

Report of PUBLIC MEETING

held Wednesday, 14 April 2021, 7.00pm–8.30pm

Introduction

Councillor Humaira Ali said the meeting is hosted by the councillors from the North Bermondsey and London Bridge and West Bermondsey Wards, and she thanked the Shad Thames Residents' Association (Nick Napier and Kathleen Hogan Ehrlich) for facilitating the meeting. She advised those present that the meeting would be recorded to aid the preparation of a report – the sole purpose is to ensure that nothing is missed when writing up the report of the meeting, after this the recording will be deleted. If anyone did not wish to be part of the recorded meeting, then they should switch off their camera and microphone.

She said 170 people had signed-up for the meeting, and so far 123 people were in the room.

As it is a Public Meeting anyone who applied can attend. She asked that all questions are first put into the Chat, due to the number of people, there would be only one question per person. All communication would be through the Chair, and that the ruling of the Chair is final. She asked that no one speaks over another speaker, and she advised that anyone may be asked to leave the meeting if their behaviour becomes unacceptable. All speakers should be brief, this included the Panel.

5.51

Councillor Hamish McCallum introduced himself – he said that Tower Bridge Road is the border between Councillor Ali's and his constituencies, so the issues we're going to speak about this evening straddle our Wards. He thanked everyone for coming, and he hoped everyone's concerns would be addressed.

Councillor Humaira Ali said there were also a number of other Ward Councillor's present.

Nick Napier introduced himself as the Chair of STRA.

Kathleen Hogan Ehrlich introduced herself as the lead for STRA's Communications.

Janet Morris introduced herself as the Chair of STAMP.

The Panel

Jackie McGeever introduced herself as the Manager of the Council's Neighbourhood Nuisance Team

Inspector Tom Cornish introduced himself as the leader of Southwark's neighbourhood policing
Sheila Benjamin introduced herself as the CEO of PFPMT and St John's Churchyard Park

Magnus MacAauley introduced himself as the Estate Director for London Bridge City

Nadia Brocardo introduced herself as the CEO of Team London Bridge Business Improvement District

Agenda – each of the panellists would give an overview of their role and responsibility in the area, and actions they have been taking in the context of the recent activity in the area, following this the floor will be open for questions from local residents and answers from the panel.

Councillor Humaira Ali said that with the easing of lockdown over the past week, people are now allowed to be outside – this has led to an increase of ASB, gatherings and parties, littering, which have raised concerns from local residents and businesses. She hoped that by the end of the evening questions will be raised and answered, and we will know what is being done, identify any gaps in the knowledge we have, and what might be done. Each of the Panel will give an overview of what they have been doing.

Jackie McGeevor, Southwark Council's Manager of the Neighbourhood Nuisance Team

JMcG said she manages the Licensing, ASB, Noise and Nuisance teams and that her team of young advisers are out in the locality at the moment. There has been an increase in ASB side which has been diverse, and a 30% increase in noise nuisance reports. Since the first lockdown we have been involved in a lot of Covid related work. Some of the regulations are complex, some businesses have not complied, some have not wanted to comply, we have not shied away from taking enforcement action – together with the Police – even to the extent of closing some licensed premises.

JMcG said her teams are now working in a multi-disciplinary way, and working with the night-time economy Police, and her activation team are going to areas where we know there are problems raised by the community, or which we have picked up on social media. We are also work closely with the Warden Service in the central part of the borough, where people take to local parks to celebrate events, which can very quickly become raves or unlicensed music events with all the risks and hazards that can provoke from a Covid and also a crime perspective. Wardens have also been very busy in the north of the Borough, they try to do pre-emptive work, but as a last resort they call the Police. Some days/evenings they move on upwards of 2,000 people. The first lock down was easier than the last lock down, which has been challenging – there is a feeling of lock-down fatigue.

Council have been working closely with the Police over the past few weeks. Alcohol may now be sold to groups of six sitting outside licensed premises, and people may take alcohol away from licensed premises and drink it in the public realm, and we know this will give us issues going forward. We've held a number of webinars for Licensees to mitigate this – we want to support licensed premises, but Licensees must comply with regulations, and they must manage their patrons. A check list has been sent to all licenced premises, about controlling their patrons, CCTV must be working, and that track and trace must be functioning. On 4 July 2021 the demographic of people coming into the borough was different, a lot of young people had come to the Borough.

