



Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations

Bells Gardens Community Centre,
19 Buller Close, London,
SE15 6UJ

Campaigning for Housing Rights and Council Homes

Group meeting 23.06.21

Present: 17 attendees

The vice- chair is chairing this evenings meeting and welcomed the group.

The discussions of meeting were introduced.

Halls Reopening – how are people feeling?

June – would like clarity on what are compulsory to open the halls. There should be a check list for halls. If all halls have the same tick box list to follow that would be good, a list of compulsory to give us reassurance. The communities wants birthday parties, weddings to start again but are reluctant to take bookings if unable to do it. Let me open it up once and open it up properly

Amanda C – when can we reopen and when can we take bookings

Nick – do we need insurance for public liability

Rye Hill – we have made decision to not let out to individuals let the halls for parties etc, track and trace and being unable to monitor numbers doesn't seem worth it.

We are offering groups to let the out the halls.

Action: We expect on regular basis for these checks to be done by Southwark Council

Amanda C read out info from Ian Brindley –

Worth noting this btw ..

Community centres and village halls must collect contact information for all activities and events taking place within the venue. This should be collected by the person who hires the space. The venue must display an official NHS QR code poster which can be used for every activity that takes place there. They must also offer a system which does not require individuals to own an electronic device.

Question – how would someone without electronic device scan QR code ?

Rye Hill – would urge people to push the data collecting back on to the hirer.

Rye Hill gather telephone numbers and names and they let out to groups rather than individuals

Tom – need to collect information on what TRAs need to do. This information needs to be made public and on the SGTO website

June – was told to wait until the 21st July when it is the next update and to wait 9 days to be up and running. They want to start small. The issue with doing tabletop sale, coffee mornings etc, is they won't know who everyone is and who is coming in so we will have some very unhappy residents.

People should approach with caution

Rye Hill – the service that Rye Hill are receiving is not adequate. They had water problems which took 2 months to get water issues dealt with. Castle Water rates were jacked up, the council have a

responsibility to TRAs. We are volunteers and some of the things being asked of us are encroaching on our us. The responsibility of sorting these issues should be liability of the council not SGTO.

Action: there should be a push from this group that there is a check list prior to trying to open rather than trying to open and being told unable to open SGTO should also be pushing for an action plan to open.

Rye Hill – it is beholden on the council for them to have fire safety risk assessments including layout of halls. They should not be asking TRAs for this information as they owned the buildings

Action: SGTO to ask Larry to resend list that was circulated a few weeks ago

Action: ask Southwark Council to share information relating to halls and upload onto their website. There needs to be a place on the council website regarding insurance, check-list etc

Laurainne – was told by her halls insurance policy that the insurance did not cover anyone who became sick with Covid-19 and TRAs would be liable for this. This would prevent people taking on this responsibility and becoming committee members. Insurance company used is Zurich which have a community policy. Laurainne asks if all insurance companies are applying this?

Chris M explained that insurance companies are adding in Covid due to current situation

Jessiah from Tabard Central asks what if TRAs miss information from the council? Sometimes TRA members resign or change and may have agreed information

Peter Davis – Tabard North – there has not been a hall committee since 2012. The hall is meant to be shared between 3 TRAs. There was 3 TRAs on the estate, one hasn't existed for a few years. Peter highlights that in shared halls no decisions should be made without a halls committee.

Chris M offered support and Tabard North asks that if SGTO do get involved they listen to TRAs on the estate

Road Closure discussion

Rye Hill Road closures – traffic diverted to poorer areas. The food can not be distributed to other estates due to the road closures. People working in health services such as Kings, Tessa Jewel health services, are not able to get to the venues. Concerns over why no Cllrs were at the group meeting

Action : SGTO to put pressure on Cllrs to attend SGTO meetings

Rye Hill asked why Rye Lane was closed? Cllr Rose informed the TRA it was due to Covid-19 and making pavements wider. Why was this continued? It effects black communities who shop on the Rye disproportionately.

Brandon 1 – these closures came in overnight.

Tanya – we are living in a environmental global crisis. There have been fires and floods. TM explained that money came from central Gov, went to GLA and then Local Authorities to reduce carbon emission by discouraging using of car and encouraging walking. Working class communities benefit from fewer cars. The holistic solutions that could have helped people who are unable to travel on public transport should have been supported. The issue should not be an either or solution.

Rye Hill – these micro initiatives are not the solution. It is few people who can work from home living on estates and it is people who live on estates who are having to do the school run and travel to work to stack shelves, deliver your food.

Nick – the closed road have made Southampton Way estate more connected. The changes are about making roads safer. There are things that can be agreed on, such as including local people in decisions and the consultation is wrong.

Amanda C – there are no warnings when driving down the roads that a road is going to be blocked. It is also making people driving more erratic which is dangerous and creating more emissions by driving around

Katrina – Neckinger Estate – in Bermondsey Street, people can not drive straight into their estate so are having to drive in loops which is causing traffic jams and congestion. The issue has just been passed along to other areas. The cycle lane added to Jamaica Road is making more congestion. People now have their amazon deliveries, food deliveries coming and everything is being pushed on to our area and made the air worse.

Tom – Brandon – changes to bus lanes and cycle lanes are attacking car drivers. Car journeys are taking twice as long.

Nick – On the Office of National Statistics (ONS) has lots of information on car ownership by tenure. If the problem is just being pushed else where then maybe LTNs are not the solutions and we could consider the other ideas, such as taxes on cars. The main problem is that there are too many cars and a city with less cars is beneficial.

Miriam – the LTN was not based on an environmental issue, it is to help them administer the upcoming ULAZ. On Rye Hill there are many cyclists, but the cyclist lockups were too expensive. ONS can be good but actually people do have cars on estates but they tend to be older cars. People need cars on the estate as they are priced out of public transport

Action: Call for information – how are LTNs impacting on your life?

Josiah – congestion charge have long existed on where his estate lies. There is no provision to pay for congestion charge on a Saturday and you are given only 24 hrs to pay if you go into the charge zone. Closures push people into the congestion areas. Some people rely on cars to work and with all of the charges ULEZ, Congestion and other charges how are we able to work? Could SGTO call a meeting with TFL?

Nick, there should be a mission statement from SGTO

Althea – the road closures were only being for 6 months. SGTO should contact the council and ask when they are coming out?

The chair explained the concerns raised will be compiled by SGTO and go to Cllr Rose for our next group meeting discussion where she has agreed to attend. Any motion or position statement should be suggested as part of that meeting where it will be debated. The delegate who requested this topic be discussed was not at this meeting and the chair would like to give an opportunity for them to contribute.

Action: For SGTO compile responses and share with Cllr Rose

Chris introduced Rita the new engagement officer for the north of the borough

Chris informed the group Rhiannon was leaving