

## Notes of the Stockwell Community Forum held in St Anne and All Saints Church at 7.00pm on 30 March 2009.

Those present:- Lucy Annan (Chair), Professor Nicholas Bailey (University of Westminster), Neville Fleming, Ailsa Newby, Molly Kenlock, Sean Creighton, Margaret Norris, MA Norris, Mark Magill, Dom Lindesay, Elaine Kramer, S Holloway, Alex Bigham, Sue Blandford, Matthew Dart, John Balazs, Ian Beever, Cllr Imogen Walker, Cllr Steve Bradley, Cllr Rob Banks, Cllr Andrew Sawdon.

In attendance:- Susan Mulligan, Adam Platts, Gerry Evans (LbLambeth); Ian Sesnan (Stockwell Partnership), John McCay (minutes) (Stockwell Partnership)

1. The Chair welcomed the attendees and everyone introduced themselves.
  - 1.1 The Chair handed over the forum to Professor Nick Bailey for the first session.
2. **The Report on the Stockwell Urban II programme.**
  - 2.1 Professor Nick Bailey introduced the Urban II evaluation report and asked for comments and feedback.
  - 2.2 There was praise from the Stockwell Partnership for the individual LbLambeth officers concerned, particularly Adam Platts, with the operation of the programme and Board of local residents that made the decisions on applications.
  - 2.3 However the programme was intended to empower local groups and the formal successes of the scheme were tempered with criticism of the retrospective payments system with its structural delays. The need for match funding was a problem because the groups that most needed support were unlikely to have 50% of the funding available. Even well established groups had struggled with the bureaucracy involved and that bureaucracy was not easily transferable to other local bureaucratic requirements e.g. Lambeth's Adult learning fund.
  - 2.4 There was also some concern that seemingly "no-one" had read the lessons from Urban 1. The problem was described as local groups having to "swap their mission for bureaucracy".
  - 2.5 There was a comment that the London Voluntary Sector Training Consortium had been commissioned to support groups but "didn't deliver".
  - 2.6 Aardvark recycling had been popular and a lot of estates had wanted them. Trees for Cities was felt to be very successful. Some regret was expressed that there isn't enough recognition of what benefits had accrued to the area from Europe.
  - 2.7 The community buildings study had positioned the area better for recognising and tackling problems but so much more now needed to be done and there had been both achievements and set-backs. Some identified needs such as for a Community Buildings Maintenance service may be taken forward by local organisations e.g. SCRC.
  - 2.8 The Forum then considered the need to ensure that the momentum and the unfinished asks were taken forward. Stockwell Partnership had a lot to do to co-ordinate action under the Neighbourhood Action Plan and the Future Stockwell Framework but it was also vital to secure community resources now through S106 (planning obligation payments) and transferring of Council assets to the community.

Refreshments were served and networking took place.

### 3. **Updates on projects and notices from the community**

- 3.1 Margaret Norris Assistant Head Teacher reported that the first phase of the redevelopment of the Stockwell Park School was nearly complete with the new building occupied. It was hoped that the future new facilities would encourage greater use by the local community.
- 3.2 Dom Lindesay and Mark Magill spoke eloquently on the prospects of a full community agenda in the new Lost Theatre on Wandsworth Road where outreach cultural

programmes tailored to the local Portuguese and other local BAME groups and demographics was planned.

#### **4. Councillors Panel**

4.1 The Councillors panel of Imogen Walker (Stockwell), Steve Bradley (Vassall), Rob Banks and Andrew Sawdon (Oval) fielded questions from the public.

4.2 During general debate on the Lambeth Council vision for future Forums, Gerry Evans, from Communities First, offered to email some possible models that might inform future discussion. An opinion was expressed that the forum's development should be driven from the community representatives rather than Council officers **Action GE**

**The meeting ended at 9.00pm.**

#### **Potential Dates for Future Stockwell Forums**

27 July, 28 September and 30 November.