Going forward, teams will be out, including every weekend. There is a team of night-team economy police, there is a team, and a RAG rating of premises – we became aware of the issues at PFP and Shad Thames last weekend, and you will have noticed an increased police presence.

Inspector Tom Cornish – last weekend we received 11 calls/incidents on Friday night, and on Saturday 27 calls/incidents involving about 200 people. Many were from Essex, based on Snapchat – aged 19 to 23 – ingredients in the evening involved alcohol, cannabis, nitrous oxide/balloons, people were using bicycles, and climbing trees, etc. We introduced a Dispersal Zone, which lasts for 48 hours, and gives us power to direct people to leave a specified area, most people complied. At midnight on Saturday, a 22 year old man was stabbed, he suffered a punctured lung, but not life threatening, he is cooperating, and we have some good CCTV coverage of the incident.

Looking forward – there will be a change in mood/behaviour – we have been preparing for this with our partners for several weeks. This coming w/e we'll be working with the Council to avoiding a repeat of the problems of last w/e – there will be 40 police from the Met police alone, in PF area on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday nights. A Dispersal Zone will be put in place, we also have the health protection regulations, we can seize alcohol, and local ByLaws allow us to remove people from Parks. Licensed shops have been advised not to sell alcohol to large groups. We'll be using these powers to reassure residents, to create pleasant atmosphere without the problems of last weekend.

There are a lot of demands on Police resources this coming w/e with the Duke of Edinburgh's funeral, and a protest about the Policing Bill, but there is a "bank" of Police who can be called upon to help us out. Snapchat invitations can cause groups of people [from Essex] to pop up anywhere, and we hope that if they encounter a strong Police presence on the PFP, and word gets around on Snapchat that it's not a suitable environment for them, and they will go elsewhere.

Sheila Benjamin, CEO, Potters Fields Park Management Trust

It will be helpful to give some background on the Park and how it operates so that people understand who does what. The Park is operated by PFP Management Trust, which is an independent not-for-profit company incorporated in 2005, it has been leased from Southwark Council, who is the Land Owner, in 2017 we also took on the management of St John's Churchyard. The Park is designated Metropolitan Open Land and is required to be open for public access at all times. It has a Green flag award, it is an excellent location, we're used to being extremely busy, particularly during the warmer months of the year – people sit on the grass, enjoying the view during normal times. It is subject to Southwark's by-laws, authorised events are subject to stringent T&Cs. Our income derives from hiring the Park for a range of events for a limited number of days a year on PFP.

Over the past year no events have been held so we have had no income, but because we have been prudent in previous years we have ridden out this storm, but this is not sustainable, it's essential that we now start income generation from holding professionally managed activities. I just want to make it clear that none of what has happened over recent weeks has been authorised or encouraged by us, we have not proactively provided a venue. People who have lived and worked in the area for a long time have said they have never seen anything like this before. Obviously, we have had to deal with the aftermath – litter, human waste, damage – if there were medals to be awarded our gardening and cleaning staff deserve them. We can bring in extra staff, extra equipment, organise extra waste collections, which has all cost us a fair amount. We've been working closely with our neighbours at Moore London and One Tower Bridge to mitigate the effect on the Park, including very useful conversations with the Police over the past week or so, but we do not have power under the by-laws to take any enforcement measures. I think this is one of the issues some of our neighbours also face.

Magnus MacAuley, Estate Director, Moore London

We manage the London Bridge City Estate, which extends from London Bridge to Tower Bridge, excluding PFP. We have a 24-hour security and safety officers patrolling the Estate, and a 24-hour cleaning operation. This most recent spate of events has been challenging. We're working closely with PFP and One Tower Bridge, and Team London Bridge, and the two excellent Police Officers who support us all. The challenge is ASB, it's not unprecedented, we've previously had the boys on bikes challenge. Any open space, and anywhere with a night-time economy, will face these challenges. There are always sinister elements around the edges of such gatherings, I think we understand it's almost like a pressure release valve has been "let go". Low level crime continues to occur, of course, including the recent stabbing, then there is the peripheral damage to pots, plants, barriers, smashed glass, and signs which have been thrown into the Thames, which is just unpleasant and costly. Most people enjoy the Estate legitimately, we see a lot of people exercising, enjoying food and drink outside, walking their dogs, enjoying the view – there are still thousands of people enjoying the area on a day-to-day basis, and this is what we want to focus on. We want to continue to open in accordance with the guidelines, we want to welcome people back on to the estate, and we want to work with our neighbours, in a safe, secure and successful environment – we'll do everything we can to make sure the Estate is safe and welcoming, as I'm sure everyone

