The Dulwich Society Environment Group

https://www.dulwichsociety.com/environment

Minutes, Tuesday 24th Sept 2024

A: Attendance and Apologies

Members present: Laurie Johnston, Mark Marshall, Gill Mein, Helen Pickering, Gaby Hornsby, James Leabeater, Tom Palmer

Guests: James Thompson, Huw Russell, Tim Walker (Forest Hill Society), Cllr Margy Newens

Apologies for absence: Tom Harrison, Mark Hughes, Donncha O'Shea,

B: No declarations of interest.

C: The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

D: The members and guests introduced themselves and described their specialties.

E: Items discussed:

- Tim Walker of the Forest Hill Society led the response to the London City Airport (LCA) expansion application. He provided a detailed overview of the work in objecting to this application.
- LCA has a concentrated low flight path so that their descents do not clash with higher altitude Heathrow flight paths causing increased noise and air pollution.
- The 24hr no flight period has been retained from Saturday noon.
- Ongoing work in redesigning flight paths and anticipating judicial review.
- Climate change limits do not apply as it's too small an airport to affect national total
- Southwark was one of seven councils who put forward a joint objection.
- Noise impacts mental health but but in this case below threshold to be considered.
- Alex Chapman has written about the economic impact in the New Economic Foundation, 'Losing Altitude'; LCA expansion based on tourism not business, as many business trips replaced by tech. This means more tourist money spent overseas.
- Most journeys of less than four hrs could be replaced by train. Better alignment with European policy would help. Eg of France cited.
- MPs can have influence. **Action: Dulwich Society to write to local MPs if approved by Trustees.**
- Consider joining Environment Aviation Federation. **Action: with approval from the Trustees, would a member of the Environment group like to act as rep?**
- Margy Newens gave a talk about her work as chair of Southwark's Environmental Scrutiny Committee.
- Topics included in MN's forthcoming report include retrofitting, climate finance, sustainable freight, active travel, biodiversity, linking natural habitats across Southwark, use of glyphosates, depaving, referenced Professor John Lawton's 'Making Space for Nature' report.
- The 2021 Environment Act states there should be 10% net gain in biodiversity in planning but this is not useful guidance as 10% of very little or nothing does make a noticeable difference. MM Urban greening and biodiversity net gain policies have to work in tandem.
- The environmental costs and risks of paving over front gardens.
- Southwark planning guidelines allow for 5sqm of hard standing. Dulwich estate stipulate 50% planting 50% SUDS
- Draft policy on front gardens for the Dulwich Society **Action: GH, JL, MM, DO**
- Volunteers to help Penny Stern and her group consider SPDs: **Action: LJ**
- Far cheaper to charge electric vehicles at home - can on-street charging be more competitive. **Action JL to write journal article**
- More communication with schools re interconnectivity of human and nature relationships. **Action: GH, TP**
- Housekeeping: a|) move standing orders to Direct debits b) 30th Sept / 17th Oct meet the Trustees c) We have been renamed the Environment Group d) Comment on SNAV map https://qgiscloud.com/lkarhat/Southwark_CURRENT-cloud **e) CGS open for applications until**

13/10 f) Neighbourhoods Fund open for applications until 21/10 g) Brockwell Live Feedback open, deadline 4/10 **Action: all**

- F: Date of next meeting:

26th November 2024, 7:30pm, Bell House