

## THE LADYWELL ASSEMBLY

Thursday 6 December 2012

7-9pm

St Andrews Church hall  
Brockley Road London, SE4

### Minutes of the Meeting

#### **Welcome, introduction & format for the evening**

Cllr Vincent Davis (Chair) opened the assembly by thanking everyone for attending on such a cold and wet evening. Due to serious traffic congestion in the Loampit Vale area the start time was delayed until 7:10pm and Cllr Davis thanked residents for their patience and understanding.

The agenda included community safety reports, Ladywell public realm improvements and updates about parking and the Ladywell Youth Village. There was an opportunity for residents to raise matters of interest to the community and a vote was taken on the remainder of the assembly fund for 2012/13. A summary of the main points discussed are outlined below:

#### **Community safety updates**

Pc Amanda Thompson (Ladywell Safer Neighbourhood team) began by explaining that Brian has taken a career break and has temporarily left the police service. Peter has recently joined the team and residents will shortly get used to seeing his face in the area. Robbery is down in September/October as compared to the previous period in 2011. There has been a slight rise in burglaries and a contributory factor is the time of year. Residents were asked to consider installing timers as a means of deterring burglars. Officers have recently discovered cannabis factories in the Borough and in one case a house full of cannabis was discovered. Drugs to the value of £5,000 were also found at a property in the Crofton Park ward. A serious pitball attack took place in Slaithwaite Road and in another incident 4 cars were seized in Brockley Road. However, PC Thompson stressed that these were isolated incidents and residents did not need to be unduly concerned. On a lighter note officers continue to give advice to residents by touring the Borough by bus. It is now possible to follow the Metropolitan Police by using twitter and internet users are encouraged to use this facility.

Cynthia Campbell and Leanna Minahan gave a short update about the work of the community safety team in Ladywell. The teams remit include investigating incidents of anti-social behaviour and neighbour disputes in addition to giving a range of advice on community safety matters generally. They operate across many departments of the Council and external agencies such as the police. However, the most important source of information is the general public and a number of surgeries have been set up in the ward. The next surgery date will be Monday 10 December at the St Marys Centre from 6:30pm until 8:30pm. Thereafter, the second Monday of every month. On Tuesday 18 December there will also be a surgery held at Lewisham Library between 4:30pm and 6:30pm. Thereafter, the last Tuesday of every month.

A resident asked about the specific areas where the increase in burglaries has occurred and what can be done to combat this rise?

Pc Thompson said that the problem has mainly occurred in Telegraph Hill as far as Twyhitt Road. The establishment of a neighbourhood watch may help to alleviate the problem and advice on setting one up can be obtained from the police.

Pc Thompson was also asked to clarify the senior officer arrangements and in particular the role of Sgt David Hawtin. Pc Thompson explained that Sgt Hawtin was currently taking on the role of acting inspector which involved covering a number of wards throughout Lewisham. However, he was still responsible for the overall management of the Ladywell ward

### **Ladywell village public realm improvements**

Les Senior (Project Manager) outlined the plans to enhance the shopping area of Ladywell Road and Algernon Road. These plans built on initial work that was commissioned by the Ladywell Village Improvement Group(LVIG) in 2010 with funding from the Ladywell Assembly. At present, the needs of vehicles moving through Ladywell Town Centre are prioritised over local access for pedestrians, cyclists and businesses. The Council's plans include a number of changes to the public realm in order to help improve the environmental quality and economic viability of Ladywell's main retail centre without impacting on the flow of traffic. £800,000 has been secured from Transport for London (TfL) to implement the scheme over the next two years.

Les went on to explain that there was an independent safety audit carried out. As a result of this there will be some minor changes to the original proposals. The audit also looked at a similar scheme in Sydenham which was successful both in terms of design and quality. Based on this model there will be some changes to the zebra crossing and pedestrian right of way. Parking will not be as wide as was originally proposed and there will be a narrower carriageway. The number of trees has been revised downwards due to potential safety implications. Residents were invited to submit their ideas on what they would like instead of trees. The full proposals were available for inspection during the break and also at the close of the assembly. Works were due to commence towards the end of January 2013.

There were a number of questions to Les as follows:

Q What is the current situation with the shop owners as I understand that there has been a few problems?

A The majority of shop owners have been visited by the team and are supportive of the proposals. Where this has not been possible land registry searches have been sought to determine ownership. The owner of the Ladywell Tavern has raised issues concerning the pavement but this has now been resolved. Negotiations are also currently taking place with the owners of 235/237 Algernon Road.

Q What are the reasons why some shop owners are not getting in touch?

It is very difficult to tell but sometimes there are several people involved with the shop. The people who run the shop do not actually have ownership of the premises in question.

Q Could you please let us know the whereabouts of the Sydenham scheme?

The scheme runs from Cobb's Corner to Mayow Road.

