



The RUSHEY GREEN LOCAL ASSEMBLY

Saturday 19 January 2013

1pm to 3pm

Rooms 1 and 2 Civic Suite

Catford Road SE6 4RU

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome, introduction & format for the evening

Cllr Peggy Fitzsimmons (Chair) thanked everyone for attending in the snowy conditions and introduced the agenda for the meeting as follows:

- Community safety update
- Recycling your waste in Rushey Green
- Rushey Green Heritage Board
- Break for tea and coffee
- Rushey Green assembly fund proposal 2012/13
- The Catford Local Plan
- Community Updates
- AOB and date of next meeting

Community Safety Update

Sgt Michelle Pryall from the Rushey Green Safer Neighbourhood Team reported encouraging news concerning the recent crime statistics for the ward. Despite this, however, there has been an increase in burglaries throughout Lewisham over the Christmas and new year period. Telegraph Hill and Brockley are the worst affected areas, although there has also been incidents reported in Rushey Green.

Residents were asked to take reasonable precautions such as securely locking windows and doors at night and when leaving their property. The Safer Neighbourhood Team are able to offer practical advice to residents on how they could avoid being the victim of a burglary. The team currently comprises of one sergeant and four pc's. Sgt Pryall agreed to stay for the remainder of the meeting to address any individual concerns from residents.

Recycling your waste In Lewisham

David Brinson (Waste and Preventions Officer London Borough of Lewisham) gave a presentation on the most efficient ways of recycling your waste in Lewisham. The main points are as follows:

- We collect Refuse & Recycling from 117,500 properties every week -
76,000 street properties 38,000 estate properties
- Kerbside Battery Recycling

- 4 x Garden Waste Seasonal Satellite sites
- More than 50 recycling bring sites
- Small Electrical Waste Recycling
- Battery Recycling
- Light Bulb Recycling
- Textile Recycling
- Large Items Collection Service
- Free Mattress Recycling
- Reuse & Recycling Centre at Landmann Way, New Cross
- Recycling can be done at the kerbside, flats above shops or from your estate.
- Weekly collection on the same day as your refuse.
- Lewisham residents can now recycle more items thanks to a new Recycling Processing Facility (MRF) Contract.
- We can now recycle more items than most other London Boroughs.
- Lewisham Council now receives an income for good quality recyclables.
- Previously Lewisham Council were having around 15% of recycling rejected by the Veolia MRF in Thamesmead.
- Since the change to Bywaters there has been less than 5% contamination.
- This is a massive improvement which the Council look forward to building on throughout 2013

There were a number of questions to David as follows:

Q How do I get a new green bin if my original one has been lost or stolen?

A It will be possible to order a new bin by calling the Council's envirocall number or by going on-line. Alternatively, David will be able to order one for you if you speak with him during the refreshment break.

Q Do the refuse people take my black sacks as I have no room for a wheelie bin near where I live?

A The refuse disposal team do not normally collect black sacks as these are not normally visible from the roadside. White sacks are usually ok. The best advice would be to always use your wheelie bin as this way your rubbish will always be taken away.

Q Is there a safe way of disposing of household batteries?

A There is a special compartment for this. Probably the easiest thing to do is leave on your bin lid and the crew will do the rest.

Q What happens to the waste and recycling in Lewisham once it has been collected by the crews?

A The waste is taken to the SELCHP energy recovery facility in New Cross. The recycling is taken to the material recovery facility operated by Bywaters Ltd in Bow.

Q Cllr Muldoon recommended that residents visit the facility in Bow to find out what happens to the many items of recycling that were picked up by the crews. He is also wanted to know if it was still possible to visit the site?

A It was still possible to visit the site in question which is strongly recommended. If anyone is interested they should make contact with David during the break.

Q Are you required to rinse out items prior to leaving them outside for recycling?

A Of course it will be helpful if you do but this is not strictly necessary?

Q Could you please clarify the financial costs incurred by the Council when recycling goods picked up from households?

A The Council normally pays a gate fee. There is a long standing relationship with Murphy's which works well for both parties.

Cllr Fitzsimmons thanked David for his presentation and looked forward to welcoming him in the future.

Rushey Green Heritage Board

John O'Reilly (Local Assemblies Coordinator) reported that the Rushey Green Heritage Board has now been completed. A full life size mock up was displayed at the assembly and will be at the rear of the hall for people to look at during the break. The official unveiling will take place on Monday 25 February 2013 at 11am in the Green squares. There will be a small reception afterwards for volunteers who were involved in the delivery of the project. Assembly members were also invited to come along. John gave a special word of thanks to the ward councillors who funded the project through the former Localities Fund. Beryl Gibbs and Bill Tutt were also congratulated for the invaluable research undertaken at Lewisham Library..

