



STREATHAM ACTION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 31ST JANUARY 2019

Streatham Space Project - Sternhold Avenue, London SW2 4PA

Attendees:

Members:

Alexander Vine (AV) (Chair), Neil Salt (NS - Vice Chair), Barbara Marino (BM- Admin), Jim Dawton (JD), David Harvey (DH,) Robert Doyle (RD), Nicole Griffith (NG)

Councillors and Lambeth representatives:

Cllr Jonathan Bartley, Cllr Mohammed Seedat, Gerry Evans

This was open meeting and in addition to the above registered attendees, approximately 40 residents and local business representatives were present.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING:

Agenda Item 1: Welcome, housekeeping and introductions:

Quick introduction of SA and its mission:

SA mission is to give voice to all of the Streatham wards who work to sustain and improve the area. Streatham Action aims to provide a central place where interest groups, civic networks such as residents associations, neighbourhood watches or safer Neighbourhoods Panels or other groups and individuals can come together and discuss ways to take action and help make Streatham a better place to live and work.

Membership to the group is open to anybody who lives and/or work in Streatham. The only stipulation is to abide a code of conduct, which is public and available on our website www.streathamaction.org.uk.

As per the day of the AGM, SA had:

- a subscribers base of 1,733 people and 33 local organisations;
- 5,195 twitter followers;
- 268 Instagram followers.

Committee's members' introduction:

1. **Alexander Vine (AV)** - is the Chair and a local resident who fully lives a family life in Streatham as well being professionally active in the area as an estate agent.
2. **Robert Doyle (RD)** - Is a long-standing committee member and resident of Streatham and also member of the Streatham Society. RD is sitting as treasurer at this AGM in absence of SA Treasurer **Alistar Hamilton (AH)**, who apologies for not being present
3. **Jim Dawton (JD)** - is a local resident, who has lived in the area since 2013. JD is Part of a church and very close to local communities initiatives;
4. **David Harvey (DH)** - joined SA in 2018. DH is part of the Streatham Theatre Company and Friends of Streatham Theatre and who are very actively involved in trying to save the Bingo Hall.
5. **Nicole Griffith (NG)** - Non voting member and representative of the Green Party.

Agenda Item 2: Treasurer’s report:

RD read and explained balance sheet, which is summarised in the below table:

Streatham Action - Treasurer's Report 17-18



	<u>2016-17</u>	<u>2017-18</u>
Grant from Lambeth Forum Network	-	5,000.00
Lambeth Forum Network funding		
Administrator	1,260.00	1,285.71
reDiscover	644.41	1,817.30
Additional Heart Media	-	490.00
Webhosting	-	480.00
Transport Cmtt	500.38	238.00
Meetings	108.00	-
Expenses	25.00	22.98
Community Chest	400.00	-
Other Costs	-	-
	2,937.79	4,333.99
Payment from Crowdfunder	-	1405.88
Balances at 30 October 2018		
Cash at Bank		8,721.76
Creditors		-
Available funds		8,721.76

- Each year local forums are eligible to bid for £5K of funding, which the Lambeth makes available for 12 forums to utilise for community worth initiatives.
- SA received these funds in the past and this year is in surplus having also raised and saved some money independently, which will be allocated to upcoming projects.
- When possible and appropriate, SA endeavour to find ways to self found and sustain projects and initiatives.
- For one particular project, Re-discover Streatham, funds were raised via crowdfunding to ensure continuity into next year. SA would like to take this opportunity to thank again all the members of the community that have kindly supported the project with their donations.

Agenda Item 3: Summary of 2018 activities and achievements:

TRANSPORT

Streatham Action has formed a sub-committee Streatham Action Transport (SAT), which deals specifically with all matters concerning transport and traffic related matters in the area. SAT’s mission is to ensure that politicians and transport bosses work hard for Streatham.

NS has been championing the sub committee for 4 years running and will continue to do so in 2019. The group has held 12 meetings during 2018 and benefitted for the great support of a dedicated group of volunteers amongst whom is Jane Wroe-Wright, editor of Streatham Heart magazine.

