



**KOVF BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
TUESDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> FEBRUARY 2016  
CARMELITA CENTRE  
6.30PM**

**Action Points and Summary 23 February 2016  
6.30pm KOVF Public Meeting, Carmelita Centre**

**ACTION POINTS:**

- Cllr Amos to make contact and respond with follow up to certain questions raised in minutes below.
- 21<sup>st</sup> April Lambeth Council Scrutiny Committee about Garden Bridge at 110 Union Street (Springfield Community and Health Centre), London, SE1 2SH
- 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2016 2pm to 8pm and 23<sup>rd</sup> April 10am to 4pm at 70 South Lambeth Road, London SW8. Exhibition about proposals for new development, Rudolf Place.
- 5<sup>th</sup> May, Mayoral Vote. Consider asking candidates at hustings and during canvassing about proposals for changing Vauxhall Gyratory and Bus Station.
- 16<sup>th</sup> June 6.30pm next KOVF public meeting at Carmelita Centre.

**MINUTES**

**Note: The minutes are not a verbatim record but attempt to summarize as accurately as possible the discussion. Questions are recorded along with named individuals when they disclose this information clearly. Sentiments expressed by those raising questions, and presentations by speakers are a matter for the individual and whilst KOV welcomes all contributions it does not necessarily endorse any particular view represented.**

**In attendance:**

Cllr David Amos

KOV Board: Helen Monger, Andrea Hofling, David Boardman, Michael Keane, Marilyn Evers, and Mark Harrison (until item 5).

**1. Apologies and introduction from Chair**

Apologies received:

Cllr Holland, Cllr Hopkins, Cllr Simpson

KOVF Board members: Chrys Loizou, and Harry Briggs

Attendance:

A list of those registered at the meeting is given at Annex A.

The Chair welcomed the assembly. She thanked her team of volunteers on the Board for their input of time and expertise, singling out Andrea for overseeing the distribution of flyers and posters to advertise the meeting and Chrys for the fortnightly KOVF e-newsletters and the meeting reminders. Alison and Carroll from Vauxhall Gardens Estate Residents & Tenants' Association (VGERTA), were also thanked for their help with preparation of the meeting venue and facilities.

In a break to the usual practice, refreshments would be provided at the break between the two presentations and not at registration.

She explained that a draw would be held at the end of the meeting for two £10 Amazon vouchers. Flyers advertising the meeting were effectively tickets and anyone who filled in their details on one and put it in the draw would be in with a chance of winning.

## **2. Minutes of last meeting**

The Chair announced that nobody has raised any comments, so the minutes of the last meeting - held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February - would now be signed off.

## **3. Presentation on Lambeth Council cuts by Cllr Amos**

The Chair explained that the agenda has been put together before Easter and before a lot of decisions about likely cuts had been finalised. She recognised that the subject of cuts to local services, and particularly cuts to library services, aroused strong feelings among many. She exhorted those present to remain courteous to all speakers and points of view during the presentation from the Council representative and in the following question and answer session.

The Chair also noted that many staff at Lambeth Council had lost their jobs as part of the austerity measures. She paid tribute to Emer Costello and Alan Vinall, both of whom having helped her with leading the KOVF response to planning proposals and in the drafting of the neighbourhood plan bid.

She took the opportunity to thank Lambeth Council for retaining its funding support for KOVF and other members of the Lambeth Forum Network (LFN), so ensuring the ongoing existence of a forum for discussion between residents, developers and the Council. She saluted the work of Gerry Evans, Lambeth Council's officer tasked with supporting LFN members.

The Chair thanked Cllr David Amos for agreeing, at short notice, to speak on behalf of the Council as a replacement to Cllr Jane Edbrooke, the advertised speaker. Cllr Amos would discuss the finances and the further cuts being faced by Oval and Princes' wards.

The Chair advised attendees to avoid making leading statements during the Q+A session and to keep their questions specific to the KOVF area and avoid asking questions which referred to other parts of Lambeth.

Cllr Amos' presentation can be viewed at Annex B. Cllr Amos did not know why Cllr Edbrooke could not attend, when asked.

The presentation was general on finance and more specific for library funding and cuts. It explained how much Lambeth Council's central government support had fallen since 2010, and how much more it would continue to fall until 2020. This meant that in spite of some impressive cost savings, such as with the introduction of less power-hungry street lighting, there was still a huge deficit. Moreover, certain ring-fenced obligations had soared since 2010. Most notably, the annual cost of providing temporary housing in the Borough had risen from £2m to £11m in 2015.

