



**Perry Vale Assembly
Wednesday 13 March 2013
7pm – 9pm
Forest Hill School
Dacres Road SE23 2XN
Minutes of the Meeting**

1. Welcome to Forest Hill School

Steve Brady Headteacher of Forest Hill School welcomed everyone to the assembly meeting and told the meeting that he was delighted to have this opportunity to showcase the school. He stated that there have been significant changes over the last 10 years and the school is going from strength to strength with it always being over-subscribed. The school's catchment area is no greater than 3kms which means that it really is a community school. The results are significantly above the national average and 8-10% above the national average. Steve stated that he felt that young people get a bad press and that most of them strive to do well. The current Young Mayor Jamel Higgins is the third Young Mayor to come from the school.

Steve Brady then introduced Ryan Holder a pianist / singer and a pupil from Forest Hill School and the school band called 'Say Yes,' both of who played a song.

The assembly warmly applauded both pieces of music.

2. Introduction and welcome – Cllr Susan Wise, Chair of the Assembly

Cllr Susan Wise welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked Steve Brady and the musicians for their performance.

Cllr Wise stated that Forest Hill School is a wonderful example of how a performing arts school should be.

3. Perry Vale Safer Neighbourhood Team update

Sergeant Phil Moore told the assembly about the changes to neighbourhood policing. There will now be a two tier structure comprising response officers who will answer the emergency calls and a local policing team (LPT). The LPT will work more late hours and also cover more weekends. The LPT will be divided into 3 clusters and Perry Vale falls within the southern cluster along with Sydenham, Bellingham, Whitefoot and Downham. The cluster will have 5 teams, each comprising 1 Sergeant, 8 – 10 PCs and 2 – 3 PCSOs and there will be cover between 7am and midnight daily except for Friday and Saturday where cover extends to 2am. There will still be a PC and a PCSO dedicated to each ward.

Q What about cover at schools?

A Yes School Officers will come under the Youth and School Engagement Team.

Q Where will you be based?

A Still at Sydenham, but if it closes and there's no news yet, we will re-locate to Catford Hill.

Q Will you be in charge?

A I will be in charge of one of the teams with an Inspector overseeing the cluster.

Sergeant Moore then told the assembly that the priorities remain Robbery, Motor Vehicle crime and Burglary, but Perry Vale is looking pretty good in comparison to other wards. Burglary is 6% lower than the same time last year; Robbery is 30% and Motor Vehicle crime 27%.

Burglary is still the biggest concern and at present older houses converted into flats with communal entrances are the biggest target as often the inside doors are less well protected. People need to ensure that inside they have a 5 lever mortis lock on the door.

4. Operation Trident

Detective Sergeant Dave Winton and Sarah Clarke from the Trident Central Gangs Unit told the meeting that Trident was initially set-up to combat serious gang related violence, however after the riots last year there was genuine concern about youth crime. This resulted in the Mayor creating the 'Ending Gangs and Youth Violence' policy. Operation Connect and Operation Trident both now come under their management.

There are 20 boroughs within the Metropolitan Police District that have been identified as having issues with gangs and Lewisham has been identified as a youth violence area. Trident will be here for 3 months and there will be enforcement, but in addition some partnership working with organisations such as businesses and faith groups. Trident will send a letter to known gang members asking them to leave the gang and offering them tools to get out. If they do not want to change then other options will be looked at such as enforcement, we also offer a mediation service to gangs.

Operation Trident is a reactive service and relies on the community to tell us what is going on, this does not mean 'grassing people up,' but we do not want young people criminalised so we need to intervene early and divert them away from gangs.

Q I know you do a good job, but we need to provide more activities for the young people as they are bored, maybe you could secure funding for activities.

A Cllr Wise – We do have the Young Mayor here and there is some information on the table about the new TNG Youth Centre that will open soon. This is a fantastic facility and one of the best in the country.

Q Are there any specific gang activities in Perry Vale?

A It is probably more central than here, but these are very early stages of our work in Lewisham.