Some of the work and achievements of the last year include:

- **Report on distraught train service to leverage and lobby authorities to take some action toward the improvement of the services.**

Streatham has been suffering a prologue period of poor train services which was particularly bad during last spring. Data obtained from the operators under Freedom of Information (FoI), combined with hundreds of the responses to a digital survey published by SAT, worryingly revealed that during 36% of train were cancelled and 36% of responders had to change their commuting routes within the month the changes.

SAT has drafted a report to strengthen the case for work and investment to improve our train services. The report was going to be submitted to the DoT and to the GTR in December. However, additional data about buses used to go to Bahlam or Tooting Bec to complete the picture was needed. The data has only recently been made available. Once the new set of data had been analysed the a final report will be submitted to the authority and published on www.streathamaction.org.uk.

- **A23 improvements**

- During the issues with The Sewage work that unfolded in summer, SAT facilitated communication to accelerates resolution to maintain traffic flowing;
- SAT has been pushing for the final work of the central reservation work to happen as soon as possible with a cycle way that will eventually link up with the cycle superway.

- **CPZ parking**

CPZ's in Streatham are currently an item of fervent discussion across the board.

The consultation is live at the moment. Consultations normally take 3 week however on this matter 5 weeks have been allocated due to the Christmas break.

SAT is keeping the pressure on and will inform the community on both progress and outcomes

- **The closure of Pathfield road to traffic** have not resolved the issues in Estreham road from Greyhound lane. SAT have been lobbying with Lambeth to improve the situation.
- TfL has **discontinued a number of bus routes** and SAT is enquiring about the criteria as well as monitoring the affect any of these lost route may have on Streatham .

The next SAT meeting is taking place on 12th of February and anyone who is interested would be welcome to attend

(RE)DISCOVER STREATHAM

To counter balance the legal, reactive aspect of the organisation, SA are also doing things to engage the community in a human way. Re-discover Streatham is one of such initiatives. The event is a mechanism allow the community to engage with the organisations, which are active in the area, as well as for organisations to engage with each other and collaborate on mutual causes.

SA has run 2 Re-discover Streatham events, one in 2017 and one in 2018. The ambition is to run two events each year. This year the event saw approximately 225 visitors through the door and a lot of useful feedback was collected with ideas on how to grow and improve the event in the future.

This year the event was partly Crowdfunded to cover for venue, advertising and PR costs. For long term sustainability, SA are exploring options that will enable the (Re)discover Streatham to become a self-funding event.

HUSTINGS PUBLIC MEETING

Last April SA organised the first local election hustings. The event gave residents the opportunity to ask questions to all the major local political parties prior to local elections.

All parties were invited to take part to the guests panel. Representatives from each attending party were given the opportunity to answer public questions. Approximately 100 local residents attended the event, which followed a Question Time format. The audience was very engaged and challenged councillors to offer practical and detailed solutions to issues that are close to the heart of local residents.

KNIFE CRIME PUBLIC MEETING

In July SA organised a public meeting to discuss the concern related to rising violence and knife crime in the area. MP Chuka Umunna and local civic leaders and the police participated in the discussion panel. The event was very well attended. There were some heated discussions, as it came at time that there were a lot of emotions following a recent incident involving a schoolboy.

Questions revolved around 3 main topics:

- The reasons behind the rise in violent crime,
- what the authorities are doing about it and
- what could all of us do to protect ourselves and our community.

While the police, Lambeth and cross party representatives did offer some interesting insight into their research and strategies, this is a very complex issue and questions were left answered. SA is committed to follow up on this issue possibly with more meetings and to provide the community a platform to continue engaging in dialogue with the authorities on how to tackle this issue.

CAREER FAIR (LEAD BY SYNC)

The first local youth Career Fair was held at Gracefield Gardens, lead by SYCT and supported and sponsored by SA. The event saw good attendance of the relevant age group.

Many local businesses made job positions available and the event was very successful. SA intends to continue working with both SYCT and the BID in the hope of making this an annual event.

Agenda Item 3: Election of Streatham Action committee for 2019

Gerry Evans is a member of Lambeth where her responsibility is to support the forums including SA. At this AGM, GE acted as a moderator for the election of the new committee.

As per 31/01/19 the SA committee was made up by 3 Officers:

- a. Alexander Vine - Chair
- b. Neil Salt - Vice Chair
- c. Alastair Hamilton - Treasurer

In addition to the officers, there are a number of committee members: DH, JD, RH, NG.