The Councillor gave a breakdown of the areas and numbers of casework he handled. He drew attention to the ways in which the Council was exploring new ways to keep libraries

open: the Borough's first community-run library was taking shape in West Norwood, for instance.

He took questions and acknowledged statements (also, for convenience and clarity labelled with 'Q' below).

### Question & Answer session

Q1 (Richard Finch) Any chance of Community Infrastructure Levy being used for library funding in future? Is it worth lobbying Government for a Bed Tax, such as exists on hotel rooms in Amsterdam, for instance? In Nottingham they are levying on transport. Has the Council considered that?

A. Spot on! It will probably need central Government legislation. I want people to have access to online books.

Q2 (Edith Holtham) You say £2.9m is being spent on libraries. Does that include the capital costs of installing the gyms?

A. I think the developers are paying for the gyms, GLL in this instance.

(EH) No. Lambeth is paying £2m for the gym at the Carnegie and £1m for the gym at the Minet. Also: what is the status of unaccompanied children who use unstaffed libraries.

A. Good question.

Q3. (Felicity Astroulakis) Southwark has similar deprivation to Lambeth, but it hasn't closed any of its libraries...

(Chair) I'll stop that as a) it's out of borough and b) it's a leading statement

A I suspect Southwark developer money or has made cuts elsewhere

Q4. (Priscilla Baines) Two comments. Lambeth libraries have been a byword for poor performance. I'm glad the Durning has been saved, but it needs investment too. We were promised £830k in 2013 and have only had £200k so far. And £70k was spent on a options appraisal.

A. Spot on! You're done a great job keeping the Durning pressure and profile raised.

Q5. (Alan ?) Did the Council ask the Planning Department if buildings were suitable to become gyms?

A. Yes. Durning was considered inappropriate. The Planning Committee operates under strict rules.

[Chair then ends further discussion by asking David Boardman 'can the Council be judge and jury over its own planning applications? To which he replies 'yes – but it would have to put in a special application to change building use from D1 to D2 and the Secretary of State would have to be informed].

Q6. (Frances Goodchild). What is happening with parks? And I want the Council to chase for compensation for the illegal felling of a tree on Claylands Green by Metropolitan Housing.

A. Presumably you've raised this with Parks? Give me your details at the end and I will chase.

Q7. (Max Boucher) Would the Council recommend people visit Camberwell Green library [in Southwark] which is open seven days a week?

Q8. (Michael Keane) With regards parks and open green spaces maintenance, why did the Council ever contract out in the first place if it now turns out it saves money to end two VEOLIA contracts?

A. Previous Labour government wanted that kind of thing. It feels right to have these things in-house.

Q9. (Ian Moore) I want to know more about procurement. Jane Edbrooke said GLL would never provide figures as they are not-for-profit and it costs them money to provide them.

Q10. (John Molyneux) Another Labour Councillor has recently come out saying the current Lambeth Council cabinet has a siege mentality - it feels like 'them and us'. How are we going to move this on?

A. Spot on! I think it needs mediation. I don't personally go round criticising people. My suggestion is to work out what we want to achieve.

(Chair). Which is where KOVF comes in!

Q11. (David Boardman). We have warm feelings about our libraries and the internet is changing the way we read texts. Lambeth is in the bottom quartile according to a CIPFA report for its libraries, nationwide (or London-wide?) from 2013-14. This suggests its library service doesn't engage that well. I know Oasis is providing library services in Waterloo. When looking at the total provision of Durning and Tate South Lambeth added together it equates to roughly 30 sq m of library space per 1,000 of population. I don't see OAKDA providing that:

A. We need to try things – do tests – and find solutions that will last for two or three generations. 57% of users are using them for books, 33% are using them for the internet access.

Q12. (Helen Owen) The Secretary of State has called in the gyms in library applications. So is everything on hold?

A. I don't know. I'll get back to you on that.

Q13. (Andrew Hills). This is a parks question. Is their budget cut too?

A. Yes. Cultural budget is down 40% over three years. One solution is to involve other organisations in the management. A decision has been deferred for over a year. In this area, there is work on cooperative parks with Vauxhall One taking place.

Q14. (Richard Finch) Is Lambeth lobbying TfL for another stop between two stations on the Northern line extension which seem very far apart?

