



WHITEFOOT ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY, 15 JULY 2014 at 7.00 pm
The Green Man - 355 Bromley Road SE6 2RP

Minutes of the Meeting

- 1. Welcome from the Chair** - Cllr Janet Daby opened the meeting and extended a warm welcome to all. Cllr. Jonathan Salter was introduced as the new Labour Councillor to the Whitefoot Ward following the May 2014 local and European election results. Cllr. Slater will serve alongside Cllrs. Janet Daby and Mark Ingleby.

Cllr. Daby also introduced the new Whitefoot Assembly Coordinator, Ali Williams and all current members of the Whitefoot Coordinating Group.

Cllr. Daby explained the purpose and remit of the group and suggested all those interested in becoming a future member to contact either herself or Ali Williams for further information.

Email: Cllr_janet.daby@lewisham.gov.uk or phone: 020 8314 6915

Email: Ali.williams2@lewisham.gov.uk or phone: 020 8314 6293

- 2. The Commissioned approach for allocation of Assembly Funds**

Ali Williams gave a brief outline of the new commissioning approach to allocating assembly funds.

During 2013 –14, a more commissioned approach to spending the Assembly Fund was encouraged. This decision was made following observations and analysis on how the fund has performed in achieving its principle aims in previous years; and to take into account the changing financial climate. As public sector budgets are squeezed and service areas are less able to respond to requests from local areas, the Assembly Fund will become an increasingly important tool in helping assemblies to meet local priorities. Assemblies are encouraged to deliver a smaller number of high value projects that will have a greater impact on the ward.

- 3. Ward Priorities / Needs Analysis** – Cllr. Daby introduced the first of two, ‘table-top’ exercises. The purpose of the first exercise was to review the existing priorities for the ward and to determine whether they remained the same or whether new priorities had emerged. This exercise is key in relation to assessing unmet need and to allocating assembly funds.

The results of this exercise are as follows;

The current Whitefoot ward priorities are;

- Crime and Antisocial Behaviour
- Lack of Community Facilities
- Activities for Children and Young People
- Roads and Traffic
- Lack of Community Spirit

The priorities identified at the Assembly are;

- Lack of facilities in Forster Park inc. children’s play equipment
- Antisocial Behaviour
- Fly-tipping
- Pedestrian safety and lack of crossings
- Not enough community events

With the exception of lack of facilities in Forster Park, which scored the highest, the other four areas identified received the same weight.

No projects to help the Assembly meet the listed priorities were identified and no groups recommended.

- 4. What to spend £75,000 Section 106 money on** - Cllr Janet Daby introduced the second ‘table-top’ exercise in relation to Section 106 money. The Whitefoot Assembly has £75,000 of Section 106 money to spend on “Community Facilities”. The exercise was designed to garner ideas regarding what to spend the money on.

What is Section 106 money? - Building developments often put extra demand and pressure on the environment and infrastructure of the local area. Granting planning permission for new developments often increases the value of land but the local community does not necessarily see much benefit from the disruption or loss of amenity that may result from the development.

The planning system is designed to balance development with the economic, environmental and social effects on the wider community. One way of doing this is making sure developers contribute s106 money which can go towards infrastructure needed to support the new development and / or to communities most impacted by the development.

The legal definition for each S106 pot defines where the funds should be spent. Sometimes this is borough wide; sometimes it is within the 'vicinity', or a defined geographical area (e.g. postcode). Even where the definition states 'borough-wide' it is good practice, where possible, to spend the funds within the vicinity of the original development.

The s106 money currently available to spend in the Whitefoot ward is as a result of the demolition of the Tiger's Head Public House at 350 Bromley Road and the old Courts site at 335-337 Bromley Road respectively. The loss of amenity from the two sites and the inevitable disruption that resulted from the development will have had an impact on those that live closest to the area.

What is Community Facilities? - Community facilities are usually facilities used for social, recreational and leisure purposes e.g. community halls and centres, youth clubs, libraries, leisure facilities, community / adult education, adventure play centres, meeting places and community offices, arts and cultural facilities, and community facilities attached to faith buildings.

S106 is generally capital money; i.e. it can be used for physical improvements. For example it can fund the redecoration of a community hall; but it cannot be spent on youth activities in that hall.

The results of this exercise are as follows;

In response to the question what community facility is most likely to be used by the community and what needs improving the following, in order of preference, were suggested;

- Forster Park needs better facilities for those that use the park and to encourage more people to use the park (both children's and adults) e.g. children's play equipment, outdoor gym, skate park, benches, fencing, flood lighting, tennis courts, café, toilets, pavilion, allotments and tool sheds, specific dog play area, nature trail, bottle banks, recycling depot
- Goldsmith's Community Centre - general improvements
- St. John's clock restoration
- Pre-fab Museum - renew the collection, restore the archive, archive other local material and restore the garden to make it a community garden

5. Community Updates

Police update – Whitefoot SNT

Burglary, historically, has been the main crime issue within the Whitefoot Ward. However, in the last quarter (01 Apr 2014 – 30 June 2014) the incidence of burglary in both private dwellings and in other buildings was down as compared with all three previous quarters. Robbery (theft from a person) had increased by two since the previous quarter.

