

Walworth Society Meeting Notes

Thursday 1st March 2018 – Former Newington Library Building, 155 Walworth Road SE17

1. Present:

Jeremy Leach (Chair)	Kevin Williamson	Lise Magnollay
Christy Burdock (Secretary)	Vincent Brown	Jack Pascoe
Shelagh Kavanagh	Jim Beedell	Norma Lawrence
Toby Eckersley	Gary Malloy	Christine Tan
Diana Cochrane	Camilla Gersh	John Whelan
Steve Crawford	Abby Burton Crisostomo	Ignas Galvelis
Neil Lancaster	Aeron Burton Crisostomo	Katie Dunn
Jane Kelly	Karen Hepworth	Jonathan Taylor
Anthony Kelly	Robert Hadfield	

2. Apologies: Lynda Haddock, Shelagh Farren, Peter Cooke, Cllr James Coldwell, Cllr Eleanor Kerlake, Cllr Maisie Anderson, Alice Macdonald, Robert Jamieson.

3. The Cinema Museum – Campaign to Save TCM – Presentation by Katharine Ford.

- Katharine gave some background to the history of the museum and how it works currently; it is a Grade 2 listed building being the Old Lambeth Workhouse that the Chaplin family went to. There is plenty of space for community groups, a place where a bunch of strangers have something to talk about!
- The Trustees are keen for it to support the well-being of people and focus on memory, mental health, and dementia. TCM works with social change organisations, charities are encouraged to use its space and the space is also used for external events. The Chaplin family have written an open letter and want it saved.
- Researchers use it extensively, there are lots of University of Third Age tours. Two screening rooms. Well-being projects for people with mental health issues as well as people that have had cancer therapy for whom that has impacted on them negatively. LGBT+ events. There are some 70 volunteers, an artist in residence. It is listed as registered as Asset of Community Value.
- The South London & Maudsley Hospital (SLAM) are the freeholders and have changed their mind about selling to TCM. The museum found funding to buy their building and then the whole site. A year was spent constructing deal but then SLAM put it on open market. They are selling to property developers instead. And they won't formalise the 'protection' of the museum but at some stage the developers need to get planning and the council (Lambeth) will be in part led by what the community say. This building must be retained as a cinema museum. Tenancy expires 9 March 2018.
- As you come in from Dugard Way, the old buildings on left are part of the listing. TCM want the buildings to be used for educational use. And it to be a permanent pop up space.
- There has been lots of support from Lambeth, and from the local Ward Councillors (Southwark and Lambeth). Cllr Lib Peck the Lambeth leader has used social media to help and written letters.
- In summary, the focus is on the petition and gearing up for planning in due course. Sitting down with the developers and talking about promises that they have made.
- If you have time to sign the petition it is:

<https://www.change.org/p/love-cinema-save-the-cinema-museum>

4. Local Elections 2018 – Campaign for Southwark Council to develop a Local List and Heritage SPD.

- All the heritage groups in Southwark have tried to work toward a local list to give protection to significant buildings that are not listed and which sit outside a Conservation Area such as Hampton Court Palace Hotel, the Victorian Sorting Office on Penrose St. So, the idea is to undertake a campaign to request a policy around the development of a local list in the local elections for 2018. Historic England say half of England Local Authorities have a local list that is developed and adopted in some form.
- It may take time to develop but a list will be valuable and local elections are good times to lobby for change working with the party leaders. The main idea is that if you are having conversations with Councillor candidates, please do say that we would like see a commitment to a Heritage SPD and a Local List in Southwark. There was strong support for this campaign idea from the meeting.

5. Walworth History Festival (15th to 23rd Sept)

- Description of the Festival plans by John and Diana. Volunteers are very much needed to help undertake research into the Walworth area. The archives on the history of Walworth are fascinating and John and Diana will provide training on how to access them.

6. Walworth Community Gardening Network (WCGN)

- Vincent gave an update on the progress to date for the WCGN which had been funded by United St Saviour's Charity. He has now held a large number of conversations with community garden groups and residents' associations with the aim of encouraging people to work with each other and help each other.
- The tree pruning course last weekend was very successful, booked out within first day and some disappointment that everyone who wanted to could not attend.
- The WCGN Conference is Saturday 21st April at Walworth Garden for anyone interested in community gardening in Walworth. What do you do gardening wise? Should you have planters? Maintaining the volunteer base and creating links with the community. Social prescribing - doctors prescribing social gardening which does not exist in Southwark. Vince wants to start that discussion.
- Diana said that the pruning course was very informative with 15 people all from different TRAs coming together and lots of people that we had not met before.

7. Walworth Happenings

- Two events coming up. Thurs 15th March 7pm Impromptu contemporary music at Louie Louie and Friday 6th April at 155 W Rd an evening of surreal cabaret – Dada Cabaret!

8. Elephant & Castle Shopping Centre.

- WS have held two meetings with Delancey in relation to a range of matters that were discussed in the margins of the main planning application.
- Concern remained from the WS meeting that Delancey were engaged in a box ticking exercise rather than being engaged to meaningful change/engagement.
- It now looks like the planning application will not come back to committee until after the local elections.

9. Walworth Society 2018 Annual General Meeting

a. The Treasurer's Report was tabled and described by Vincent Brown. It was accepted by the meeting with the exception of an issue raised about the inclusion of forward income in the report. Jeremy and Vince to address this issue and re-issue the report adjusted accordingly. Vince was greatly thanked for all of his work as Treasurer throughout 2017.

b. Report from the Chair accepted by the meeting.

c. Proposed changes to structure and governance tabled and described by Vincent Brown.

- Proposal to change from an unincorporated body to an Charitable Incorporated Organisations with voting members. Meeting had concerns about the impact on the campaigning work of the society. Jeremy and Vince to investigate further.
- There were proposals to improve financial governance by:
 - Requiring two authorisations for all payments from the bank account.
 - People would not be able to authorise payments to themselves from the bank account.
 - That we follow the recommended/required guidance about members of the organisation benefiting from the work of the organisation.
 - Our accounts would be independently verified for the annual accounts.
- These proposals were accepted unanimously.

d. Election of Officers – Chair. Toby took the Chair for this election. There were no other nominations for Chair and Jeremy was nominated by Shelagh and seconded by Norma and elected nem-con.

The chair was handed back to Jeremy and the election of Vice-Chair took place. Norma was nominated by Peta and seconded by Kevin; there were no other nominations and Norma was elected nem-con.

For the post of Treasurer, Vince was nominated by Robert and seconded by Lise; there were no other nominations and Vince was elected nem-con.

There were no nominations for the vacant post of Secretary and so the post remains unfilled.

The existing members of the committee, Augustine Nyemah, Diana Cochrane, Gary Malloy, John Whelan, Kevin Williamson, Peta Steel and Shelagh Kavanagh, had all indicated that they were prepared to continue as committee members. Other nominations were sought from the meeting and Abby Crisostomo indicated a willingness to stand. Abby was nominated by Toby and seconded by Jim. The committee was then elected as a block nem-con.

There was no other business and the meeting ended at 9.19pm

The next meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday 5th April 2018 at the former Newington Library at 155 Walworth Road SE17