Chair: David Boardman and Rodney Ovenden can discuss this with you at the end.

Q15. (Ursula ?) Tate South Lambeth library is well used by schools. It has clubs, such as those for knitting. Lambeth is not recording this use. What will happen to them?

A. Yes we are aware that we need to get better at recording all the uses for libraries and look to see whether we can provide these facilities in other ways.

Q16 (Rodney Ovenden) I make representations saying I thought one or two Lambeth libraries would close. Could specialist library services be shared with other boroughs to save costs?

A. Yes. It's already happening in the south of the borough.

Q17 (Edith Holtham) With neighbourhood libraries you get very little paid-for staff support.

Q18. (Anonymous) I query the accuracy of the CIPFA report. The libraries in the borough might have been bad once, but they're doing very well now and they're very full.

The Chair thanked Cllr Amos for his presentation and taking of questions and, mindful of time constraints, drew questioning to a close, with three points of her own for Cllr Amos to consider. They were, 1) Why is the cost of temporary housing rising? 2) When would the OAKDA site get a library? 3) What will the effect of 'academification' of schools have on Lambeth budgets?

#### **4. Update from Michael Keane of Our Vauxhall on the TfL plans for the bus station and road system – and KOVF's negotiations with them**

Michael Keane opened by saying he was getting the impression from recent media coverage that TfL is rethinking its plans for the bus station. Our Vauxhall seeks to challenge TfL and Lambeth Council to do the best thing for the area. At this point the Chair added that she hoped Mayoral candidates would consider this issue and that one way of encouraging this was for the local community – including those present, of course – to challenge the candidates on this at hustings and when being canvassed.

#### **5. Neighbourhood plan update – presentation and discussion led by Helen Monger**

The presentation is at Annex C.

The Chair began by thanking David Boardman, Chair of the Planning Committee, and Marilyn Evers, who were working on the locality bidding process, for all their efforts on behalf of KOVF's bid.

It was explained that KOVF would seek a grant of £7k from Locality to cover its costs in putting together a neighbourhood plan and forum. Lambeth Council would receive £30k to cover its costs in supporting the Forum's bid. KOVF intended to run a referendum to decide whether the local community supported the project before proceeding, some time in the summer of 2017 when other elections were not taking place as this was intended as an apolitical piece of work giving people the power in their community.

The presentation set out the financial incentive of having a neighbourhood plan, where a significantly-increased chunk of developer levy would be ring-fenced for spending on infrastructure and community-building projects within the same area of the building constructions. Work was required on how this should be spent and the criteria for projects but KOV had already started work on a Community Chest.

Helen Monger then took questions and listened to comments (also labelled 'Q' for convenience and clarity).

Q1. (Richard Finch) Would David Boardman like help from me with drafting policies?

A. Yes. Give us your contact details at the end of the meeting.

Q2. I don't want any more tall buildings!

Q4. (John Mollyneux) What should we do to help?

A. Bring along 2 neighbours to next meeting; offer expertise in marketing and running campaigns; lobby neighbours to vote at fetes and elsewhere; support through twitter and facebook; administration (stuffing envelopes, putting up posters, leafleting); ideas for local projects to be supported through community chest and later CIL.

Q3. (Katie Hunter) You say the next public meeting, taking place in June, will be about neighbourhood planning. How can I get briefed about how to help?

A. Give the administrator your details at the end

## **6. Planning applications**

[DB to supply details of KOVF comments on current planning applications]

## **7. Any Other Business**

7.1 Rudolf Place: (brownfield site adjacent to Miles Street). Developers are holding an exhibition (ground floor, 70 South Lambeth Road – corner Miles Street and South Lambeth Road) –of proposed development running from 2 – 8pm on Fri 22 and 10am – 4pm on Sat 23 April.

