

## Walworth Society - Meeting Minutes - Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December - 7pm

Venue: The Hub - 182 to 184 Walworth Rd SE17

Present: Christine Tan, Norma Lawrence, Rev'd Peter Stevenson, Fiona Parry, Jim Beedel, Richard Rees, Amanda Sewell, Jeremy Leach, Patrick Blunt, Isobel Durrant, Councillor Patrick Diamond, Justin Davis, John Jefferis, Andrew Stedman, Maia, Alan Crookham, Anthony Kelly, Jane Leek-Kelly.

Apologies: Cllr Toby Eckersley, Ed Burgess, Father Andrew Moughtin-Mumby, James Gurling, Melanie Sharpe, John Wallington, Filip Vermeiren, Jenny Jefferis, Marek Drewicz, Celia Harvey.

**1. Notes of meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> November.** There were no matters arising from the minutes of our November 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**2. Community Council Fund Grant - progress from the Working Group.**

The working group met on Tuesday evening 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. The heritage project will look at East St and focus on 3 aspects, East St Baptist Church, John Wallington and the story of his family's involvement with the market and the Masons Arms. The aim is to have written the research for the project by the end of January 2013. On a Saturday and Sunday in June 2013, this will be used in a pop-up shop where people can look at the research and give interviews about their memories of the area. Perhaps a book will come out of that as a living history. At the pop-up shop we will collect information and show to providers that we have a serious amount of information. We need someone to write up the information and design any publication and someone to bring together the event on the day. The next working group meeting will be at the end January. Patrick B mentioned the community unit at the Tate and that they are filming locally; Peabody are keen to support local events and activities. Richard mentioned that Guinness Trust are developing the Stead St car park and their wider community interest. Finances - little has been spent yet and most will be spent on the day.

Owing to the progress made, JL to do a funding bid for the development of a Walworth Heritage trail. Isobel is also interested in being involved in this part of the society's work.

**3. Manor Place Depot Sale & Manor Place Terrace Updates.**

Patrick D gave an update on these 2 sales following a meeting between Patrick and Jeremy and officers from Southwark's Property Dept.

**Manor Place Depot Sale.** The building of greatest concern was the 1891 Coroners' Court on the corner of Occupation Rd which is listed at being of townscape merit only (and therefore open to demolition). One scenario is that the chosen developer will want to retain the building; the other is that they would wish to demolish it. Patrick said that the Council documents were in favour of retention and that there will also be a lengthy process of pre-planning where there is an opportunity to

influence the process ahead of it going to planning. It is likely that a decision on the disposal will go to Cabinet in January 2013.

Patrick B mentioned the idea of a free school at the last meeting and that there is the chance of support for a free school from the Church of England as there is a shortage of secondary school places in Southwark. Isobel asked whether the Victorian Society has been approached about the building being listed. Richard said that there are issues around the Bakerloo line development. Jim was concerned about the façade being retained and how that might be retained even if the Coroner's Court building was lost. Richard said that the Mormon Church on the corner of Penton Place is being sold.

**Manor Place Terrace.** The sale is proceeding slowly and a new brief is being drafted by the officers with retention of the façade in mind. It is unclear whether there will be a disposal as previously envisaged or a more Council based involvement. Justin was concerned about the fabric of the building being destroyed by being left empty and without a roof. Richard said he had spoken to Richard Livingstone and owing to funding cuts there will be a delay and that no decision will be taken before June 2013.

Jane asked about the area based housing office and disabled access and said that it is an easy to access site if Southwark wished to create homes for disabled residents.

#### **4. CGS Bids - Liverpool Grove Public Square and Walworth Rd Conservation Area.**

The Walworth Society has made 2 CGS bids with the support of many other groups. Firstly a bid has been made for a Historic Area Appraisal with a view to the Walworth Rd being designated as a Conservation Area. Secondly building on the amazing feasibility study carried out by Justin Davis we are bidding to create a public square on Liverpool Grove. JL to work with others to make a bid for funding from the new Mayor of London's pocket parks scheme.

#### **5. Walworth Town Team Initiative.**

Patrick B talked about the events the team were delivering including opening the Christmas market in East St market. Events have been held that have increased footfall. The East St gourmet event increased footfall by 25% and that has been maintained. It is taking time to get the tidying up of East St market right. Gazebos are planned at the front by the entrance with the Walworth Rd.

Post Christmas hope to repaint the sign for welcome to East St. CGS applications have been made for more greenery to beautify the Walworth Rd and deep cleaning pavements in the busy areas. An area for traders to put their bins is proposed so they do not block the road especially by Morrisons. There is now a voluntary scheme by traders not to put out rubbish between 8am and 5pm. More generally it has been found that footfall is not dependent on car parking; mostly people are arriving by bus. There is a depletion of footfall on the Camberwell Rd end of Walworth Rd. Aim to bring to life the large area of paving outside the Gateway Estate. There has been lots of help in relation to the Christmas tree especially from local children.

A Palm Sunday parade is planned in Easter 2013 and for the 13<sup>th</sup> April a Charlie Chaplin fun run is being organised to co-incide with his birthday. Jane asked about

Charlie Chaplin and Peter Ackroyd writing a book about him and a possible link between the two and also the area's association to Charles Dickens. Perhaps invite Peter Ackroyd to give a talk about CC's life and its impact.

The next Walworth Town Team is January 15<sup>th</sup> at 630pm at the Business Extra.

## **6. AOB.**

Isobel was worried about the historic building next to John Smith House. It was confirmed that it was not being squatted. Patrick D said that a licensing application was being submitted and the owners will seek a late licence.

Patrick D mentioned the TfL consultation about the northern line extension; he felt that the transport priority should be a Bakerloo line extension to Camberwell and Peckham; extending Northern line to Battersea is a distraction and likely to cause enormous disruption through the works at Kennington station and have a huge impact on Kennington Park.

Please view the consultation at:

<https://consultations.tfl.gov.uk/tube/nle>

**7. Next Meeting.** Sorry it is a bit early in January but our next meeting is on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Our AGM will be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013.