



**BLACKHEATH LOCAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING
Tuesday 3 July 2012 7.30pm – 9.30pm
St Matthew Academy
St Joseph's Vale, London SE3**

Record of Meeting

	Item	Actions
1	Welcome, Introduction & Format of meeting	
	<p>Cllr Chris Maines, welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the agenda. A few changes to the running order of the agenda was agreed.</p>	
2	Report back on Grants given by the Assembly	
	<p>1. <u>What is happening at Blackheath Library</u></p> <p>The meeting received information that the temporary library set up at the Bakehouse has been successful to date. The resource continues to attract more people particularly children and young mothers and these numbers will only increase once the new library is up and running. An holiday reading group is due to begin during the months of July, August and September.</p> <p>With regards to the main replacement library project, an £800,000 investment project is on course which is designed to bring together, in one building, a range of different services including a public library, a modern tea and coffee shop, an education centre and a continuation of all the activities at the Reminiscence Centre.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the new facility will be open on the 22 November 2012 by Sir Steve Bullock, the Mayor of Lewisham and David Grant, the Mayor of Greenwich. Over the next month or two there will be a competition for the public to put forward their ideas of what the new centre should be called so</p>	

	<p>there is a sense of involvement and community spirit. The competition will carry a prize of £1,000 and the winner will be announced at the opening ceremony by Sir Steve. Participants can put their entry forward via email or through the website.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Security arrangement during the Olympic games</p>	
	<p>The two security services personnel who were in attendance at a previous assembly meeting returned to provide an update to the meeting about the missile test exercise which occurred in May and the security arrangement that is planned for the city during the Olympic game. It was announced that ministers has now confirmed that the ground based air defence systems will be deployed at six sites in and around London including Blackheath for the duration of the Olympics Games.</p> <p>Blackheath was chosen as the best site to house the missiles along with other six locations in London and after a brief test exercise back in May, the military have tried their best to keep in contact with local residents to explain what will be happening and also to assure them that all is safe. An information day was held where local residents could come and meet soldiers that operate the missile systems and ask questions about how it all works.</p> <p>The purpose of the missiles is to keep any unidentified overhead aircraft out of the sky during the Olympics. For security reasons they cannot disclose exactly when the live missiles will be moved on site. Soldiers will be stationed at the site on the Heath and will be working 3 shifts a day so there will be predominant movement and change during those times but they will try their best to keep it to a minimum and with as little disruption as possible. As people drive past the missiles they will not be able to see them because there will be a fence built around it and that fence will also have screening on them. There were issues about this because people wanted to be able to see what was going on but again due to security reasons that will not be possible.</p> <p>As the missiles are powered by generators there will be a humming noise coming from them and all measures have been taken to try to minimise and deflect the noise by having sandbag walls but if they are an issue for residents then there are leaflets being sent to homes with contact details of who can be contacted to raise any concerns about the noise level. A question and answer session followed this presentation.</p> <p>Security for the games – This will be the biggest policing operation the UK has ever seen and Assistant Commissioner</p>	

	<p>Chris Alison of the Met has been appointed as the national Olympic security coordinator. He will be responsible for all venues being used during the Olympics across the UK. In order to build up capacity for policing the game, the Met had to look at what their requirements were, in terms of officers numbers and KIT specialists and what was clear was that the number of officers needed were well in excess of what was available, even if all holidays were cancelled and officers were called out to work around the clock. For these reasons officers has to pulled from all police forces across the country.</p> <p>There will be halls of residence around the M25 for officers from outside London to reside in for the couple of weeks. Leaflets with telephone numbers on how to make a complaints will be publicised and be easily accessible.</p> <p>For an event such as the Blackheath live site it was explained that the site would not require heavy police presence instead, they would have stewards working alongside few police officers to keep an eye on things happening at the Live Site.</p> <p>A question was raised about whether there would be any kind of traffic management plan for the TA Cadet centre just off Tyler Road, as Lewisham council appear not to have anything. Neither does GetAheadOfTheGames website.</p> <p>It was explained that as the site will be used to temporarily house police operation during the games a planning permission has to be sought from the Council. As part of the applications consideration has to be given to traffic management and predict the amount of vehicle movement we will be making. Traffic planners from TFL have had to go through the plan and decide whether it is manageable. As the bulk of journeys will be made during the mornings and the evenings TFL and the council have agreed that they believe the roads will cope and there shouldn't be much of a problem.</p>	
4	Update on Olympic Community Live Site	
	<p>Leslie Jones from the Council events team provided the update on the Live Site. It was mentioned that maps, pictures and brochures about what will be happening in Blackheath at the live site are now available. The site will feature 17 days fun filled cultural sports and community activities. The set up of the live site will commence on the 24 and 25 July and will be open in time for the opening ceremony. Activities at the Live Site will run all the way through to the Closing Ceremony on the 12 August. The main focus of the live site will be the BBC output on the big screen with full Olympic coverage which will run from around 8.30am and no later than 11pm.</p>	