wants it to be, and we want to collaborate with our partners and share best practice, and get back to a place where we know we are all safe for our residents and our offices.

Nadia Brocado, CEO, Team London Bridge BID

The Business Improvement District has been in operation for 15 years, we strongly support local businesses, who have been going through a tough time, but it has been difficult for everyone over the past year. Everyone is struggling and finding life difficult. Team London Bridge and the Board decided they would continue to fund all the services during the past four months. The BID funds additional street cleaning, and two additional Police officers, who have visited all the licensed premises, helping them, e.g. with pavement licence applications, training staff, working with retailers, looking at petty crime, financing hospitality venues with planters for outside seating. We organise personal safety webinars across the BID, focussing on women getting home safely at night. And, we have organised deep street cleaning across the area, making sure it is well looked after. Our busiest day used to be Wednesdays and Thursdays, it is now Saturdays and Sundays – this may change...

Questions from the Chat

Kathleen Hogan Ehrlich, STRA's Communications lead

There are not only a lot of topics on the Chat, but STRA's Facebook page and email account has also received a lot of questions over the past few weeks – Kathleen said she hoped the Panel had seen the video clips of large numbers of people criss-crossing Shad Thames, drinking, smashing pots, one of the main topics people have brought up is the question of the Dispersal Zone, but in addition, there are major questions about the lack of public toilets, and many people using Shad Thames as a public toilet. There are questions on take-away alcohol; lack of bins within Shad Thames, and along Riverside; boys on bikes, which was a problem this last w/e in Shad Thames, large groups riding very quickly. How long is it anticipated that this current ASB behaviour will continue to be a problem, as the summer, and especially during the coming UEFA Football event in June on PFP – will there be enough toilets and will we be able to control how many people will be moving off Park and into Shad Thames. I'm going to ask local resident, Nikkie Anderson for her question, it focusses around the Dispersal Zone, in that people were being dispersed into Shad Thames, causing some of our issues –

NA – it's good to know Inspector Cornish has a plan for this coming w/e, but we feel very threatened by this particular group, which you've identified is from Essex, we're going to be vulnerable for months, while they may not turn up this w/e, what happens after this, and during the week? Could we have some reassurance beyond this w/e, a more forward-looking plan?

Inspector Tom Cornish – we're working on a plan for this w/e, after this we can work local residents and stakeholders on what the future will look like, our priority at the moment is to make sure what happened last weekend will not happen again – the point about Shad Thames is taken, I'll make sure that people are directed away from Shad Thames – so Shad Thames will be included in our Dispersal Zone, people will be given a map, showing them what area they have to leave, and if they don't comply, or if they come back within a certain period they are liable to arrest. Large groups get sent in different directions, a lot of them went to London Bridge Station last w/e, where, unfortunately some of them stayed to cause trouble, but the instinct of most of them was to go home.

NA – it's great to know you have a plan in place for this w/e, but local residents would like to know that a plan is in place for the summer months? we feel highly vulnerable, we feel those groups will come back – if we know Snapchat is their platform can we monitor it?

Inspector Tom Cornish – we monitor social media 24-hours a day, but the nature of Snapchat is that we cannot monitor it, they just pop-up anywhere – such as, Islington, Camden, Hyde Park – with a large number of persons, the Police that are on stand-by then quickly go there.

People can call the Police if there are incidents which need reporting, this gives us an overall picture of the areas being flagged up.

