



# Your community councils

# Annual Review 2017 -18

## More than just a meeting...

Your community council meetings take place five times a year and provide a forum for discussion, questions, and meeting Councillors, members of the community and council officers.

The meetings are constantly evolving in response to feedback and we are always looking for more ways to put local people at the centre of what we do. There are two meetings a year (between June and April) that have a specific component, where important business decisions, particularly regarding funding awards etc. are made, as well as the public discussion. The other three meetings have a little more time to develop themes and topics of interest, which are selected after consultation with residents and Councillors, and reflect the different priorities of each community council area.

In recognition of the nature of people's busy lives, we have looked for ways to increase value from the meetings as well as making them more accessible. We introduced live streaming towards the end of 2016, which allows people who are unable to attend for various reasons, to engage with the meeting and find out what is being discussed.

The meetings are an important component of the engagement between residents and the Council, and indeed, with each other, but your community council is very much more than just a meeting...





## **Consultations** – supporting participation in Council initiatives

This year the community councils have had presentations/workshops/exhibitions to encourage local people to participate in public consultations, to ensure that as many people as possible have had an opportunity to comment on proposed changes in their areas, or to contribute to forming new strategies. These have included:

Southwark Conversations; Southwark Spine Quietway Canada Water Master Plan; Abbey Street Quietway 14 Old Kent Road Area Action Plan; Cycle Super Highway (TfL) New Southwark Plan; Herne Hill Neighbourhood Forum; Peckham to Dulwich Quietway 7 Thorburn Square Parking Study; Queens Road Parking Study; Dulwich Area Traffic Study; Mental Health Wellbeing consultation; Dulwich Hospital Site update; New Southwark Voluntary & Community Sector Strategy; Mental Health, Art Exhibition-3 schools, Highshore, John Ruskin & Ark All Saints Academy, over 45 entries showcased at meeting

**Presentations:** The meetings often include presentations, and an opportunity to ask questions, from external and internal speakers such as:

Borough Police Commander; Assembly Member for Transport; Community and Voluntary organisations; UK Charities; Members of Parliament; Officers from City Hall; Highways team; Cabinet Members – with theme related responsibility; NHS; Transport for London; Senior Policy Officer; Detective Chief Superintendent. Mental Health NHS Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group; Architects & Developers.

## **Deputations and Campaigns**

In addition local residents have brought their deputations and campaigns to the meeting for consideration and representation. This year we have heard deputations on:

- Camberwell Grove Railway Bridge re-opening
- Temporary closure of Troy Town to traffic

And campaigns...

- Campaign to re-open Camberwell station
- Southwark parent led campaign to protect funding for local schools
- Campaign regarding Plane Noise in Camberwell



## **Developing community relationships** - New contacts with emerging groups

Peckham Initiative offering training and mentoring in film, media and arts workshop

Young people project “Made2BMore”

New Charity “Voices Welcome”

Hidaya Women’s Association - ESOL

Herbs & Spaces



## **Volunteers**

We have had help from some lovely volunteers over the course of the year, and they have all got something from the experience – career advancement, meeting new people, and developing skills/understanding.

Nicholas volunteered with us for nearly a year - *I'm now working in Hackney Public Health team! I got a contract and I'm doing great experience here. About my experience with CCT - It was great to work with the Council. I supported Community Council meetings, which allowed me not only to see public debate between councillors and neighbours, but also to network with communities organisations. Thanks to this, I was able to volunteer in other areas of the Council I was interested and later on this led to my first contract. Volunteering with the community council's team opened many doors for me!*

Ami has also volunteered for nearly a year: *It has been great working with the community council as a volunteer It also made me learn more about what was available for the community I live in, and has been great experience..*

**Outcomes** Sometimes the topics covered generate more in depth interest, and result in additional offshoot activities: e.g.

- Peckham and Nunhead Knife Crime network group (initially generated from 2016 meeting) – to develop map of initiatives
- Developing a knife crime toolkit for schools: how to report, signpost to agencies and find support, advice and information.
- Feed into Southwark consultation with parents and young people. Youth Council to identify gaps in provision
- Faith groups to explore setting up an interfaith mentoring service.
- CIL Bridget
- Groups/Individuals requesting to be added to e-newsletter mailing list



## Communications

- Newsletter: The monthly e-newsletter has gone from strength to strength and now is delivered to approximately 2,500 people per month.
- Social Media: Facebook stats show that 2695 people have visited our Facebook pages and 2553 actions on posts have taken place
- Twitter: Currently preparing to include Twitter during next year 2018-19
  
- Live streaming: now between 10-20 active (signed up) followers, over 1500 views and 13 Likes
- More than 15 non-meeting based requests to receive e-newsletter

## Youth engagement

Over the past year community councils have worked with various youth organisations across the borough. In some areas, themed meetings have been dedicated to youth related issues. Working closely with Southwark Youth Council, members of the Youth Council have attended some of the community council meetings and have been actively involved in themed discussions.