There followed a short break for tea and coffee

Rushey Green assembly fund proposal 2012/13

John O'Reilly (Local Assemblies Coordinator) presented the following motion on behalf of the assembly coordination group:

'At the last assembly meeting there was a discussion around the proposed development of a community hub in Rushey Green. The site is the former Blockbusters store located at 99-103 Rushey Green and the owners are Lewisham Homes. The premises have been vacant since the civil disturbances that occurred in the summer of 2011. It was decided that the entire assembly fund allocation of £18,750 for 2012/13 be used for the development of the community hub. The assembly coordination group (which includes all three ward councillors) was asked to take forward the idea with senior officers of the Council.'

The assembly coordination group met with the Head of the Programme Management Team on 17 November 2011 to put forward draft proposals for the creation of the hub. It was agreed at that meeting that a business case could be submitted to Lewisham Homes, no later than Friday 18 January 2013. The preferred bidder was the Rushey Green Timebank. An independent organisation (Simple Business Solutions) was appointed to present the case which included speaking to all the parties concerned.

The initial findings of Simple Business Solutions are generally supportive of the community hub model proposed by the assembly. However, it has not been possible to submit a business case by the deadline of 18 January 2013. This was partly due to the unavailability of key partners due to the Christmas and new year break. Lewisham Homes have been advised of the decision in writing. The premises currently remain unoccupied.

It is recommended that the assembly fund of £18,750 is ring fenced for the purposes of the community hub project. Due to the Councils financial accounting rules it will be necessary to transfer these funds to the Rushey Green Timebank. The assembly coordination group will explore further the community hub model in partnership with key stakeholders'

A few residents wanted to know what happened to the minutes of the October assembly meeting which summarised the discussions around the community hub. There was a number of suggestions, such as the establishment of an Enterprise Centre, which were missing from the above text. John said that the minutes were available and they would be distributed via e-mail after the meeting.

A vote was taken and the motion was unanimously passed by the assembly. The findings will be taken forward with senior management and discussed at the next coordination group meeting.

The Catford Local Plan

Eleanor Hoyle and Nigel Adams from the Lewisham Council programme management team gave an update on the Catford Local Plan. The main points are as follows:

- During February and March, the Council will be consulting on a draft version of the Catford Plan, its planning strategy for Catford town centre which will guide how and where development should take place in the next decade and beyond.
- The draft Plan details what the Council believes should happen on key development sites, as well as its proposed policies for the town centre on a wide range of subjects, including the provision of new housing, transport, jobs, shopping, flood prevention, even fast food takeaways.
- The consultation is an opportunity for local people and other stakeholders to say whether they support the Council's approach to regenerating Catford, or if they have suggestions for a better way.
- Six sites have been identified as the greatest potential to change Catford as a place to live, work, shop or socialise. These sites are the former

Greyhound site. Catford Centre/Milford Towers, Civic Centre suite, Laurence House, Wickes and Plassy Road. There are details proposals for each of these sites which includes the development of new homes and businesses.

- There are also proposals to improve Catford's transport infrastructure which include simplifying pedestrian crossings and improving the Thomas Lane/Catford Road and Rushey Green/Catford Road junctions to improve traffic flow. Other proposals include more cycle parking and widening some existing pavements.
- From the end of this month, copies of the full draft Plan will be available
- at www.lewisham.gov.uk/catfordplan or in all the borough's libraries or by contacting the Planning Policy team.

There were a number of questions to Eleanor and Nigel as follows:

Q Does the Catford Local Plan directly match the Rushey Green ward boundary?

A The plan relates to Catford Town Centre which is different to the Rushey Green ward. It is about improving the town centre by making it a better place to live work and learn. Lewisham Hospital sits outside of the plan. There are separate proposals in relation to the hospital and you are advised to invite other people to present at the assembly who know more about what is happening.

Q Are there other groups in the ward, such as the Positive Ageing Council, that you are planning to talk with?

A As part of the consultant process we shall be speaking to a number of agencies about the plans and this includes the Positive Ageing Council. Other groups include churches and schools in the area. If anyone knows of other groups we shall arrange to meet with them. Our aim is to speak to as many organisations as possible.

Q There is a shortage of good quality pubs and restaurants in Catford. Can anything be done about this as part of the overall plan?