	<p>As well as the screen there will be a licensed area, Spiegel Tent, where there are cultural and sporting events with a bar and handmade foods, supplied by local Blackheath caterers who were awarded the tender to supply food. During the 17 days there will be a variety of activities for people and families to partake in ranging from local bands, farmers market to performances. Everything activities are timetabled and additional information can be viewed on the Council website.</p> <p>A question was raised about whether the screen will be turned off midway through the opening ceremony as it was implied that broadcast on the Live site screen will run not later than 11pm.</p> <p>It was explained that consideration would apply in this special circumstance as everyone is going to want to watch the opening ceremony and it would not be fair to turn off the screen at 11pm, for that particular instance the screen will run until the end of broadcast.</p> <p><i>Transport and Parking arrangement during the game –</i> Simon Moss and Leslie Brooks from the Council transport division provided the update on transport and parking arrangements during the Olympics games. Both reassured the assembly that Lewisham council have been working closely with LOCOG and TFL during the last six months to ensure that there is very little disruption as possible for residents of Blackheath and that there were adequate and sufficient measures in place to keep traffic flowing as steadily as possible through the village. The message has always been clear and strong that the use of cars is discouraged and that there will be a zero tolerance policy towards people who do attempt to drive to the events at Blackheath and try to park their cars illegally. It was mentioned that there will be no parking facilities for spectators to the live site.</p> <p>The meeting was informed of the road closures on Tranquil Vale, South Vale road and Collin Street. LOCOG has been asked to put up signs further out of the area to prevent people driving down those roads. Lewisham Council are working very hard to manage parking facilities for the residents and businesses in the local area. There will be extra buses put on route and further information can be found on Transport for London (TFL)'s website. To obtain further information about road closures and any other traffic issues residents are asked to please check information on the Lewisham, LOCOG and TFL websites.</p>	
5	Break and Refreshment	

<p>6</p>	<p>Assembly Funding 2012 / 13</p> <p>Cllr Amanda De Ryk spoke to the meeting about a suggestion to have a children play park erected on a section of the Heath. She explained that addressing the lack of recreational play facilities for children and young people has always been one of the top priority for the Blackheath Assembly. An approximate figure of number of children residing in the ward was provided. It has also been noted that apart from the smaller play areas located within certain housing estates, there is very little public play facilities for children and young people within the ward. It was mentioned that other than in youth groups and clubs, Lewisham Council has not invested any money in the last five years for any new play areas development.</p> <p>Councillors have received a petition from a local school council asking for more facilities within the ward for local children. As part of the coordinating group, it was discussed that it would be a good idea to possibly set up a legacy, something that would be part funded through the assembly funds and would possibly be a naturalistic playspace for local children on the heath. At the moment it is controversial and still an idea that is open for discussion.</p> <p>A potential location has been identified and Councillor Maines has met with Martin Hyde from the Council regeneration department for a site inspection. Martin has agreed that if anything does go ahead then it could be incorporated into the existing Glendale contract. For now, it is just about gathering information from the public asking if they would want a play area and gathering community support for the scheme. There have already been a few expression of interest from local parents who would like to be part of any working group set up for the scheme. Any one wishing to be part of a working group for the scheme are urged to leave their details on the register provided at the back of the hall.</p>	
<p>7</p>	<p>Councillors updates</p> <p>Parking and CPZs</p> <p>Cllr Bonavia provide an update on what the local Councillors has been doing since the last meeting. Cllrs have been campaigning to get changes made to the CPZ's and parking in the area and luckily the Mayor has now agreed to bring in a much shorter visitors permit time which will be at a cheaper rate during the day. This is the first step and there is still a lot of work to be done. Lewisham council will be conducting a borough wide review of parking during this year and there will be a report at the end of the year anyone with ideas on how parking control can be improved is being urged to pass those information to their Councillors.</p>	

	<p>Update on Heathside and Lethbridge Regeneration The meeting received information about the formal handover of phase 1 of the Heathside & Lethbridge Estate regeneration. These are the new building along Blackheath Hill. The project is the largest decant project in the whole of the borough and is expected to go on until 2020.</p> <p>Leegate Centre Redevelopment The meeting was informed of the proposal to redevelop the Leegate Centre. It was mentioned that a working group has been set up by Lee Green Assembly and the group are asking for Blackheath input on what is going to be happening on that site as it will also affect Blackheath residents as well.</p>	
8	Any other business	
	<p>London Bridge train station refurbishment London Bridge will be undergoing a major revamp and trains from Blackheath will not be stopping there for about a year. We are hopeful that we might be able to have a representative from the train operator at the next assembly meeting to discuss the impacts this work will have on Blackheath ward.</p> <p>Safer Neighbourhood Team Update Apologies has been received from Sergeant Ruth Wilshire from the SNT. The meeting was told that there has a huge reduction in crime in the ward. Also SNT will be handing out burglary packs in the area and there will be a focus on anti-social behaviour in a run up to the Olympics.</p>	
9	Declaration of interest	
	There were no declaration of interest declared at this meeting.	