

WALWORTH SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING – MINUTES
7.00 pm – Wednesday 15th Sept 2021 (online)

Welcome, apologies and introductions

Jeremy welcomed everyone to the meeting

Attendance: Jeremy Leach (Chair), Neil Crossfield, Amanda Sewell, Christine Tan, Norma Lawrence, Shelagh Kavanagh (mins), Peta Steel, Diana Cochrane, Vincent Brown, Jim Beedell, Catherine Croft, James, Darret Tomlin.

Apologies: Steve Lancashire, Tyrone Landau, Lise Magnollay

1. Minutes of July meeting and matters arising

- a. JB asked if members of WS were aware that the proposals to demolish the East Street Baptist Chapel as part of a redevelopment of the wider site in East St have been withdrawn.
- b. DC commented that the chapel is still awaiting a decision of whether it will be listed by Historic England and suggests the potential for another article in Southwark News to raise awareness.

NB Since the meeting an application has been submitted to Southwark Council to demolish the building.

2. Walworth Stories – update

- a. NC reported that at present they are building background information.
- b. DC added that there are three strands to the current work
 - Academic archival work
 - Events, inc. Pembroke House, Africa Day and Brandon Estate
 - Capacity building, e.g. oral history training.
- c. NC and DC have met with Historic England and visited the Dulwich College Archive. They plan to go to Canterbury next week to examine the original 1681 map of area and to visit the London Metropolitan Archives.
- d. SK is helping by transferring listings of shops on the Walworth Road from Post Office Books.

3. Walworth Heritage Action Zone - update

- a. JL reported that Purcells (architects working on the HAZ with Southwark Council) are in discussion with the selected shop owners about **shop front improvements**.
 - i. NL noted that many shops are concerned that they have not been approached despite being in business for many years, in one case for 40 years. SO will visit them individually to explain how the selection was done.
 - ii. JB added that many areas in Bermondsey such as Jamaica Road, Tower Bridge Road and The Blue have all had renovations.
 - iii. DC remarked that Walworth had had some money for shop improvements in the past with the row of shops on East St near Flint St receiving funding for new signage and shutters.
 - iv. JB enquired if it is for the traders' associations to ask the council and whether the WS should begin a campaign to encourage Walworth Road traders.
 - v. NL said that after the riots in 2011, money was promised to Walworth but was not delivered, the focus was on Peckham instead.
 - vi. JL noted that there is a pandemic recovery fund and Cllr Cryan had said money was available.

- b. It was reported that **Kennedys** has new owners who plan to open a Chinese restaurant and are being advised on listing issues by an architectural practice based in Iliffe Yard. JL and DC met with the owners and architects along with Catherine Croft of the 20th Century Society. The council is willing to help with some of the restoration of listed elements which is good news, but there is some concern that the listed elements at the back of the building are potentially at risk.

4. The Beehive Pub

- a. JL reported that all of the signage has disappeared from the pub and it is not clear what the owners are intending to do long term, The building was listed as an ACV in 2015 and relisted in 2020; this will last up to 2025.
- b. The Beehive is also protected in that it is the most northerly building in the Sutherland Sq conservation area.
- c. There is much community support for its retention as a pub and this is supported by local councillors and the MP.
- d. It was also noted that the Beehive is important historically for its link to cricket and the emergence of Surrey County Cricket Club. JL provided a link to further information at <https://www.onlondon.co.uk/vic-keegans-lost-london-208-a-cricket-match-at-walworth/>

5. Planning matters

a. Lendlease H1 office development

- i. JL reported that there have been 471 comments about the proposed office block by Lendlease (a very high response), of which 417 are objections. This is likely to go to planning committee before Christmas.
- ii. NL remarked that Lendlease are proposing offices because they have fulfilled their quota of housing in Elephant Park.

6. Current issues

a. Town Hall

- i. JB reported that he attended the planning committee and has also spoken to ward councillors about the Section 106 agreement arguing that it must be seen by the public before it is signed. So far, he has had no reply and asked that the Walworth Society endeavour to make sure councillors keep their promise on this.
- ii. JL noted that the completed Section 106 is now available on the council website – see documents associated with planning application 20/AP/1649 via the planning portal at: <https://planning.southwark.gov.uk/online-applications/>

7. AOB

- a. AS reported that there will be a **North Walworth Safer Neighbourhood** meeting (Zoom) on 29th Sept at 7pm. If anyone wants to attend to contact her about attending these meetings.
- b. JL reported that the society is trying to find a suitable meeting room for **face-to-face Walworth Society general meetings** from October - the meeting will still be available on Zoom.

Date of next meeting: Wednesday Oct 20th 2021 7pm.