

SAC



STREATHAM AREA COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 27th September, 2006 at 7.00 pm

MINUTES

PRESENT: Councillor Julian Heather (Vice-Chair), Councillor Ashley Lumsden, Councillor Jeremy Clyne, Councillor Clive Bennett, Councillor Roger Giess, Councillor Daphne Marchant and Councillor Brian Palmer (Chair)

APOLOGIES: Councillor Mark Bennett, Councillor Sheila Clarke, Councillor June Fewtrell and Councillor John Kazantzis

ALSO PRESENT: Sergeant Trevor Struthers and Chief Inspector Susan Wallace

*Action
required by*

1. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were none.

2. **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 28th June 2006 be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct record of the proceedings.

3. **AREA COMMITTEE PETITIONS**

A petition was received signed by 245 residents regarding the central refuge crossing area at St Peter's Court, Leigham Court Road, requesting that it be removed or re-sited.

The Chair advised that the petitions would be referred to an appropriate officer, and a response provided within the specified period. The petition and responses would be considered at a future Area Committee.

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Officers agreed to a site visit to assess the issue.

EDEC

EDEC

The Chair also requested that Highways look into the issue of the length of time allowed for the green man at pedestrian crossings.

4. **PUBLIC NOTICE QUESTION (ITEM 4 - REPORT 109/06-07)**

- **Building Depot on Streatham Common** (Streatham South Ward, Streatham Area)

In response to a supplementary question from Mr Brian Bloice officers advised that:

- Alternate sites were investigated and Streatham Common was chosen due to the necessary logistics of the operation
- The site is nearly vacated and officers are looking with the Parks department at making good damages which will be at the expense of the contractors
- The area will not be used again for a site compound

It was MOVED by Councillor Heather, SECONDED by the Chair and RESOLVED that:

Streatham Area Committee notes with regret the nuisance caused by contractors engaged by Lambeth Highways to users of Streatham Common, in particular to children and parents using the adjacent paddling pool, the blockage of a route set aside for the emergency services between Streatham Common North and Streatham Common South and, most particularly the lack of any consultation with the Streatham Common Management Advisory Committee (MAC).

Streatham Area Committee also notes that Lambeth Highways has apologised and said that it was a one-off occurrence and, accordingly, instructs Lambeth Parks and Highways officers to ensure that any damage caused to the Common, barriers, or street furniture as a result of these activities is rectified immediately upon cessation of the works and at no cost to the local taxpayer.

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EDEC

Streatham Area Committee also recommends that Lambeth Parks and Highway Officers work with Streatham Common MAC and local councillors to devise ways in which the link road between Streatham Common South and Streatham Common North can be more formally incorporated into the Common; to investigate whether the emergency services still require this access point, whether gates can be removed and whether, if emergency access is still required, a dual surface (such as concrete or membranes that allow grass to grow through) could be installed to replace the harsh urban appearance of the redundant road and kerbs.

Streatham Area Committee also refers this issue to Cabinet for the appropriate Cabinet member for action and to identify resources for this important, sensible and easily achieved addition to public open space in the south of the Borough.

DSO

5. STREATHAM HIGH ROAD IMPROVEMENT NEXT PHASE (ITEM 8)

The Town Centre Manager apologised that due to a breakdown in communication the representative from WS Atkins was not in attendance and therefore the item would need to be deferred.

The Chair expressed the Committee's disappointment at the delay for this important item and requested that it come back to the November meeting.

DSO, TCM

6. STREATHAM HUB PROJECT (ITEM 7)

The Special Projects Director gave a presentation updating the Committee on the Leisure Centre associated with the Streatham Hub project. He explained there had been a delay of 4 months to the project due to:

- An issue of land ownership over a 3 foot strip of land separating the road from the pathway that was a result of boundary changes over the years
- Rights of access over Network Rail land and how this would be incorporated into the scheme
- Obtaining licenses for a dual sewer to run under the site from Thames Water

In the meantime the design was being progressed and current plans and sections were presented and explained to the Committee.

The Chair thanked the officer for the presentation and hard work and explained that other meetings with stakeholders were taking place as a matter of course.

