



Bellingham Local Assembly

Wednesday 19 June 2013 7pm – 9pm

**St Dunstan's Community Hall,
32 Bellingham Green SE6 3JB**

Summary of Meeting

1.0 Introduction

Cllr Jacq Paschoud welcomed everyone to the assembly and introduced Cllr Alan Hall and Cllr Ami Ibitson. She then told the assembly that PC Shakides from the Safer Neighbourhood Team has had an arrest and will not be able to make the meeting.

2.0 Well London and NHS Health Checkers

Well London - Cllr Alan Hall explained that this is a special community health and wellbeing project and Well London is working with the local community to transform it's health. It is coordinated by the Bellingham Community Project and has many partners including local GPs and Lewisham Public Health, who are funding 50% of the project. It was initially funded for 3 years in 2007 with £100k per year to improve health in South Bellingham. Last year Bellingham was again chosen with £100k over three years for improving health on the Bellingham Estate

Gary Buswell from the Bellingham Community Project stated that £50,000 of the money from Year One had been allocated to deliver small projects in Bellingham. There was a participatory budgeting event at the Gateway Centre in February with groups invited to run projects from March 2013 to 2014, this centred on 5 themes with 13 groups funded in year 1. The themes were physical activity, healthy eating, mental wellbeing, use of open spaces and promoting arts & cultural activities.

The projects funded were: African Family Project - physical activity & healthy eating sessions; Bel Eve UK - girls mentoring project; Bellingham Community Nursery fruit n veg growing project; Gateway Youth Centre 2 projects (Bike Club and Brighter Futures Young Volunteer Health Champions); Catford Wanderers Cardio-tennis sessions; Farmstead Road Community Garden - A Day in the Sensory Garden; Greenwich & Lewisham Young Peoples Theatre Easter & Summer Arts Programmes; Iyare Igiehon (local resident) film-making workshops for young people; Palmers Boxing Academy fitness workouts for young people; This Way Up - For Me Club wellbeing workshops; Trinity Laban - Bellingham Beats dance classes for kids; Wuntanara Association African drumming & dance classes.

It is highly likely that there will be another round of funding for local groups in year 2 of the project.

Phase 2 of Well London launched in March with a big event spread across 5 local venues. Many of the groups involved in the project will showcase their work at this year's Bellingham Festival and there is another community event planned for September on Bellingham Green - a Bring & Fix, community feast and outdoor film screening. An additional event will take place at the Dumps Adventure Playground in October.

There is money available to local residents for training via the Personal Support Package (PSP). Any person can apply for up to £250 of training of their choosing as long as they live on the Bellingham estate and they plan to use their training to benefit the local community. Groups can also apply for training.

There are also volunteer opportunities available through the Well London Delivery Team and the Bellingham Time Bank. A local community website, www.bellinghamonline.ning.com, is now up and running. For more information contact Gary Buswell at the Bellingham Community Project on 020 8461 2213

Cllr Hall told the assembly that the Council is now responsible for Health and he wanted to place on record the a thank you from the Bellingham Assembly to the Director of Public Health for match funding this project.

Lewisham Local Time Banks – Simone Boothe from Rushey Green Time Bank told the assembly that Time Banks bring the local community together to help each other, essentially it is about give and take with all members time being valued equally. Everyone has something to give such as computer skills, gardening, sewing or providing transport, people benefit by having access to people with skills that you do not have. Time Banking is new to Bellingham and there is a drop-in every Thursday from 12 – 1pm here at St Dunstan's

NHS Health Checkers – Tracy Ukah from the Health Improvement Service told the assembly that there are lots of health promotion events within the borough. Many people are at risk of heart disease, but this can be prevented if detected in time. There is a support programme and activities such as healthy walks. Anyone between 40 and 74 years is entitled to a free NHS Health Check, as well as the health events they are available from GP Surgeries and participating pharmacists and the Health Check takes about 30 minutes.

3.0 The Bellingham and Home Park Festivals

Bellingham Festival - Gary Buswell told the assembly about the free community festival in Bell Green on the 29 June from 12 – 4.30pm. It will be opened by the Mayor of Lewisham Sir Steve Bullock and will feature lots of local performances and sport including the Millwall Community Scheme.

