 to adult social care, which was designed to provide information about 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 on-hand to help those people who did not access to the internet, or who felt they were not IT literate enough to use the system. Responding to questions Wendy said that the eligibility criteria for the various services could be found on the website.

More information at <http://www.southwark.gov.uk/mysupportchoices>.

Burgess Park

John Wade, Temp Parks & Open Spaces Manager, told the meeting that the opening of the park would be delayed until summer 2012. This was due to large oil tanks having been found at the Camberwell Road end of the park. These had to be made safe and removed. The car park and the play area would be opened earlier than the rest of the park – in March 2012. There was going to be a walk-about on 11 Feb 2012 at 10am. Places would be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

Responding to questions, John said that officers had considered opening other parts of the park, but as the park was a building site, there were health and safety implications and this was not possible, however the car park and the play area would be opened in March. He invited people to contact Nadia Chowdari, Project Support Officer at Nadia.Chowdari@southwark.gov.uk.

Elephant and Castle Update

Ciron Edwards, from Soundings representing LendLease, fed back on the latest consultation activities. The leisure centre consultation was ongoing at the conservation hub, there would also be a new leaflet distributed to people in the area. On 9 Feb 2012, the community forum would take place at 182 Walworth Road opposite Amelia Street.

Responding to questions from the floor, Councillor Richard Livingstone said that the demolition of the Heygate Estate had been brought forward and that the council would be paid back the money from LendLease which the council had advanced, and that the money would be paid back with interest.

A question was also raised about whether LendLease had found a financier yet for the parts of the scheme which had not been given planning consent. Ciron said he would provide feedback on this.

Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT) Update

PS Daly from East Walworth SNT, and Vinny Gage from Newington and Faraday SNTs introduced Inspector Barton who was now responsible for the Safer Neighbourhoods

teams in Southwark.

The meeting heard that the next ward meeting for East Walworth would take place on 22 February 2012 at 7pm at the Browning Community Centre; the ward meeting for Faraday SNT on 7 March at St Peter's/Inspire in Liverpool Grove.

In terms of the activities and ward priorities for the different SNTs, these were:

East Walworth

- Operations targeting unlicensed premises
- Operation Reclaim targeting uninsured and/or untaxed cars
- Distribution of 10,000 crime prevention leaflets
- Olympics rotas drawn up – SNTs will work 4 out of 5 Saturdays, and 3 out of 5 Sundays
- A new newsletter would be published in March

Newington

- Ward priorities: anti-social behaviour on Walworth Road, and Penrose House, burglaries on Newington Estate
- Recently executed a warrant and shut down a cannabis factory

Faraday

- Ward priorities: anti-social behaviour around Tower Bridge and youth anti-social behaviour around Gayhurst

Responding to a question from members, Inspector Barton explained that anecdotally the crime situation around Elephant and Castle had improved and that the main problems were mobile phone thefts with bicycles. There was an active robbery squad, but officers also did a lot of work around preventing anti-social behaviour and anti-violence.

Responding to a question about the extension of the Northern Line from Kennington Underground Station, PS Gage said that his team had not been consulted directly, but that maybe one of his superiors had. He agreed that an extension of the line would probably increase the footfall at the station, and therefore potentially lead to more incidents, and necessitate increased patrols.

Recycling/Waste collections

The chair announced that Ian McGeough, from Veolia, was in attendance, who would be happy to speak to people about their queries regarding recycling and waste collections. Ian McGeough informed the meeting about the new processing and recycling facility on the Old Kent Road which featured the following main components:

The centre itself which sorted and recycled the waste, the recycling discovery centre for children at Key Stage 2, and a permanent exhibition/meeting space which community groups could use. He reminded the meeting that the facility at Manor Place was now closed. A question was raised about rescheduling collections for blue wheelie bins, Ian said he would speak to the resident in the break.

Walworth Society

The meeting heard that the Walworth Society aimed to give a voice to local people on the architecture in the area and that the society was concerned about the former Kennedy

butcher's shop which was the only listed shop front on Walworth Road.

Elephant Amenity Network

The network will meet on 28 January 2012 at 10.30am at the Conway Church on the New Kent Road to discuss the Elephant and Castle Opportunity Area supplementary planning document, and to draft an alternative plan.

Lorrimore Road shops

Councillor Patrick Diamond informed the meeting that a meeting was taking place on 24 January 2012 at 7pm in the TRA hall in Lorrimore Road to discuss the future of the derelict shops in Manor Place. The community was keen to ensure affordable housing and shops for the area.

The chair thanked all speakers for attending.

8. BUDGET 2012/2013

Councillor Richard Livingstone, cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety, introduced this item saying that the new budget was the second year of the 3-year budget framework which was agreed in 2011. The council was facing continuous and large scale cuts of the grant received from central government, and that Southwark was more affected by this than other local authorities in the country, as it received a higher percentage of its budget in the central government grant.

The final decision on the budget 2012/13 would be taken at the Council Assembly meeting on 29 February 2012, with the proposal being agreed by Cabinet on 7 February. Residents could view the proposals on the Southwark website. There would be no new cuts, but some changes had been made in the proposals: the cost of meals on wheels would decrease, adult/social care cuts would be less severe than originally proposed, a community restoration fund had been put in place for business most severely affected by the disturbances, and the council had put in place a youth initiative and would continue the youth fund to give young people opportunities to stay in post-16 education. Healthy free school meals would be introduced for primary years 2, 3 and 4 to add to the existing programme for year 1. Council tax would be frozen, and all council staff (including agency staff) would be paid a London living wage. This would be achieved by taking some funds from the council's reserves.

