



## **Bellingham Local Assembly**

**Thursday 27 March 2014 7pm – 9pm**

**Watergate School,  
Lushington Road, SE6 3WD**

### **Summary of Meeting**

#### **1.0 Introduction**

Cllr Ami Ibitson Chair of the Bellingham Assembly welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced the two other Bellingham Ward Councillors, Cllr Alan Hall and Cllr Jacq Paschoud. Cllr Ibitson then told the assembly how delighted she is to be having the meeting at Watergate School and introduced the Head Teacher Aine Ni Ruairc, she then thanked Aine for agreeing to host the assembly

#### **2.0 Welcome from Watergate School**

Head Teacher Aine Ni Ruairc welcomed everyone to the school and told the assembly that Watergate is Lewisham's special school for young people with learning disabilities aged 3-11 and many of these young people have complex medical needs. The school is part of a Cooperative Trust with Brent Knoll School becoming one of the first Co-operative School Trusts in London. With partner organisations the school will be working together for the benefit of Lewisham children with special educational needs and disabilities, young people and their families and the local community. Co-operative Trusts provide a different approach to learning, school governance and community engagement and to be successful the school needs the support of the whole community. They are setting up special groups for pupils, parents and staff and are inviting as many people as possible to join the Co-operative Trust. Membership forums can make a significant contribution to the work of schools and they are looking for people to help them achieve that.

Cllr Paschoud - We have a target of 200 members which we would really like to achieve this term, we are almost there so please take this opportunity to find out more about the Trust and get involved more closely with the running of the school.

#### **3.0 Bellingham SNT update**

PC MarKos Shakides told the meeting that they are now looking at a new Radiolink system for the retail park at Bell Green. This will enable retailers to share information and represents a proactive approach to combating retail crime. The police are continuing to work closely with partners to help make the area a better / safer place to live, work and learn and please do

not hesitate to contact us if you need any assistance, or crime prevention advice.

PC Shakides then introduced Steve from Phoenix Security Group. He then told the meeting that Phoenix are the only housing association that are proactively trying to increase the security of residents by providing these patrols and that this is a pilot purely for the community, we are working closely with the police and partner organisations to ensure that it is a success.

#### **4.0 Bellingham Health update**

**Bellingham Well London Project** – Gary Buswell and Cllr Alan Hall – told the assembly that Phase 2 of Well London in Bellingham is running from 2012-2015, finishing next March. It's funded by the Big Lottery and Lewisham Public Health and focuses around the key themes of physical activity, healthy eating, mental wellbeing, use of open spaces and using arts & culture to address health issues. It also involves additional themes such as bringing the community together

A total of £50k was given to a variety of local groups to run 13 different projects from Apr 2013 - Mar 2014. Projects were voted on in a community voting event. There has just been an additional round of funding, decided by a panel which included local residents. 7 new projects received funding and 5 of the projects from year 1 received additional funding to continue. Projects include cookery classes, dance classes, aqua aerobics, creative wellbeing sessions for the elderly and a local food growing project. There will be more money available later this year, decided at another community voting event.

Gary then updated the assembly on the activities taking place, there is also a weekly community walk which starts at St Dunstan's Bellingham Green every Wednesday 10am, run by 3 volunteers who have done NHS walk leader training.

Through Well London, a Time Bank has been set up in partnership with Rushey Green Time Bank. Time Banking is similar to volunteering but for every hour of time you give, you receive an hour of help back. Residents sign up and list what skills / tasks they can offer in the community - this could be something very specialist such as IT support or something more general such as getting someone's shopping - and they then participate in 'skills exchanges' with other local residents. Residents can also 'cash in' hours of time they give for 'time credits' which is an alternative currency which can be used in leisure centres, cinemas, museums, etc. The Bellingham Time Bank has a weekly hub at Christ Church, Bellingham Green, every Thursday 11am-1pm. This session includes an arts & crafts group.

The Bellingham Time Bank is running a series of community events called Time To Live Well. There was a community disco before Xmas, there is an event called Bellingham Bring & Learn (a bring & fix, job fair and community lunch) at the Green Man on Sat 12th April, a healthy BBQ & outdoor film screening event in August and a Healthy Living event including local performers in September.

There are a team of local volunteers, called the Well London Delivery Team, that help with the running of Well London. They promote health & wellbeing in the local community, work with the Well London projects, run the healthy walk, help run the time bank, plan community events and more. There are currently 12 volunteers.

