



**BLACKHEATH LOCAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING
Tuesday 6 November, 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 and introduced the agenda. A couple of changes to the agenda was announced as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Coordinating committee wanted someone from Network Rail to come and explain the changes proposed at London Bridge Station over the next two to three years and how the works will impact on commuters from Blackheath area. Network Rail had decline the invitation on the basis that they do not have the resource to meet the growing demands of invitation they have received from community groups. However, a series of exhibitions are being organised by the train companies using London Bridge station and they are encouraging members of the public to attend these sessions. Dates of the public consultations can be found in the individual packs given out at the meeting. • An announcement was made concerning a petition available at the meeting on the Downgrading of services at Lewisham Hospital A&E and the maternity unit. 	
2	A debrief on Olympics Community Live Site and Fireworks display	
	<p>Community Live Site A debrief on the Olympic Live site and the Fire works display</p>	

	<p>at Blackheath was provided. The big screen set up at the Live Site attracted a crowd of around 100,000 people over the 19 days period. Activities on show enjoyed by the crowd includes art and craft displays from various organisations across the borough and a choir group. Gratitude was expressed for the patience exercise and support from residents, members of the Blackheath Society and the Blackheath Joint working Party. Overall, a great time was had by all who attended with no trouble reported over the period of the event.</p> <p>Fireworks display</p> <p>The Blackheath Fireworks displayed took place on Saturday 3rd November. The event attracted over 100,000 people congregated on the heath to watch the display. Around 70 young people from the police cadets and the Lewisham young Mayor’s project supported the Council in collecting donations towards next year fireworks event. Over £7,000 donations were collected in total. Other support towards the display came in form of private donations come from Glendale and London & Quadrant Housing Trust including online donation. The event went peacefully with no reported problem on the night.</p> <p>Some concerns were raised about crowd control and the hazard of having too many people walking down the same direction to access the train station. The worse affected area identified was on Montpellier Road. The organisers promised to review their crowd control strategies as part of next year briefing.</p> <p>Cllr Maines reported on the proposed cuts to next year Council budget and the impact this might have on funding events such as the annual fire works display. Lewisham Council needs to find savings of £38 million. People present at the meeting were asked to indicate by show of hands if they would like to see the fireworks displayed maintained or cut as part of Council savings. The result showed an overwhelming majority in favour of the fireworks continuity.</p>	
3	Transport Issues – London Bridge redevelopment	
a	<p>Changes to London Bridge Station</p> <p>The chair directed the meeting to read details of the proposed redevelopment of London Bridge Station from the summary briefing provided in the pack. A member of the coordinating group who attend one of the public forum organised by the train companies using the station provided information on the works. Works to London Bridge station was necessary to ease the congestion at Borough Road market junction. The proposal will see an increase in railway line and trains when</p>	

	<p>the works are finished. A series of presentation where people can view the proposal was mentioned. It is expected that works would be completed in 2018. The object of the biggest disruption for commuters travelling from Blackheath is that during 2015 to early 2016, the Charring Cross bound trains will not be stopping at London Bridge Station and from early 2016 to Dec 2017, the Cannon Street bound train will not stop at London Bridge Station. Further details on the proposal and dates future public forums can be found on the Thameslink website on www.thameslinkprogramme.co.uk</p> <p>b Changes to bus route 386</p> <p>Another transport issues raised at the meeting involves the proposed changes to bus route 386. It is proposed that bus 386 will no longer travel along Hare & Billet because of problem with right turn into Wat Tyler Road. The bus company are currently consulting on this proposal. People present at the meeting were asked to complete the consultation paper to express their views.</p>	
4	Update on Blackheath Community Library	
	<p>Sir Ian Mills provided the update on the progress of the refurbishment of the community Library at the Age Exchange Centre. Funding from the Blackheath Assembly has enabled the library service to continue uninterrupted in the Village since the closure of the library at Blackheath Grove in May 2011. The temporary library provision has attracted 20,000 visitors of which a large proportion were children. A new library facility with an investment of £870,000 is due to open on 22 November, at 11 Blackheath Village.</p> <p>The new premises will provide a social forum for Blackheath residents under one roof with full disabled facility in an elegantly designed building. The premises will also housed a modern café providing refreshment at very competitive prices. There would also be space for a wide range of reading activities and meeting room hire for a range of community groups. The premises will be open to the public from Friday 23 November. Opening hours for the foreseeable future would be Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm and Saturday 10am to 5pm. The chair alerted people to an article in the Guardian newspaper featuring a case study on the community library at Blackheath.</p> <p>Friends of Age Exchange</p> <p>Information was supplied on the current activities of the Friends of Age Exchange, a group which has been active for quite sometime. The group are appealing for new membership</p>	