A A revamped shopping centre would be a draw for more well known retail brands to invest in the area. As a result, it is hoped that there is greater variety of good quality shops and restaurants in Catford.

Q Milford Towers has become a bit of an eyesore over the years. Could you please let us know what is happening with this at the moment ?

A The Council would like to see a complete redevelopment of the site, including car parks and associated buildings along Thomas Lane. The process of decanting tenants from Milford Towers has already started.

Q I live in Sangley Road and I would like to know what is being done to improve traffic. There is a lot of speeding going on and I am worried about the safety of pedestrians in the area?

A The Catford Plan has proposed a widening of Sangley Road to create an eastbound bus lane to cut the number of northbound buses on Rushey Green. We hope that this will go some way to addressing some of the issues you have raised.

Q Could you let us know how the plan has addressed the needs of cyclists which sometimes gets ignored?

A There will be more cycle parking introduced as part of the plan. It is important to address the needs of different road users which has not been an easy matter to resolve.

Q I understand that the Council's staff are being moved from the Town Hall to Laurence House. Could you let us know how this will affect the plans?

A The Council wants to rationalise its civic functions and offices onto just one site, in order to reduce their ongoing running costs. The long term proposal is for the Council's Catford based services to be relocated and consolidated within a redeveloped office space.

Q Will these changes impact on the Broadway Theatre?

No. As a listed building The Broadway Theatre would be largely unaffected by the scheme

Cllr Fitzsimmons thanked Eleanor and Nigel for their presentation. Cllr Fitzsimmons apologised to those people who were unable to ask a question due to time constraints. This is a very popular subject and there will be an opportunity to ask questions at future meetings.

Community Updates

Cllr Peggy Fitzsimmons informed the meeting that the next Positive Ageing Council will take place on Thursday 21 February 2013 between 10am and 12pm. The meeting is open to anyone who is over 60 years of age and tackles issues such as transport, isolation and care of older people. The last meeting discussed local transport issues and was attended by representatives from Transport for London.

Bill Rouse (resident and POSAC member) said that he was pleased with the number of young people who were prepared to give up their seat on buses to older people.

James Walshe introduced himself as the Chair of the Communities First Panel. The panel is funded by central government and allocates small grants to community groups. Anyone who lives, works or studies in the Rushey Green ward are eligible to take part. Anyone who is interested in joining the group were invited to speak with James at the end of the meeting.

Alan Heaseman lives at Sangley Road. The speeding has continued along the road despite the existence of speed humps. There are also problems around the

school where the signs are misleading and a persistent water leak outside 201-229 Sangley Road since 28 December 2012.

Cllr John Muldoon reminded residents about the food market which takes place on the first Sunday of every month. This will be restarting in March 2013 and everyone is invited to come along. Arts and crafts are also on sale.

Tessa Pearce wanted to know what is happening about Rosenthal House? Cllr Fitzsimmons explained that the planning department are currently dealing with an application to convert into a church.

Kenneth Maxton noted the reoccurring problem of cycling on the pavements throughout Lewisham. He commented that the continental approach of 'soft signage' asking cyclists to respect the rights of pedestrians may be appropriate in most circumstances.

James Walshe informed the meeting about a review of the local assemblies programme in Lewisham. This will be taking place until the end of January 2013. More information can be found on the Councils website or by contacting Petra Marshall at petra.marshall@lewisham.gov.uk

Mr Heaseman raised concerns about young people cycling on roller blades. This was potentially dangerous, and in some cases, leading directly to incidents of anti-social behaviour. Sgt Michelle Pryall said that she was aware of the problem and action will be taken against perpetrators who disobey the law.

AOB and Date of next meeting

Cathy Ashley informed residents about the protest march against the proposed closure of Lewisham Hospital accident/emergency and maternity services. This will be taking place on Saturday 26 January 2013 starting at 12 noon. Residents are asked to congregate at the Lewisham roundabout where the march will begin. Cathy stressed the importance of the demonstration as this will be the last opportunity to protest before the Secretary of State makes a decision. This is expected on or around 1 February 2013.

A number of people wanted to know how to obtain a poster to display in their window. Cathy said that posters could be picked up from the Saville Centre on Rushey Green.

Cllr Fitzsimmons formally closed the meeting at 3:05pm by thanking everyone for attending. The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 27 March 2013 in Rooms 1 and 2 of the Civic Suite from 7pm until 9pm. Invitations will be sent nearer the time.

There being no other business the meeting was formally closed at 3.05pm

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting