



**COMMUNITY COUNCILS**  
A voice for your community



## **Walworth Community Council**

### **Main Meeting**

Draft Minutes of the Walworth Community Council Meeting held on  
Wednesday February 7 at 7.00PM  
at Aylesbury Day Centre, Bradenham Close, SE17

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#### **Present**

Councillors: Abdul Mohamed (Chair), Lorraine Lauder (Vice-Chair), Caroline Pidgeon, Paul Bates, James Gurling, Martin Seaton, Jane Salmon and Kirsty McNeil

The meeting opened at **7.00pm**.

#### **1. Introduction and welcome by the Chair**

Councillor Mohamed began the meeting by welcoming people, outlining the process to be followed at the meeting and introducing Members and officers. He informed the meeting that the proceedings would be taped.

#### **2. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Ladipo.

#### **3. Disclosure of Members' interests and dispensations**

None

#### **4. Notification of any items the Chair deems urgent**

None.

#### **5. Confirmation of minutes**

Mr Cherrill expressed concern at the minutes and the Chair's right to take amendments to the 13 November 2006 minutes after the 13 December 2006 meeting.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the revised minutes of the meeting held on December 13 2006 be approved as a true and accurate recording of that meeting, and be signed by the Chair subject to the following amendments:

A29 should read "The Beacon is in the design stage, and there will be consultation before it is installed."

Q24: "Old Kent Road into Browning Street" should read 'the banned right turn from Browning Street into Walworth Road'.

6. **Chair to advise of information that has been provided at the meeting for non-agenda items:**

7. **Deputation: The Campaign for Newington Reference Library (please see Appendix 1)**

Following the deputation, the following question/points were made:

- In response to Mr Crawford - the Campaigners will be visiting the Westminster Library to view the chairlift, but this sort of lift is difficult to install in a listed building.
- In response to Mr Wright/Mr Clark - a platform lift is solely for the use of wheelchair users
- Mr Cherrill stated it would be better to have a Homework Club/Study Area in a different place from the Reference Library In response, Ms Speechley reminded the meeting that Karl Marx had written 'Das Kapital' in the British Museum Library.
- Councillor Gurling asked if there was a new library planned for Elephant & Castle.
- In response to Councillor Gurling - the only listed feature affected by the proposed platform lift was an archway in the old Cuming Museum.
- Ms Carrington said 'it is vital that the Council shows enough will to tackle the problem, pointed out in the European Legislation (2004), and make the Newington Reference Library accessible to all, by means of a lift, rather than close it.'

**Resolved:**  
she be  
lift.

1. That Councillor Zuleta be sent a copy of the Deputation, and requested to particularly look at the option of a platform lift.
2. That all the options for the Newington Library be explored.
3. That Councillor Zuleta be requested to delay making a decision until all the options have been considered, and this should include the specific questions posed by the deputation

### **Community Slot**

8. **The Southwark Credit Union:**

Credit unions are non-profit making organisations, which offer loans, ATM card, debit cards and saving accounts to residents, including those residents who would not otherwise be able to access banking services. This gives users the convenience of setting up standing orders and direct debits etc.

The credit unions are particularly reaching out to those residents on housing estates who are vulnerable to door-to-door lenders. A £1,000 loan from a door-to-door lender will cost £650 in interest, whereas a loan from the credit union will cost £66 in interest for the same length of time.

The following points were made:

- In response to Mr Beedell - originally the credit union was set up for Council employees, but has been expanded over time to all who live/work in Southwark. The Council has been very supportive and includes credit union flyers with its own

mailshots and helps publicise the credit union. However, most users hear about the credit union through word of mouth.

- In response to a resident – Ms Driscoll explained that the Management Committee of the Credit Union belong to a wide range of ethnicities and the ethnicity of users is monitored. Users belong to all classes, from hospital consultants to hospital porters.
- In response to the Chair - Ms Driscoll said that users on benefits defaulted on loans much less than would be expected.

## 9. Crime Update

Sergeant Chris Daly made a number of points:

- The Snap children's project is coming to an end
- The rough sleepers on the Chiltern estate have been moved on
- The Click project for children has been a runaway success, but is coming to an end.
- Beaconsfield Road is no longer a priority
- 3 local robbers have been sentenced to three years in prison
- The street drinkers outside Newington House have moved elsewhere
- 12 Anti-Social Behaviour contracts have been issued
- The Drug Dealing on the border between Lambeth & Southwark is being dealt with
- Gatherings of groups of youths can be dispersed by a machine emitting a high pitched whistle inaudible to older people
- Police patrols on the Brandon Estate are looking for a rough sleeper suspected of committing grievous bodily harm
- Anti-social behaviour contracts are being issued to crack addicts
- There is currently high visibility policing in Elephant & Castle
- Large quantities of counterfeit clothing has been seized
- The police are working with the Council on '100 Days of Change'