5. Community Updates

It Kickz – Sasha Leacock from Forest Hill School told the meeting about the It Kickz Music Project. It will run from the 8th April until the 14th April and is available for young people aged 9-12 years. Professional musicians will be on hand to share their expertise. For an application form contact It Kickz on 020 8613 8484

Sydenham Community Library and Home Park - Ilse Towler from Friends of Sydenham Library told the meeting that from the 25 March the Library will be closed for 3 weeks as it is being redecorated. It will re-open on 15 April and it will have a new Cafe and a Computer shop. There will be a mini Library in the community hub Jill at 27 Sydenham Road.

Ilse also told the assembly that they had been successful in their Pocket Park bid for Home Park and will be allocated £37,500. The area outside the Library really needs improving and the plans will see it paved and better lit, this will enable activities to take place outside the Library such as readings, we will consult with the public over our plans. Credit must go to Ed Holloway, Anthony Scully, Martin Hyde and Tony Rich. The Library is now benefiting from new banners which make it clearly visible from the street, but they are always searching for volunteers to help.

Q Can we use existing tickets?

A Yes you can

Dacres Wood Nature Reserve – Cllr Wise told the assembly that on Saturday 16 March from 11am it will be holding its AGM. It is a really great place to visit and for more information go to dacreswood.org.uk

6. Love Perry Vale

Cllr John Paschoud told the meeting that Love Perry Vale is almost an online equivalent of the assembly, it is open to anyone who lives, works, or learns in Perry Vale and it will be re-launched at the next assembly.

7. The Young Mayor of Lewisham

Cllr Wise told the assembly that Lewisham has had a Young Mayor for 9 years, there are elections every year and there is a higher turnout at these elections than the adult elections. The Young Mayor has a budget of £30k to spend on youth related activities and provision.

Jamel Higgins the Young Mayor of Lewisham then addressed the assembly along with Chris Membu from the Young Mayor's Advisors Team. He stated that he believes that young people are the foundation of the community and that he was born in Lewisham in 1996. As part of his role he has met David Cameron and lots of other politicians.

Jamel said that Lewisham has many opportunities, but they are not necessarily being promoted correctly, he and his team are looking at this and using social media to help. In particular Jamel is looking at three areas, the media to help promote activities, career advice and relationships with the police. To improve this they are working with ex-offenders and posting you tube videos to deter potential criminal activities.

Chris Membu stated that the young advisors visit schools to gather ideas and discuss issues and that Lewisham has 2 young people in the Youth Parliament. The project has been so successfully that it has taken off globally.

Q Do you have a phone app to help promote activities?

A We want to do this but it is expensive.

Cllr Wise – We have done this already in Lewisham so there is the expertise to help you.

Q Do you have a Cabinet?

A Yes there are 21 members and the 4 people who received the highest vote in the election have the main positions, the rest are young advisors.

Q Are you engaged with the mainstream and older people

A Yes we work closely with Cllr Fitzsimmons and Cllr Onuegbu who provide good links through their remits.

Q Are youth clubs providing the services that people require?

A I have been to youth clubs and there is an issue regarding communication, but we also need to get the clubs providing the activities that people want to see.

Cllr Wise – This is an assembly priority so we will re-visit this area.

8. The Young People's Survey – Melissa Knight

Melissa Knight from the Sydenham and Forest Hill Youth Forum presented the assembly with the results of a survey taken from 680 young people within their area. For a copy of the report contact Paul Gale on paul.gale@lewisham.gov.uk or phone 020 8314 3387

The report had several interesting conclusions and as a summary it identified:

- a lack of knowledge regarding provision in the area
- a strong interest in art and design and music and drama
- a fear of crime and gangs
- a love of our parks and green spaces
- concerns about dog mess and litter

The report will be analysed in detail and the assembly will look at actions that can be addressed from the report.

Cllr Wise then thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and stated that this would be her last assembly as Chair as the three Councillors rotate each year. The next meeting will take place on Thursday 11 July 2013 with the venue to be confirmed. Further details and information will be circulated to all residents nearer the time.

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.