



COMMUNITY COUNCILS
A voice for your community



Bermondsey Community Council

**Minutes of the Bermondsey Community Council meeting held on Thursday 9th
September 2004 at 7pm at Aylwin Girls School, 55 Southwark Park Road, SE16.**

The meeting started at **7.12pm**.

Present:

Councillors: Beverley Bassom (*Chair*), Stephen Flannery (*Vice-Chair*), Paul Kyriacou, Nick Stanton and Bob Skelly.

Officers: Louise Shah, Sarah Feasey, Tim Thompson, Sean Connolly, Kevin Peile, Jenny Couper, Mary Toffi, Kendal MacKay, Angela D'Urso, Jane Dyer and Kim Harlow.

1. Introduction and Welcome:

Cllr Bassom welcomed people to the Bermondsey Community Council meeting and outlined the items of business for the meeting.

2. Apologies:

Cllrs Manchester, Mann and Capstick sent apologies for absence.

3. Disclosure of Members' Interests and Dispensations:

There were none.

4. Urgent Items:

There were none.

Matters Relating to the Previous Meeting:

5. Confirmation of minutes of the meetings held on 13th July (General) and 19th July (Planning):

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the above meetings be confirmed as accurate and true recordings of events with the following amendments to the general minutes on the subject of the Bermondsey Motor Project: a) addition of a question regarding whether there was any criterion for ending the project to which the response was negative; b) a comment that the project appears to clash with government strategy about reducing private transport use and increasing public transport use.

One other item was discussed during matters arising: it had still not been made clear whether disabled drivers need badges to park on estates. Leigh Richman said he

would ask the Neighbourhood Manager and feedback at the next meeting (**ACTION**); Sarah Naylor added that the Council is looking to secure the blue badge and would also feedback any progress at the next meeting (**ACTION**).

6. Bermondsey Spa Gardens update:

Tim Thompson began by apologising for the lack of activity on site. He then updated the meeting on works progress on each site, expected completion dates and planning consent status. He said that work at Spa Gardens was due to start mid-summer but had to be postponed due to ground contamination. The report – following tests – is due to be produced soon and all are confident the soil can be remedied.

Q&A on Bermondsey Spa Gardens Park:

Q1: There has not been a working group meeting for some time and it is important that residents are told about such things as the contamination of Spa Gardens.

Bassom: The understanding was regular Community Council updates would replace the working group meetings.

A1: (Tim Thompson confirmed Cllr Bassom's understanding was correct.) It was agreed that the only issues that would be taken back to the community separately would be specific ones but the general updates would continue to come to Community Council. There is likely to be a working group meeting before Christmas, when new business arises. There will also be another newsletter in the autumn.

(Cllr Bassom reassured the resident that her concerns would be relayed to Cllr Manchester.)

Q2: What kind of contamination is there?

A2: Tim Thompson said he did not have the information to hand but would report back at the next meeting (**ACTION**). He added that contamination can be caused by things as simple as coal ash from old coal burners and may not be anything major to worry about.

An additional item was accepted by the Chair: Roger Stocker announced that there is a new 'Bikes for Businesses' scheme where the Council is offering businesses in Southwark bicycles to make local journeys. He was available for further information.

7. Police update:

The police did not attend the meeting so their update was postponed until the next meeting.

Q&A on Police Issues:

Q1: During the summer there was no police cover at Leathermarket. The police said that they could not send officers out due to staff shortages. There are drug addicts on Tabbard Gardens and the Kipling Estate who are injecting in public and people, especially the elderly, are trapped in their homes out of fear.

A1: Cllr Bassom agreed that this is an issue and **NOTED** it. Cllr Bassom also reiterated the police message that the elderly are being targeted by bogus callers and so must be vigilant. She also said alarms can be fitted in homes as well as other security provisions.

Q2: Is it possible to speak to an officer, not an answering machine?

A2: (Bassom)The main Southwark number is 0207 378 1212.

Main Business:

8. Traffic consultation report back for Lynton Road/ St James Road:

Mary Toffi introduced the item, outlined the proposals and described the nature of the consultation that took place. She said that most responses were positive, but a few people were unhappy about Lynton Road being part of a one-way system.

