

# SHAD THAMES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION OPEN MEETING

7.30pm to 9.30pm - Monday, 10 November 2008 at The Bridge House

**Invited Speakers:** Mayor of Southwark **Eliza Mann**  
**Tim Walker**, Senior Engineer, Road Transport and Network, Southwark Council  
**Stephen Cornford**, Director, Potters Fields Park Management Trust  
**Michael Clarke**, Manager, Pont de la Tour

**Core Group:** Julian Griffiths (Chair), Michael Place (Treasurer), Jilly Frisch (Secretary),  
Anna Hollingsworth, Anne Lynn, Penelope Tay, Pat Varney

**Local Residents:** 38 local residents

**Julian Griffiths**, welcomed everyone, particularly Eliza Mann, attending as Mayor of Southwark, and as a Riverside Ward Councillor.

**Eliza Mann**, Mayor of Southwark, said she was very pleased to be speaking to local residents as Mayor, as there had not been a Mayor from the Riverside Ward for 32 years. She said she had learned so much more about Southwark's history and people since becoming Mayor. She mentioned that the Mayor has the opportunity to name a charity which could be publicised during the term of office – she had chosen Diabetes UK, as she was a type 2 diabetic herself. She drew attention to the fact 10% of NHS resources are spent on diabetes related illnesses, that diabetes is known as the silent assassin, and many people are undiagnosed cases. She is fundraising for a mobile screening unit for Southwark, to be sponsored by Diabetes UK. The Mayor of Southwark's Fundraising Page is on the Southwark Council's website. Another means of fundraising was a Ball she would be hosting at the Hilton Hotel, Tooley Street, in May 2009 – when a table for 10 would be £1000 – she hoped local residents would support Diabetes UK by attending this event.

**Michael Clarke, Manager, Pont de la Tour**, said that he has recruited a security person to be present along the riverside outside Pont between 9.00pm and 1.00am during the 3 weeks leading up to Christmas and for New Year. And, he hoped this might eventually be extended to include the other riverside restaurants along Butlers Wharf for a similar arrangement during the summer months.

Michael Clarke offered Shad Thames residents a glass of champagne in the Restaurant, and retail prices for wine in the Bar and Grill when dining on Sundays and Mondays. He said Pont would be applying for a licence to remain open until 2.00am on New Years Eve, their guests would have the opportunity to go by boat to see the fireworks closer to the Eye. If local residents were interested in entering the Bar between midnight and 2.00am, they should register their interest with him or Cedric, Pont's Assistant Manager.

**Tim Walker**, said that consultation on the Controlled Parking Zone was about to start. He was therefore keen to have input from local residents. Local residents present raised a range of issues, which included: the building under construction opposite Dockhead Church has no allocated parking places, which will lead to more parking in Shad Thames; while yellow lines allow 40 minutes for loading/unloading, Parking Wardens did not respect this, and usually gave parking fines if a vehicle was left while items were being carried into a building; there are 2 loading bays in Curlew Street but Parking Wardens believed these were only for commercial vehicles; a number of accidents had recently happened in Queen Elizabeth Street as it has become a white van rat run (solutions for this might be speed cameras, speed bumps, or making the street one-way, with no entry from Tower Bridge Road – possibilities for funding any of these might be through Bermondsey Community Council for cleaner, greener, safer funding, or Caroline Pidgeon of the London Assembly). Many of these issues were actually for Parking Operations, and it was decided that it could be useful to invite Richard Fox, Southwark's Parking Operations Manager to attend a meeting. Additional information on the CPZ consultation is on the Southwark website.

**Stephen Cornford**, said that on 13 November the London BID were involved in a Guinness Record Arm Wrestling event; on 26 November (for 8 days) the New Zealand Tourist Board would have a large Rugby Ball on the Park, where the draw for the next Rugby World Cup in NZ would be take place, and there will

be a cinema inside the Ball – the Park pathways would be diverted around the Ball; from 8 December until 12<sup>th</sup> night there will be a German food and drink market on Blossom Square; there will also be carol singing.

The grass will be re-turfed in March, and extra stonework would be installed along the ground in front of the only stone seating so far without this – the grass is quickly worn out. Some of the stonework needs repairing.

Discussions are ongoing with Berkeley Homes, but the Trust has stressed that the Park is for local people and visitors, amongst other things there are discussions about the inevitable south/north pathways which are likely to emerge.

**Julian Griffiths** provided some feedback regarding the Berkeley Homes development. He confirmed that the new proposal was more sympathetic to the area than the original plans, for example, the development (with the exception of the proposed single campanili) would be a floor lower than the commercial buildings and that some sight lines of Tower Bridge would be preserved. He praised BH's new approach and that of their new architects, Squire & Partners, in engaging with local stakeholders, including STRA, using a series of consultation meetings. Squire & Partners had recorded each concern raised and appeared to be responsive to constructive feedback. However, discussions are ongoing between BH and the Potters Fields Park Management Trust on some issues. BH would be holding a public exhibition/consultation within the next few weeks.

He confirmed that the core group had just had a meeting with Owen Bevan, Manager of the **Dean Swift** regarding late night noise, and he had made his mobile number (*available from STRA*) and email available – [REDACTED] [deanswift@innventiveoperations.com](mailto:deanswift@innventiveoperations.com) – for residents living in close proximity to the premises.

Licensing Officers had visited **The Don** on 7 November 2008 and discovered that they had not complied with some of the conditions of their licence, such as installation of a sound limiting device, and making a contact phone number available to residents so that they can contact the manager direct should a problem arise – the number has now been obtained and is **020 7357 8717**.

The Street Trading Enforcement Officer had now advised STRA that an application to place tables and chairs outside one of the restaurants on Shad Thames had been withdrawn. In any case, the core group felt that it is impractical to have obstructions placed along Shad Thames as the pavement is particularly narrow, and if wheel chair users, prams/pushchairs, shopping trolleys, etc. are obliged to step off the pavement it is extremely difficult to manipulate "wheels" on the cobbled area, and, therefore any similar applications are likely to be contested by STRA.

The DealCard, providing discounts in participating local establishments is now available to residents of Shad Thames via the Team London Bridge website.

All residents living in the area represented by STRA were encouraged to sign up to the STRA Network via the website. Those who attended the meeting were further encouraged to "pass the message on" regarding STRA to their fellow residents and friends who live in the area.

**Michael Place**, gave a brief history of the finances of STRA, mentioning that since the Tooley Street and Tower Bridge Community Association had divided into the Tooley Street Tenants and Residents' Association and the STRA, funds held by TSTBCA had been returned to Southwark Council. This meant that STRA had been functioning without funds, however, some revenues were now coming in, mostly as a result of filming in the local area. He reported that STRA now has around £1000 in the bank and is in a better position to support local activities.

**Jilly Frisch** reported that Southwark Council's Licensing Committee had decided that it could not recommend that Shad Thames should have a Saturation Policy – compared with Camberwell and Peckham, the figures for violence against the person, disorder and rowdiness were fairly insignificant for Shad Thames. It is acknowledged that the main problem in Shad Thames is dispersal noise, but the Licensing Committee said it would continually monitor the Shad Thames situation, and hoped that STRA would continue to comment on applications for new licences or variations to licences, and when necessary organise conciliation meetings with problematic premises, in cooperation with the Licensing Officers.