John McHenry provided this additional information after the meeting:

### *Christmas Blitz*

*One of the major areas affected by crime in Walworth was East Street. The partnership identified the need to work together to tackle the Crime in this area as a priority due to the increase in occurrences over the Christmas Period. Work undertaken included:*

- *High vis guardianship produced across the partnership*
- *Partnership operations around illegal trading and parking*
- *Monitoring of Post offices / Banks up to Christmas by Wardens and Safer Neighbourhood Team*
- *Crime prevention advice provided to businesses, traders, pubs, shoppers and local residents.*

### *Outcomes of the Christmas Blitz*

- *65% reduction in dips and thefts from stalls\**
- *3 arrests*
- *5-6 FPN's issued by SNT*
- *Seizure of 51 counterfeit toys, 79 pairs of counterfeit sunglasses & 187 DVD's*
- *1031 visits by parking attendants leading to 356 PCN's on most problematic roads off East St.*
- *84.51% decrease in theft from MV\*\**
- *21.57% reduction in Criminal Damage\*\**

- *11.36% reduction in Burglary of dwellings\*\**
- *47.06% reduction in theft from shops\*\**
- *Dramatic decrease in illegal DVD sellers on East St over last six months due to targeted partnership work in the area.*

*\* Reports made in December 06 compared with December 05.*

*\*\* Reports made in December 06 compared with December 05 – for the whole of Walworth Community Council area.*

*Heygate enviro blitz:*

*Staff from Southwark's Antisocial Behaviour Unit (SASBU) joined community wardens, the street enforcement and street improvement team, housing tenancy service officers and police to get rid of abandoned vehicles, clear up dog mess and tidy up dropped litter. Graffiti was cleaned off estate walls and the blitz identified squatted properties and immediate action to address illegal occupation was taken.*

- *1,200 Crack House information leaflets were issued*
- *One property was raided for selling drugs*
- *Four squats are now back in council possession and two other illegally squatted properties have been identified*
- *Two crack house were closed*
- *Ten abandoned vehicles were removed*
- *Three fixed penalty notices were issued, one for dog fouling, one for littering and one for trade waste*
- *Stairs were washed, dumped rubbish and graffiti was cleared. Grassy areas have been identified for future tidying.*

The following points/questions were raised:

- *In response to Councillor Seaton – the Click scheme was funded by the police, and unfortunately their time is not unlimited*
- *In response to a resident – crack houses on the Heygate estate may have vulnerable tenants who are taken advantage of. Many voids have been squatted, but the Council is now putting alarms in vacant premises, and the building caretakers will call the police.*

**Public Question Time - Answers in italics were provided after the meeting**

(i) Mr Beedell & Mr Crawford asked if part of Nursery Row Park was going to be used for housing as part of the regeneration of Elephant & Castle.  
*Response awaited.*

(ii) Mr Crawford asked if Nursery Row Park was going to be built on, then why Wadding Street and Stead Street roadways are not yet touched, as they are a rat run for two million cars a year?

*Traffic Calming works in Wadding Street and Stead Street will be undertaken within the next 6 weeks. The proposal is for the installation of a speed hump in both Wadding and Stead Street as part of the East Walworth 20 MPH zone (agreed by ward members after consultation).*

- (iii) Mr Beedel asked why has the Walworth Road pavement only partly been renewed, so there is a mixture of old and new pavement?

*The final scheme for Walworth Road does not have a mixture of old and new pavement. Currently where works are taking place there will be a mixture, until all the new materials are laid, as works are phased to maintain access. At the ends where the new materials merge with the existing there may appear to be a mixture.*

- (iv) Mr Clark said 'There is a need for new street lighting in Elsted Street as there are holes in the pavements and the barriers round these were blown down, and there is no lighting. This is extremely hazardous for the disabled and partially sighted. '

*The lighting in this road is being completely replaced and at the time of your email EDF energy were in the process of disconnection the old and connecting the new lights. However they have been contacted and requested that they re-erect the barriers around all open excavations.*

*As a follow up, the road was surveyed on the February 20 2007, and it was confirmed that all excavations are now closed and all of the new lights are working, Shortly the contractors will return to the site and remove the disconnected redundant items.*

- (v) Ms Galley said that residents of Penrose Estate would like to set up some youth provision in the tenants' hall. Councillor Pidgeon said she would advise Ms Galley, but most Tenants' & Residents' Associations have regular newsletters and open meetings.

*Response awaited.*

- (vi) Mr Cherrill asked if the car park in Stead Street was going to be used for housing, and if so, where would people park?

