

Walworth Society Meeting
Thursday 5th October 2017 – St Peter’s Church, Liverpool Grove SE17

Meeting Minutes – Committee Meeting held at 6pm and Full Meeting held at 7pm

- In accord with our aim to hold bi-monthly committee meetings, a committee meeting was held in advance of the full meeting. The minutes of this appear below and are followed by the notes from the full meeting.

A. Committee Meeting – 6pm.

Present: Kevin Williamson, Vince Brown, Jeremy Leach (Chair), Norma Lawrence, Peta Steel, Gary Malloy.

Apologies: Diana Cochrane, John Whelan

1. Minutes of the 10th August Committee Meeting - follow up. There were no items of the previous meeting minutes that have not been addressed or which would not be picked up in the meeting agenda.
2. Review of Walworth Festival Events – Discussion. The following points were made:
 - Thanks were offered to John Whelan for the amazing job that he had done in organising the four festival events so well.
 - The events had all been highly successful in terms of their organisation; the Festival as a whole had been dogged by poor weather which had reduced numbers of attendees.
 - Suggestions for future years included holding one or two events (one to the east and one to the west of the Walworth Road) as a maximum and holding events earlier in the year as it gets (even) colder after the end of August.
 - It might be better to focus on one major event and give support to other local festivals in conjunction with local groups eg working with traders in Westmoreland Rd or a local residents’ groups (such as Fielding St) to help them put on their event.
3. Walworth Community Gardening Network - Grant from United St Saviour’s Charity and impact on WS. This item was taken with 4. Proposed changes to WS structure (resulting from 3 above). A number of changes are proposed to aspects of how the society operates in order to improve governance and financial management.
 - Vince Brown, the WS Treasurer, proposed that the society will from now on have its annual accounts independently verified. This will incur a cost of around £150. The meeting agreed with this proposal.
 - Vince proposed to move to a system of dual authorisation for online payments for larger payments – it was suggested that this might be for sums over £200. The meeting agreed with this proposal. Vince suggested moving the bank account to a bank that does not charge a significant fee for dual authorisation and investigation of possible telephone banking. The meeting agreed with this proposal. The meeting agreed to retain dual signatories for cheques.
 - Vince discussed the structure of the society and noted that from his research if a body has an income of more than £5,000 per year then the financial authorities need to know about it. It was agreed that further investigation would be undertaken about the implications of this and as a starting point we would write to HMRC tell them that we exist and seek advice on what should we do. In terms of any moves towards incorporation, further research would be undertaken between now and the AGM in February 2018 and, after further discussion by the committee, a fuller proposal for a changed structure would be made to members.
 - The meeting agreed to allow the Chair to create and sign a contract of service with Vince Brown for delivery of the Walworth Community Gardening Network (WCGN) project on behalf of the society.

5. Current financial position - Treasurer's report.

The Treasurer gave the following summary of the society's financial position covering the period from 5th April to 5th October 2017.

Income		Brought forward from Previous Financial Year	
High St Challenge R5	£15,000	High St Challenge R5	£2,750
Walworth Happenings (Southwark Council Neighbourhoods Fund)	£2,800	Walworth Festival	£7,500
Walworth Community Gardening Network (WCGN)	£7,850	Neighbourhood Funds (Low Line)	£5,000
Merchandise	£550	Other (uncommitted)	£426
Total	£26,200	Total In Bank (05Apr17)	£15,676
Expenditure			
High St Challenge R5	£17,337	Remaining in budget	
Walworth Happenings	£330	High St Challenge R5	£413
Total	£17,667	Walworth Happenings	£2,470
		WCGN	£7,850
Income over Expenditure		Walworth Festival	£7,500
Committed	£23,233	Neighbourhood Funds (Low Line)	£5,000
Uncommitted	£976	Uncommitted	£976
Total In Bank (05Oct17)	£24,210	Total	£24,210
Petty Cash (05Apr17)	£38	Petty Cash (05Oct17)	£160

The meeting thanked Vince for all this work and the considerable task of managing and monitoring the society's finances and agreed that Jeremy, John and Vince should meet to go through the accounts in detail in order to understand and resolve any outstanding issues.

The meeting closed at 6.45pm. The date of the next committee meeting will be 6pm Thursday 7th December 2017.

Full Meeting Held at 7pm

1. Present:

Jeremy Leach (Chair)	Mark Webb	Fitzroy Anyisia
Natasha Heliotis (Meeting Secretary)	Liba Hoskin	Simon Beresford
Steve Crawford	Mike Wilson	Sonia Kneepkens
Norma Lawrence	Diana Cochrane	Ken Kelling
Toby Eckersley	Kareen El Beyrouty	Gary Malloy
Vincent Brown	Abby Burton Crisostomo	Olivia Tweedie
Jo Meehan	Peta Steel	Kevin Williamson

2. Apologies: Cllr Eleanor Kerslake, Cllr Maisie Anderson, Cllr James Coldwell, John Whelan.

3. Follow-up to WS meeting held on 7th September. There were no outstanding issues from the September meeting. The meeting thanked Natasha for stepping in to take the minutes of the meeting.

