

SHAD THAMES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION NETWORK

Core Group meeting the Anchor Tap - Monday, 11 May 2009

Present: Jilly Frisch
Julian Griffiths
Anne Lynn
Michael Place
Penelope Tay

Apologies: Anna Hollingsworth
Nick Napier
Pat Varney

1. Open Meeting

While much positive feedback had been received from residents who attended, it was agreed that the core group would spend more time preparing the reporting of activities to make it shorter and more focussed. The notes of the open meeting reflected the issues dealt with. It was agreed that the Code of Conduct should be redrafted and condensed to about one page. JG confirmed that he had written to the guest speakers to thank them.

2. Improving communication

It was decided that emails would be sent to the network when there was information to be imparted, such as an alert about a licensing application. The website would be continuously updated, particularly the home page. It might sometimes be appropriate to feed issues to the SE1 website.

The core group were reminded that they can update the website, the password and login will be emailed to members.

It was decided to find some benefits for network members, such as discounts e.g. at Pont.

3. Increase in crime in Shad Thames

Following his attendance at the Riverside Ward Panel meeting JG learned that crime is increasing in the Shad Thames area, e.g. mugging at Providence Square, and All-Bar-One broken into and champagne stolen. He also had had personal experience of car break-ins at the Gainsford Street car park, and bin stores being broken into.

4. The Don licensing application and hearing

47 objections had been made to the application – due, no doubt, to STRA publicising the application by email to the network and by a targeted letter drop in the immediate area. As both JG and JF had objected on behalf of STRA, it was clarified that JF would speak on behalf of STRA at the hearing on 18 May 2009, and JG would email Licensing to this effect. JF, as Secretary, would normally submit objections/ comments related to licensing or planning applications, after the core group had decided what action would be taken, either in a meeting, or by email if time was short.

It was noted that The Don did not have Planning permission to operate as a nightclub, and that Planning therefore also needed to be kept in the loop related to noise or other complaints. JF would check the wording of a text with Southwark's Planning unit for inclusion on the STRA website.

The hearing scheduled for 18 May 2009 has subsequently been postponed, due to an administrative error on the part of Southwark's Licensing unit.
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5. Radio base station at Tea Trade Wharf

JF had submitted an objection to the proposal on 6 May 2009 which had simultaneously been circulated to the core group. JF had decided to submit the objection as the closing date for receipt of comments was 12 May 2009, but pointed out that it could be withdrawn if the core group did not wish to object. As around 6 requests had been received asking if STRA would be objecting, it was decided that the objection would not be withdrawn. (It was subsequently discovered that the closing date for receipt of comments had been extended to much later in May).

6. Funds from Eagle Wharf

A local resident has donated £1000 to STRA from Eagle Wharf funds. MP provided STRA's bank statements, and JG had requested a reference from Councillor Eliza Mann to complete the process.

7. Cleaner, greener, safer funding

Once again, STRA had been unsuccessful in securing CGS funding. Apparently, only large projects had been accepted in this round. Information would be sought on the projects that were successful. Councillor Nick Stanton had, however, organised a walk around Shad Thames with relevant senior Southwark staff to see if some items under the proposal could be taken into the more routine work that is carried out by Southwark. NN and MP would meet the group on 12 May 2009.

8. Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Green Enterprises "BARGES"

BARGES is a group of individuals who work to protect local green spaces – www.barges.me.co.uk

9. Nutmeg House

Although a member of the Tooley Street Tenants and Residents' Association had offered STRA the use of Nutmeg House, they had not responded to STRA's questions about practical steps related to using the meeting room.

It was suggested that maybe Southwark Council could take over the responsibility for the meeting room so that any Residents' Association could freely use the room, and simply collect the key from Southwark's new offices off Tooley Street.

10. Tower Bridge Renovation

JF had contacted Roy Tyler, City of London, about the following:

- the failure to include the pavement railings in the current work as the railings were the responsibility of TfL, therefore, asking if TfL and the City of London could cooperate on this to ensure that further closure or part-closure did not occur, also ensuring that the railings were treated in the same way as the rest of the bridge and would not need repainting for 25 years;
- asking TfL to combine the cleaning of stonework proposed to take place 2010 which would mean an additional closure of the bridge in 2010, with the long closure planned in 2011; and,
- the provision of a free ferry service when the bridge is closed for a long period in 2011.

He would report back after a meeting between the City of London and TfL.

11. Blossom Square Kiosk

JF reported that it was likely that Bubble Foods would take over the Kiosk by the end of May 2009. Bubble planned to take out the large units, take the tiling off the back wall, and refurbish it with white walls, wood and plants, a small serving counter, and have tables with sun-umbrellas outside. The standard and style of food was good.

PFPM had lost some money as a result of Amano going into administration, but because the Trust held a large deposit the loss had been small.

Next meeting – Monday, 1 June 2009 at 7.15pm at the Anchor Tap.