

SOUTHWARK PRIMARY SCHOOL: LOCAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

NOTES: 04/12/2007

Venue: Queensbury St Baptist Church, Old Basford

Attendance: Karen Pacey (Rosegay TRA), Pat Burton (Nacro & School Governor) Rob Adkin (BSF Team), Gayle Aughton (NCC Extended Schools), , Andy Gallagher (Southwark Deputy Head), Barbara Phillips (37th Nottm Brownies), Martin Rinvolucri (BSF Team), Heidi Shewell-Cooper (Education Improvement Partnership), Wendy White (Nursery nurse, Southwark), Peter Milner (Baptist Church & school governor), Heidi May (Area 2 Neighbourhood Manager), Michaela Saunders (Southwark Head), Pat Burton (Nacro Parenting Support), Margaret Stirling (Basford Community Association), Geoffery Coy (Basford Community Association), Michelle Graley (Community Development), Alan Hose (Community Development), Dari Doyle (Southwark Parent Liaison),

Apologies: Councillor Cat Arnold (Basford Ward), Terry Oldham (Rosegay TRA), Lesley Phair (NCC Children's Centre), Karl Block (schools - Notts police), Mike Gough (Crime Reduction, Notts Police), Russell Lambert (Southwark Facilities Manager), Marianne Dewsbury (School nurse – Southwark), Tina Stuart (Education Welfare),

Agenda:

1. Introductions
2. Community Development's involvement
3. Business Plan
4. Update on overall visioning process
5. Feedback
6. Date of next meeting

2. General review of last months meeting, for the benefit of new members of the group. Martin set the context of the Community Zone as a subset of the whole school site, at the Bulwell Lane end of the site.

Alan Hose, Head of Community Development, NCC outlined the strategy for developing community facilities across the Basford Ward:

- currently developing the Community Centre at Highbury Vale, Brooklyn Road
- also developing the Heathfield Centre on the park, looking to provide specialist facilities, such as a gym

Alan stated that a generic facility on the Southwark site which offered a range of local services would be very complementary to the other developments.

Alan stated that his Department could apply to obtain Portfolio Holder Approval to allow the Community Zone to gain the status of 'Community Centre'. This would have the following advantages:

- Community Development could contribute to Revenue costs
- Community Development have their own Asset Management Strategy and Maintenance Dept.
- Community Development have a repairs budget to cover community facilities across the City

- Personnel from the Dept could support producing a sustainable business plan, advise on governance/management structures and help develop a robust, collaborative relationship with the school, based on clear structures/protocols.

The group's aim of attracting uses that bring in revenue fits in with the Dept's aim to move towards community facilities being self-sustaining.

3. Business Plan

Michelle Graley who works with Alan, outlined how she had already started developing the structure of a Business Plan, on behalf of the group.

Rob stated there was a need now to create a smaller sub-group to develop the Business Plan, customizing it to the needs of the Southwark Community Zone. The urgent need was for the sub-group to do a needs analysis. The following ideas were put forward:

- Heidi M and Heidi Sh-C were to organize a series of community consultations/public meetings in January, through different community groups and at varying times.
- To complement this, Michaela suggested a questionnaire through a free newspaper, like the Arrow
- Also suggested, leaflet questionnaires with FREEPost already on them could be distributed through local community police officers.

Heidi M said she would take forward all these ideas and pass on the findings to Michelle to inform the Business Plan. There were already needs locally: a base for the Basford Hall Association (many of whose members were elderly and needed a very local venue) and a venue for the Active Dads Group.

Rob outlined how Sport England were using the project as a pilot to undertake a needs analysis around sport to develop an exemplar school site in sport, serving the local community needs. Rob said he would ensure that the Sport England consultant was an integral part of the sub-group, to ensure everyone will be working together.

Action: the first meeting of the Business Plan sub-group will be on **13th Dec, 12.30pm at BSF Offices, Sandfield Centre**. The sub-group to include: Michelle, Rob, school rep., T.R.A rep, Sport England rep, Heidi M, Heidi Sh-C, Richard Beckett (Childrens Services Finance)

The Business Plan sub-group to meet on a regular basis, to ensure progress is made towards having a completed Business Plan by March 08, to put forward as part of the Planning Application.