4. Elephant & Walworth Neighbourhood Forum: Fitzroy Anyisia from the Elephant and Walworth Neighbourhood Forum reminded the meeting of the Forum AGM to be held at 10am on Saturday 14th October at Inspire in Liverpool Grove. As a group they are trying to find out what the treasures of the Walworth community are and then putting them on a map for a treasure hunt. More generally the NF group is working on a total of 6 action areas.

5. Safer Neighbourhood Issues: Camberwell and Walworth - Mark Webb.

Mark works in a personal capacity with the Safer Neighbourhood Team on issues in and between Camberwell/Peckham and Walworth and wanted to alert people to the role that they can play in relation to two rival gangs, the O2 from Peckham and the Moscow 17 gang from Camberwell whose long running dispute with each other has at times spread across Burgess Park and into the Walworth area. Although there is little threat to the public themselves, the dispute involves the hiding of and use of a range of weapons across the area.

Mark said that if you see gang graffiti saying O2 or Moscow17 or M17, report it to the Council or let the Walworth Safer Neighbourhood Teams know either by phoning 101 or emailing the ward teams at Newington.snt@met.police.uk, EastWalworth.snt@met.police.uk, or Faraday.snt@met.police.uk

The most valuable role that people can play is to report information to these teams. The meeting thanked Mark for all his hard work on this issue.

6. Healthy High Street Project – Sonia Kneepkens from Innovation Unit (and working closely with the team at Pembroke House). Sonia gave information about a project that seeks to tackle childhood obesity in the Walworth area, working with local community to improve food offers on the high street. She said that a food festival would be held at the end of October on Walworth Road and was interested in the connections that people had with local businesses as well as information on where can people come together socially and share food and how children can be dissuaded from buying unhealthy food eg after school.

If anyone would like to be involved: Sonia can be contacted on: sonia.kneepkens@innovationunit.org

A number of businesses were suggested as being potential partners including amongst other Baldwins, the East St traders with fruit and vegetables, a juice shop that has opened on Browning Street, Oli Stores and the South American/Latin restaurants in the Walworth & E&C area. Norma wondered if there could be

other places created where people can sit, as the only place where young people on Walworth Road can go and sit in currently is McDonalds. Kareen suggested that an important thing about healthy food is knowing where it comes from and what is in it. Can we educate young people about where this comes from?

7) Walworth Community Gardening (WCGN) programme – Vince Brown. Contact: vincebrown@walworthcgn.co.uk

- Vince talked about the early tasks of the WCGN which is supported by funding from United St Saviour's Charity and:
 - the need to put together a list of all the gardening opportunities in the area as people don't know about them; where are the beds that have been set up over the years that have become overrun. If people live in an estate or street with no gardening opportunities, Vince is keen to chat about creating some for them and their neighbours.
 - To create a network of small groups of gardeners, to share expertise and act as mentors for others; this can help make the groups more stable and long lasting.
 - For the network to share information, perhaps using a monthly newsletter to share gardening news in the area.
 - To hold a Walworth gardening event, something like an annual gardening show towards the end of the year to get people more involved.
 - To hold a gardening conference early in the season in 2018. This is planned for Saturday April 21st at Walworth Garden on Manor Place SE17.

Toby suggested that whenever the WCGN does something, to place a sticker in the ground indicating who did the work and how the WCGN can be contacted.

8) Round up.

- Hampton Court Palace Hotel proposal; society has objected to the planning application.
- 57-67 Camberwell Road: there was a previous plan to make residential rather than retail space on the ground floor: Southwark rejected that but new plans are coming forward for development.
- Bethel Terrace – east side Camberwell Road. Camberwell Society and Walworth Society aiming to see some movement on the end terrace building (north) which is now derelict following the fire a couple of years ago.
- The planned redevelopments of Manor Place Terrace and the Braganza St workshops recently received planning permission. Toby asked whether it was still the intention to try to preserve the tiles in the old diary building. JL confirmed that the WS would continue to press for this.
- Norma was concerned that the new Columbian food shop on the Walworth Road may have seen the creation of a dangerous drop into the basement. Peta and Norma to take a look and take up the matter, if needed, with Southwark Council Development Control Dept.
- The next meeting (7pm Thurs 2nd November) will be held in the Cooltan Arts offices at the Former Newington Library building at 155 Walworth Road, SE17 1RS. Officers from Southwark Council will attend to discuss the progress on the longer term uses for the Town Hall and Newington Library Buildings.
- WS to invite John Stewart from Plane Hell to talk about the campaign against aircraft noise in this part of South London.
- WS to object to the proposed development of FOUR new telephone boxes along the Walworth Road - 17/AP/3730, 17/AP/3727, 17/AP/3729 and 17/AP/3728. Grounds to include impact on the Conservation Area.
- Friends of Pasley Park AGM – Monday October 16th, 6 - 7pm Pasley T&RA Hall Stopford Rd SE17.

Next meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday 2nd November at the Former Newington Library Building at 155 Walworth Road, SE17 1RS