Whilst young people may not always attend the community council meetings, the neighbourhoods fund has been a key driver engaging with youth across the borough. The neighbourhoods fund has been able to touch young people by funding various youth projects through sports, music, arts, trips and theatre. It has also helped to fund projects that focus on issues affecting young people such as knife crime.

- 20 September 2017 - Increasing and supporting youth opportunities – (PNCC) themed meeting
- Supported Cllrs at Jean Te Le FC awards (PNCC)
- 30 January 2017-Youth Themed. Question time. Borough Police Commander and Florence Eshalomi AM. (CCC)
- 20 September 2017 - Keeping young people safe in Camberwell. (CCC)
- NsF 17/18. Youth projects funded. 48

## Neighbourhoods Fund: Camberwell:

Camberwell Fair Camberwell Fair 2017 a celebration of Camberwell's music, people and culture - with music across various stages, food and a market made up of local or regional businesses. As well as staged performances there were games and workshops in different parts of the Green. Despite heavy rain, the event was a great success and the atmosphere was electric, with people braving the weather, to come and celebrate and enjoy the amazing music and stalls on offer. Over 40% of people attending said that 'Community



'Spirit' was their favourite thing about the festival. We achieved community cohesion making the event free, so that was attended by a broad cross-section of people living in the area, and through a diverse programme of activities, with music on the Wormfood stage from a wide range of cultural backgrounds eg Afrikan Boy (Nigeria), Tantz (Eastern Europe), Balaphonics (France), Kakatsitsi (Ghana). Our partnerships with community organisations helped advertise the Fair widely to harder-to-

reach groups and helped people feel empowered to attend, as organisations they knew already had a presence there.

### Dulwich – Delawick Residents Association Day Trip



Residents representing all diverse groups of families/residents that we have on the estate were on the trip and having have fun together. This event gave residents an opportunity to get to know each other, enhancing and strengthening neighbourliness and good social relations. It was a grand day out for all, and enjoyed by all age groups, including our elderly residents.

### Peckham and Nunhead - Salem Music Academy



The trainees attended after school musical training at Salem Academy for two hours per week, where they were trained to play various musical instruments and on voice production. During the activities, the trainees learnt together, played together and worked as members of a team on their musical instruments, set pieces and choral. We organised a musical

concert which enabled the trainees to display their talents and skills. They rendered a



selection of pieces in ensemble and orchestra group. They performed solo, duet etc. and gave us a choral directed by the chairman of the organisation.

They were also involved in leading various groups during training and contributed to the planning of the musical concert. - The musical instrument and voice production training went well and this created cohesion between people in the community, breaking the barrier of seclusion and helping them to work together. This improved their instrumental and vocal skills. During the musical training, the trainees were occupied for two hours each week through effective practical teaching/learning and were able to practice what they were taught. Not only engaging in their musical training at the academy but also in practising at home, decreasing boredom and reducing inclination and opportunity to engage in some of the antisocial behaviour that they may have otherwise been attracted to.

The discipline of musical training and rehearsal also helped the young people improve their self-confidence, discipline, self-esteem etc. They were also involved in leading various groups during learning period, generating closer bonds with their peers and good team work. This has had a great effect on what was a fairly disparate group, and on their community at large, including their relationships with their parents.

### **Bermondsey and Rotherhithe- Friends of Southwark Park Summer Activities**

The programme consisted of eleven activities, all free of charge to those who attended or participated

The third athletics festival, organised by the London PE and Sport Network based at Bacon's College, was held in very hot weather on the recently refurbished Southwark Park



Athletics track. It was the first time a school sports day had taken place there for many years. Eleven schools took part –involving around 150 children and 45 staff and volunteers.

The Southwark Park Football Cup  
Guided Tour 'King's Stairs Gardens' by Pat Kingwell

Bermondsey Carnival Tennis Day  
Bermondsey Carnival Traditional Games  
Bermondsey Carnival Bee Experience by Sharon Bassey

Rotherhithe Festival:  
Guided Tour: 'The Ada Salter Garden Southwark Park' by Lynne Olding  
Bandstand Concert



## Borough, Bankside and Walworth – Heart in the Park

The aim of the project was to deliver creative storytelling and recycled craft workshop days which provided affordable, simple and enjoyable activities for local parents to support their children's learning and development. Stories in the Park also worked to encourage positive parent - child relationships and to foster a sense of community well being.

Families were invited to participate in interactive storytelling sessions followed by a range of crafting activities including drum and mask making.

