



**Perry Vale Assembly
Tuesday 15 January 2013
7pm – 9pm
Kilmorie School
Kilmorie Road
SE23 2SP**

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Welcome, introduction & format for the meeting

Liz Stone Head of Kilmorie Primary School welcomed everyone to Kilmorie School and told the assembly meeting that Kilmorie School has been a Primary School since 1990, but in those days it was just on the ground floor. Now there are 3 classrooms upstairs and the school is a 3 form entry accommodating 90 children, this is the biggest entry primary school in Lewisham. Lots of building work has been done to the school and there is now extra space, but as well as this there is a really good playground with an outside classroom and a stage. There is also a fantastic wild garden and time garden.

Cllr Susan Wise – Chair of the Perry Vale Assembly, then told the meeting that she had a tour of the school during the summer and it really is a fantastic school, she then reminded the assembly meeting that it was money from the Perry Vale Assembly Fund which contributed to the Kilmorie School Garden Project.

2. The Perry Vale Safer Neighbourhood Team

Sergeant Phil Moore, PC Richard Bailey and PCSO Mert Cakir from the Perry Vale Safer Neighbourhood Team addressed the assembly regarding policing issues relating to Perry Vale ward. Sergeant Moore firstly told the assembly that there is no further news regarding the closure of Sydenham Police Station with it still up for decision. However, SGT Moore was able to tell the meeting that if the police station did close the team will still be housed in the south of the borough, but he is unsure exactly where that will be.

Cllr Wise then told the assembly that the 3 Perry Vale Ward Councillors were all opposed to the proposed closure.

Local Policing Module – SGT Moore told the meeting that this starts in April and is a two tier style of policing incorporating response policing and a local policing team. The response team will handle all the urgent calls and will be 25% of the total strength. The Local Policing Team will include the Safer Neighbourhood Team and will deal with all other policing matters. The SNT wards will go and instead clusters will be created with there being 3 clusters in Lewisham. This will be the south cluster and it will have 1 Sergeant and between 6 and 8 PCS working between 6am and 2am, each ward will have 2 dedicated officers.

Q What will happen to the neighbourhood panel?

A This has yet to be discussed, but I think it will still operate

Q How much proactive patrolling will there be?

A I would like to think that we can still patrol

Cllr Paschoud then told the assembly meeting that this is a draft plan and there will be a consultation meeting on Monday January 28th from 6pm at the Civic Suite.

Q Will there still be police officers at Schools?

A Most senior schools have their own dedicated officers supported by the SNT, this will need to be reviewed

PC Bailey and PCSO Cakir then provided the assembly with a review of crime within the ward

Burglary - This shows no distinct pattern or one apparent hotspot across the Ward. Residential property is generally being attacked with force from the rear and tends to occur mainly during the daytime hours with a preference for Friday afternoons and the non residential sheds and garages being burgled mainly during the night. Residents need to ensure that rear outbuildings are secure with approved locks and trim hedges and trees so there is greater visibility at both the front and rear of the property.

There is a Lewisham Home Security Programme that will help secure homes for free for certain people i.e. the elderly.

Robbery –Both Forest Hill Station and Forest Hill Boys School in Dacres Road are two favourite venues for robbers to carry out their attacks. Victims are either followed from the train station or on their way two or from school and are accosted by lone males or small groups and persuaded with the threat of violence to hand over their valuables which is usually a mobile phone and/or wallet.

Drugs Activity – The police are obtaining at least one search warrant per month relating to Cannabis factories at residential homes, but there are almost certainly more undetected ones. The police need your help regarding this and there are certain telltale signs i.e. a fan on all night, loud equipment, people making infrequent visits to the property, covered windows and lots of black bags containing soil as well as the smell of cannabis. If you are aware of a property that is suspicious then police call us or crimestoppers.

3. Proposed Closure of Lewisham A&E

Cllr Wise introduced Dr John O'Donohue from Lewisham Hospital and told the assembly meeting that all 3 Ward Councillors are against the closure.