*Response awaited.*

- (vii) Mr Wright said that the four Rodney Road shopkeepers were concerned as to the future of the street as during and after of the Stead Street regeneration.

*Response awaited.*

- (viii) Mr Noble said the 'Comus Tenants' & Residents' Association was not consulted regarding the demolition/rebuilding of Comus Place, and transfer Heygate Estate which was built in the '70s, but Comus House was built in the '30s. Comus House tenants should be transferred or don't build Comus Place and use the money to get Comus House decent. (Stop from being abandoned).'

*Response awaited.*

- (ix) Mr Noble asked 'could you please confirm if the granted TRA funding has been confirmed to the Area Housing Office [Security Electric Gate, Completion of Play Area]

*Charlotte Glazier (Project Manager CGS) and Edwin Emakpose (Investment Programme Manager, Walworth Area Office) have met with Comus House TRA Chair and discussed this matter. So it would appear that the amount has been confirmed.*

- (x) Mr Crawford asked what has happened to the Elephant & Castle Trust?  
*Response awaited.*
- (xi) Mr Ali asked about housing for young people.  
*Response awaited.*
- (ix) Mr/Ms Adeluola said the football pitch in Astley & Coopers Road estate has been unlevel ie the surface is not good and not level. Please we need this to be repaired as soon as possible. As our community, children & youth has been deprived of playing together and having fun. The coach resigned last year in September because of this issue.  
*Astley Estate is part of Bermondsey Community Council area; however, it appears funding is available to resolve this problem.*
- (x) Ms Parks said Cleaner Greener Safer is healthy, but it is hard for residents it would take time to get Cleaner Greener Safer measure.  
*Response awaited.*

## **Main Business**

10. **West Walworth (E) and South Walworth (J) Controlled Parking Zone Reviews**  
There will be an exhibition of the Controlled Parking Zone reviews in Walworth Town Hall on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2007.

The following points were made:

- o In response to Councillor Gurling - Proposals include changes in operational hours (Saturday controls), consolidation of signs, changes in the type of parking bays and introduction of a 75% discount to permit holders for dual fuel cars and motorcycles. This discount is not applicable to Pay & Display charges.
- o In response to Mr Cherrill: The decision is not made by Walworth Councillors, although they are informed, but by the Director. Councillors may call in the decision through the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.
- o In response to Mr/Ms Charnock: Non-car owners may contribute to the Review.
- o Mr/Ms Charnock asked: Will the Review give the percentage of non-car owners that contributed to it?
- o In response to Mr Beedell: Officers do take good ideas from residents and accommodate them where possible.
- o Ms Parks asked: 'Parking Zone out of order, how can we get a permit to park in our area?'

11. **Recycling site:**

Residents were asked for their comments on a proposal for a local recycling centre at the junction of Townsend Street with Old Kent Road. There would be 3 recycling bins for paper & cardboard, glass and cans & plastics.

Comments were sought by 23 February 2007, they should be sent to Jessica Binks, Recycling Officer, Manor Place Depot, 30-34 Penrose Street, SE17 3DW.

The following points were made:

- In response to Councillor Bates - a clear bag recycling scheme is being introduced for residents of Council estates who currently can't recycle. This is being rolled out where needed, and where residents request it.
- In response to Mr Wright - there is a recycling site on the opposite side of the Old Kent Road which is used for dumping, officers will flag this up and if necessary increase the number of visits by clearance crews.
- In response to Mr Cherrill - clothes and textiles can be recycled at Manor Place, but clothes are often welcomed by charity shops.
- In response to Mr Clark - new flats are shortly to be built near the site, and those residents will walk to the site.
- In response to Councillor Lauder - The paper-recycling bin on the Elizabeth Estate is never emptied.
- In response to Councillor Seaton - the Government's target for this year is 18% of waste recycled, increasing to 20% for 2007-8.

## **12. Street Leaders**

Street Leaders are residents who raise environmental problems to the Council. The scheme was started in 2003 in five areas across the Borough, and funded by the NRF. It is now Borough-wide with 383 members, together with Junior members. Street Leaders are given a free phone number to report enviro-crime, dumping etc to the Council. Street Leaders also have a role in contributing to community safety.

The following points were made:

- In response to Councillor Seaton: Street Leaders work closely with Tenants' & Residents' Associations. Councillors can obtain the scheme's Newsletters and receive updates.
- In response to Mr Crawford: Street Leaders do not wear a uniform, and can be completely anonymous. Fellow Street Leaders will not know that they are part of the scheme.