Kathleen then introduced resident JD –

JD – the first point, is to thank Inspector Cornish for looking at this totally unique situation, a wild group of young people invaded us, it took on a deeply dark and sinister tone, particularly over the Holy week – when the air is so heavily laden with cannabis, just walking across the Park, one could get high, there was just so much cannabis use on the Park. The interesting plan to break the back of this, if they arrive here, they will be dispersed, and is it correct that they will go home? Could you tell us how many Police will be on duty, and from when, etc., what is the threshold for dispersing a group? how noisy do they have to be? what can we expect on Friday?

Inspector Tom Cornish – from the Met there will be 40 police from mid-afternoon on Friday, there will be transport police and City of London police helping the Met. And, there are a lot of officers on stand-by who could be called. We're not saying young people cannot come to the Park, but any sign of ASB will be dealt with.

JD – suggested that on Saturday there could also be a pre-presence, but when it gets dark things change, we know we can expect a great degree of unpleasantness.

Inspector Tom Cornish – yes, I accept that, but we'll make sure the officers are there at the right time.

Kathleen Hogan Ehrlich said that only 30 minutes remained, and that questions should be brief – even if we do not address all the questions in the Chat we will be passing those unanswered questions to the Panel – the next question is about public toilets, we have had a number of comments about this, more toilets are needed in the area, because people's doorways are being used as toilets, and there is also a group who feel that more toilets in Shad Thames will attract more unwanted people to the area – I'll ask ML for her question –

ML – this is a problem that will not improve, things will not get less busy, who is responsible for public toilet provision in the area, are there any plans to match toilets with the need?

Magnus MacAulay – we do match the need for toilets with the footfall on the Estate if we're running events – there are 6 toilets across the estate – 2 are accessible, and we bring in more when needed.

Councillor Humaira Ali – where are the 6 toilets? the answer was for special events, but the question was about (a) over this special period, (b) and ongoing...

Magnus MacAulay – as far as ongoing is concerned, we will only match the need to extra footfall on the Estate, so there is no additional provision for toilets. PFP is a separate entity, it is not part of the Estate, and we are not able to provide facilities for that public space.

So, of the six toilets we have – 2 are on More London (half-way down the avenue running from Moore London Riverside to Moore London Place on Tooley Street), and there are more toilets in Hays Galleria. There are no plans to bring in additional toilets.

Councillor Humaira Ali – I would present a challenge, from the questions in the Chat, that it is clear that toilets are not meeting the footfall – it would be interesting to see, in a written response, to understand what your criteria is for the number of toilets, per se. I wonder if I could separately ask Sheila to also comment on this?

Sheila Benjamin – it's a complicated and currently an area-wide issue because bars / restaurants / theatres are closed, and people are reluctant to take the 5 minute walk to toilets at London Bridge Station. In terms of our provision, when we have authorised large events, it is a condition that temporary toilets are provided. We are simply not able to provide toilets for the kind of events that have been happening, I have to say our flower beds have suffered from "unauthorised watering". In my view, speaking personally, this should have been addressed 20 years ago, and when the Park was re-designed and the surrounding developments were in the planning stage, and it wasn't. We do not have the resource, on our own, to provide, manage and maintain toilets on a long-term basis – for example, should they be open 24 hours, or closed at night. It is a difficult and expensive issue.

Councillor Humaira Ali – clearly, we do not have a solution around toilets at the moment, I do think there are some conversations to be had between stakeholders. Jackie, I don't want to put you on the spot from the Council's ability to provide toilet facilities, I don't know if this is in your domain?

Jackie McGeever – it's not in my domain, but I will take the issue back to the Council and make some enquiries.

Kathleen Hogan Ehrlich – that would be really helpful – I've seen so many photographs of people not just urinating in doorways, and not just in the dark – this really is a crucial issue for our neighbourhood. There are actually 2 public toilets in Shad Thames, at Q-Park which were part of their 106 obligation, but which are locked. All our requests to Southwark Council have met with the response that this cannot be enforced. It would mitigate part of the problem for these toilets to be available in Shad Thames, it will take some joined-up thinking, but it is crucial, now, more than ever, as this is now a public health hazard – the whole area has become a public toilet, it is quite disgusting.

Councillor Humaira Ali – so far I heard an offer from Inspector Cornish that beyond this weekend there is potentially an opportunity to have a discussion either via the Residents' Association and stakeholders around what future plans might look like.