Dr John O'Donohue told the assembly meeting that this is a very political issue with the final report published last week. This goes back to July last year and financial issues involving the South London Healthcare Trust which incorporates Farnborough Hospital, Queen Mary's Hospital Sidcup and Queen Elizabeth Hospital Woolwich, but not Lewisham Hospital which is not part of this. When the administrator Matthew Kershaw looked into this he decided to take a broader view i.e. re-designing healthcare in South London and recommending the closing of Lewisham Hospital's A&E as well as the children's wards, complex surgery units, and perhaps the maternity services. In addition, he then proposed to sell off two thirds of the site.

Lewisham Hospital is in surplus and we are overwhelmed by the support from the public with 40,000 people having signed the petition, we now feel that we are making a difference and our MPs have also been very vocal. Lewisham Hospital is a successful hospital and under this process a successful hospital is being punished.

Dr O'Donohue also highlighted the following:

- Not enough alternative provision available
- The online consultation was really poor and time consuming
- A Midwife led birthing unit is really unsuitable for Lewisham due to many high risk cases
- Urgent Care Centres are good for cuts and bruises, but not much else

Q How much hope is there of changing this decision?

A There are some grounds for hope, although some people think that they want to cut the number of A&Es in South London from 6 to 4. We also feel that the Administrator had no powers to recommend this. The Government has 4 conditions for closure of a Hospital and none of these are met, these are:

- Support of local GPs – There is none
- Popular engagement – There is none
- Clinical evidence – The Hospital is performing well
- Widening patient choice – This will lead to fewer hospitals

Q Is it true that this move will cost £195 million pounds?

A Yes this is true

Q Is there a legal challenge

A Jeremy Hunt is taking legal advice regarding the Administrators powers and Lewisham Council has a resource fund that can assist us with a legal challenge

Q If the Hospital remains open there will be a deficit of 1-2 million a year, is the Hospital looking at this?

A This is an extraordinary projection by him, our finances are secure and we're predicting a surplus, but even these figures are less than 1% of turnover

Q Lewisham is now a Teaching Hospital, will this affect this?

A There is very strong support from Kings College Hospital, but they can downsize teaching hospitals

Cllr Wise then told the assembly that she has been a patient at the hospital and the service was excellent. She then reminded everyone to go to the March on the 26th January.

4. Forest Hill Station Underpass

John Bishop from Lewisham Council told the assembly that he has been involved with this project for about a year and the project itself has been ongoing since August 2010. There are lots of reasons for this, but the main reason is the number of parties involved, these include Network Rail, London Overground, Lewisham Council and Skanska as well as some of the local societies. The Council is only responsible for the cleanliness of the walls, the lighting and a swept floor. Network

Rail is responsible for the structure and London Overground manages the Station and the CCTV.

Work has now started on the subway and the choice of the green colour was made by the Forest Hill Society and the Sydenham Society, this is an anti-graffiti paint, so there will be no Mural. There will be new lighting and new panels and we are currently reforming the staircase and the handrails with most of the work complete by the end of the Month. The cladding panels for the roof will delivered at the end of February, so all the work will be complete by the end of the first week of March. The total cost of the project is £150,000.

Q I see that the wall has already been tagged?

A This will be removed

Q Will there be disabled access?

A Regrettably no

Q It does look like the paint is already coming off and you can see the brickwork?

A The rainwater is causing problems due to the structure, we will keep an eye on it and re-paint if necessary

Q Will you be closing the subway?

A We try to keep it open, but have to close it at times

Q All you need is one lift there for the disabled, why can't you do this?

A We are sorry, but this is not the Council's responsibility

5. The Perry Vale Action Plan

The assembly looked at the action plan and was asked to provide comment as well as to look at any issues that may have been missed and ideas to solve some of the problems identified. This will be fed back into the Action Plan and to the assembly.

6. Update from SEE3

Tony Buckley from SEE3 told the assembly meeting that he has now been in post as the Town Team Manager for just over a month.