We delivered three 'Stories in the Park' days in Burgess Park, one of which was held at 1st Place Children's Centre. Excellent attendance and levels of engagement, over the course of the 3 Stories in the Park days at Burgess Park we delivered sessions to 132 participants, 84 who were children and 46 adults.

82% of people attending rated the event as 'Excellent'.

and parents said that their children had really enjoyed the session. It was good for children and parents - the activities would be easy to do at home - would try the activities with their children at home - the staff delivered a good session - keen to attend another Stories in the Park event



**Influencing decisions:** The community have the opportunity to have their say about funding decisions from Cleaner Greener Safer Fund and Devolved Highways Budget, Neighbourhoods Fund and the Community Infrastructure Levy. These funding streams allow for projects such as installing cycle parking, outdoor gym equipment, raised gardening beds etc., Highways adjustments and pedestrian safety measures, community led activities, events, and celebrations, and local improvement works funded from contributions by large scale developments that have taken place.

## The Numbers

### Attendance

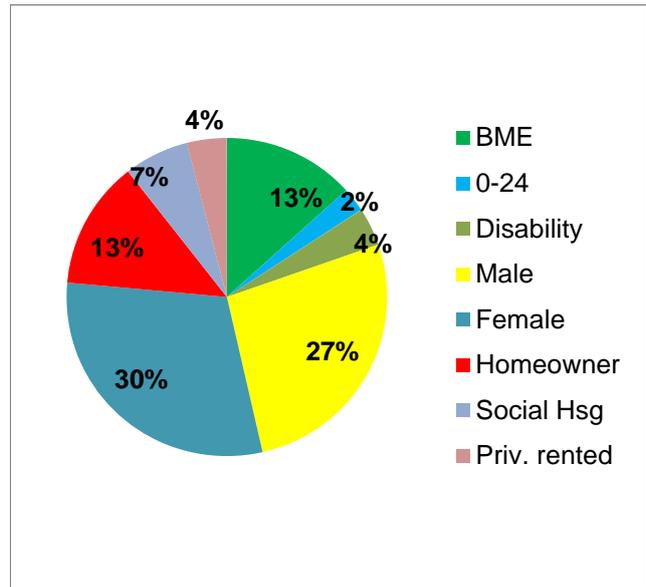
Over the year: over 2,500 people have attended meetings

Over the year: 700 new people, who have not attended before, came to a meeting



Demographic breakdown of attendees across 16 meetings

BME	13%
Disability	4%
Youth	2%
Male	27%
Female	30%
Owner/Shared	13%
Social Housing	7%
Private Rented	4%

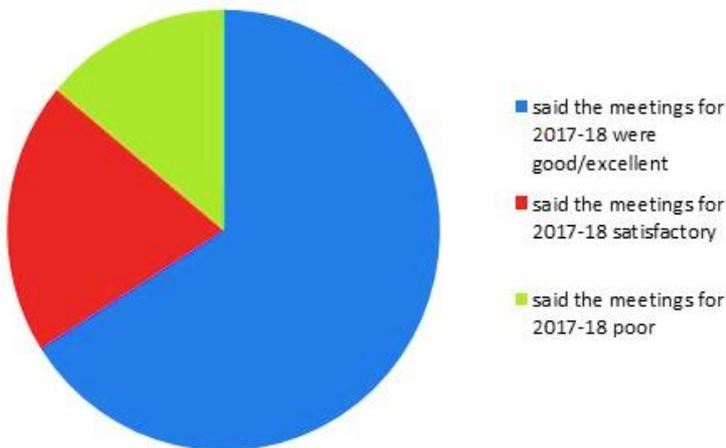


Of meeting evaluations responses:

66% said the meetings for 2017-18 were good/excellent

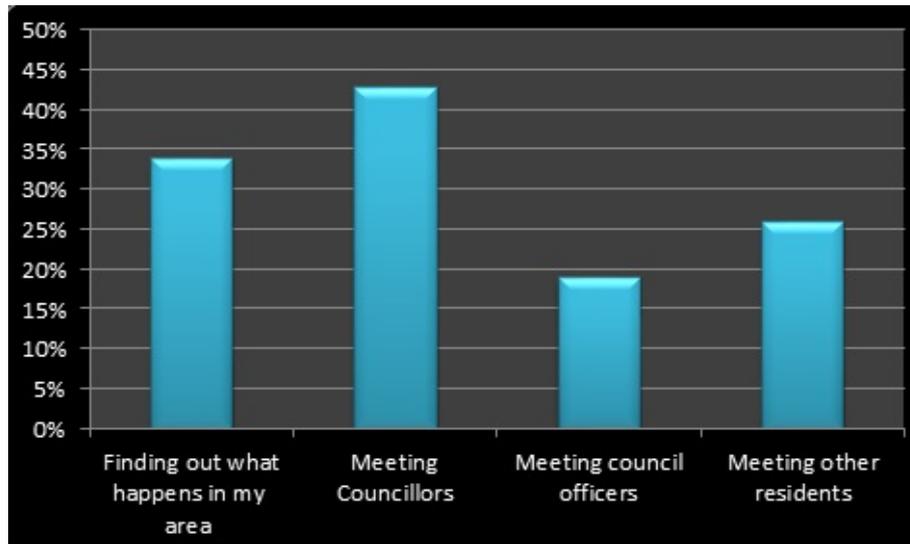
20% said the meetings for 2017-18 satisfactory