And, I'm putting my stake in the ground for a conversation with stakeholders on public toilets. Does that sound like an action we can sign-up to post this meeting? I don't see any thumbs down...

ML – as far as everyone who visits the area knows this is a beautiful area to enjoy, but there does seem to be a fractured response, we can't move forward with these issues if there is a fractured response.

Councillor Humaira Ali – Kathleen can we move on, because we have 10 or 15 minutes remaining questions.

Kathleen Hogan Ehrlich – I'll ask the next question, because there is no name against it in the Chat – it's about boys on bikes – it's a question of concern to many people in the neighbourhood... it's part of the problem in recent weeks, and also a larger issues which people have worked quite hard on to solve in different ways, but one question that has come up several times is – is there any way of pedestrianizing Shad Thames – especially as the Cycle Super Highway has been built, is there anything that could be done to dissuade these large bike gangs from coming into Shad Thames – it's also very frightening to a lot of our older residents.

Councillor Humaira Ali – could we start with Inspector Cornish on boys on bikes, and if there is someone from the Council, maybe Jackie McGeevor who could comment on the pedestrianizing of Shad Thames...

Inspector Tom Cornish – yes, boys on bikes has been a theme for several months, if not years, I don't think it's linked to the events of last weekend – the demographic of boys on bikes is a younger age group, whereas this weekend was more in the age group of 19 to 22. Of course, it could be a parallel problem in the area. We can't stop boys cycling in the area, in groups, although that is a problem. There is a community-minded person who organises ride-outs for the boys on bikes, but if they are part of a wider problem, for example, like snatching phones – we try to work with this person to make sure the energies of these boys are channelled constructively, which has been quite effective. The collateral damage, such as phone snatching, is the target of our robbery / theft operation, and we do have more of these planned for this week involving our officers on bikes which has proved to be effective.

Kathleen Hogan Ehrlich – just to clarify, the video which we sent around showed boys on bikes, which seemed to be part of the large crowds, and we also had reports of young people on scooters, who were also part of those crowds last w/e.

Inspector Tom Cornish – yes, you're right to raise this – we know that scooters are part of the problem, and they are often stolen. It added to the chaos, and generally making the area unruly. But I believe this is distinct from the longer-term boys on bikes issue, which is normally boys riding from Rotherhithe to Bermondsey, and grabbing phones. With outdoor dining we're making customers aware that if a phone is on a table, near a road, it could be grabbed by someone riding by on a bike. Santander bikes, and there are a few docking stations in the area, use those bikes to get around and have fun, but at the expense of everyone else.

Jackie McGeever – This is a perennial problem over the years, with ebbs and flows, and for a while there have not been such large gatherings of boys (and girls) on bikes. I suspect the school holidays will exacerbate the issue. In fact, I have a meeting tomorrow with Councillor Houngbo, and City of London Police, to talk about a potential ride-out that is being organised. I have young advisers, part of my team, who are trying to engage with them – but I don't think there is an easy answer to this. The problem is that not many of them are local – some local lads have been identified and they are known to youth offending services and family support teams, a lot of them come from all over

the south of London – from Kent and Essex. Maybe I will touch base with Inspector Cornish after this meeting, it may be BTP to see if we can do some work to stop them coming into London Bridge Station – my young advisers picked up last night that they were careering around the Station in a dangerous and reckless way. There is no easy answer to this problem, the movement has taken on a life of its own, but, we'll continue to do what we can.

Kathleen Hogan Ehrlich – the next round of questions highlights “bins”. This is another area where different stakeholders are handling the bin situation in various ways, and because this seems to be a somewhat disjointed approach we end up with not enough bins, and no bins in areas where they might be needed.... Could I ask P&P to ask their question –

P&P – we know there are some big wheelie bins, but a number of those solar powered bins are always full, particularly those outside of Tower Bridge Court; but, why have all the bins along Shad Thames – between Curlew Street and Horselydown Lane – been removed?

The bin situation extends along Tooley Street and Moore London – one of the problems is that messages from the various stakeholders seems to be “it’s not our problem, it’s not our area”, so the clean-up of Potters Fields over the weekend is completely separate from Moore London’s clean-up – there should be cooperation between the two on the litter and bin problem.