Q&A on Traffic:

Q1: Where are the bus stops being relocated?

A1: The southbound one will stay as it is; the northbound one will move slightly closer to Esmerelda Road.

Q2: The 'No Entry' on Lynton Road will need maintaining.

A2: **NOTED.**

Q3: There appears to be no provision to help children cycle to school.

A3: The plans for this have been left off the diagrams to make them simpler to understand, but provisions are being made.

Q4: Will there be more speed bumps and cushions?

A4: Some are planned but the main traffic feature will be signals and crossings for children.

Q5: It seems – from the plans – that cyclists will lose out to pedestrians.

A5: Cyclists will be accommodated as much as possible but the priority is the children's safety so a toucan crossing might be unlikely. Local cyclists will be consulted.

Q6: Can a firmer commitment be made to cyclists?

A6: Not at this stage, as details have not been finalised.

Q7: How will the increased traffic caused by the Bermondsey Motor Project and this scheme be compatible?

A7: There will be calming measures on Beatrice Road to prevent rat running.

Q8: How does the one-way system marry with speed reduction?

A8: The one-way system is very small so the length should not allow for speeding. There is money to spend on further traffic calming if required.

Comment: Cllr Bassom raised concern about safety and said that currently the plans are to only have one entrance to the school open but if two were opened it may reduce the number of children in one area.

9. Cleaner, Greener, Safer:

Sean Connolly began his presentation by updating the meeting on last years' schemes and showing photographs of the changes. He then moved on to talk about this year's projects and their progress, adding that the derelict land study had not been completed yet and as such the remaining money could not be allocated at the current meeting, but rather in November.

Q&A on CGS:

Q1: Could the Kipling Garages project be explained?

A1: Consultation with residents led to a decision to demolish the garages, thereby removing cover for drug users, and maintain a parking area that would be open

and more safe. Some issues have arisen and so officers are going back to the site with Cllr Manchester and residents to reassess what can be done.

Q2: Could tall trees be pruned with left over money?

A2: If there are trees with roots that pose a risk to pedestrians (tripping) then other money would be used to deal with them, not CGS money. If people give details of these trees, officers can look into it.

Q3: What is planned for Jamaica Road/ New Place?

A3: (Flannery) Originally the plan was to tidy up the pavement where it is at its widest; tidy trees, put in a new staircase and work on the flats above. When looking at New Place it was decided that it would be more cost effective to do the two projects together.

Comment: This is a terrific step forward; the seating makes the area much more civilised.

Q4: What is the £93,000 for Longfield for?

A4: (Bassom) To upgrade the football cage there. The children were consulted and it was felt that the young and older children needed to be separated to prevent bullying.

Q5: What is happening to the cage on New Place Squares?

A5: Cllr Flannery said he was still trying to secure funding for it and was in contact with Cherry Gardens and was still pushing for it.

11. Neighbourhood Renewal Funding:

Kevin Peile (Area Renewal Manager for Bermondsey and Rotherhithe) and Jenny Couper (Area Renewal Officer) explained that the Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) is a Central Government initiative aiming to narrow the gap between areas of deprivation across the country, based on a number of floor targets that have been assessed. It is a short-term project which will leave behind sustainable long-term influences.

The Southwark Alliance (the Local Strategic Partnership for Southwark) is responsible for determining and agreeing how the NRF for the Borough is spent.

There are 3 neighbourhood divisions for the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe area: Central Bermondsey, North Rotherhithe, South Bermondsey/ North Livesey. Funds have been allocated as follows and there is currently no funding available through NRF after 2005/06:

Area	2004/05	2005/06
SB/ NL	£500,000	£250,000
Central Bermondsey	£300,000	£500,000
North Rotherhithe	£300,000	£500,000

The priorities were then identified and projects funded to date/ planned for the future were outlined.

For more information:

Kevin Peile 0207 064 1556

Kevin.peile@southwark.gov.uk

Jenny Couper

Jenny.couper@southwark.gov.uk

There were no questions.

10. Community Representatives:

Ola Agbaimoni explained that a joint delivery team had been set up for priority neighbourhoods and that there were searching for a representative from the Community Council who would be able to attend these meetings and report back to the Community Council about progress. She brought a person specification for those interested and said she would be available during the break for further questions.

