



Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations

Campaigning for Housing Rights and Council Homes

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

Group Meeting Minutes from Wednesday 23rd April 2025 - zoom

Staff: Margaret Onwuta, Amanda Carey, Joshua Gottlieb, Eldezangela Gomes and Ahmed Kabba.

Attendees: 15

1. Welcome, Introductions & Apologies

Chris (SGTO Chair) introduced himself, welcomed and thanked everyone for coming.

Apologies: 3

ASCO- Astley Cooper x 1 (Saidat Oketunde), Thurlow Lodge x1 (Carol Vincent) and Millpond x1 (Steve Evans).

2. Minutes of Group Meeting held on 26th February 2025 and Matters Arising

Minutes were agreed as a true record:

Proposed by Cris Claridge

Seconded by Keri German

Chris mentioned that the information about Gateway and Plentific has not been sent by Marc Cook as promised in February.

Action: To provide information from Marc Cook about Gateway and Plentific once received.

SHAPE

Chris mentioned that the Stop Overdevelopment demonstration on the 1st of March did occur and SGTO is willing to utilise The Southwark Tenant Voice Newsletter to publish more information on future SHAPE events.

Action: To receive information from SHAPE and publish in the newsletter for future events.

Conference

Chris said that SGTO will organise an open meeting for the campaigns and events subcommittee and to become more active, which the subcommittee will act on.

Chris explained that most of the issues raised by the residents in the meeting was focused on housing law. Therefore, SGTO was advised to increase legal capacity to help and advise residents seeking legal housing support. Keri expressed that SGTO's location could be an issue which is something that has been taken forward by SGTO.

Action: SGTO to help and advise residents seeking legal housing support.

Eid event

On the 30th March, SGTO supported Saidat in the last EID event at Burgess Park. The event was a success.

Question 1:

Has the Council sent the structure of their departments?

Chris explained that a response has not been received from the Council regarding structure of the departments.

Action: SGTO to circulate new structure of Council departments once received.

3. Feedback on SGTO's Invitation to Tender

Chris explained that on the 25th of March, SGTO submitted their Tender application to the Council.

SGTO was informed that a response would be received by the 17th of April. However, Chris explained that they had been informed of a slight delay and that the Tender is still being evaluated. SGTO is still waiting on the outcome of the tender and feedback will be provided to the membership once it has been received.

Action: SGTO to provide feedback of Tender outcome to the membership once advised.

Question 2:

Has any information been given on other competitors?

Chris explained that they are only aware of TPAS, not any other applicants.

Question 3:

What happens to SGTO if the tender is not accepted, will SGTO close permanently as an organisation?

Chris explained that the membership would decide the outcome of the process. SGTO relies on the funding from the Council, but there are other avenues of funding which can be applied for.

4. Any Other Business

SHAPE

Tanya explained that the demonstration on the 1st of March was attended by approximately 600 people and that SHAPE now have more supporters, including the Southwark Workers Trade Union. Also, SHAPE had a Benefit Concert which successfully raised an estimate of £700.

The Peckham Aylesham application is expected to go to planning committee early June.

SHAPE will be holding a public meeting at Rye Lane chapel focused mainly on the Peckham application which will occur on the 15th of May with various speakers, and that anyone who would like to attend on behalf of SGTO are welcome.

Chris stated that SGTO is willing to continue to support SHAPE.

A Peckham Take Over will happen on the 31st of May.

Tanya explained that the chances of the proposal for affordable housing being approved at the planning committee is lower and there is a good chance of a planning officer recommending refusal. SHAPE had a meeting with Miatta which was against having 3 Rye Lane labour councillors. In which Miatta mentioned that there is a possibility of following the planning application going to committee. Tanya mentioned that regardless of the outcome of the planning committee, SHAPE believes that the campaign must continue.

Question 4:

Are there any updates on the Scrutiny meetings?

Chris explained that there was a meeting on the 22nd of April and members will receive further updates.

Housing allocation scheme consultation

A resident reminded that the Housing allocation scheme consultation will be closed on the 1st of June 2025 and encouraged residents to participate and provide feedback, which will be presented to Southwark Council Cabinet for approval.

Resident mentioned that she attended the Housing Allocation Scheme workshop, presented by Joshua Gottlieb (SGTO) and stated that some of the proposed changes are beneficial and others worrying. The resident reinforced that the feedback provided will give residents a voice ensuring that the allocation policy works for the people.

Action: Cris suggested that SGTO could apply for Deputation Cabinet meeting as this will enable tenants to have a voice at the meeting.

Chris said that SGTO has been working on this matter and will update the membership with further information.

Question 5:

How many people attended the Housing Allocation Scheme workshop?

Joshua informed that 5 people attended the workshop and explained that if there are any other residents interested, another session can be scheduled.

Resident expressed that it would be beneficial to have another workshop and suggested to contact HASL.

Action: Joshua to Schedule a further Housing Allocation Scheme workshop.

Question 6:

Is there a template response available?

Joshua stated that HASL will be sending their template response soon.

Cris stated that she is thankful for SGTO in dedicating their time on the tendering process and appreciates the hard work.

Chris explained his gratefulness for the recognition provided.

Amanda expressed her Thank You's to Chris and Andrew for volunteering their time, especially evenings and weekends, in helping SGTO with the application process.

Meeting Closed 8:00pm

DATE OF NEXT GROUP MEETING: WEDNESDAY 28TH MAY 2025

ACTIONS

2. Minutes of Group Meeting held on 26th February 2025 and Matters Arising

Action: To provide information from Marc Cook about Gateway and Plentific once received.

Action: To receive information from SHAPE and publish in the newsletter for future events.

Action: SGTO to help and advise residents seeking legal housing support.

Action: SGTO to circulate new structure of Council departments once received.

3. Feedback on SGTO's Invitation to Tender

Action: SGTO to provide feedback of Tender outcome to the membership once advised.

4. Any Other Business

Action: Cris suggested that SGTO could apply for Deputation Cabinet meeting as this will enable tenants to have a voice at the meeting.

Action: Joshua to Schedule a further Housing Allocation Scheme workshop.