Jackie McGeever – I contacted Waste Management before the meeting, since I picked-up from social media that littering is an issue. I was actually amazed to learn that the bins in Shad Thames had been removed. I'll have to take this back.

Joe, Senior Estate Manager for London Bridge City – I work with Mac, I think I can answer this, you've probably seen the solar bins, there are 8 of these across Moore London, there are also a dozen bins across the other half of the estate. We believe there are plenty of bins. Half of our bins are recycling centres, they compress the waste so that we can get more in those bins than in a normal bin. The same bins are used on the Park. We put out extra bins recently, due to the recent issues, those bins are very quickly over-flowing. Unfortunately, the additional cleaners we put in place to empty these bins during this time were verbally and physically abused, so we had to withdraw them for their own safety.

On the previous point about Potters Fields and Moore London working together, I can assure him that Sheila and I have been in close cooperation over recent weeks, the Moore London teams have been assisting the Park, and this has been reciprocated, so we believe we're doing a fair amount.

When Moore London organises events, we also put out extra bins, carry out extra cleaning, and we carry out waste removal.

Sheila Benjamin, CEO, Potters Fields – I'll just reiterate what Joe and Mac have said, we cooperate closely with Moore London, between us we have made a plan to ensure bins are better distributed around the area, Moore London have been particularly helpful in lending us some equipment to help with cleaning, but what is heart breaking, is that when we come in in the mornings, the lawns are littered, while the bins are only half full. This is something we probably have to live with, and to just manage it as quickly and efficiently as we can. We have taken on board the message that we might be too protective of our own areas, but we have taken this criticism on board, and we are now working together very well.

Councillor Humaira Ali – a lot of questions have come in this evening, not all can be answered this evening, simply due to the time available, but we'll send them to Panel, and we'll agree what a reasonable time is to expect a written response to those unaddressed questions, which we'll then circulate back.

Kathee Hogan Ehrlich – would Councillor Adele Morris like to ask her question around clarifying the rules around take-away alcohol, this is definitely also an issue for the neighbourhood, because we've had people gathering in large groups with take-away alcohol, either on the river front or between buildings in Shad Thames at night, and continuing into the morning – some of these questions will go to Panel – but Councillor Morris may want to ask her question...

Councillor Adele Morris – could Jackie clarify the rules under the Covid regulations, can a licensed premises sell, for example, a pint of beer, that can be consumed anywhere, away from those premises?

Jackie McGeever – yes, they can, there is nothing in the regulations to stop this – in the last lock-down when off-sales were allowed, part of the regulations were that you had to leave the vicinity, the message being that you should take it home. We're now concerned that people will buy alcohol and gather in groups close to licensed premises. We're asking our licensees to encourage people to take it home, but we know that's not going to happen. We're asking people to be sensible – to leave the licensed premises, and not to gather in groups. I cannot take action against licensed premises because of this. If we see unruly non-socially distanced behaviour, associated with people who have bought alcohol from their licences premises that could be a threat to public health, and – we have had some licensees who have caused us specific problems in the past – we may well be able to use certain orders to close those premises. We would have to build evidence for such cases. The regulations are more permissive this time.

Kathleen Hogan Ehrlich – could I ask what the situation is about people buying from supermarkets, I have a photograph of the local Sainsburys stopping selling alcohol over the Easter weekend – what about people going to any of the local supermarkets and buying bottles of alcohol, consuming them within our neighbourhood, and then breaking the bottles and leaving – is there any way we could think of an Alcohol Control Zone designation? I don't want to suggest something that would be detrimental to our local businesses that are just opening up, but how can we deal with the fact that people are buying alcohol from licensed premises, or are just bringing it into the area?