12. Road Safety Plan Consultation:

Before the presentation was made, Cllr Bassom announced that this meeting would be Trevor Wilding's last and thanked him for his work. Trevor Wilding thanked the Community Council for the way in which they have worked with him over the year and introduced the Interim Manager, Tony Smedley.

Kendal MacKay gave a presentation (Appendix 1) explaining the background to the plan, its aims and how to be involved in consultation.

Q&A on Traffic and Transport and the RSP:

Comment: The building in Bermondsey Street – which has not been worked on for over a year – still has bollards which encroach the pavement, despite this problem being raised with the Transport Group previously.

Wilding: Will arrange a report back for the next meeting (**ACTION**).

At this stage it was also **NOTED** that a resident was unhappy about not being able to ask a question. Cllr Bassom explained that the resident had asked many questions that evening but that there was a time limit and so unfortunately not all questions could be asked.

Officer Surgery and break: 8.35pm

The meeting re-grouped at 8.55pm

13. Post Office Closures:

Simon Hughes MP explained the Post Office proposals stating that since they are government owned, the decision came from a national level. The Government told the Post Office to break even and not make a loss but as the Post Office is making very large losses their proposal is to close some sub post offices in urban areas. Simon Hughes said that he had voted against this action. The Post Office agreed that they would consider closures by constituency but out of the four closures, two are in Bermondsey and in fact Grange ward. They are in Abbey Street and Bermondsey Street and the latter is the oldest sub post office in London, possibly England so it has historical as well as real importance.

Simons Hughes said there were three things to consider:

- i) The effect of the closures – ie. For The Abbey Street Post Office a great concern is where people will go to carry out their transactions, especially as there are a high percentage of older and disabled people in the area who require benefits and pensions or cannot walk the distances required to use another post office. For Bermondsey Street, a great many small local businesses use the post office there and this could affect their success.
- ii) The protest needs to be registered – the case needs to be put to fight for more, not less, public services.

- iii) What people can do personally – sign petitions; write to the Post Office or him as they are the formal consultees stating personal arguments as to why the closures would be detrimental, such as road crossings, bigger delays, going through arches and so on.

Simon Hughes said that the centre of Bermondsey is a growing area and with increasing population and business developments so removing those sub-offices in the centre, leaving those around the border seems nonsensical. He added that the two postmasters of the post offices concerned want to retire but that this should not be a reason to close them down. He said that there is a very real possibility that someone may want to take on both post offices and run them as a joint venture and that if anyone knew of business people who maybe inclined to do so, to contact him.

Q&A on Post Office Closures:

- Q1:** Has it been considered that many pensioners are housebound and carers have to collect their money from post offices? Carers are only allowed a certain amount of time with each individual and by closing the post offices they may only be able to spend a limited amount of time actually caring for the person in their job requires them to.
- A1:** This is a good point. Direct debit accounts are not realistic for this generation, nor is the new pin system which would require the person being cared for to keep their pin private.
- Q2:** Blind and partially sighted people live very close to one of the post offices and may not be able to cope with a route change. The elderly often require a personal service also.
- A2:** Agreed.
- Q3:** The issue is not just one of a double journey time but also double waiting time once at the post office. The elderly require this service and have earned it.
- A3:** Yes, and this is an entirely different proposal to perhaps closing the post offices between certain hours rather than shutting them entirely.
- Q4:** Are these post offices equally used?
- A4:** The Post Office refuse to make usage figures public and a commitment has been made (by Simon Hughes) to do everything possible to make these figures public.
- Q5:** Would it be possible to keep at least one?
- A5:** The formal opinion (of Simon Hughes) is to keep one but the fight will not be given up to keep both. Ideally they would be jointly run.
- Q6:** Has the soaring value of properties in the area contributed to the Post Office's decision, particularly regarding Bermondsey Street?
- A6:** No: they are rented not owned properties.
- Q7:** Would rental cost not increase with capital costs?
- A7:** Yes higher outlay does mean losses, but there is someone who would be willing to take Bermondsey Street, not Abbey Street.
- Q8:** If the government decision is to close them due to losses, would it not be possible to close one of the other ones instead?
- A8:** Yes this is possible, but without the facts and figures on use it is difficult to make this decision. Maybe Abbey Street is the least busy but we do not know at this stage. Many other constituencies are actually suffering more from these closures than ours.

