

BLACKHEATH ASSEMBLY MINUTES

**Wednesday 8 October 2014
7.30pm – 9.30pm**

**St Matthew Academy, St Joseph's Vale
London SE3 0XX**

1. Introductions from Councillors and Coordinating Group

Cllr Siddorn welcomed the Assembly and introduced himself and fellow councillors. He mentioned the coordinating group and invited anyone interested in becoming a member to make themselves known.

2. Big Budget Challenge

Cllr Bonavia gave an overview of the task at hand, how the council had been having to make cuts since 2010, and that the process was ongoing.

He invited attendees to play an active part in the process, to look at the current proposals on the Council website and to be involved in the public scrutiny of them.

The Big Budget Challenge is very much the start of the process, allowing you to tell us what your priorities are to help inform decisions.

Selwyn Thompson, LBL Head of Financial Services then gave the attached presentation, and invited questions that he, Cllr Bonavia and Aileen Buckton (LBL Executive Director for Community Services) fielded. A detailed list of questions and answers is available on request.

3. Blackheath Assembly Fund

Cllr de Ryk informed the assembly that there would be £15k of Assembly funding for 2014/15. And invited people to confirm the relevancy of items that had been highlighted in last years 'What Blackheath Says' survey, in light of the budget conversations earlier.

The coordinating group will then take this information away to come back with specific proposals in January to be voted upon.

4. Community Updates

Village Day

The group have been having regular meetings regarding the 6 December, and have created a strong programme of events, with a lot of village institutions involved. To find out more please visit

www.blackheathvillageday.co.uk

Christmas Lights

The culmination of the Village Day will be the switching on of the Blackheath Christmas lights.

The cross street lighting has now been taken down. People voted for multicoloured cross street lights which will be hung along Montpellier Vale, Tranquil Vale and up towards Lee Terrace

They are appealing to businesses to fund/sponsor a tree to enable some of the trees to be wrapped

Q – Will there be a Christmas tree

A – No

Q – Tree wrapping, what are the costs?

A – Approx £1000/tree, lights last for about 5 years.

Q – Would we hear if large chains refused to contribute? A sort of name and shame?

A – Might not be the best idea, perhaps a window sticker for those that do?

A ‘We support the lights’, or a business could be named for sponsoring a tree?

Fireworks

Cllr Bonavia gave an overview on the Fireworks, more information available online, please donate either online, via Age Exchange or at the event itself. Fireworks themselves would be starting at 8pm, with activities on the heath from 4pm. Anyone interested in volunteering as a Bucket Collector, please take a leaflet.

OnBlackheath Feedback

Dame Helen Reeves gave an overview of the online survey that the Blackheath society have been conducting, which has been open for a month, and elicited over 700 response so far (closes midnight 8 October). Preliminary analysis shows that most that attended the event enjoyed it, whilst those that lived in the immediate vicinity had a less than positive experience.

They will analyse the responses and look to include attitude change, with an aim to have completed this by the end of October, and then share the findings with the council, members etc.

Q – When do decisions about next year take place

A – Most likely some time in the New Year, following various meetings, consultations, surveys etc have been done. In addition a new Events Policy is being developed.

Q – Please no road closures and buses stopped

A – Taken on board

Q – Could it be a different type of event? Could be more popular/benefit?

A - Depends on what comes in to a certain extent

Q – Could it happen on a different part of the heath?

A – Yes, the Jimmy Mizen application was for a different area

Lewisham Gateway update

Cllr Siddorn gave a brief update on where the project was at, and then invited any queries which would be taken back for a response;

Q – We need an update on the 380 bus stops.

Q – How do we get the information of what the infrastructure will be like when the project is finished?

Q – There's no ability to pick up/drop off at the station – what is being done?

Q – Where are we at with getting Platform 4 entrance open to the station?

5. A.O.B

A Bus petition has been started, to be sent to TfL to show how bus stop closures on the heath are having an adverse effect on people. Please do come to the front and sign it.

Possible future agenda item – information about London Bridge Station closures.

6. Date of next meeting

15 January 2015