7.2 Garden Bridge: Overview & Scrutiny Committee at Lambeth Council to consider legitimacy of sale of Coin Street's Southbank open space site to Garden Bridge Trust. 7pm start on Thur 21 April at 110 Union Street (Springfield Community and Health Centre), London, SW8 2SH

**8. Date of next meeting:** Thur 16 June, 7 – 9pm, Carmelita Centre

### **Annex A - Registration**

Toby North  
David Boardman  
Felicity Astroulakis  
Cllr David Amos  
Gilliam Watts  
Rodney Ovenden  
Amrita Dhallu  
Mark Harrison  
John Mullier  
I Moore  
Frances Goodchild  
Priscilla Baines  
Wyndham Skitt  
Caroline Nouhass

George Allison  
Marilyn Anderson  
Emily Elkington  
Andrea Hofling  
Carroll Falconer  
Helen Monger  
Mike Keane  
Edith Holtham  
Richard Finch  
Max Boucher  
Andrew Ellis  
Helen Irwin  
Mike Kana  
Jeff Hale

Faith Boardman  
Fiona Boardman  
Phil Stanier  
Hamish Adamson  
Imelda Moore  
Byron Green  
Elizabeth Scott  
Katie Hunter  
Mr or Ms Singleton  
S de Wild  
Jean Uzoma  
Richard North

# LAMBETH COUNCIL FINANCES

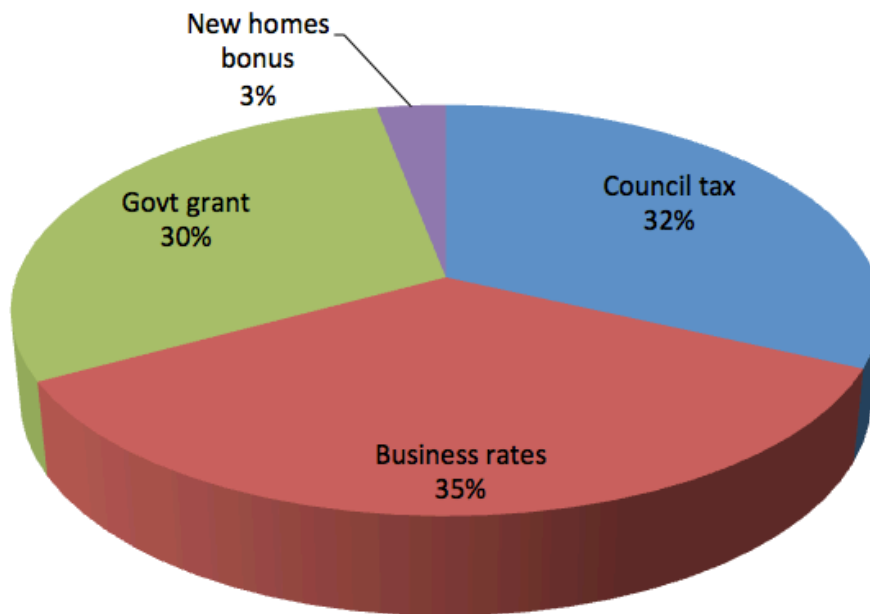
## KOV FORUM

Cllr David Amos  
North Lambeth Neighbourhood Lead  
Prince's ward  
14<sup>th</sup> April 2016

### Lambeth Financial Challenges

- Government cut of 56% (£146m savings since 2010)
- 2016-19: £100m savings (on top of £138m since 2010)
- Lambeth is 29<sup>th</sup> most deprived area = 13<sup>th</sup> highest level of cuts (£750 per household since 2010)
- King's Hospital = £100m deficit; The Met police = £183m (10%) cut this year