In response to questions from Councillors and members of the public, the officer confirmed that:

- The contract price should be signed of in May 2007 for a June start to works
- Depending on the contractor the leisure centre should be completed in 2 to 2 ½ years
- Changes to the design necessitated a further submittal for planning approval to agree such changes
- Continuity of usage of an ice rink on site was guaranteed
- There was close working with other Council departments on various issues and Section 106 money was available for traffic improvements
- The scheme had been audited regarding disabled facilities throughout the project and these were fully incorporated
- Every effort was being made to accommodate all groups affected by the swimming pool closure by securing alternative locations and organising transport schemes. St Josephs

School were being considered as one alternative temporary provider.

- The external height of the leisure centre matched that of the top of the ridge on the bus garage
- The scheme had been assessed by leading engineers Ove Arup and the Council's insurers and been approved – there was no reason it would not work or have a long life
- That although this scheme was unique ice rinks were built over voids all the time and this scheme met accepted standards

The Chair requested a formal response at the next meeting regarding bore hole drilling on the Tesco site causing disturbance to residents. Officers agreed to table this formally with Tesco to secure an apology and a satisfactory approach to further works.

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The officers further stated that:

- Plans would be made available online once the designs were set
- Modifications were being made to the external design regarding fire escapes and security issues and had yet to be submitted to planning
- The Council wanted a landmark, quality building, fit for purpose
- There would be shared management of the car parking with Tesco and this would be in place for the opening of the leisure centre

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The Committee requested that the impact of construction on the value of property in the area be broached with Tesco.

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The Chair confirmed that this issue would be reported on future agendas, and asked for an update report at next meeting.

7. STREATHAM LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - ACTION PLAN 2006-7 (ITEM 6 - REPORT 116/06-07)

The Community Safety Officer introduced the report and highlighted the key statistics and themes, requesting that the Committee sign off the Action Plan. There followed an introduction to the Lambeth Safer Neighbourhoods Scheme (Item 5) by police officers Chief Inspector Wallace and Sergeant Struthers.

CI Wallace acknowledged her thanks to Inspector Mark Egan who was moving on from the scheme and who had played an integral part in its success so far. She explained that the team structure had changed from 2 inspectors and 2 sergeants to 1 inspector and 7 sergeants across the borough and that the teams were almost fully staffed. Panels had been formed, constitutions agreed and priorities set.

Sgt Struthers explained that the teams had been formed since April

2006 and there had been two public meetings held to introduce the scheme to residents and had been well attended. There had been improvement in dealing with low level crimes and anti-social behaviour in the area and there had been good results from the high visibility of Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) on the streets. He confirmed that there was work planned out for the next 6 months for the community payback scheme and that officers in the teams had been ring-fenced for the wards and would only be withdrawn from the wards in the case of an emergency such as a terrorist attack.

In response to questions the officers confirmed that:

- The re-launch of the community room at 5 Coburg Crescent is awaiting a response from the Housing department on the flooring repairs
- Ward panels decided on their own members but were advised by the police not to include ward councilors to maintain lines of accountability – however, the presence of ward councilors at panel meetings was encouraged
- There is a rolling shift pattern for teams which mean on days off calls are picked up by neighbouring teams
- There is a long term plan in place to deliver on all priorities
- Emergency calls should be placed to the 99 emergency service, not the Safer Neighbourhood teams
- 3 youths had recently been arrested who are believed to be responsible for some of the anti-social behaviour in the area
- Details on graffiti in Natal Road would be forwarded to Grimebusters
- Officers would note the vulnerability of the area around Albert Carr Gardens whilst work was being carried out over the next 24 weeks
- Officers are working with elders at the Mosque on Streatham Green regarding ongoing problems
- It is of vital importance that residents report all crime to ensure the validity of crime figures and effectiveness of police response

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Guillotine

At 9.00pm the Guillotine fell and it was:

RESOLVED: That the meeting be extended for up to a further 30 minutes to conclude the remaining business.

The officers further confirmed that:

- There is work underway to link panels and a training package being prepared for Chairs, Vice-Chairs and minute takers
- The teams work closely with the Street Care Wardens, especially on traffic issues
- The review of Street Care Wardens is currently at

EDEC

- consultation stage as the current administration have asked for a review of the scheme and a report would be brought back to the Committee
- St Leonard's Wardens were now fully funded by the Council but officers would look at the commitment made on this area
 - The timescale for improving lighting on Natal Road would be sent to the Committee
 - Quarterly meetings linking the Streatham Crime Group with Safer Neighbourhood panels would be investigated

It was **MOVED** by the Chair, **SECONDED** by Councillor Lumsden and **RESOLVED** that:

The Streatham Area Committee notes and acknowledges the success of a wide range of initiatives in recent years by various partners aimed at reducing crime overall in Streatham. It further notes and encourages the scope of the initiatives contained in the 2006-7 plan, especially those aimed at young people and general social cohesion.