There are training opportunities for local residents and groups. Individuals can apply for up to £250 to put towards training of their choosing through the Personal Support Package. They need to be a Bellingham resident and demonstrate that they will use the training to benefit the local community. Groups can also apply for training. So far there has been group training in First Aid, Food Hygiene and Event Management, 4 local people are currently being trained to run community wellbeing workshops called DIY Happiness and there will be a chance for 3 local residents to do a Community Activator course which will train them to run sessions in physical activity.

There are 2 Well London youth apprentices in Bellingham who are engaging with young people around health issues. They are based at Dumps Adventure Playground and Bel Eve UK.

Gary then handed out a resident questionnaire asking people about health and wellbeing in the local community.

**Lewisham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) consultation** – Lorna Hughes, Head of Engagement told the assembly that her job is to ensure that people have their say regarding healthcare. The CCG was formerly the Primary Care Trust, now it has local GP's in charge with all GP's being members of the CCG and all GP's making decisions. To summarise the CCG, it plans, buys and monitors what you receive in order to improve the health outcomes of local residents. Residents are involved with decision making and the CCG is carrying out a consultation that they would very much like people to complete.

The services that the Lewisham Care Commissioning Group buys are just for Lewisham, but they do occasionally work with other CCG's if it benefits the community.

Q Congratulations on saving Lewisham Hospital

A As a CCG we cannot comment on this, but many agree with you

Q I have sent a letter to the patient welfare team, but so far no reply, can you help?

A Yes I have a contact there

Q What are you doing about the difficulties in getting a Doctor's appointment

A We hear this a great deal, from December to March we boosted the availability of appointments and we are making improvements to the telephone systems at some surgeries, this is why it is important that we have your comments

Q Who gave the surgery receptionists the right to ask why you need to see the doctor?

A Your GP's are commissioned by NHS England, you will need to speak with them about this as we do not commission GP's

## **5.0 Introduction of interval activities**

Home Park's 'Literary Piazza' consultation – Anthony Scully told the assembly that the Friends of Home Park and the Friends of Sydenham Library have secured funding to improve the entrance to Home Park and the Library, this funding will be matched by Lewisham Council and at the break people can come over and have a look at the plans.

Bellingham Community Gospel Choir - Fiona Thomas stated that they will be performing some songs during the break and that they are always looking for new members, particularly men. They meet at Christ Church at 7pm every Tuesday evening and they have some funding from the Lewisham Small and Faith Fund.

Watergate School – Cllr Paschoud reminded the meeting that people can join the Cooperative Trust at the break and it only costs £1. The Trust needs 200 members for it to be able to become a members forum.

## **6.0 Feedback from funded groups**

Palmer's Boxing Academy – Terry Palmer from Palmer's Boxing Academy thanked the assembly for all its support over the years and said that if it was not for the assembly then the club would not be here. The Academy is not just about Boxing, it is about Keep Fit and taking young people off the streets. The Academy is for both boys and girls and runs weekdays from 3.30pm – 5.30pm.

Young at Heart Club – Rosemary Davies thanked the assembly for the £500 that it provided towards a day train trip with lunch. Overall the trip cost £825 with members paying the additional costs. All of the people that went were aged 60 – 90 years and everyone had a lovely time

Little Rascals – Gary Buswell stated that this project continues to be successful and that it involves free play sessions for young people aged under five with special educational needs (SEN). The sessions enable children with SEN and their parents/carers to enjoy a dedicated monthly 2.5 hour session with 2 qualified play-workers who work with the children, demonstrating different play techniques and activities that help with motor skills and confidence building. Fruit and drink are provided and there was also a very successful Christmas party.

Bellingham Golden Oldies – Gary Buswell told the meeting that the money provided enabled a Christmas Party to take place for 65 residents all aged over 50, there was a really good Elvis impersonator and a free meal was provided.

## **7.0 Bellingham Lifestyle and Leisure Centre**

Matthew Houghton from Fusion Lifestyle was at the assembly to speak about the Bellingham Leisure and Lifestyle Centre. Fusion is a Charity that was founded in 2000 and now is responsible for 70 Leisure Centres. There is a free swim scheme which entitles people aged over 60, under 16 free use of the pool at anytime. There are also discounted rates for those on benefits through the 'Be Active' scheme. The Bellingham Centre has a multi-use gym and a 3G pitch and it is on the Time credits Network.

The fee to join the centre is £36.25 per month and there is no contract, no joining fee and you will have access to all the centres except Downham. Bellingham has the largest soft play facility in the borough.

- 8.0** Cllr Ami Ibitson then thanked all the attendees for coming to the assembly and thanked Watergate School for agreeing to host the meeting.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.50pm, with no declarations of interest made.