## Council Income: Sources

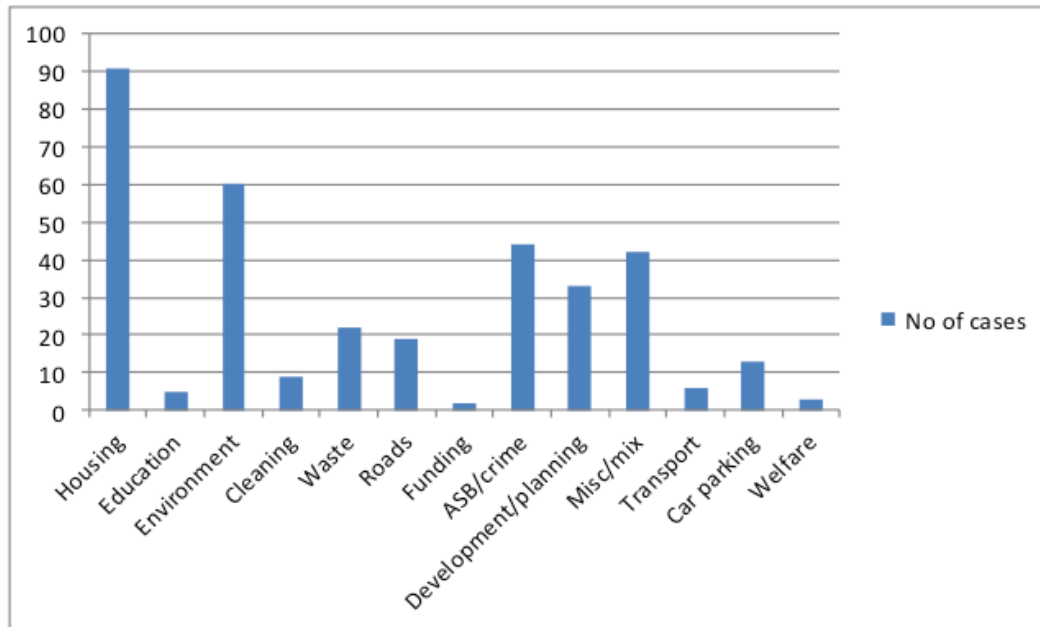


## Costs and Savings

- **Temporary housing:** rose from £2m in 2011 to £11m last year
- **Street lighting:** £600k savings this year with switch to less energy intensive lights
- **Community safeguarding:** £725k savings through multi-disciplinary area crime reduction teams
- **Parking:** £500k saved by having one contract
- **Housing:** £500k efficiency savings



## Casework since 2014



## Libraries Budget

### Revenue budgets:

2015/16: £3.863m

2016/17: £3.063m

2017/10: £3.063m

### Capital budget:

2015/16: £0.952m

2016/17: £2.905m

2017/10: £1.2m

There is one-off funding from CIF for libraries of £730K currently planned to be used equally over two years: £365K in 2016/17 and £365K in 17/18. This funding is not available from 18/19

## Library Services

- Service remains in house
- 6 town centre libraries and 4 neighbourhood libraries with increased opening hours
- Capital investment in buildings to ensure the diversification of income
- Plan to replace one off Coop Investment Fund (£700K) by 2018-19 with efficiencies and service improvements – lots of good ideas from Head of Libraries proposals for services
- Partnership with Oasis Charity to provide new library facility in Waterloo by May 2016
- Partnership with Upper Norwood Joint library Trust to provide our first community-run library
- Partnership Picturehouse to develop a new library facility in West Norwood by 2017-18
- Financial support to maintain the Black Cultural Archives

## Building A Better Borough

|                           |   |   |  |                                       |
|---------------------------|---|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| 300,000 residents         | 5 great town centres                            | Growing population – increasingly diverse         | Opportunities for investment: jobs, homes and businesses | £238m capital investment              |
| 16,000 businesses         | 86% schools judged “good” or “outstanding”      | 67% resident satisfaction with how council is run | 859 new affordable homes delivered                       | 80.2% employment rate 16-64 year olds |
| 20 mph across the Borough | Biggest investment in roads/streets resurfacing | Huge improvement in cycling infrastructure        | Free breakfasts in primary school                        | 1000 more council rent homes planned  |

# Neighbourhood Plan Update 14 April 2016

Helen Monger

## The Context

### Localism Act 2011

Gives choice over:

- where want new homes, shops and offices to be built,
- what those new buildings should look like and
- what infrastructure should be provided
  
- And can delegate powers for planning permission.

## The Context Continued

Can not be used:

- To change government policy
- Alter strategic policies in the local authority plan
- prevent development

## Why Do a Neighbourhood Plan?

- Gives more power to local people to decide priorities
- Allows more detailed policies eg. Design standards
- Lets you spend up to 25% of CIL Levy on agreed projects

## What KOV has done so far

- Experience - Dealing with previous planning applications
- Agreed boundaries
- Designated body in July 2015
- Open meetings and consultation
- Baseline research with students

## What are the issues

- Transparency (Financial Viability Assessments)
- Tall buildings
- Open Public Green Space
- Basement developments
- *Jobs and Growth*

## KOV additional points

- Important sites needing detail and influence:
  - OAKDA
  - 8 Albert Embankment
  - Oval House Theatre
  - Others?
- Priority projects and Community chest
  - Ideas?
  - Method of distribution

## What needs to happen next?

- Secure grant from Locality
- Agree policies and draft Neighbourhood Plan
- Run consultations
- Get Lambeth agreement
- Independent Examination
- Go to Referendum and win vote

**Your help and involvement  
is now  
Critical**