

CHATSWORTH ROAD STREET MARKET – PUBLIC MEETING

Wednesday 19 January 2011 - 730pm Chats Palace

Notes, questions and actions

Approximately 140 people attended the meeting.

Welcome and introductions

Cllr Ian Rathbone (CRTRA interim chair (until recently) and councillor for Leabridge Park ward)

- Purpose out meeting
- CRTRA set-up to promote the street/make it better place to live, work, visit etc
- Meeting to discuss trials, next steps and any other local matters
- Interested in hearing feedback from all and what else you would like to see happen locally
- Also chance to learn more about the market and to get involved

Background to market and CRTRA

Anthony Matthews (vice chair)

- CRTRA is a group of local traders and residents – most of the core group who have been involved over past 12 months are here today. CRTRA created in 2009.
- Committee members introduced themselves and their roles
- Market first project for CRTRA - been in development for no of years (over last 10 years) with mix of local traders and residents.
- Market must be delivered by LBH – we lobbied LBH to organise the market but then had no influence over stall mix, location etc

Feedback from visitors to the market

Anthony Matthews

- We had almost 200 questionnaires completed by visitors to the market
- Most would like to see a weekly market (Sunday) and biggest demand was for food and clothing stalls
- There was a lot of feedback on the types of stalls and whether the mix was right
- Anecdotal comments from questionnaires included:

Positive	Concerns
Very welcome addition to the community	Could reflect the community more, felt very bourgeoisie and white English, the community here is very mixed and the market should reflect that diversity
Good start! Just what we need	Needs cheap stalls to allow diverse customers
Visiting the market was so amazing and we feel so proud that we live in the neighbourhood	it would be nice if the road was closed the length of the market
Very positive for the area. Place is pretty dead on a Sunday	...just don't let it get too trendy and too much like the other Broadway like markets.

The meeting was thrown open to all to ask questions. These included:

Question raised	Response/comment (from CRTRA)
Given LBH's behaviour to date, is it not time that we mobilise local electoral pressure to move things forward?	We need to wait for the planned meeting with LBH (before the end of Jan) to have a clear view of the most appropriate way forward.
Did LBH (the people who are writing the report) visit any of the markets to experience them first-hand?	Local councillors visited – Labour and Conservative and the Cabinet Member (Cllr Feryal Demirci). Gerald Anthony (no2 in Hackney's Markets Dept) was the market inspector. We are not aware of a visit from Letitia Davidson (head of markets) or Seamus Adams (head of parking and markets division).
Do LBH have feedback from CRTRA and other parties to incorporate into their report?	They will have this at the next meeting with them.
Who makes the decisions at LBH and how are they made? What are the roles within LBH in terms of support from council officers, cabinet members and councillors themselves in the decision making process for the market?	We have the support of the cabinet member and others who must find a way to engage support from officers or push support from more senior elements of LBH
Is there a possibility of more trial markets while we wait for a final decision on a regular market?	We wrote to LBH in December asking for fortnightly market dates in Jan and Feb while they undertake their consultation – we have not received a response.
Is there a plan for CRTRA (on behalf of residents and stallholders) to decide on stall mix/allocations for future markets?	We would like to, but the London Local Authorities Act 1990 ties our and LBH's hands somewhat while the market is located on a public highway (see later for shop front trading discussion).
What objections could LBH have to running a regular market? Does it cost LBH (money) to put the market on?	It costs LBH more money to put the market on on a Sunday as they are not set-up to run Sunday markets. For example charges for a market inspector are 2-3 times that of a Saturday, however all costs are passed on to CRTRA / stallholders as the market must be cost neutral (to LBH)so the costs are not really the issue.

<p>Why are we behaving like prisoners of LBH? Can we not operate the way Broadway Market did and create our own market?</p> <p>Why are we not looking at shop front trading?</p>	<p>Broadway was in a unique position in having retained its designated street market status which enabled the market to start without LBH involvement.</p> <p>Shop front trading was discussed in the January meeting of the (market) sub committee (after a discussion with Broadway's market manager) but we will only look at this option post meeting with LBH when we understand their and our position.</p>
<p>How long will CRTRA wait for LBH to respond with a meeting date to progress the discussion. Can the issue not be forced?</p>	<p>We have provided dates for w/c 17 Jan and w/c 24 Jan and a meeting needs to take place before the end of January. Cllr Rathbone is chasing the markets dept continually for confirmation of a meeting. We understand that the head of markets is away and this is holding up decisions.</p>
<p>Will CRTRA start being harder in deciding when to "play nice" and when not to?</p>	<p>The question assumes that up until now we have been 'soft', which is not the case. Depending on the mood and outcome of the January meeting with LBH we have people waiting for the goahead to starting pushing where needed.</p>
<p>How will the relationship work between LBH and CRTRA going forward?</p>	<p>We exist to represent traders and residents of Chatsworth Road and the immediate surrounding area. As such LBH have to consult on issues such as the market, and we will continue to lobby in the best interests of the local community.</p>
<p>Is it worth mobilising local media to drive momentum on LBH to make a decision? (We must be clear on actions and outcomes if going public)</p>	<p>It will be great if local media can continue to report on the market (Hackney Citizen and others were present) and developments going forward to keep it in people's minds.</p>