Phoenix will be doing some Arts and Crafts and there will be lots of other stalls including charity stalls and a variety of activities to cater for different tastes.

Home Park, Arts in the Park – Anthony Scully told the meeting that this is a family fun day with a big focus on the performing Arts. This will take place on the 30th June and will be from 1pm – 6pm. Anthony thanked the Bellingham Assembly for supporting this as well as Kier Construction.

4.0 Agreeing the Bellingham Assembly Action Plan

Cllr Paschoud reminded the assembly that at the last meeting there had been some work on the action plan and the priorities had narrowed down to three. These are:

- Children and young people
- Older people's issues
- Community events and festivals

However, there has also been some consultation outside of the meeting within the community. This has now been collated and the actions looked at, however, they all still fit into the above priorities. Cllr Paschoud asked the assembly if it wished to add a fourth priority.

The assembly agreed unanimously that the fourth priority should be: 'The promotion and development of the Bellingham Community.'

5.0 The Bellingham Assembly Fund

Cllr Paschoud told the assembly that there is £12,500 available from this year's Assembly Fund, in addition, the Councillors have decided to add their £2,500 Councillors Discretionary Fund to this figure making £15,000 available to local organisations. This however, is still not a great deal of money and we will need to be careful how we allocate to it to ensure best value for money. The maximum amount that a group can apply for will be £2,000 and any application must meet the priorities of the Bellingham Action Plan.

The closing date for applications is Tuesday 1st October and copies of the application form are available from Paul Gale on 8314 3387 or email paul.gale@lewisham.gov.uk

The Council will be able to support and advise any group / individual who wishes to apply.

Q Does this mean that we now have to apply for funding towards next year's festivals?

A Yes it does

6.0 Community updates

Bell Green Play Club – Cllr Paschoud stated that this is very popular within the community, but the Council can no longer afford to run it. Community partners could run it ie similar to the Community Library. This is being looked at and there has been some interest, but we are seeking more. Our view is that we do not want it to close, but a millions of pounds are being cut from the budget and we cannot afford to keep it.

Q What will be involved if it were to be taken over ie will it need salaried staff?

A It would mean running the building and the site, but how the service is run would be up to the Group.

Q Do you have any Groups in mind who could run it?

A Bellingham Community Nursery is interested, but at this stage we have no further details.

Home Park Community Consultation – Anthony Scully told the meeting that this is a Primary School places issue. They need to extend the size of Adamsrill School and to do this they need to close part of it. The proposal is to put part of the school in Home Park. There was an informal consultation at Sydenham Community Library, but we feel that there could be other alternatives.

Cllr Paschoud explained that the School is on the boundary of 3 wards, Perry Vale, Sydenham and Bellingham. The issue is quite complicated as the Councillors have no wish to get in the way of expanding school places, but they are concerned about using a park space and want Council officers to look very closely at this. People must air their views and get involved in the consultation.

Lewisham Hospital update – Cllr Hall told the assembly that the motion regarding Lewisham Hospital was reported to the Mayor and accepted. The view remains that the administrator has exceeded his authority and Lewisham Council is taking legal action with the case due to be heard in July. On the 29th June at the Broadway Theatre Michael Mansfield QC will chair a Lewisham People's Commission of Inquiry to look at the evidence.

London Fire Brigade – Monday 24th June is the closing date for the London Fire Brigade consultation. Downham Fire Station is scheduled to close and our view is that the case for closure is flawed and dangerous.

Bus Service questionnaire – Cllr Ibitson told the assembly that she works with Val Shawcross at the London Assembly. They are currently encouraging people who use buses to complete a survey as there has been an increase in the usage of buses, but not the spending. The survey will be presented to the Transport Committee.

Bellingham Healthy Walks – Meet every Thursday at 1.15pm outside Christchurch for a 45 minute walk.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.30pm. The next Bellingham Assembly will be Monday 11th November, the venue is yet to be decided.

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.