	<p>to support the works of the Age Exchange Centre which does significant works nationally to support people looking after the elderly, in particular people suffering from dementia and Alzheimer. Volunteers from the group would provide ongoing supports at the new multi purpose centre housing the new community library. Annual membership will cost £30 for individuals and £50 for family. A membership card would be issued to new members and will entitle them to a 10% discount on any items purchased from the new café. It is proposed that other discount may be negotiated with local businesses once the group is properly formed.</p> <p>A list of upcoming events organised by the group were mentioned including a concert at St Margaret Church on Saturday 10 November. Tickets are available at the meeting. The group is keen to hear from anyone who can spare some time and their expertise to help generate new activities and event that can raise fund and offer ongoing support to the works that Age Exchange does. A meeting is planned for January where people can find out more information about joining the friends group.</p>	
5	Other Updates	
	<p>Updates from Blackheath Society</p> <p>The chairperson for this group provided information on the society up coming events and activities. The annual Blackheath Christmas light turn on event will take place on Saturday 1 December 2012 in the Village. This year the society is working in conjunction with the Age Exchange, Blackheath Halls and Blackheath Conservatoire groups to make the day a celebratory event for all. The ingredients for the day would include fun fair on the Heath, lantern making workshop, Carol concert at the All Saints Church and a series of musical events starting with music from the conservatoire at lunch time.</p> <p>There would also be a procession down the Village during the day with the switching on of the Christmas expected to take place at 4.30pm by the Mayor of Lewisham supported by Nick Ferrari and David Grant from Greenwich.</p> <p>The Stephen Lawrence Centre</p> <p>A project officer from the Centre addressed the meeting about the various programme on offer. The trust is based in Deptford in honour of Stephen Lawrence who was murdered in 1993. The charity was set up to help aspiring young people from disadvantaged background in Lewisham, Southwark and Greenwich borough aiming to study architecture. The trust provides scholarship to support these young people realise their career and aspirations. One of the key aim of the trust is</p>	

	<p>the promotion of community cohesion amongst residents which is seen to fit into one of the Blackheath Assembly priorities. Besides the scholarship programme, the centre offers spaces where courses workshops and community events can be held. Further information about other programmes delivered by the trust can be obtained from the Stephen Lawrence charitable trust foundation website.</p> <p>Proposed closure of Lewisham Hospital A&E and Maternity unit</p> <p>The meeting received information on a recently published report which suggest the closure of the Accident and Emergencies and the new maternity services at Lewisham hospital. A number of meetings are planned as part of the public consultation to hear residents views about the future of the hospital. The first meeting is planned for Thursday 8 November and a demonstration on Saturday 24 November. Residents are encouraged to attend either of these events to put their comments and views across. The consultation closes on 13th December 2012.</p> <p>The local MP Heidi Alexander has launched a petition which will allow residents to make clear that they would like to see the services retained. The petition is available at the meeting along with copies of the report from the administrators. People can also express their views via the online petition on www.ipetitions.com/petition/lewisham-hospital</p>	
6	Break and Refreshment	
7	Update on Children Play Park	
	<p>Cllr Amanda De Ryk provided an update on the progress made with the children play park proposal in Blackheath. Discussion has began with the Council and officers from Glendale, parks contractors. Potential areas to be developed has been considered. The 2 potential site put forward were an area behind the TA Centre and the hollow deep by the entrance of Duke Humphrey Road. The next stage of the process would involve gathering of ideas for the type of equipment and what the play park might look like when it is completed.</p> <p>Visits to similar parks in other areas has been explored. A small working group who would be tasked with progressing this idea has been formed. A webpage where local people and other interested parties can follow the progress of the scheme is to be developed. A meeting is being planned to discuss safeguarding issues concerning the 2 potential site</p>	