Jackie McGeever – We have been doing work with some of the supermarkets, and smaller off-licenses, our Licensing Police do take action, for example, we went into some of those premises last w/e along Tooley Street and told them that they needed to stop selling alcohol, just to give the area some respite, and we'll continue to do this. There is a Public Space Protection Order which governs behaviour related to drinking alcohol in public places, such as in the street. People can buy alcohol and wander about and drink that alcohol, if their behaviour then causes any harassment, alarm, or distress, the alcohol can be confiscated by a Community Warden, or a Police Officer. We did a lot of work prior to lockdown – we erected a lot of signage around Bermondsey Street and Borough Market – this could be extended to Shad Thames. These are A4 signs affixed to lamp-posts, they just might focus someone's mind, letting them know they are in an Alcohol Control Zone. You are covered by this legislation, and it can be enforced, but this would be the case anyway, regardless of whether there is a sign there, or not. So, bottom line, such signage could be displayed in Shad Thames.

Councillor Humaira Ali – there are still unanswered questions, but can I ask if you feel comfortable with the answers to the questions raised so far? (Invitees were asked to indicate with either a thumbs up if you feel comfortable about what will happen in the next w/e, thumbs down if you're still not happy, or a wavy hand if you're uncertain. So, this shows a mixture.

Councillor Hamish McCallum – thanked Humaira, the Panel/stakeholders, local residents, and to STRA for participating in this Public Meeting. He said there were a huge number of questions, which would have taken practically all night to answer them all, he hoped some progress had been made, and that concerns have been allayed for the coming weekend. I do hope we've made some progress and received some commitments which will ease concerns going into this w/e.

In particular I want to thank Inspector Cornish for including Shad Thames in the Potters Fields Park Dispersal Zone this coming w/e, and that 40 police officers will be patrolling the Park and surrounding areas; another good point is that businesses can be asked to stop selling alcohol; and, of course, we should thank Jackie for organising Southwark's young advisers who are out and about in the community.

And, finally, there are two key areas where we should continue our conversations,

(1) what will be done about ASB beyond this w/e, into the summer months, I know that Councillors and residents are keen to be part of these discussions; and

(2) on the issues of bins and toilets – thanks go to Jackie McGeever for agreeing to take these issues back to the Council.

We'll take the unanswered questions (please refer to the attached Annex to see the list of unanswered questions) to the Panel, and we will let you have feedback on the answers within a "reasonable" time – we want to assure you that we, as your local Councillors, share your concerns on these issues, and you know you can reach out to us at any time.

Finally, in closing, thank you to all of you who have participated in this Public Meeting.

Annex

Questions from PUBLIC MEETING held 14 April 2021

Bins

1. Can we discuss why there aren't more litter bins alongside the river and in Potters Field?
2. There is a significant shortage of rubbish bins and public toilets in both Potters Fields and More London. What are the plans to fix this? Can More London and Potters Field not work more closely please - we have seen messages effectively saying "it's not our problem, it's theirs" which is really not helpful.

Controlled Drinking Zone

3. Inspector Cornish - why can't we have a Controlled Drinking Zone like they do in Primrose Hill and Camden?
4. Can Potters Fields Park and Shad Thames be designated as an alcohol control area - I think Bermondsey Street now has that designation?
5. Alcohol control zone signs are a good short term solution in Shad Thames.
6. Are you going to stop the supermarkets selling alcohol [both at all or when certain events are triggered]?

Cycling

7. The long standing issue with youngsters riding cycles on Tooley Street with clear anti-social behaviour and the issue with "hoodies gangs" skulking around Queen Elizabeth Street area has aggravated and increased unfortunately. What is the council and police's combined short term strategy to address and sort these issues out?
8. Can we please make Potters Field Park and Shad Thames (cobbled section) pedestrian only, i.e. no cycling, no e-scooters?
9. Is cycling still permitted in the Potters Fields Park? Why is cycling not permitted on More London but is allowed in the Park? Is there a way to standardise this?
10. Is it possible to introduce speed limit for bikes on Queen Elizabeth Street?
11. Why can't there be a ban on bikes around More London and in front of One Tower Bridge?
12. Even if you can't stop all bikes and e-scooters - can't we just give dispersal orders to the ones who are cycling recklessly?
13. We need bylaws to deal with drinking alcohol & riding bikes in the area. Can we use any "emergency" powers to deal with the issues like a number of Seaside Councils did last summer? Bournemouth, for example, declared a "major incident" last summer to deal with similar problems.
14. Perhaps a bigger question but how can we support Young Advisors as a community because they must have a really tough but important job?