### **Members' decisions**

**Resolved:** Mr Dainton was reappointed to the Governing body of Michael Faraday Primary School

**The meeting ended at 9.30pm**

**Signed:**

**Councillor Abdul Mohamed (Chair) on (date):**

## **APPENDIX 1: DEPUTATION BY CAMPAIGN GROUP FOR NEWINGTON REFERENCE LIBRARY**

Deputation to Walworth Community Council on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2007

Chair, Councillors, members of the community,

Thank you for allowing us to bring this deputation tonight in which we would like to inform you of our concerns and findings regarding Newington Reference Library.

If the Council goes ahead with the closure of the Thomas A. Gilbert Reference Library at Newington and the partial relocation we believe there would be a significant loss of service.

In the materials currently being circulated by the Council this loss of service, amenity and facilities is being downplayed or ignored.

The adult lending library has 3 sections on the ground floor at Newington. The Councils plan is to take the whole of the back room to locate their planned new Information Service into.

Result:

1/3 of adult lending library space lost. More library books **LOST**.

Fax machine, printer, photocopier, microfilm reader facilities **LOST**.

Excellent natural light and ventilation from large sash windows in a high-ceilinged room **LOST**.

An enquiry desk permanently staffed by 2 experienced dedicated Reference Librarians **LOST**.

And, **three quarters of publicly accessible reference items would no longer be publicly accessible**

The 'Key Headline' poster currently displayed and visual plans do not make it clear that the 'extended space' is in large part actually lending library space.

The **current library** on both floors **offers 48 study spaces**, so the **Council's plans only give 2 more**.

**Internet access and Wi Fi is already freely available**

At the October Community Council Cllr Zuleta agreed to an Equality Impact Assessment. This has not been done.

A new report Relocation of Reference Library was published in November which is scheduled to be decided on this month.

At full council in December we opposed this new report and handed in our petition of **over 1000 signatures**.

Although our local Lib Dem Councillors voted with their party rather than their constituents, the motion they supported stated that:

‘on two occasions Walworth Community Council has expressed its firm desire to see the Council explore, in full, every possible option for rendering the library accessible without significant loss of service’

We believe every option has not been fully explored.

We believe that the Report if agreed would lead to a significant loss of service.

We consider the Council has paid lip service to consultation while sticking firmly with their own preferred solution.

We fear the public and Councillors may have been misinformed by Council materials currently circulating.

The public have been told since last Summer that the cost of installing a lift at the library is £400 000 (option 1), that the library would have to close for 6 months to do this, and that it'd be a waste of money as a new library was planned at the Elephant in 2009. This is not true.

An (option 2) cheaper alternative was drawn up in 2004. Recently published Council costings show this to be half the cost of the other lift.

We believe this (option 2) internal platform lift, with associated other works, should cost about £70 000 (well under a half of the Council's quote) and take one **not** 6 months to install.

By focusing the argument on the most impractical expensive lift option the public have been led to think, by the Council, that the closure and partial relocation of the Reference Library was the only reasonable way to make it accessible.

We have asked that the cheaper quicker option of an internal platform lift be fully explored.

Patrick Horan of Southwark Disablement Association visited Dulwich Library with us and has stated that this type of lift would be suitable.

The Council should assess three overlapping areas of responsibility:

To eliminate discrimination: To promote equality of opportunity; and To promote good race relations’

A majority of Reference Library users are from Black & Ethnic Minority groups. Studies and surveys show the BME communities live in overcrowded accommodation with consequent lack of study space.

An Equality Impact Assessment was promised by Cllr Zuleta, where is it?

The November report includes a Community Impact Statement which we are told 'addresses equality issues particularly the key issue of disabled access to the Reference Service'. This should not be at the expense of other groups who also suffer discrimination.

The Council's plans do not have widespread public support.

Walworth East Area Forum's 9 TRAs have given our Campaign's proposals unanimous support.

We believe the financial implications of the Relocation of Reference Library report have not been fully explored or publicly divulged.

We believe our suggestion of retaining and making fully accessible the borough's last bespoke Reference Library is possible at a fraction of the cost publicised if Officers are told to explore all other options.

Gill Davies has stated that it is only 'possible' that there will be a new library at the Elephant & Castle.

By installing an appropriate lift to the upper floors, by utilizing the old Cuming Museum space as an IT room, and by reconfiguring the downstairs space more than 80 study spaces and seats could be provided within an excellent public library, fully accessible and capable of answering modern and traditional needs of library users.

We request the Chair and Councillors to agree to:

1. Disagree with the Nov 21 report Relocation of Reference Library and request that it is withdrawn
2. Request that there is a new design and evaluation of the internal platform lift option
3. Suggest Officers seek alternative sources of funding to make the Newington Library accessible.

We request that these Deputation pages are included with the next minutes as part of the minutes. Thank you Chair.

Julie Speechley, Helen O'Brien, Jasper Tomlinson, Isobel Durrant