

Walworth Society Meeting Notes

Thursday 5th April 2018 – Former Newington Library Building, 155 Walworth Road SE17

1. Present:

Jeremy Leach (Chair)	Kevin Williamson	Liba Hoskin
Christy Burdock (Secretary)	Vincent Brown	Alan Crookham
Ray Corner (Brewit)	Jim Beedell	Norma Lawrence
Katherine Johnston (Southwark News)	Richard Galpin	Christine Tan
Cllr Martin Seaton	Inge Laursen	John Whelan
Cllr Rebecca Lury	Neil Crossfield	Katie Dunn
Cllr James Coldwell	Mark Webb	Deborah Chobanian
Toby Eckersley	Bridget Bell	Maria Colera
Diana Cochrane	Darret Tomlin	Robert Jamieson
Steve Crawford	Hope Hadfield	Kathryn Penn
Tracy Crossfield	Andrew Sawdon	Celia Cronin
Jason Leech	Robert Davies	Alice Macdonald

2. Apologies: Susan Hayes, Lise Magnollay, Shelagh Kavanagh, Cllr Eleanor Kerslake.

3. The Tankard PH - presentation by Ray Corner who is the prospective landlord of Tankard PH which is in the process of being sold by Greene King (to an owner of a property portfolio from whom Ray's company Brewit Microbrewery will lease the building). Ray said that in a trading environment where 27 pubs are closing a week, they are keen to keep pubs going and with the Tankard the aim is going in and cleaning, refreshing and modernising slightly but not changing the character of the pub. There will be no renaming. He felt that the pub had a strong sense of history with its mock Tudor appearance. The intention is to keep the windows as they are along with the interior.

There were a number of questions to which Ray responded as follows:

Q Future of the staff? A. He is under no obligation to employ staff but he is happy to interview them.

Q Rename? A. No.

Q It is a shame if locals cannot afford the pub, what will be prices be? A. He cannot keep prices down to the levels of Greene King as he only has 3 pubs currently but Ray envisages discounts for regulars.

Q What is the Micro-brewery? A. It is the size of range cooker and can produce 40 litres of beer a day. They will be brewing their own beer so will be able to offer cheaper beer as a result.

Q Upper floors? A. Hostel, airbnb style. Reasonably priced rooms.

Q How long will it be closed for? A. Not long, 2-3 weeks. Principally new flooring will be going in.

Q The length of the new lease? A. 20 years and at the end of that period, it will revert to the freeholder.

Q The pub has changed very little, the request of locals is that pub stays the same. A. It is a nice-looking building, so no upvc, changes in keeping with its character.

Q Hours? A. Open during day, from midday. The license may let me open earlier.

Q Suggestion to keep at least one existing member of staff there as they know the locals. A. Yes

Q CCTV? A. Yes.

Q Are any planning consents needed? A. Yes, but not much, as the work is decorating mainly.

Q Do you pay staff the living wage? A. Yes; pay above the average but cannot afford more such as the London Living Wage. If we aren't profitable we cannot stay afloat.

Q What do you need planning for? A. Just for the usage; changing from HMO now to hostel.

Jeremy stated that The Tankard PH is listed by Southwark Council as an Asset of Community Value and asked if the meeting was comfortable with the WS confirming in writing to the legal team at Southwark that we don't intend in the instance of this sale from Greene King to pursue our Community Right to Bid (as can be envisaged for an ACV when the freehold is sold) although recognising that the ACV will be retained on the building itself for a five year period. The meeting unanimously agreed that the WS does not intend to exercise its community right to bid in relation to this current sale of the freehold. JL mandated by the meeting to write to Southwark confirming this decision. Thank you to floor.

4. Elephant & Walworth Neighbourhood Forum and Walworth Neighbourhood Plan – Update on current activities and developing policies by Robert Jamieson from Community Southwark. The presentation that Robert gave is attached with the minutes.

Some funding has been secured and last summer we commissioned a community asset mapping exercise as part of the evidence gathering to support the plan. This is being augmented by a series of policy writing workshops and later on a consultation event. The dates of the forthcoming workshops are:

- Green Links/Food Growing and Local Economy - **19/04 7-9pm** at **Newington TRA Hall**
- Heritage and Community Assets & Housing - **16/05 7-9pm** at **The Crypt at St Peter's**
- Green Links/Food Growing and Local Economy – **21/06 7-9pm** at **The Crypt at St Peter's**
- Review Session – **19/07 7-9pm** at **The Crypt at St Peter's**

If anyone is interested in getting involved, please contact Robert at:
Robert@communitysouthwark.org

In the subsequent Q&A session, the following issues were raised:

Q Other neighbourhood forums, what have others achieved? A. To date there have only been six adopted London plans. The aim of the plan is to develop policies at a granular level for the Walworth area, policies which seek to reflect the idiosyncrasies and particular interests of our area.

