



Your local assembly, your say!

**Blackheath Assembly
3 July 2013
St Matthew Academy
7.30pm - 9.30pm**



Meeting Notes

1	<p>Welcome and Introduction to the meeting</p> <p>Councillor Chris Maines welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the agenda.</p>
2	<p>Policing Update</p> <p>PC Gary Washington spoke to the Assembly. He explained that the local policing structure is changing. There will be an increase in numbers of officers with 5 more PC's from mid September. The Blackheath officers will work together with officers from Lewisham Central, Grove Park, Lee Green, Rushey Green and Catford South to respond to call outs from that cluster of wards rather than just Blackheath.</p> <p>Crime Figures PC Washington advised that there has been a decrease in burglary, an increase in motor vehicle theft and decrease in robbery.</p> <p>Safer Neighbourhood Panel Meeting There is a ward panel meeting open to everyone on 1 October at 7pm at Lewisham Police Station. Please call or text 07768 178292 or email Gary.Washington@met.pnn.police.uk if you would like to come along.</p> <p>It was discussed that Lewisham had been placed as the 'least peaceful place in Britain' in respect to violent crime. It was also advised that Blackheath is one of the safest wards in Lewisham.</p> <p>It was advised that the emergency response teams would cover the ward at 1am - 2am not the Safer Neighbourhood Team.</p> <p>It was advised that the person siphoning petrol from cars is known to the Safer Neighbourhood Team and is being dealt with.</p> <p>It was explained that the dispersal order for groups of people in Lewisham Central during the summer holidays does not allow them back into town as a group within a set amount of time.</p>

2	<p>Blackheath Assembly Fund 2013/2014</p> <p>Nancy Stridgen the assembly coordinator explained that;</p>
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	<p>Blackheath Assembly has been awarded £15,000 of Assembly funding for 2013/2014. £12,500 is the main assembly fund and £2,500 for councillors to allocate.</p> <p>The purpose of the Assembly Fund is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • help deliver the actions residents asked for on the 'Blackheath action plan' • help assemblies bring about change • provide 'start up' funding to help get other types of funding e.g. Lottery Funding <p>The Blackheath Assembly Action Plan is being renewed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asking people at the meeting what are the priorities in your area • visiting groups outside of the meeting also • Assembly fund projects will reflect what people have asked for <p>This Year 2013/2014 Changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no applications from local groups • All project ideas from the 'Action Plan' • Co-ordinating Group develop ideas with council officers • Assembly to vote on project ideas at 22 October meeting <p>Note this has now been extended so the assembly will vote on project ideas at the 14 of January meeting.</p>
3	Table Discussions
	<p>There were table discussions on the questions below with the following responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think are the real issues in your area? • What would you like to see changed, improved or added? • Have you got ideas on what we could spend the Assembly Fund on in Blackheath Ward? <p>NOTE: Highlighted answers are ideas for funding</p> <p>Traffic and Roads</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for speed restrictions (20mph sign & humps) through Baizdon road by John Ball school, used as a quick cut through, dangerous for children X4 • Zebra crossing on Royal Parade - Urgent • Traffic Lights rather than zebra crossing by Lewisham Station • One Way streets not clearly signed • 386 bus route kept its fully servicing the community <p>Road Repairs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pot holes need repairing X2

- Road repairs for Eliot Park, outside Hare and Billet St Austell Road **X2**
- Widen cycle paths
- Improve the road surfaces for cyclists **X2**
- Repair all sections of the pavement on Belmont Hill. The pavement has been shocking for years (I have fallen several times) I was told they would be fixed in 2007

Young people and children

- Facilities, activities and connection with young people **x6 tables**
- Wash House youth club
- Play area for young children and mothers (adventure) **X 6 tables**
- Playspace for toddlers in or v near central Blackheath Village but not anywhere on the Heath
- Shuttle bus from village to Greenwich to help mums without cars access the playground

Shops and businesses

- Too many chain stores not enough independent shops. Encourage independent shops via business rates. More diverse shops see Ladywell High Street Action Group. BVTA re established
- Higher rates on empty shops as it drives rents down.

Environment

- Community Gardens
- More meadow planting required on bonds on the heath (Goffers Road)
- Wild flowers greening the area
- More planting on the Withfields mount
- Improvement to environment / more green spaces
- More Environmental Awareness interpretation board like Brookmill Park
- Better Management of Acid Grassland in Eliot Pits, Vanbrugh Pits and Hyde Vale especially control of invasive non native trees such as Holm Oak and Turkey Oak. Stop Planting non native invasive trees and plants e.g. Holm Oak and non Native Broom species at Mounts Pond.
- Information boards on the ecology of Eliot Pits.
- Some trees around the orchard are in a bad state

Library

- More books in new library, get rid of 50p charge for ordering books from Lewisham Libraries
- Disabled access for computers
- Library issue computer not working
- Help Library

Parking

- BAJ permit holders parking in residents bays for commuter parking
- Large commercial vehicles parking in Blackheath blocking the road
- More parking wardens
- Very expensive car parking and too inflexible