	<p>suggested for the play park. Processes have began to seek permission from the offices of the Earl of Dartmouth, who are the owners of the Heath. It is envisaged that planning permission would be sought if necessary depending on the size of the scheme. A picture of similar schemes in Mile End park, Charlton and New York was presented to the meeting as samples.</p> <p>Funding to progress the scheme has been identified fro a section 106 development at Lewisham earmarked by developers for works to improve the areas around a new development. A sum of up to £26,000 can be secured towards funding the play park. Martin Hyde from the Council Green Scene department has submitted a bid to the Marathon Fund for the sum of £50,000 which is reliant upon getting a partner funding. The outcome of the bid would be known by December.</p> <p>The working group is committed to continued regular dialogue with the community, schools and other stakeholders to ensure that regular information flow takes place. Information on the proposal would be included in schools newsletter asking parents to get in touch if they wish to get involved in the scheme. The design is still at idea exploration stage and any suggestion of alternatives would be most welcomed.</p> <p>A series of questions and answers followed this presentation.</p>	
8	Councillors Update – Issues relevant to Blackheath	
A	<p>Reduction of Council budget</p> <p>The implications of the Council proposed budget cuts and how this will impact upon local services were explained. A savings of £40m must be found over the next 2 years. The proposal for next year’s savings has been published, details of which can be found on the Council website under the public accounts committee meetings and link on the Local Assemblies webpage. Councillors are considering the proposals put forward with a final decision expected from the Mayor in March 2013.</p> <p>One of the major cuts proposed is concerning the Council youth service provisions. The proposed change would see funds and staff removed from the Council funded youth centres and those resource would be diverted into buying in more activities from other providers to meet the needs of young people. This move is said to present an opportunity for Blackheath ward to attract more activities for young people in the area. It is envisaged that talks will be held with Blackheath Halls and Blackheath Conservatoire for the provision of courses and activities aimed at young people as extra funding</p>	

<p>B</p> <p>Planning Issues</p> <p>C</p> <p>New street lighting contract</p> <p>D</p> <p>Housing consultation</p>	<p>would be available. It is hoped that the new proposal will offer young people all the positive opportunities that Lewisham and London has to offer.</p> <p>The adjourned application hearing for 9 Prender Road located behind the Railway station between the Montessori school and Blackheath Hospital will be held on Thursday 8 November. Any resident affected by this site and wish to find out more information about this application is advised to speak to the Councillors at the end of the meeting.</p> <p>A meeting has taken place with the company in charge of the new lighting contract around the type of designs of lighting that would be installed in the village and the protected conservation area of Blackheath. The area currently has three different types of street lamp designs. Officers from the Council and Skanska have been invited to the January Assembly meeting to provide further information about the scheme. The meeting will present an opportunity for residents to express their views on the type of lighting and lamp pole proposed for the area. Both the Blackheath Society and Blackheath Joint Working group have been consulted on the scheme.</p> <p>The Council is consulting on the future of housing stocks currently managed by Lewisham Homes under a process known as 'Housing Matters'. This was brought about following a recent government changes which potentially allows the Council to borrow money to build new housing stock. Every Council tenants are urged to take part in the consultation as this will affect the future of housing provision in the borough.</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>Declaration of interest</p>	
	<p>There were no declaration of interest declared at this meeting.</p>	