The Forest Hill, Sydenham and Kirkdale Portas bid

The SEE3, Forest Hill, Sydenham and Kirkdale's Portas Pilot vision is of a high-street where established independent traders are an integral part of the community, new traders bring innovation and further quality, boundaries between retail, culture and community blur, energy of active citizens is harnessed, new ideas are championed and space that is secured for start-up enterprises to develop is readily accessible.

SEE3 seeks to create a string of destinations that are complementary, harnessing the distinct and unique character of the individual offers under a shared vision. The five key objectives are as follows:

- to test a coherent approach to High Street development in an area of urban sprawl where one neighbourhood merges into another.

- to increase the sustainability of the High Street through layering uses.
- to build on the existing blending of retail and community use to enhance the High Street as a Hub Street and cultural destination.
- to create a fit, agile High Street that can successfully adapt to changing needs.
- to harness and build on our strong active citizenship to enhance the High Street

The SEE3 pilot will comprise three key projects to test this ambition:

Jack and Jill. Two high street shops (one in Sydenham, the other in Forest Hill) will be renovated for creative community engagement via exhibitions, showcasing local products, business workshops, pop up events and use as a Town Team base. They will be used to engender a sense of place and gather details of people's current shopping habits and their ambitions for the High Street. Jill is now open in Sydenham and we are looking for Jack in Forest Hill.

The Shop Revolution. A high impact project with lasting sustainable benefits, Shop Revolution will introduce landlords and leaseholders to the concept of 'meanwhile' use – short term leases which keep the unit in use between tenants. Up to 12 vacant units will be refurbished and let to an eclectic mix of businesses and organisations on a pop up or trial basis giving new businesses the chance to test their business skills.

Market Makers. More than a market, this will build on the success of the Girton Road car boot sale and the Forest Hill Food Fair to pilot offerings in Sydenham, Forest Hill and Kirkdale with the aim of finding long term tenants for our vacant units. By giving traders the opportunity to test market demand for their offering, they will be able to refine their business plan before committing to a long term lease.

Tony told the assembly that to date there have been 3 pop-up shops, a Butchery at 49 London Road in Forest Hill, Pen and Gravy at 151 Kirkdale and a Clothing Shop in Station Approach Sydenham. What is fantastic is that the Butchery is now negotiating a long-term lease and Pen and Gravy will stay for another month. There will be a new shop going into Station Approach soon and between February and April there will be 2 further pop-ups.

Cllr Wise stated that it is important that Perry Vale residents support this and asked Tony how long he is with us.

A I am contracted until March 2014, but the timescales on the projects vary.

Q How many pop-ups expected in Forest Hill?

A There will 10 in total, 4 in Forest Hill, 4 in Sydenham and 2 in Kirkdale

Q Who decides nature of a new shop?

A This is down to the availability of shops and what is already there, it is about demand and complimenting what is already there.

Q Do you have any influence over planning regulations?

A No, but we can provide business support

Q Will there be a success report at the end of the project?

A Yes, several at different stages

Q can you return to a future assembly?

A Yes

7. Community Updates

- Cllr Wise told the assembly about the Bark event on Thursday 21 February from 12 – 3pm at Mayow Park, a great / fun event for people with dogs with exhibitions, competitions and prizes
- On Saturday 2 February there will be a Storytelling event for children at Forest Hill Methodist Church from 2.30pm and at 7.30pm an event for adults at the Blythe Hill Tavern
- This is open on Wednesday's 10am – 12 and Friday's 2-4pm at the Malham Christian Centre on Malham Road Forest Hill, please come along and donate your food
- Burns Supper – The Forest Hill Society is organising this for 25 January from 7pm at Canvas and Cream. Tickets costs £19.99

8. Close

Cllr Wise then thanked everyone for attending the assembly meeting and reminded the attendees that the next meeting is on Wednesday 13 March 2013 from 7pm at Forest Hill Boys School.

The meeting finished at 9pm with no declarations of interest made.