4. Update on overall visioning process

Martin used the aerial photo of the site showing the mature habitat of the allotments and the whole-site diagram (see attachments) to outline the ongoing process of the school visioning group, towards producing a Design Brief by Christmas. The visioning group recognize the fantastic opportunity offered by a school site with such mature habitat. The aim is to carefully position the buildings and sports areas to keep as much as possible of the existing habitat.

The diagram indicates organizing the site into three layers of security:

- facilities which are available to the community, during and after, school core hours. At the Bulwell Lane end of the site, that includes the two retained buildings and their surrounding outside space, forming the Community Zone, with its own line of security. At the Park Lane end of the site, this includes the 'welcome area', comprising main entrance, admin office, meeting rooms and viewing gallery with café space.
- facilities which switch easily to community use outside school core hours. At the Bulwell Lane end of the site, this includes the playing field, which can provide an extension to the Community Zone, during extended school hours. At the Park Lane end of the site, this includes the Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA), the Sports Hall & Gym, the Large Gathering space and Studio.
- the childrens' learning spaces which stay outside regular community use.

Facilities in the Community Zone to be community-owned and run. Facilities towards the Park Lane end of the site to be the school-based spaces that are 'bookable' by the local community.

Martin indicated that only half the Rosegarth Walk garages are in use. One possibility that was being explored, was replacing a proportion of the garages with a small parking area, attached to the Community Zone. An advantage of this option is to create a vehicular entrance, and pedestrian entrance into the site, off Bulwell Lane making it safer. It would also create more of a sense of place to the area around the garages.

5. Feedback

The group felt that the Community Zone would be a very useful local resource, filling some of the gaps in community provision in the area, particularly for local elderly people who do not want to travel far from home. The group felt that the design needed to allow the two retained buildings to be extendable in the future.

Below are some of the issues of the wider site:

- If the main entrance to the school is off Park Lane, parking could be a problem. Need for some on-site, drop-off parking.
- Current problem with car users using Bulwell Lane as a cut-through. Could use the project as a catalyst to make Bulwell Lane a one-way street. Need to link in with the Neighbourhood Regeneration Team's review of the transport situation on Vernon Road.
- Geoffrey who lives in Shardale Gardens explained the problem of drug users hanging around on the allotment space behind Shardale Gardens, which is a very hidden area. Important to address this issue in the Design Brief.
- Geoffery also explained that the rich habitat in this area, supported a wide variety of wildlife.
- Pat, who lives on Rosegarth Walk right near the site boundary, felt this was a great opportunity to open up the boundary to allow more light into the area near the site boundary, where currently it is very dark.
- Generally felt that if the site was to become a true community resource, the wider area around the site needed to be addressed in terms of street lighting, transport and 'reclaiming' some areas from anti-social behaviour.

Martin explained that the design process will be from Jan – Mar 08, probably meeting with the designer on a two-week cycle. With the local knowledge outlined above, important that reps. of the Local Community Group are an integral part of the design process, giving feedback/ideas at regular intervals.

6. AOB

Gayle Aughton from the Extended Schools Team, stated that she would use the email group to invite everyone to the first Extended Schools Cluster Workshop, on 18th January 2008, 9.30 – 11.30 am with lunch to follow, at the Gateway Hotel (on Cinderhill roundabout). This will involve stakeholders from all the local schools, to investigate how they can work as a network to together provide the 'core offer' of an Extended School.

7. Next Local Community Meeting:

Date: Thurs 31st January 2008

Venue: Queensbury St Baptist Church, Queensbury St, Old Basford

Time: 9.30 – 11.00 am (only biscuits this time!)

By the 31st January the design process will be in full swing, so this meeting will be an early opportunity to give feedback on initial sketch ideas/proposals for the overall site strategy.

The other main agenda item will be an update from the sub-group on the progress made in terms of community needs analysis and developing the business plan.