Q. Richard suggested that in the light of the recent Kennington, Oval and Vauxhall NP exhibition – and the fact that its plans were ambitious in terms of policy but failed to reflect the interests of the area, it might be worth looking ensuring that local interests were recognised fully.

Q. Examples of specific interests in the local area include to protect TRA Halls and developing policies about growing food and garden on estates and that hasn't been done.

Q What will happen at the heritage and community assets and housing meeting in May? A. We are getting guidance on language we use for policies and encouraging people to write down the specific elements that concern them in those areas.

Observation by Jason that Pimlico NP work had enormous power and had managed to persuade Westminster to not support a walking and cycling bridge between Pimlico and Nine Elms.

Observation by Mark that in relation to the local economy and heritage – more branding of the area was needed, ideas must be sold and that we need to get people to visit the area.

Everyone thanked Robert for all his work on this.

5. Chartists at Kennington Common 1848: Celebrating the 170th Anniversary. The presentation that Richard Galpin gave is attached to these minutes.

1848 was a year of revolution across Europe and 150,000 people gather on Kennington Common to protest for an improvement to their civil rights. The Chartists had six demands including vote by ballot, universal suffrage, MPs should be paid. It was a popular movement - embedded within communities with 160

newspapers. They wanted to go for universal suffrage but the leaders felt that this was not going to be achieved and so went just for male suffrage.

On the day they all met at Kennington Common, the authorities were alarmed and were well organised. There is currently no monument in Kennington Park to mark this history.

Plans for celebration of the 170th (and in 5 years' time the 175th anniversary). Tuesday 10th April is the anniversary so we are holding a symbolic event. We are meeting at four starting points of London chartists march to Kennington and a single solo flag bearer will walk to Kennington common and plant the flag and say a few words about the project. We would like people to come at 10.45am to 11.30am to support the flag bearers.

We are trying to make connections with relevant issues that are important now and were then. The flag bearers will be walking in solidarity with things they care about.

People at the meeting then made a number of points:

1. Vince said that the Chartists were the first independent working-class movement and though the campaign ends in defeat, people build the trade union movement from there over the next 30 years. It was incredibly pivotal and influential and few know about it. Wonderful that you are doing this. Chartism was the UK's civil rights movement.
2. Peta suggested that The Levellers were the first independent working-class movement. The Chartists often referred to The Levellers and paid tribute to them.
3. Mark said that the Queen was so concerned that she went to the Isle of Wight at the time and that the island was turned into a fortress; there was great fear amongst elite and lots of fake news about the Chartists intentions.

6. Governance of the Walworth Society - issues from the AGM.

- The officers reported that they had looked into the regulations relating to registered charities and advised that these restrictions should not hamper our ability to campaign on issues covered by our aims and objectives, and so recommended we pursue and that this was accepted by the meeting nem con.
- The draft constitution that we had developed ahead of the March AGM will be circulated again and people will be asked to suggest any amendment within two weeks. The amendments would then be discussed at the next meeting and the process would then begin of seeking registration with the Charities Commission thereafter (which Jason said can take a significant length of time).
- Impact of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). The society will take steps to ensure that it is in compliance with the new regulations which come into force on 25th May. This may require some juggling in the light of the constitutional changes that we are also proposing but in the near future all of those who are on our mailing list (c850 people) will be asked to confirm that they are content to be contacted by us and for us to hold the information that we have about them (name and email address only).

7. Walworth Community Gardening Conference.

- Vince confirmed the details of the conference on April 21st and that anyone interested in attending should contact him at: vincebrown@walworthcgn.co.uk
- The work that we were doing also tied in with the Walworth Neighbourhood Plan and our desire to identify spaces for community gardening across the local area.

8. Local Elections 2018 – Local List and Heritage SPD. Campaign progressing well with three of the four main parties confirming support for the development of a local list. Interestingly a rudimentary draft local list has now appeared on the Southwark Council website:

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-transport-policy/local-list>

9. AOB.

- Hope Hadfield from the Alberta Estate Council expressed concerns that Southwark is proposing to undertake major works on the estate including new upvc windows and would like the support of the WS to oppose this change
 - The Alberta Estate is not in a conservation area but residents are seeking to take forward an application for the estate to be one of the first 20th Century Conservation Areas.
 - Toby raised concerns that about WS involvement in this and in particular ensuring that there was a reasonable degree of unanimity within the Alberta TRA about their opposition to these proposals.
 - It was agreed that the WS would find out more about the discussions of the issues within the TRA and ideally this would be discussed more fully at a subsequent meeting although it was recognised that a position might have to be taken more quickly than that and the WS committee would need to take a role if that was the case.
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- A Treasurer’s report was tabled for the meeting but owing to time constraints was not discussed.

Owing to Election Day on 3rd May, the next meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday 10th May 2018 at the former Newington Library at 155 Walworth Road SE17