Q Would it be possible to go ahead without the permission of the shop owners you describe?

It is always best to get permission first otherwise you run the risk of potential litigation. I will check this aspect with Senior Management when I get back to the office.

Cllr Davis extended a vote of thanks to Les and his team for all their hard work in delivering the project over the past 2 years.

### **Ward Parking Survey**

Cllr Carl Handley thanked everyone who attending the meeting on 24 October and who responded to the public survey. There was a variety of opinions and views expressed from support to Controlled Parking Zones to complete opposition. In total, 203 responses were received and these would be fed back into the borough wide review which was being considered by the Mayor and Cabinet. Copies of the survey were available at the meeting for residents to pick up and Cllr Handley was available to answer questions.

**There followed a short break for tea and coffee**

### **Assembly fund 2012/13**

John O'Reilly (Local Assemblies Coordinator) reported that there was a balance of £2,020 remaining in the assembly fund for 2012/13. This was due to a low take up of applications for the '*other ward priorities*' category at the September assembly. The coordination group (chaired by Cllr Davis) recommended that the remainder of the fund is split between the two runners up under the '*young persons*' category. Under this proposal the Brockley County Football Club and the Lewisham Youth Theatre will each receive £1,010.00. Both organisations have been contacted and agreed to downsize their projects accordingly. The meeting unanimously agreed to accept this proposal by a show of hands.

### **Ladywell Youth Village**

Muhammad Rahmani (Area Youth Coordinator) reported that the Ladywell Youth Village continues to grow with an average of 60 young people attending peaking at around 120 on Friday evenings. Due to the popularity of the Youth Village the half term programme has been extended and other services have been made

available. There have been a number of complaints about young people involved in anti-social behaviour on public transport. This has involved the use of skate boards, typically holding onto moving buses. Muhammad explained that the vast majority of young people are well behaved and there is no evidence to suggest that the perpetrators use the village. However, Muhammad has produced a flyer setting out the legal framework and advice for the public who encounter such problems. This publication has been approved by the Council and is available at the meeting.

Muhammad then briefly went on to explain that the Council is proposing £1.2 million savings in the youth budget for 2013/14. The Council will be consulting on a range of proposals to reshape the Youth Service throughout Lewisham. The consultation paper with full details of the proposals have been made available online from 23 November 2012 and will run until 31 December 2012. There will also be drop in sessions held at the Youth Village, Bellingham, Oakridge and Riverside youth clubs. Muhammad was asked whether any youth club would close as a result of the review. Muhammad said that it was likely that some youth clubs may close due to staffing cuts, however the Youth Village will remain open under the current proposals. It is expected that the new structure will be in place by September 2013 and the voluntary sector may be asked to fill some gaps.

### **Community updates and AOB**

Valerie Weber is a member of the assembly coordination group and has been involved with the campaign to save Lewisham Hospital accident/ emergency and maternity services. There has been overwhelming support within the community to retain these key services and many thousands of signatures to the petition, both paper copy and on line versions. Valerie reminded residents that the closing date for comments is Thursday 13 December 2012. The website address is [www.savelewishamhospital.com](http://www.savelewishamhospital.com)

Miriam Long from Lewisham Link thanked everyone who visited the information stall at the meeting this evening. Link are currently seeking opinions from residents on the plans to close the accident/ emergency and maternity services at Lewisham Hospital. A questionnaire has been developed which many people have completed during the course of the assembly. In particular, they wanted to find out how people would get to the new proposed services and what impact this would have on their daily lives.

Cynthia Lamptey (Events Manager, Ladywell Village Improvement Group) invited everyone to attend the Christmas market which will be held outside Ladywell Station on Saturday 15 December 2012 between 11am and 5pm. Features this year will include gifts, festive food and drinks, lighting the Christmas tree and activities for children of all ages. In addition, there will be a fund raising event held on Saturday 8 December 2012 at the Ladywell Tavern from 8pm. All proceeds will go to the village and Christmas market. Further information can be found by visiting [www.ladywell.blogspot.co.uk](http://www.ladywell.blogspot.co.uk)

Ethel introduced herself as a youth worker operating from the St Andrews Centre which hosted the meeting this evening. The service was available to girls and young women every Thursday evening during term time. A range of activities are available including intergenerational work which has been highly praised by the

local community. Many of the young people attended the assembly and would be encouraged to do so in the future. Ethel encouraged residents to respond to the youth services consultation as the effects are likely to be far reaching and may impact adversely on the community.

**Formal close of assembly business and date of next meeting**

Cllr Davis concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending, and in particular those people who gave up their time to make presentations to the assembly.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 12 March 2013 between 7pm and 9pm. Venue to be decided by the assembly coordination group which will meet early in the new year.

**There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8:40pm**

**No declarations of interest were made at the meeting**