14% said the meetings for 2017-18 poor



What people think work best in meetings:

- Finding out what happens in my area 34%
- Finding out what the council is doing 30%
- Meeting Councillors 43%
- Meeting council officers 19%
- Meeting other residents 26%



## Comments

*We asked for suggestions as to how the meeting could be improved – these were some of the comments:*

Very interesting meeting

The workshops/discussion groups are good, what happens to the output from them?

Excellent meetings on the whole, some topics are more interesting than others

Strong Chairmanship needed to ensure everyone gets a chance to ask questions or make a contribution.

Need more time for public discussion, also for networking.

Really enjoy opportunity to meet new people and hear what's going on in the area

It would have been helpful to have the link to presentation available so that people could follow along on their own devices. Longer timescales for comment would also be useful.

Meeting at a time when the majority of the community can be present like Saturday as well

I believe that the meeting was very successful so there was not much to improve.

Maybe too much on the agenda. However, single issue agendas would risk poorer attendance.

I think that the meeting was well organised, but could have had more assistants to take the microphones around the hall to avoid the movement of one or two people going from one end of the hall to the other.



In order to see who was talking, it would have been good for the chairperson to ask the speaker to stand when speaking.

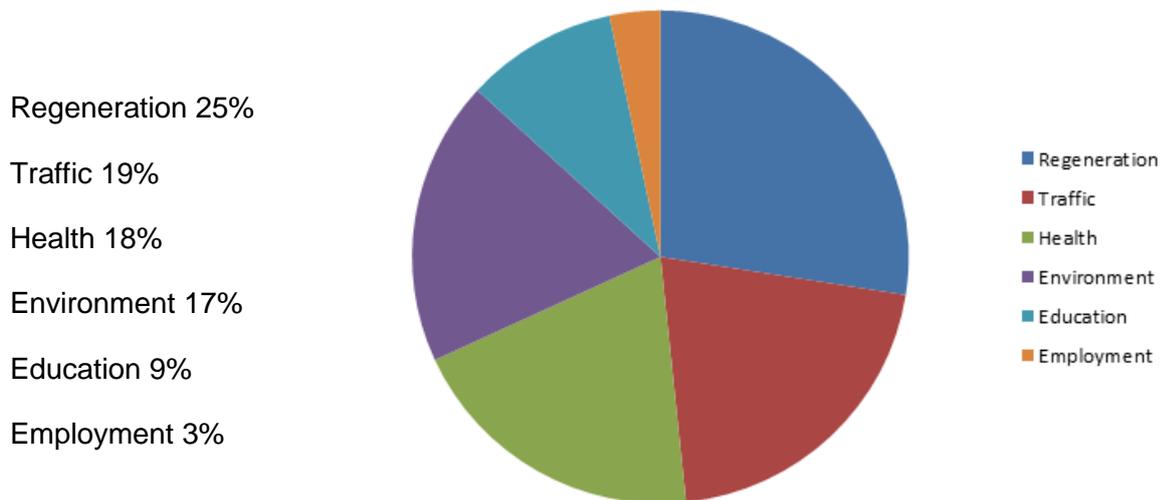
It was quite a big agenda and lots of people were keen to discuss particular issues and I felt that some were disappointed because they did not have enough time to express their views.

The meeting was very well-attended and needed more space for the community to sit comfortably.

For me I would prefer that the Councillors re adopt the seating positions at the top tables.

### Themes:

*We suggested some possible themes for next year, and asked people to rank in order of priority*



*We also asked for **additional suggestions**: These were what we received (plus number of mentions)*

Developments and Architecture x 1; History, Music, Arts & Culture/Heritage x3; Youth (Gang culture) x1; Housing x2; New business start-up x1; Sexism and opportunities for young women x1; Tourism in Southwark x1; Council decision making x1; Policing/Safer Neighbourhoods x1; Community Space

### ... next year

We will be undertaking a review of data protection, adjusting to boundary changes, and introducing Twitter to the communications arsenal...