

**WALWORTH SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING - MINUTES**  
**7.00pm – Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020 (Online Meeting)**

**Welcome and introductions.** The chair welcomed everybody to the meeting and ran through the protocols for our online Walworth Society meetings.

**Attendance:** Aaron Burton-Crisostomo, Abby Burton-Crisostomo, Amanda Sewell, Cherry, Christine Tan, James Beedell, James Hatts, Jeremy Leach (chair), Neil Crossfield, Norma Lawrence, Shelagh Kavanagh (minutes), Stephanie Ostrich, Tracy Crossfield, Vince Brown.

**Apologies:** Peta Steel, Kevin Williamson, Celia Cronin, Lise Magnollay.

**1) Minutes of August 20<sup>th</sup> general meeting and matters arising.**

- a) The existing Beehive public house Asset of Community Value expires on September 9<sup>th</sup>; a new application has been submitted by the society but some time has now passed since the submission of this new application and Southwark Council making a decision about it. We now understand that this decision will not be made until early October.
- b) JB reported on the Rodney Road Hotel public consultation. JB note that the developer claimed that the public response so far has been universally positive, but this is disputed by many including local councillors. Attempts by the public to discuss the possibility of a covenant guaranteeing the provision of community space are understood to have been rebuffed, with the developer maintaining this was a matter to be raised within the section 106 agreement. JL and JB will carry on the conversation with developer and local councillors.
- c) Minutes as amended were agreed as a correct record.

**2) Walworth Town Hall Redevelopment.**

- a) The Walworth Society has submitted objections and comments on the planning application for the redevelopment of the fire damaged buildings. The chair thanked Jason Leech and Harpreet Aujla (Southwark Law Centre) for their guidance and advice on wording the WS objection.
- b) A key issue is that commitments to the community space should appear in the Section 106 agreement, as any change to this is open to public scrutiny; which is not the case for agreements in the lease, which is a private contract. The other significant concern is as to the overall quality of the restoration which does not appear to meet the standards required for such a significant and historic building. The society (and other stakeholders) are asking for more to be done to ensure that the quality of the design and restoration is improved.
- c) The chair urged people to study the WS objections and consider submitting their own views – information on this has been set out in previous mailings and will be circulated again.

**3) Virtually Walworth.**

- a) The project has gone well, and the final stage will be to collect and publish material from the most recent History Festivals and publish them on the WS website as a record for all to be able to enjoy.

**4) Coronet Cinema, Charlie Chaplin PH & E&C Shopping Centre.**

- a) The Shopping Centre is due to close on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and demolition will begin on October 12<sup>th</sup>.
- b) The developers have agreed that some historic elements of the cinema and pub can be retained and stored. The Cinema Museum will store the Coronet staircase and balustrade.
- c) Henrietta Williams and her students have made 3D images of the shopping centre and will attempt do the same for the Coronet. Most of the Coronet had already been stripped out but on a visit, JL said there was still some elements like the staircase and balustrade and other signage that can be retained for later public display.
- d) JB pointed out that Delancey had originally pledged to put artefacts in the university across the road and asked what had happened to that.
- e) AS noted that access to the train station will be only via Elephant Road from Sept 24<sup>th</sup>
- f) SK informed the meeting that there is a photo exhibition of the shopping centre on the upper floor of the Shopping Centre.

**5) Walworth Heritage Action Zone**

- a) Stephanie Ostrich gave an update: The application for improvement to shops facades has been submitted. If successful the next step is to begin discussions with the shopkeepers about changes and improvements to facades.
  - b) At present Stephanie is working on proposed conservation areas on Old Kent Road.
- 6) **Southwark Council devolved funding – CGS, Devolved Highways and Neighbourhoods Fund (NsF).**
- a) CGS (Cleaner, Greener, Safer) deadline is 4<sup>th</sup> October. Jeremy proposed a WS NsF project for 2021/22 to collect together research and stories from the Walworth History Festivals and Virtually Walworth in a new *Book of Walworth* (we are coming up to the centenary of the original *Book of Walworth* produced in 1925). The meeting agreed that we should apply for a grant from the Neighbourhoods Fund for this.
  - b) SO noted that there is grant money available from the London and Middlesex Archaeology Council and a *Book of Walworth* project may qualify
- 7) **Walworth Healthy Streets – Update**
- a) Changes are being made in Merrow St, Browning St and some other streets in west Walworth. The council has been mindful of the need to give access for emergency services and have changed some controls to camera enforcement rather than bollards.
  - b) AbB-C reported that there was a meeting with residents on Larcom St to discuss the changes.
  - c) SK raised her concerns that the Council has not focussed enough on the underlying reasons for these measures in its descriptions of them - the need to reduce emissions and vehicle use due to the climate crisis. Moreover, these projects come originally from City Hall who also have not communicated well.
  - d) AS expressed concern that there has been an increase in traffic on Rodney Road and car drivers are not keeping to the speed limit. JL gave AS the contact details of Kevin Phillips from Community Road Watch so that more can be done to monitor speeding.
- 8) **AOB.**
- a) JL listed the new Southwark Council Cabinet positions and posted a link for their titles and roles

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/councillors-and-mps/leader-of-the-council-and-cabinet-members>