The committee is aware of the need to attract participation to a more diverse panel of people and are working on finding way to engage in relevant conversations with a wider demographic to obtain better representation of the area. In the year head, with the support of the SYCT, two Young Leaders will join the committee and participate to meetings.

The current officers of the committee each stepped down from their position and the following new officers were elected following an open nomination and vote:

- a. Alexander Vine - Chair
- b. Neil Salt - Vice Chair
- c. Robert Doyle - Treasurer

The confirmed members of committees are all of the above listed, with the exception of Alastair Hamilton, who has resigned, and the addition Robert Hill, who is a new addition.

SA can accept up to 11 additional members and anyone interested is welcome and encouraged to come forward. (Please contact office@streathamaction.org.uk if interested)

Agenda Item 4: Planning for the future

Ideas and suggestions from the audience:

1. Better promotion and advertising of SA events. Use the “What is on?” section on Streatham Heart, which is a free service;
2. Better follow up of events and initiatives, use the network of local forum
3. Survey the existing the audience/subscribers so that they can be segmented and targeted with relevant information;
4. Campaign for a piece of public art that can be crowdfunding similarly to what has been done in Brixton, e.g. “Welcome to Streatham”. This could involve a local/young artists competition and generate awareness for SA as well as improve the look of the high street and getting a variety of groups involved and engaged within the community;
5. Proposal for a pageant for Streatham combining theatre with sound and dance. Source local story then dramatize them for performance. 1 day on Streatham Common. No ticket for attendees, charges for stall holders, sponsorship to raise money all profit to go to local charity. (Lead by **Liz Burton** of the Streatham Theatre Group – promoted and supported by SA)
6. Work more closely with other organisations. For example SA could invite Transport for All , who are based in Brixton, to audit the plan and work together to put better pressure on TfL.
7. More involvement with the development of the high street. Help addressing the issues the planning issues e.g.: rogue landlord who are keeping degrading properties and shop empty. Business rates, which are negatively impacting on businesses and is prohibitive for local small business to take on units.

Planning and the issue of empty units and local businesses being priced out is important to many present and non present.

SA has tried to address this problem in the past and set up a working group for it. However, collaboration with other groups such as the BID is key and more volunteers are required to try and tackle it more effectively.

Cllr Seedat is Cabinet member, responsible for community safety. He was present to the meeting and kindly offered to give a snapshot on the planning and development matter and take some questions.

Cllr Seedat informed the meeting that the council is currently going through their budget review and is asking residents to feedback on their priorities for their areas. So far approximately four thousand submissions have been received. Everyone is invited to feedback before the closing on 24th of February using the consultation page on the Lambeth website.

The council is working on refining its vision for Streatham for the long-term strategy. There is no desire to make Streatham a shopping destination suburb but to keep resident spending in Streatham. Lambeth does not have all the answers yet but they are working on it and welcome an open dialogue. Unfortunately, Lambeth needs to make cuts to the budget but being part of London, there are opportunities to take advantage of, possibly other pots of funds.

The Business Improvement District (BID) has been very active in Streatham and has submitted a comprehensive plan for long term that Lambeth has been considering. There is great support for affordable workspace, suggestions of pop up units and suggestions of transport improvements.

Cllr Seedat advised the meeting to get in touch with council, the BID if want to take up pop-up units, which would be a way of addressing.

In the interest of time, it has been agreed that the committee will discuss options for a public meeting with Cllr Seedat and will organise an event inviting all relevant parties to specifically to dissect and come forward with suggestions on to addressed to issues of planning for the high-street. Anyone can make suggestions on what type of high street people want. Suggestions, ideas and questions can be sent to SA in advance.

Agenda Item 5: AOB

- Sarah Richards' petition ref. Valley Road – Public Meeting 27/02/19 @ The White Lion
- Maggie Charney ref. Bridget Hall's passing and bench collection
- Stay Up Late Conference in Streatham 26th March (10am to 4pm) – Charity helping people with disabilities. Looking for sponsors. Crowdfunder
- <https://stayuplate.org/events/26th-march-19-stay-up-lates-unordinary-conference-london>
- Plastic free Streatham group speak to NG about the new initiative

The meeting closed at 9.15