- Reversing CPZ – zone too wide

Streets / Waste & Recycling

- Better storage of shop waste plastic bags split open by foxes **X5 tables**
- Better Rubbish collection on the heath especially weekends.
- Better Road sweeping
- Repair benches and install new ones near Holly Hedge House (Disabilities Equalities Duty for People with mobility impairment)
- More wooden benches for older people along main routes pedestrian paths across the heath **x2**
- Gritting of pavements
- Pavements/footpaths improved/weeds removed from Eliot's Hill
- Bigger bins on the heath keep it clean and I will follow
- Lighting improved in Granville Park area
- Lewisham bins for garden waste
- Improve the signage (less and more tasteful)
- More Gravel is needed on pathways on both sides of Greyladies gardens people have to walk in the road on Lewisham Hill and Wat Tyler Road

Glendales

- Glendale to get qualified tree surgeons to trim trees (trees getting damaged) **X2 tables**
- Trees to be trimmed outside Johnstone House – now protruding on pavement

The Heath

- Improve the understanding of the ecology of the heath, including undertaking a full ecology survey of the entire heath.
- The need to protect the heath from building, permanent encroachment and commercialisation
- The lack of transparency regarding the Glendale contract for managing the heath including whether they will profit from events held on the heath
- Heath maintenance
- Policing of people using the heath (on hot days)
- No pop concerts or liquor licences on Blackheath
- Transparency as to meetings regarding the management of the heath including the BJWP meetings.
- No adult exercise machines on the heath
- **Adult Exercise outdoor around the heath**

Talbot Place changing rooms

- **Regenerate Talbot Place changing rooms X5 tables**
- Don't allow Glendales to take control of Talbot Place

Community

- **Village Day**
- **Retain Farmers market**
- **A comprehensive design strategy for Blackheath for benches, signage, lighting, works of art, sculpture, paving and bins which is publicised**

	<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Now St Matthews is established reduce the number of banners?
4	Feedback from March's Showcase Event
	<p>Councillor Chris Maines spoke to the assembly. There was a showcase of community groups and activities on the 23 March 2013 held at Age Exchange. This was successful in letting people know the diversity of Blackheath based organisations. The contact details of the groups were on the leaflet that residents received inviting them to this assembly meeting.</p> <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contacts to be put on a website • It was very good, I didn't know what was happening in Blackheath • Space was not good enough • Work with Greenwich on the showcase next time? • Showcase to be a Blackheath day on the Heath • Give more notice next time
5	Blackheath Christmas Lights
	<p>Howard Shields from the Blackheath Society and Councillor Amanda de Ryk spoke to the Assembly.</p> <p>It was advised that money needs to be raised to update and improve the Village Christmas lights as they were disappointing last year. The councillors have given some of their discretionary funding for new bulbs. It is felt that lights give a real boost to the village for residents and traders.</p> <p>The lights will be turned on the 7 December 2013 and the possibility of a Christmas market is also being explored.</p>
6	Update on Childrens playspace and discussions
	<p>Councillor Amanda de Ryk spoke to the Assembly.</p> <p>Ecological Survey Eliot Pits</p> <p>It was explained that the ecological survey that was conducted at Eliot Pits stated that any play equipment on the site would be likely to cause an adverse impact on the site. As it is an important wetland this has been taken very seriously.</p> <p>Process</p> <p>It was stated that the processes around building a proposed playspace in the Blackheath ward should have been more widely spoken about to residents and the group apologies to everyone that has felt anxious and ill informed about what was happening.</p>

Blackheath Playspace Sub Group

Because of this the group would like to set up a working group 'Blackheath playspace subgroup' open to everyone that would like to be involved in making decisions about the idea of a playspace in the ward. This will be a transparent and open process with all views being considered. Martin Hyde from Lewisham Parks Service would be part of this group.

The first meeting would be 6.30pm on the 16 July by the Talbot Place changing rooms. This would be an initial non decision making meeting.

Comments and Questions

Q: It was asked what powers Blackheath Assembly hold in regards to building a playspace in the ward.

A: It was confirmed that the role of the assembly would be to decide how to spend funding. Local Assembly processes do not play any part in the overall planning processes and any proposal that the assembly wishes to take forward will be subject to the normal legal framework, including opportunities for residents to object.

Q: It was asked if there was a mandate to build on the heath.

A: It was advised that all laws around placing play equipment on metropolitan land would be looked into and that there would need to be public will for it to go ahead.

Q: It was asked what money has been spent already.

A: It was advised that only the money for the ecological survey had been spent out of the £15,000 Assembly fund. There have been no professional fees or other costs.

Comments

- The £15,000 of 2012/13 assembly Fund is being held by the council until decision and permissions were agreed properly with consultation.
- It was asked that the TA centre area of land is looked into as a potential site.
- It was asked that if anyone knows of any potential sites to please make the group aware of them.
- It was asked that the Church grounds are looked at as a potential site.
- It was advised that there is not a council committee that would have a remit over this project.
- It was commented that there is a need for a playspace but not on the central heath
- Blackheath belongs on Greenwich also, should invite the Greenwich Cllrs
- It was advised that the playspace would have to be in Blackheath ward.
- It was commented that many children without gardens in flats are making do with rope swings that they have constructed themselves. The heath should be for everyone and I am shocked that you don't want to do something positive for children now and in the future.
- I Regret that Eilot Pits is not being used, we overlook the site and would welcome a play area. Hampstead Heath is metropolitan land and has a number of play areas. There would be no concrete in the playspace as it

	<p>would be mainly attractive wooden structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion that there is a plan of what it would look like so people can decide if it would suit the sites that are being proposed.
7.	Community Updates
	<p>Lewisham Peoples Day Will be in Mountsfield Park on Saturday 13 July.</p>

There were no declarations of interest at this meeting.