

OFCOM ANNUAL PLAN 2015-2016

CONSULTATION

Comment from *Community TV Trust*

REPORTING ON LOCAL TELEVISION

We have campaigned for local TV and participated in the competition for delivering services in London. The performance of licence holders is therefore of great interest and warrants scrutiny and report. Questions to ask local TV licence holders and to report on to the wider population cover:

- 1 the nature of a station's engagement with its served community
- 2 the use of community voices outside news programmes
- 3 the use of film & video material produced in community both in the linear schedule and on the station's website
- 4 the commercial performance and success or otherwise of the station

It is a matter of concern that the schedule of London Live (advertising itself as a 24-hour entertainment channel) appears to offer no formal access to local voices other than via their website where vlogs and uploads are invited but perhaps do not abound. Instead we have the old style one-way street served up with innumerable repeats from mainstream drama and comedy, albeit with a notional London focus. Was this the idea? Was it really part of Ofcom's thinking that Londoners be provided with opportunity for watching old episodes of "London's Burning"?

I may of course be out of tune from the wider London community though I have been based in Peckham for thirty years and produced video, web and DVD projects via *Community TV Trust* for the last fifteen years with a special emphasis on Southwark. Whilst I have not religiously searched the schedules for a Peckham/Southwark presence on London Live output, I have heard of none. Yet Peckham is currently a heartbeat of London, with rising property prices, increasing numbers of cafes and galleries, Bussey Building and CLF Art Café music events, opera productions, Beckett plays, Bold Tendencies continuing its operation, a vibrant community chasing a new vision for its town centre and an impassioned response to Network Rail's counter-proposals.

By April 2015 London Live will be one year old and I would love to read about the approach of it and all local TV stations across the UK and compare their performance figures.

Submission by Chris Haydon, Director
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