Responding to a question from the floor, Councillor Livingstone explained that abolishing the council tax would have to be done at national level, but that the council had increased its collection rate by taking the service back in-house since April 2011. He went on to explain that the housing call centre was paid for from a separate account, and that the efficiencies made there could not be used for the council's main budget. The council was, however, in negotiations with the company who provided the service to improve this. Furthermore, the council was saving £1m in pay for senior managers in the coming year. The budget situation involved making a lot of difficult choices.

The chair thanked Councillor Livingstone for attending.

9. ELEPHANT AND CASTLE OPPORTUNITY AREA SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT

Tim Cutts, Acting Head of Planning Policy, introduced the background to the document and some of the policies contained in it, such as 35% affordable (social rented and shared-ownership) housing, education, libraries, but also transport and movement, for example escalators in the Northern Line Underground station. There were also traffic proposal in the document such as making St George's Road two ways, while London Road would be a public transport only road. The leisure centre and the Tabernacle were also taken into account, as well as St Mary's Church Yard. The document divided the area into nine character areas. The consultation would end on 7 February 2012.

He explained the way the workshops would be conducted, and he meeting split into workshops.

Following the workshops, the meeting heard the following feedback:

- Community infrastructure and transparency in the decision making was important
- Public toilets and libraries in the area needed to be preserved and extended
- The public realm was not a blank canvass. Planners should work with what is already there. It was important to look at development on a micro-level and adopt a bottom-up approach. Officers needed to go out and about more and speak to people.
- Affordable homes were important, but the definition should be that they really are affordable to local people

The chair said that the consultation feedback would be added to the minutes, and thanked everyone for attending.

10. PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The meeting heard that those residents who had been issued with an "AD" badge by Southwark Council to prevent their blue badge being stolen, had to take care when trying to park on TfL-controlled routes, as TfL did not accept the "AD" badge.

ACTION: Chair to invite TfL to the next meeting to present give feedback on accepting Southwark's "AD" badges on red routes.

A request was made to hold another consultation event about the Elephant and Castle development for the Latin American community, with translators on hand, should be made.

The chair asked for Soundings who were charged with conducting consultations for LendLease to contact Latin American community groups.

The following public questions were submitted in writing:

1. "Can we have a plaque to honour, Princess Diana in front of St Matthews's Church at the Elephant and Castle, because next year will be the 20th anniversary of her visit to Southwark?"

2. "Did you have a meeting on Southwark burial or is it to come?"
3. "We as a tenant and resident association are being asked to change our constitution by the council: 1. We have a clause that a general meeting may be called, if and when needed, 2. The council ask for a change to 4 general meetings a year, 3. What happens if at our AGM the members vote against this?"
4. "In light of the increase in trend of the practice of skin lightening/bleaching. What are the council going to do to ensure that the availability of these poisons are stopped: financial implications, prosecutions and education."
5. "Will the council take steps to improve the safety of Mina Road? It has become a 'rat-race' for cars and vans who want to by-pass the traffic lights at the Albany Road/Old Kent Road intersection. The 20 mph limit is ignored. They push through three lanes of traffic to get across to Dunton Road, causing traffic jams and road rage incidents. I am waiting for an inevitable fatal accident on Mina Road. There were proposals to make Mina Road a dead-end at the Old Kent Road. What happened to this?"
6. "The signs on the hoardings enclosing the Heygate Estate state clearly: 'THIS REGENERATION SITE HAS 24 HOUR LIVE SECURITY PATROLS'. The police approached residents of Garland Court on the evening of 31 December 2011, looking for witnesses to an incident by the estate. Has the Community Council been informed about this event?"
7. "Are the Community Council also aware of the case of serious assault that occurred on Wansey Street at around 11.00pm on 18 August 2011?"
8. Is security for the Estate provided by the Council or by the regeneration firm LendLease?
9. Residents of Garland Court have not noticed any visible signs of security, or the presence of security on the Heygate site for over a year. How often do these take place?

11. COMMUNITY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS CAPITAL INVESTMENT 2012/13

Executive Function

Members considered the report.

RESOLVED:

That the following works be funded from the Walworth Community Council Highways Capital Investment budget 2012/13:

	Description of scheme	Estimated Cost
Alberta St	Carriageway : Plane off and resurface (40mm) between VISIT; reinstate road marking	£37,500
Aylesbury Grove	Carriageway : Plane off and resurface (40mm)	£25,000
Congreve St	Carriageway : Plane off and resurface (40mm) between East St and Massinger St ; some full depth construction required; also limited channel re-profiling and making good disturbed footway; reinstatement of two sets of speed cushions and road marking.	£38,400

12. SCHOOL GOVERNORS APPOINTMENTS

Executive Function

Councillors did not resolve to exclude the public and press from the meeting as they did not discuss the exempt information.

RESOLVED:

That Ms Claire Gosnell be appointed as a school governor at Surrey Square Primary School.

The meeting ended at 3.35 pm.

CHAIR:

DATED: