

WALWORTH SOCIETY MEETING

7.00pm – Thursday 14th May 2020 (Online)

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS.

The chair welcomed everyone to the first WS online general meeting and went through the meeting protocol.

2. **Present:** Aaron Burton Crisostomo, Abby Burton Crisostomo, Adam ?, Cllr Alice Macdonald, Amanda Sewell, Anne Roach, Bridget Bell, David Hills (Purcell), Darret Tomlin, Debora Noel, Diana Cochrane, Gavin Bramer, Honoré van Rijswijk, Cllr Jack Buck, James Aldworth, James Beedell, Jason Leech, Jeremy Leach (chair), John Whelan, Julia Honess, Liba Hoskin, Louise Mark (Purcell), Cllr Martin Seaton, Neil Crossfield, Cllr Rebecca Lury, Shelagh Kavanagh (minute taker), Stephanie Ostrich (Southwark Council Walworth HAZ), Stuart Whatton, Tyrone Landau, Vincent Brown, plus unidentified participants Alcatel A3 10, HUAWEI P8 lite 2017, iPad 3-CT.

3. **Apologies:** Steve Lancashire, Peta Steele.

4. Minutes of the last meeting and matters arising

- a. Minutes of the March 5th meeting were agreed.
- b. Matters arising:
 - i. The current round of the *High St Challenge* has been suspended due to the Covid crisis,
 - ii. The Southwark Council March climate conference postponed to July at earliest
 - iii. Delancey have extended the closure of the E&C shopping centre to September at the earliest.

5. Presentation by Purcell Architecture of the structural research they have carried out into buildings in the Walworth Heritage Action Zone.

- a. Purcell were commissioned by Southwark Council to look at 50 properties in Walworth: focusing on the area between East St and Albany Road, looking at the condition of the buildings, cost of repair or upgrade, and to point to where funding be directed to bring up the quality of the area.
- b. The survey was external only, though occupiers of the buildings were given a voluntary data collection form to complete. The study identifies heritage issues and remedies classified from urgent to desirable.
- c. It was noted that the newsagents with South London Press sign, is an C18th building, and is in very poor condition – a number of people emphasised the importance of maintaining this building.
- d. JL thanked David Hill, Louisa Mark and the Purcell team for their work, and we agreed to make the report available to members.

6. Experience of the lock-down across Walworth: local needs.

- a. Walworth Society newsletters will be weekly for the duration of the lockdown and the society will endeavour to host a series of online meetings – thanks were expressed for the themed talks already aired from Neil Crossfield and from Stephanie Ostrich and to Diana Cochrane for the Walworth Society Quiz.
- b. A number of members highlighted the problems of physical distancing along the Walworth Road and the need for pavement widening.
- c. JL said that we were all grateful for weekly updates from councillors.

7. Walworth Library & Southwark Heritage Centre.

- a. Cllr Rebecca Lury, Deputy Leader of Southwark Council, updated the meeting and reported that detailed design work for stage 4 has been completed.
- b. There will be a construction tender in June and it is hoped that the new centre will be complete by the end of the year.

8. Walworth Town Hall redevelopment.

- a. Cllr Lury gave an update. General Projects will submit a revised design proposal towards the end of May with changes made as a result of the consultation. The proposal will be sent to everyone on the current mailing list and will also be available online.
- b. A number of questions were raised. JL asked about the evolution of the proposed management committee. Cllr Lury has not spoken to GP about this yet but will raise as soon as they do.
- c. JB noted that at the last roundtable it was agreed by Cllr Situ and GP that the wording of the covenants giving guarantees about the public/community provision would be made available before any final agreement was made by the council. Cllr Lury agreed to check on this and report back.
- d. DC asked how further consultation will work under lockdown. Cllr Lury will provide and update on this.

9. Redevelopment of 51 East St (The Bell PH - 20/AP/0685).

- a. The Walworth Society has submitted an objection and encourages others to object individually.
- b. JW, who lives on the estate behind the site, said he has been in touch with planning department as local residents had not been properly consulted; in response planning have agreed to send out letters to a wider area.

10. Walworth Heritage Action Zone - Update from Stephanie Ostrich (HAZ officer)

- a. Stephanie said the next step to the Purcell report on Walworth Road buildings is to apply for funding for the recommended works, and she is current putting together a bid to submit to Historic England, but will of course be also looking for additional sources of funding.
- b. Other activities include organising Zoom meetings with local community groups and organisations.

- c. BB asked about the current status of the Manor Place Baths building. SO said it is Grade II HE listed so cannot be knocked down, and will be developed as flats.
- d. JB asked for clarification about the difference between the HAZ and the Walworth Road Conservation Area, with particular reference to the fact that the Council is allowing development in Conservation Area. SO replied that the HAZ is a smaller area and development is allowed but there are more rules in place for protection.

11. Virtually Walworth - a new project from the Walworth Society: supported by United St Saviour's Charity and other local charities.

- a. JL outlined some activities that are starting and being led by Julia Honess and Diana Cochrane. The project was still in an early stage of planning and more detail will go out in the subsequent WS newsletters.

12. Safe social distancing along the Walworth Road - discussion and proposals to Southwark Council

- a. JL reported that there is a wide-ranging discussion across London in the light of COVID-19 on better facilities for pedestrians and the Walworth Society have been raising this issue with Southwark Council, highlighting four main points:
 1. Make sure that footways are widened so people can walk far enough apart.
 2. Parts of the Walworth Road are still in need of major improvement.
 3. Pedestrians need to be able to cross the road safely.
 4. Uncontrolled motorcycle parking and behaviour is causing problems for pedestrians.

13. Southwark Community Infrastructure Levy - potential Walworth Society submissions.

- a. Submissions have been put back to end May. Ideas raised include:
 - i. Gateway signs to Walworth – north (W Rd railway bridge) and south (Albany Road)
 - ii. Low line walking routes developed down to Sutherland Square along the railway viaduct; and then south to John Ruskin St. What can be done to improve the look – e.g. murals under the railway bridge to tell story of the area.
 - iii. The Village centre – at the East St and Penrose St junction with the W Rd to give it a sense of being the centre of old Walworth.

14. Future meetings

- a. 21st May – talk on Charles Booth and the Settlement movement
- b. 28th May – no session
- c. 4th June – meeting but topic tbc
- d. Thursday 18th June – General WS meeting.

15. AOB

- a. JB asked how the WS would deal with the issue of planning issues under lockdown, in particular applications for changes at the back of Larcom St. JL requested members to pass on any such issues to him and they would be raised with the WS committee and as appropriate turned into objections/comments.