15. Why don't Potters Fields ban cycling so people can walk through the park without worrying?

Dispersal order

16. Is a dispersal order in place?

17. When people are dispersed from Potters Fields they gravitate to Shad Thames - will you be following through by taking similar action in Shad Thames?

18. What is the dispersal plan? All that seems to happen is that the mob disperses from one place and loiters unchallenged in another?

19. Can Inspector Cornish please explain why when my partner spoke to an Inspector on Saturday night said she could do nothing about the crowds?

20. This past weekend was the second consecutive weekend with these kids. What is the concrete plan to deal with this group for the foreseeable future, beyond just next weekend?

21. Can Tanner Street Park and Leathermarket Gardens also be included in the dispersal zone?

22. Can a bylaw of no drinking in Potter's Field after a certain time be used and enforced?

23. Is More London not private property, so while it isn't criminal and the jurisdiction of the police, surely More London can prevent intimidating individuals entering the estate (in much the same way shops can stop problem customers entering their stores)

24. Please in your thinking include all the residential area locally, not just Shad Thames, other streets also get a lot of hassle.

25. Please would the police consider a plan to enforce the ASB rules at 3am in front of All Bar One on the riverfront? The police do not respond when called and this frightens us. Police presence on its own would make an enormous difference.

Football festival

26. What measures will be put in place to control anti-social behaviour and enforce social distancing (as per gov guidelines of course) in the coming summer months and especially during the FIFA football activities in potters village which will certainly attract crowds to the area once again?

27. What preparations are in place for the Euros when the fan-zone is set up in June?
28. Is it appropriate to be making plans for the football to be shown at MLP given the volume of visitors that should be anticipated?

Large groups on the jetty

29. It is becoming increasingly common for groups to arrive in the early hours of the morning in the area in front of All Bar One, playing music and making a lot of noise, how can this be stopped?
30. For several months, groups have regularly been appearing at 3am in front of All Bar One playing loud music, shouting and smashing bottles. The police are no longer present in the area at the time. When we and our concierge call the police, there is no response. The current situation frightens us. What are the plans to improve police response and presence for ASB in the early hours of the morning?

Long-term planning

31. Can the level of regular policing on Fridays and Saturdays be increased, given that we know that Potters Fields is such a magnet for people? It seems that we are only waiting to call the police after problems have already occurred?
32. Are there any plans or are any of the estate owners/ police able to enforce an outdoor drinking ban after a certain time or any other restrictions so residents can see an effective change and have confidence that there is a long term vision and solution in place?
33. We need more police in the area during the coming summer months when the volume of people increase in the week and weekend. Will this happen given the problems we are having? We need a six month plan!
34. We need a short, medium & long term strategy to deal with the problems discussed.

Nut sellers

35. Will we also address the return of the 'nut sellers'?
36. If the police, local government and More London can't deal with peanut sellers (despite expenditure of considerable, albeit clearly ineffective effort), I think we are fighting a lost cause with this group.

Social media

37. Are the police able to monitor relevant social media accounts to see trouble coming?

38. Is there any social media intel to suggest a repeat?

Toilets

39. What are the plans to increase the number of public toilets to accommodate the large number of visitors [both temporarily and permanently and outside of event times]?

40. Who is responsible for providing appropriate public toilets to match growing visitor numbers? Currently local streets and doorways are providing these facilities! What are the plans please?

41. There is a significant shortage of rubbish bins and public toilets in both Potters Fields and More London. What are the plans to fix this? Can More London and Potters Fields not work more closely please - we have seen messages effectively saying "it not our problem, its theirs" which is really not helpful.

42. Six toilets for the 1000's of tourists who visit in a day when the weather is good is not adequate. There are queues 75m long during the weekend.

43. More toilets are needed so people don't use doorways. Question - who is going to provide them - Potters Fields Trust, More London, and Southwark Council? Someone must take responsibility.

44. The toilet opposite M&S/by El Vino has been out of action of most of lockdown.

45. Hays Galleria toilets are in basement and you need to get an access code.

46. Toilets: there were massive queues at London Bridge, More London, etc last weekend.

Other

47. White supremacist graffiti

48. Appearance of white supremacist graffiti in Shad Thames - what is being done to address this, and to deal with the people doing this?