

## **WALWORTH SOCIETY MEETING**

**Wednesday 19th January 2022 (by Zoom)**

### **Welcome, apologies and introductions**

Jeremy welcomed everyone to the meeting

**Present:** Aaron Burton Crisostomo, Amanda Sewell, Celia, Christine Tan, Cllr Kieron Williams, Cllr Martin Seaton, Darret Tomlin, Diana Cochrane, Ewa Poreba, Georgia Moore, James Beedell, James Conway, James Hatts, Jeremy Leach (chair), John Batteson, Jordan Creed, Liba Hoskin, Lise Magnollay, Neil Crossfield, Lynda Rose, Matt Meynell, Miguel, Neil Crossfield, Nicholas Puschman, Norma Lawrence, Peta Steel, Shelagh Kavanagh (Minutes), Robert, Roger Batchelor, Terry Hanafin, Stephanie Ostrich (Southwark Council), Steve Lancashire, Sandra Hanafin, Tom W, Tyrone Landau, Vince Brown, Winsome, plus one other.

**Apologies:** Kevin Williamson, Richard Galpin.

### **1) Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) Report**

- a) Stephanie Ostrich reported that she is pursuing six to eight properties along the Walworth Road to sign up for the improvement to frontage scheme.
- b) Ongoing projects are the Schools Programme and helping with the Walworth Society local history project.
- c) Stephanie will be on maternity leave from 12th February, there will be cover for post, and she will still pop into WS Zoom meetings.

### **2) Discussion with Cllr Kieron Williams, Leader Southwark Council**

- a) Leader of the Council, Cllr Keiron Williams, spoke on recent and planned activities to support local communities. During Covid, Southwark Council provided funds to local business and ensured that more than 300 homeless people were supported into homes. He thanked organisations like the Walworth Society and Pembroke House for their work.
- b) Examples of positive news included:
  - i) UAL (University of the Arts London) has confirmed they will stay long term in Southwark.
  - ii) 581 council homes will be built on the Aylesbury Estate and the council is in discussion with Notting Hill Housing about more council homes.
  - iii) A high street recovery plan has been launched.
  - iv) The new Heritage Centre opened last year.
  - v) New health hub to be built on edge of Elephant Park (as part of the H1 development)
  - vi) 1,000 council homes have been built with 1,500 more due to be completed.
  - vii) Set up Ethical Care Charter to make sure carers receive a living wage and plan to roll out to care home staff soon.

## Q&A

- c) It was noted that the scheme to replace the one storey building currently used by Reed Employment at 31 Amelia St by an eight-storey building to provide student housing is at pre-application stage.
- d) It was noted there have been over 450 objections to the scale and look of the Lendlease building (the H1 development) that will house that health hub at Elephant Park; and dismay that this building will be office space rather than social housing, contrary to what the local community had been promised. KW was asked what the council position is.
  - i) KW replied that the role of the Council is to push the developers to do what is best for people of the borough.
- e) NP asked about increasing bike hangers and lockers on the Pullens Estate.
  - i) KW said Southwark are committed to doubling the number of bike storage across the borough.
  - ii) JL gave info about the Commonplace site where people can apply for to have new bike hangers located near where they live - <https://cyclehangarsinsouthwark.commonplace.is/>.
- f) JH raised issue of a recent murder near the Low Line and noted safety was an issue for local councillors.
- g) M asked why the façade at the Manor Place Terrace development has not been retained.
  - i) JL reported that despite the original plan to keep the façade, the developers Durkan in partnership with Southwark Council now consider it has deteriorated too much to be repaired, but that the intention is for the new façade to look the same as the original.
- h) AS (Chair of North Walworth Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel) was concerned about extended licencing hours given to Draper Hall as this could lead to increase in anti-social behaviour.
  - i) KW will ensure that Community Safety and Licencing Team talk to the local police.
- i) LR raised concern of residents around Oswin St about a 15-storey hotel development
  - i) KW replied that he is aware of concerns and that planning officers will work with the developers carefully before an application is put in.
- j) TH suggested that Council use CIL money to fund more charging points for electric vehicles.
  - i) KW replied that the council is trying to do more in this area.
- k) DT noted that leaves not being cleared for prolonged periods are a danger in wet weather and that a large tree is causing problems around **Blucher Rd**.
  - i) KW replied that the large tree had been inspected and was thought safe, but acknowledged there were split views about this, some residents wanting to keep the tree and some wanting to remove it.
- l) DT also asked what council is doing about **anti-social behaviour**, particularly noise.
  - i) KW noted that residents can contact the anti-social team regarding intrusive noise.

- m) DC asked why the Low Line did not have a strategic plan in Walworth as there is in the Bermondsey and Bankside areas. It is not clear what the character of the Low Line will be in this area and rather than being a safe area for walking, it seems to be about shops and food outlets.
  - i) KW replied that money available for Low line projects was unfortunately very limited.
  - ii) SL remarked that even if money is there, we can still have a plan and that areas to look at are licencing, policing and planning.
- n) SL noted that that fuel poverty will likely become worse and asked which Cabinet Member has responsibility for that area.
  - i) KW replied that Cllr Stephanie Cryan, cabinet member for Housing, has responsibility and that the council is investing in energy efficiency of council properties, but the cost is high.
  - ii) SK noted that not all residents are in council dwellings so have to bear costs of improvements themselves and suggested that the council provide more information on how to insulate etc, possibly hosting an exhibition.
- o) PS reported that Pasley Park is being used by many more people, but that there is conflict over use by different groups, for example, there is not enough space for play areas, football and simply relaxing in park.
  - i) KW commented that the council are working to improve park facilities and cited changes to Burgess Park as a recent success.

### **3) Walworth Community Pub Project**

- a) Matt Meynall gave an update on the Walworth Community Pub initiative. MM reported that there has been a positive article in Southwark News; the project has received a small grant from the Co-op to fund creation of a business plan; a questionnaire has been launched to get people involved and find out what they want from a community pub.
- b) It was agreed the WS will distribute the questionnaire.

### **4) Community Southwark**

- a) Jordan Creed, the new Communities and Social Projects Officer at CS, introduced himself and reported on current work.
- b) The Social Action Surgery has been restarted on Wednesdays from 12-4pm and JC is available for 1 to 1 sessions.
- c) On February 9<sup>th</sup> there will be a workshop at Peckham Levels on how to lobby during upcoming local elections: speakers will include campaign manager from 38degrees, and Althea Smith former Mayor of Southwark.

### **5) East St Baptist Church**

- a) JL reported that Historic England do not judge that the church is of national significance, so we are now looking at local listing; the church it has been brought into the Walworth Road Conservation Area as part of the East Street extension.

### **6) Walworth Stories**

- a) NC reported now the Southwark Archive is open again we can move ahead much faster.

## **7) AOB**

- a) NL asked whether residents had been consulted on the redesign of Liverpool Grove and understood the impact on traffic and parking.
  - i) JL replied that he had been informed that there had initially been a low response, subsequently council staff had knocked on doors in December. The full decision includes a description of the (extra) consultation (see Appendix B in the link below) that was undertaken and can be seen at:  
<https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=7569>
- b) SL asked if the Walworth Society should arrange an election hustings in April.
  - i) JL suggested that we can discuss this further at our February meeting.

**Date of next meeting:** Wednesday 16th February 2022 7pm on Zoom