Theft from a motor vehicle had also increased since the last quarter. Ford Transit and Ford Galaxy catalytic convertors are a current target, however, considering the amount of parked cars throughout the ward the Whitefoot SNT consider the figures low and, therefore, not a significant problem.

Violence against the person (ABH and GBH) have also increased with the last quarter showing the highest incidences as compared to the previous three quarters. The figures mostly relate to incidence of domestic violence which is high within the ward. It is not clear whether the increase is due to an increase in violence or an increase in the reporting of violence.

Cleaner Streets Summit – Cllr. Daby informed the Assembly that Heidi Alexander MP would be facilitating a Cleaner Streets Summit on Saturday 26th July 2014 from 11am – 12.30pm. Representatives from both Lewisham Council and Phoenix Community Housing will be present to respond to enquires relating to litter, fly-tipping and any other environmental crime. The event will take place at the Green Man – 355 Bromley Road. Se6 2RP

All welcome.

The Big Community Clean Up – Cllr Daby advised the Assembly that the big, community clean up will take place on Saturday 30th August 2014. The clean up will entail members of the community coming together to clean up a specified area yet to be identified. Cllr. Daby invited those present to put forward ideas regarding which areas were in need of attention.

WDCP – Whitefoot and Downham Community Food Project –

A representative from the Whitefoot & Downham Community Food + Project gave a brief overview of the project stating that it is a voluntary community based project to support individuals or families who are experiencing hardship and issues relating to poverty. There is a growing need for the provision due to the welfare reform act and the increase in food and fuel prices. The project is available to local residents and can provide a level of food provision, housing support, health advice, employment advice, debt advice, family support, early years support and access to a Local Councillor.

The project takes place every Thursday from 7pm - 8.30pm at Whitefoot Lane Christian Centre. There are approximately 50 volunteers who enjoy serving and offering their support to the community.

Free Dog Micro-chipping – Cllr. Daby announced there will be a free micro-chipping and tag engraving for dogs event on the 16th July 2014 at the green space at junction of Oakview Road and Lushington Road, SE6 2WG and again on the 17th July 2014 at The Barn, The Green Man, 355 Bromley Road, SE6 2RP. All dogs must be on leads.

Summer Assembly Event – Cllr. Daby consulted the assembly on ideas for a summer event stating the two previous events were held in partnership with Goldsmith's Community Centre and St. John's Church. Building on the theme of partnerships, Cllr. Daby floated the idea of working in collaboration with the Downham Assembly and other community groups to resurrect the Downham Parade. It was suggested that money that would have gone toward an event this year be rolled over to next year and go toward staging the parade.

A show of hands indicated that the majority of those present agreed with the suggestion. A working party will be set up to coordinate the event and Cllr. Daby asked all those interested to let her know.

Excalibur Pre-fab Museum – Jane Hearn and photographer Elizabeth Blanchet gave a brief overview of the Excalibur Pre-fab Museum based at 17 Meliot Road, Catford, SE6 1RY. Elisabeth, who has been photographing pre-fabs for 13 years, has been documenting London's biggest prefab estate. The museum is an exhibition of Elizabeth's photographs, films of residents' interviews and memorabilia.

Thousands of prefab houses were built across bombed-out London after World War II to help alleviate the housing shortage for returning servicemen and their families. Since then, most of the capital's estates have been knocked down and Excalibur is set to be bulldozed and replaced by modern housing later this year.

Originally built by German and Italian prisoners of war in 1945 and 1946, six of the 186 bungalows have received Grade-II listing. The remainder of the estate will be demolished, except for St Mark Church, believed to be one of a kind.

The Prefab Museum, opened on March 8th 2014. In the first two weeks, the museum attracted more than 700 visitors. Jane and Elizabeth gave thanks to the Tenants Management Organisation of the Excalibur Estate and all the volunteers, who together have managed to ensure the Prefab Museum will stay open until the end of the summer.

The Prefab Museum is open Tuesdays, Thursdays from 10am till 4.30pm and Saturdays from 10am till 6pm.

Green Man Venue – David Cummins, Vice Chair of Phoenix Community Housing asked the Assembly whether they considered the Green Man a good venue to hold an assembly meeting. A show of hands indicated that those present thought it was.

David went on to highlight some of the services and activities available at the Green Man emphasising that it is a community hub for everyone in the area and not only for Phoenix residents. David explained that as well as a housing reception for Phoenix residents the Green Man has a community café which offers a wide variety of sandwiches, snacks and drinks all at competitive prices. The cafe also offers a £3 meal deal and pensioner deals. Free Wi-Fi and board games. Opening times: Mon-Fri: 8am - 4pm.

Every Tuesday from 10.00am – 2.00pm in the main area computers are made available for public use and there is access to Wi-Fi.

The Green Man also has a branch of the Lewisham Plus Credit Union, a training kitchen for local children and residents, a market square and office and other space for public hire..

For more information on what's on at The Green Man visit;
<http://phoenixch.org.uk/green-man/green-man-about>

Meeting End