Q9: Why is the Council not using money from large developers to keep these post offices? Planning permission has been granted for many developments in the area and surely S106 money could be used?

A9: It would be worth looking at ways in which the Council could work with businesses and we need to be better at supporting small businesses.

Stanton: It would be difficult to provide open-ended revenue funding for something like a post office.

Public Response: If a deal was made with Barclay Homes for Tabbard Gardens for Sainsbury then why not?

Comment: Post Offices are a necessity. With all the developments in the area, more will be needed.

Hughes Response: Yes, huge regeneration developments are taking place and in a few years time these facilities may well be needed much more than even now. When trying to regenerate an area, services are a vital part of attracting people. The Post Office problem is understandable but it is the Government's problem, not theirs.

AGREED that a paragraph should be drafted by Angela D'Urso, and agreed with Cllr Bassom, that incorporates the sentiments expressed at the meeting.

14. Licensing Statement Consultation:

Kim Harlow and Jane Dyer gave a presentation outlining the new Licensing Statement (see Appendix 2).

Q&A on the New Licensing Statement:

Q1: A note was received which has left many TRAs very concerned as they often have barn dances where there is a DJ, no bar but people bring their own alcohol and they currently do not need a licence. What will happen now?

A1: If there are less than 500 people attending and these dances do not exceed 96 hours in total then only notice is needed.

Bassom: Can an advice note be sent out to TRAs advising them of any changes they may need to make? (**ACTION**)

Public Question Time and Deputations:

Q1: A question was raised about the need to move a bus stop in Southwark Park Road; details not minuted.

Q2: The junction at Tower Bridge Road and Grange Road is dangerous to cross when the green man is showing. Can it be minuted that nothing has been done about this yet?

Comment: The power point presentations are excellent but the font is too small for people to read and the screen needs to be moved forward, or hard copies need to be available.
(CCDO responded that a request would be made to officers to increase font size.)

Q3: Could there be a hatched yellow box at the Lynton Road/ Dunton Road/ Willow Walk junction? (**NOTED**)

Members' Decisions:

AGREED: That the minutes of 13th July 2004 (General) and 19th July 2004 (Planning) are true and accurate recordings of those Community Council meetings with the inclusion of the following amendments to the general minutes on the subject of the Bermondsey Motor Project: a) addition of a question regarding whether there was any criterion for ending the project to which the response was negative; b) a comment that the project appears to clash with government strategy about reducing private transport use and increasing public transport use.

AGREED: To appoint Mrs PC Evans as school governor to Grange Primary School.

AGREED: That a paragraph should be drafted by Angela D’Urso, and agreed with Cllr Bassom, that incorporates the sentiments expressed at the meeting.

NOTED: That Redriff Primary is not in the Bermondsey Community Council area and as such a governor was not appointed to the school.

Chairs closing comments:

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and announced the next meeting dates.

The meeting closed at 10pm and there were 31 signed in attendees excluding Councillors (although the headcount was 42).

Chair:

Dated:

APPENDIX 1 Road Safety Plan Presentation

What is the purpose of the plan?

- To make Southwark safer for all road users
- To identify the threats to road safety
- To set out solutions and treatments
- To encourage more sustainable modes of travel
- To ensure a cohesive approach to road safety

Casualty reduction targets

	1994-98 average	Percent reduction by 2010	Target number 2010	Number in 2002
Total number killed or seriously injured	239.2	40	143.5	222
Total pedestrians killed or seriously injured	79.8	40	47.9	54
Total cyclists killed or seriously injured	24.6	40	14.8	27
Total powered two wheeler riders killed or seriously injured	47.4	40	28.4	59
Total children killed or seriously injured	34	50	17	20
Slight casualties (by distance travelled) ¹	Not available at present	10	Not available at present	Not available at present
Slight casualties overall	1,543	10	1,388.7	1,473

¹ A methodology for calculating this figure is currently being developed by the Department for Transport (DfT)

Sources of threat to road users

- Some of the main threats include:
 - Volume of motor traffic
 - Speed of vehicles
 - Dangerous behaviour