<p>Why are we not aware of some meetings and cannot access the minutes? (CRTRA need to be more accountable.)</p>	<p>The meetings that have been taking place are for a (market) sub committee who look at delivering the market. The committee was formed following the CRTRA meeting in Oct09.</p> <p>There were a lot more members but many people could not spare the time as events moved forward. Minutes/action points for all meetings are produced and will be available on the CRTRA website shortly covering the past six months. Going forward, minutes will be posted within a week or so of the meeting (the timing is down to people's availability as the group are volunteers and work full-time).</p>
<p>LBH have a reputation for not dealing well with community groups. How can we ensure that they will engage with the (Chatsworth Road) community in this case? CRTRA must enter the discussion as an equal party to LBH.</p>	<p>LBH have a duty to engage with the local community and we have a duty to engage with the council. We will continue to push/develop the relationship with LBH and we will have to see what happens.</p>

Round-up of market discussion

- The current situation is annoying but not terrible/bleak. We need to maintain the momentum from the trial dates and keep pushing LBH to move forward. *(comment from audience)*
- All present agreed that they were disappointed that no representative from LBH markets dept was present.
- All agreed that pending the next meeting with LBH, we take the decision on when to push harder / how to move forward without them.

Neighbourhood Plan for Chatsworth Road

Euan Mills

Euan gave a short presentation to introduce the Neighbourhood Plan. The aim of which is to establish a coherent vision for the long term future of the area, to influence the planning process and to promote the area to attract investment.

The key points of the presentation were:

- The rapid changes in the area over the last few years, in particular on Chatsworth Road
- The excellent facilities the neighbourhood already has
- The lack of area specific planning policy to control change and the urgent need to create a community driven Neighbourhood Plan

Euan's presentation was very well received and the audience were keen to get involved. The audience suggested a number of things to be aware while doing the study:

- The high proportion of transient population in the area who are here for short periods of time, and do not work or spend much money here.
- The importance of identifying landlords (including absent ones) to inform them about the neighbourhood planning process.
- The need to promote the public spaces in the area.
- The possibility of CRTRA setting up a Local Council for the area (as Andrew Boff is looking to do in Broadway Market).
- The importance of engaging everyone who lives here.

A survey will be emailed to the CRTRA mailing list to help people feed into the Neighbourhood Plan and to give their views on the key issues and concerns for the area and their aspirations for how the area should change in the future.

A discussion space has been set up on the yeahhackney.com forum for people to openly discuss the Neighbourhood Plan. Euan will be responding personally to questions raised on the forum.

We will make the presentation available to everyone soon.

For more information on the neighbourhood plan email Euan at plan@chatsworthroade5.co.uk or use the contact button on the CRTRA website.

Action points for CRTRA

- Push LBH (again) on meeting date, further trial dates etc
- Establish a way of working with LBH in the long term
- Publish minutes of recent sub committee meetings to the CRTRA website (and future meeting notes too)
- Collate details for volunteers and actively involve them going forward - add volunteer form to the website
- Add contact form to the website to be added to the mailing list (some people are still not receiving emails)
- Keep local media informed of ongoing developments
- Further develop the map produced by Euan Mills (available at the trial markets) to show services and businesses available locally (suggestion at meeting) and add meeting places (for small and large meetings) too.
- Add presentation/video version of Euan Mill's presentation on the neighbourhood plan to CRTRA website/You Tube
- Provide email details to all attendees for who to contact at LBH to lobby for a decision
- Add questionnaire results to CRTRA website



Handouts

A number of items were available to complete / take away. These included:

- market background and update document
- stallholder information pack
- volunteer form

All are available at www.chatsworthroade5.co.uk.

The meeting closed around 9pm and discussion continued in the bar.

Thanks to Chats Palace for enabling us to use the venue for the meeting.