

Walworth Society Meeting
Thursday 2nd November 2017 – Former Newington Library Walworth Road SE17

Meeting Minutes

1. Present:

Jeremy Leach (Chair)	Mark Webb	Gary Malloy
Christy Burdock (Meeting Secretary)	Abby Burton Crisostomo	Kevin Williamson
Steve Crawford	Aaron Burton Crisostomo	Rita Unger
Norma Lawrence	Robert Davies	Celia Harvey
Toby Eckersley	Paul McGann	Neil Crossfield
James Marson	Andrew Sawdon	Tracy Crossfield
Steve Lancashire	Yinka	John Stewart
Peter Cooke	Toby Brundin	Jenny Jefferis
Anne Roache	Christine Tan	Andrew Bell
	Jim Beedell	J Pascoe

2. Apologies: Shelagh Farren, Artison Wangpraseurt, Peta Steel, Cllr Maisie Anderson, Jane Hadfield, Robert Hadfield, Cllr Eleanor Kerslake, Diana Cochrane, Vincent Brown.

The meeting thanked Tom and Elizabeth from Cooltan Arts for all their help and time in organising the meeting in their offices in the library building.

- **3. Follow up from last meeting.** Thanks to total of ten objections to each of the advertisements masquerading as phone box planning applications.
- **4. Plane Noise over Walworth/SE London.** Meeting welcomed John Stewart from HACAN (<http://hacan.org.uk/>) who has been a Sth London resident for 25 yrs and found little or no plane noise when he first came to live here. Change over last 10-15 years. Plane numbers have increased steadily since 20 years ago and there are now over 40 planes an hour. It affects some, not all, noise is subjective. Government plays on this. Can get worse if third runway built at Heathrow with an extra 700 planes a day using Heathrow. Third runway stopped by campaigning in 2010 partly by the work of HACAN but there will be a vote in Parliament on another proposal May/June next year. If parliament backs it may be built by 2024/2025. Unless something is done about flight paths things will become more difficult for us locals. Another consultation is due to come out Jan next year - Heathrow looking to change its flight paths. Flight paths are changing. New Computer technology - planes guided precisely - can have one or two single flight paths into Heathrow, therefore the people under those flightpaths will suffer in 'noise ghettos'. HACAN has been arguing for four or five multiple flight paths that can be rotated during the day so that there are many planes over a few hours only and relative peace for rest of day. So, particularly if a third runway comes in, it's important to have the rotating flightpaths. Owing to the impact of planes in SE London HACAN have created a number of other campaign groups including HACAN South East (<http://hacan.org.uk/category/hacan-south-east/>). Aircraft noise and pollution is not just a West London problem. If anyone would like to get involved send John an email at: johnstewart2@btconnect.com
- Mark noted that there is one plane and 58 seconds later another, CONSTANTLY, it affects mental health. He gets lots of takers wanting to sign petition, it affects many people whose mental health is affected. Not able to get 7 hours sleep. Starts at 4:30am. This will get worse unless we start campaigning. Night flights are particularly disturbing. John said that in Frankfurt a study found physical problems, stress that can lead to heart attacks, mental health issues were exacerbated. When the Icelandic volcano erupted they noticed the peace and quiet due to absence of planes.
- Toby said that he cannot sit in his garden without ear defenders on but can still hear planes, has double glazing but still gets woken up at 4:30.
- John said that HACAN will be going out in parks, in advance of consultation in January, to do research on planes coming over South East London. The aim is for respite and rotation and this idea came from HACAN. He wants a lot of stories from this area, the Department for Transport need to know that there is an issue in South East London. Rotating flight paths are very important. He feels that emerging economies will produce more travellers over coming years. However demand could be reduced by taxing fuel, or another airport built. HACAN feels it is a good idea to have sensible flightpaths and opposition to third runway. He feels planes will get cleaner but noise won't reduce.
- Southwark needs encouragement to help prior to the January consultation.
- Overall people were keen to support the campaign.

- **5. Grow Elephant - update from Paul McGann.** Paul is from Grow Elephant – a community garden/cafe/community project. They had to leave their site on the New Kent Road and they started to look locally for another space. Southwark suggested Bricklayers Arms roundabout which is only used to walk through at the moment. So, they have looked at taking part of the space and relocating the community garden there - AOC architects have helped them visualise the idea. Planning application being worked out even though TfL are not supportive of the proposals as they wish to use the space for a vent shaft for the Bakerloo line extension but a temporary use community project can happen for the next five years. TfL may object he says so the project needs local support.
- Suggested contact Florence Eshalomi Labour lead on transport at the GLA.
- To make the garden happen there will be servicing issues, ie bins emptied, vehicles turning is an issue too but they have a transport planner working for them and these issues have been addressed.
- Toby said that TfL will be worried about a 'save our gardens' campaign in four years' time. Paul said they won't do that and have deliberately only applied for a temporary planning application.
- Overall people were keen to support the application.
- **6. Bethel Terrace Camberwell Road.** Presentation on the terrace by Peter Cooke. Building concerned about is part fire damaged and has not be inhabited for some time and group is trying to get council to act. If the end house was taken over by the council then it would be a good place for social housing to be built.
- End house of the terrace has been missing for past 75 years. Need to find out who owns the end house and try to connect to people that live in the terrace.
- WS meeting with Peter Cooke, Cllr Fleming et al with Southwark Council w/c 6th November to discuss.
- **7. Friends of Newington Library group.** Toby Brundin spoke about setting up the group. A group of parents realised they had regularly met in the library in this building and about the threat to the service in the long term. Current temporary library not accessible, up three flights of stairs and have to walk through groups of drinkers. They are a single-issue user group that is keeping eye on library service. There is a statement that the service will be provided but before it was a community hub. They want to apply pressure and make noise in supporting the library as a service. They want to ensure that the library service isn't lost. Website being made. Contact TOBYBRUNDIN@GMAIL.COM/07704-586195
- Concern that Southwark was rushing on with development of Thurlow St - Plot 18. £32 million has been allocated and worry that that would be the location for the new Walworth library. In terms of campaigning, window of opportunity with the elections in May 2018 so candidates can tell us what they are interested in. Overall people were keen to support the group and work closely with them.
- **8. Proposed parliamentary constituency boundary changes.** Meeting felt that Walworth shouldn't be cut in two (asper the new proposals) and the three Walworth wards should be kept together into single parliamentary constituency. WS to comment accordingly.
- **9. Post Office/Royal Mail Sorting Office.** Window of opportunity to get a parcel collection facility as Royal Mail seek planning permission for redevelopment of the sorting office. WS and Cllrs are pressing through MP to get meeting with Royal Mail concerning parcel collection service in Walworth area.
- **10. Huntsman and Hounds PH.** Official re-opening 6pm Monday evening 6th November – ALL WELCOME.
- **11. Hampton Court Palace Hotel.** WS attempt to get Historic England listing unsuccessful. JL to suggest objections in the meeting minutes.
- **12. AOB.** Kevin expressed concerns over the planned closure of the Charlie Chaplin PH at the Elephant (early 2018) more than a year before it is due to be demolished and felt that more should be done to fight the loss of yet another pub in our area.
- People would like to have a WS Xmas do!
- **Next meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday 7th December. Venue TBD.**