Solutions and treatments

- Some of the treatments include:
 - 20 mph zones and local safety schemes
 - Child safety audits and school travel plans
 - Education and publicity campaigns
 - Improving enforcement

Making safer environments

- Changing perceptions of the physical environment
- Home Zones
- Urban safety management

Safety of children

- The safety of children needs special attention
- Child road casualties are linked to deprivation
- We will expand Safer-Routes-to-School
- We will work more closely with schools

Towards safer and more sustainable transport

- We want to encourage more people to walk and to cycle
- We need to identify threats to walking and cycling
- We will produce a walking plan and a cycling plan

Coordinating road safety with other strategies and initiatives

- We will coordinate the road safety plan with other council strategies
- We will work with our partners to achieve a cohesive approach
- We will work more closely with the general public

The action plan

- The action plan sets out:
 - How we will deal with the sources of threat
 - Who our major partners are
 - How we will fund the actions

Consultation on the draft plan

- We want your views and suggestions
- 9 September 2004 until 29 October 2004
- Copies of the draft plan are available:
 - Online
 - One Stop Shops
 - Council Offices
 - Libraries
- Feedback form / questionnaire

Contact details

Website:

www.southwark.gov.uk - follow the links to 'Our Services', then 'Transport', then 'Road Safety Plan'

One Stop Shops:

Walworth One Stop Shop
151 Walworth Road
SE17 1RY

Peckham One Stop Shop
122 Peckham Hill Street
SE15 5JR

Transport Group

Telephone: 020 7525 5317

Fax: 020 7525 4683

Email: transport@southwark.gov.uk

Address:

Transport Group
Regeneration Department
Southwark Council
Chiltern House, Portland Street
LONDON
SE17 2ES

A Single Integrated Licensing System

- **Replaces existing alcohol, public entertainment, cinemas, theatres and night café licensing law**
- **Personal licences - The retail sale of alcohol**
- **Club Premises Certificate -The supply of alcohol in certified clubs to members –**
- **Premises Licence - The provision of regulated entertainment, plays, films, indoor sports, live music, recorded music and dance**
- **Occasional Public Entertainment & Temporary Event Notices**
- **The provision of late night refreshments – Premises Licence**

Why has it been introduced?

- **Proportionate regulation**
- **Greater consumer & tourist choice**
- **Family friendly**
- **Development of community culture**
- **Regeneration – investment & employment opportunities**
- **Protection of residents**

The Licensing Objectives

The four main licensing objectives under the Act are:

- **The prevention of crime and disorder**
 - **Public safety**
 - **The prevention of public nuisance**
 - **The protection of children from harm**
- Each objective has equal importance**

The Statement of Licensing Policy

- **Each licensing authority must prepare and publish a statement of licensing policy every three years**
- **The statement forms the basis upon which every licensing decision must be taken**
- **Must be based upon consultation**
- **Must be consistent with with local issues & national strategies**

Safeguards & Benefits

- **Benefit of Relaxation in Licensing Hours**
- **Cumulative Impact Policy**
- **Licenses can be reviewed at any time**
- **Gives new appeal rights for residents**
- **Local Authority & Police main enforcement - Police powers of premises closure**
- **Problem premises - Council powers to amend, suspend or revoke licenses**
- **Temporary Event Notices**

Timetable for Transition

- **Act received Royal Assent in July 2003**
- **The DCMS Guidance approved**
- **6 months to establish policy and process - Consultation on policy ends 15 October 2004**
- **1st appointed date – 5 February 2005 transition begins**
- **6 months to apply for ‘grandfather’ rights - 9 months for transition**
- **2nd date – November 2005 new system in force**
- **No dates for secondary regulations**

Consultation with residents in the area for the statement of licensing policy

- **Work Shops – facilitated by the Community Involvement and Development Unit**
- **Split up into discussion groups**
- **Survey Form - Feedback on Licensing Policy Statement**
- **If you wish to give further feed back, contact Licensing Unit or download from the Council’s web site at www.southwark.gov.uk/business/licensing or e-mail on licensing@southwark.gov.uk**
- **Round Up - General Consultation Event 10am Saturday 9 October 2004 Southwark Town Hall**

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