Whilst acknowledging improvements in the 2005-6 Home Office crime statistics in Streatham Hill and Streatham Wells wards, Streatham Area Committee notes with regret that in St Leonard's ward and in Streatham South ward total crime has increased.

Streatham Area Committee also views with concern that crime in St Leonard's ward is markedly higher than in comparable wards. Alarming, the figures for violence against the person in St Leonard's ward are over twice as high as in Streatham South.

Streatham Area Committee also notes in the report that only one of the four Streatham wards (Streatham Wells) is yet up to operational strength as part of the Government's Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative and as promised by the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone almost six months ago. Most particularly, St Leonard's ward which has the greatest level of crime, is 1x PC short, while the other wards (Streatham Hill and Streatham South) lack PSCO's.

Streatham Area Committee urges the Council, the Cabinet member for Community Safety and officers to ensure that the full quota of police officers is recruited speedily and then maintained at the correct level.

Streatham Area Committee wishes to see further resources committed to reducing crime and the fear of crime in Streatham and, in particular, wishes to see rapid reduction in crime in St Leonard's ward to comparable levels with neighbouring wards.

Streatham Area Committee also deplores the bundling together of Streatham with Norwood under the Government's Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative covering seven wards in total and losing

the dedicated and experienced inspector for Streatham.

The Streatham Area Committee further deplores the lack of consultation with SAC or local councillors in the regard and calls upon the Cabinet member for Community Safety and the Cabinet to support the return to proper community policing in the communities they represent.

Streatham Area Committee also views with extreme concern the lack of policy announcements from the Lambeth Cabinet about the future of Community Safety Wardens to counteract rumours that they are to be scrapped or reduced in number.

8. POLICING STREATHAM (LAMBETH SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS SCHEME) (ITEM 5)

This item was taken at the same time as Item 6, please see the text above.

9. ASSIGNING A BUILDING NAME TO THE DEVELOPMENT AT THE REAR OF 240-246 STREATHAM HIGH ROAD (ITEM 13 - REPORT 114/06-07)

The Street Naming and Numbering Officer introduced the report and recommended that the Committee approve the naming of the block of flats as 'Charles Court' and it complied with guidance and legislation and had an historic connection to the site.

After discussion it was:

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The name 'Charles Court' not be approved by the Committee
- 2) Officers propose the name 'Eldon Court' to the developer as an alternative
- 3) A report on the outcome of this decision be reported back to the Committee

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10. TOWN CENTRE NAME BANK (ITEM 14 - REPORT 115/06-07)

The officer introduced the report and explained that there were over 200 amenity groups potentially to consult over street names.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The Committee only recognised the Streatham Society as a group to be consulted regarding street naming in Streatham
- 2) Officers should meet with the Streatham Society to make clear procedures for street naming

EDSCS

11. CAPITAL PROGRAMME UPDATE (ITEM 9 - REPORT 110/06-07)

RESOLVED that:

- (1) The Committee note the report and the continuing progress with delivering the capital projects.
- (2) The committee agrees to receive reports at each meeting updating on progress until all programmes are complete.
- (3) At a future meeting, the Committee receives and discuss the Library feasibility study.

TCM

12. STREATHAM AREA COMMITTEE WORK PLAN FOR 2006/07 (ITEM 10 - REPORT 111/06-07)

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The work plan for 2006/7 is noted.
- 2) Members agree the final Area Committee Work Programme

13. SERVICE PLAN FOR STREATHAM TOWN CENTRE TEAM (ITEM 11 - REPORT 112/06-07)

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The Area Committee considered and agreed the Plan

14. AREA COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS FUND PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR 2006/07 (ITEM 12 - REPORT 113/06/07)

RESOLVED that:

This item be deferred and that the Chair and two other members of the Committee meet with the Town Centre Manager (TCM) in the following week to give guidance to the TCM on the spend of resources that will occur in the meantime.

TCM

15. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 9.26 pm

CHAIR
STREATHAM AREA
COMMITTEE
Wednesday, 29th November,
2006

Date of Despatch: Thursday, 5 October 2006

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