

BLACKHEATH ASSEMBLY MINUTES

Wednesday 14 January 2015
7.30pm – 9.30pm

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

1.	Welcome
	<p>Cllr Kevin Bonavia welcomed the Assembly and introduced the Blackheath w councillors and the assembly coordinator.</p>
2.	Big Budget Challenge Report
	<p>Cllr Bonavia spoke about the report which was compiled after residents feedback their views on the budget challenges Lewisham Council face.</p> <p>It was explained that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• £85 million needs to be cut in the next 3 years (£1 out of every £3 spent)• £40 million is due to be cut in 2015• council tax will still be frozen in 2015 <p>Report</p> <p>Over 4,000 people gave their views on the Big Budget Challenge and over 1,000 of those through local assemblies. The most important services to the community as a whole was ranked as Education/Childcare and the most important to individuals was Refuse. The most popular way to reduce spending was through council salaries.</p> <p>The internet link to the full report is attached below. http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s32302/Big%20Budget%20Challenge.pdf</p>
3.	Gateway Development
	<p>Phil Stanier from Local Dialogue spoke to the assembly about the Gateway development in central Lewisham.</p> <p>He presented slides of the new road layouts during the phases of the development, which can be found with these minutes.</p> <p>There will be layout changes from Jan 24 2015 with the new Rennell Street added, Spring/Summer 2015 pedestrian access will be reopened and the final layout will be complete early 2016. (Slides attached on Lewisham Council</p>

	<p>website with these minutes.) It was advised that the 180 bus will be served by bus stop A for all buses heading north.</p> <p>TfL had not set exact locations for all bus stops at the time of the meeting, but Phil agreed to circulate the most current bus information. (Also attached with these minutes).</p> <p>Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was commented that the design of the buildings in the development are unattractive. • It was commented that it was thought that the Premier Inn access was not safe due to its location and need for deliveries. • Pedestrian access to Platform 4 at Lewisham Station. It was commented that direct complaints to South Eastern Rail about the gate being closed might help.
4.	<p>OnBlackheath Survey</p>
	<p>Alan Griffin from the Blackheath Society presented to the assembly.</p> <p>He confirmed that there were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 758 responses - (177 Society members) • 641 valid responses (with verifiable postcodes) • 151 responses from the nearest 35 roads • 76 responses from 9 closest roads <p>1. Information prior to event</p> <p>Comments stated that there was inadequate information prior to the event on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road closures • Bus route changes • Noise limits <p>2. Participation by locals and their families</p> <p>It was commented that the event was advertised as community/family centred:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supportive evidence - 30% of all respondents attended, and high levels of attendance by (younger) friends/relatives. Family participation. • Complaints of poor compensation for disruption to 'nearest'

3. Perceptions of the event

Significant positive change in perception of the event:

- **Plus 14% ALL**
- **Plus 11% locals**
- **Plus 6% living closest**

(Apart from 8 people in Hyde Vale, Wat Tyler Road and Dartmouth Grove who thought more negatively of the event.)

4. Experience of the event

Road Closures

98/151 'locals' commented that they had experienced major inconvenience,

38 scoring 80% or higher on the inconvenience scale. Pedestrian access an issue.

SHUTTLE BUS SERVICE

Comments that there was lower level of inconvenience, but still there.

Noise Pollution

- **30 'locals' found it extremely intrusive**
- **Bass particularly a problem**
- **Favourable comparisons with annual fair & RfL**

Crowd Behaviour and Car Parking

- **Crowd very well behaved**
- **Family atmosphere**
- **Car parking not problematic**

5. Local Business involvement

67 respondents to business section, with 42 making comments.

10 approached, 8 participated

ISSUES

- **Poor communication with organisers**
- **Excessive cost of participation**
- **Large festival operators, big local businesses favoured**
- **Low levels of satisfaction with local opportunities**

General Comments

- **Non Commercial events positively favoured**
- **Commercial organisations should pay for inconvenience to local residents**
- **Financial benefit to Lewisham and residents, is it adequate?**
- **Wider participation for business and community**
- **Strong feeling that the Heath should not be exploited for commercial gain.**

5. Blackheath Assembly Fund

A booklet detailing the proposed funding was circulated and is available on the website with this minutes.

Councillor Amanda DeRyk explained that people were spoken to at assembly meetings and also in the wider community and asked what the assembly should spend money on and work to improve. Please see consultation document 'What did Blackheath Say'.

October 8 2014 Meeting

At the October 8 2014 assembly, people ranked their top 10 project ideas from the consultation results..

Co-ordinating Group

The coordinating group has looked at the results and agreed on projects to present to the assembly. There is one project for each of the assembly priorities.

- 1. Environment and Community**
- 2. Provision for Older People, Young People & Children**
- 3. Parking, streets and waste**
- 4. Crime and Anti-social behaviour**

(Apart from 'Parking, Street and Waste' and 'Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour', as workshops on knife crime and gun crime to be included in 2013/14 Wash House Youth club project)

Councillors Discretionary Fund

£2,500 of Councillor discretionary funding will also be spent in

	<p>the ward. It is being discussed that this funding may support older peoples projects and computer training. There is a separate funding pot for the heath from the donation from OnBlackheath and the assembly will pass our other Environment projects over to be considered for this pot.</p> <p>Representatives from each proposed project presented to the assembly.</p>
	<p>Project 1. Provision for Young People and Children £3,720 Conservatoire - The Creative Community Project</p> <div data-bbox="316 501 742 779" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>Sydney Thornbury the Director of the Conservatoire spoke to the Assembly.</p> <p>The Creative Community Project aims use arts and music to promote community cohesion as well as to provide creative and personal growth opportunities for young people from low income families.</p> <p>The project is comprised of two strands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Conservatoire will present two free family concerts (including a post-show workshop) of Tchaikovsky's Peter and the Wolf for up to 240 people from diverse backgrounds across the community, and 2. 40 children from Blackheath ward from low income families will receive full bursaries to attend one of the Conservatoire's six-week-long children's art workshops in a range of disciplines including drawing, painting, printmaking, decorative arts and comic book illustration, which will include an end of project art exhibition. By the end of the project, children of exceptional talent will be identified to receive year long bursaries. <p>In total, the project would reach up to 280 people and provide 840 contact hours of arts or music experience. The project coordinator will work with local schools, housing estate support and welfare staff as well as community networks within the estates to help identify and recruit potential children and families that would like to be a part of the project.</p> <p>Voting result 49 people voted in favour of this project and 5 people voted against allowing this project to be funded.</p>
	<p>Project 2. Provision for Older People Age Exchange £2,980</p> <p>Rebecca and Malcolm from Age Exchange presented the project to the assembly.</p> <div data-bbox="1078 1711 1417 1912" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>This is a six-week reminiscence outreach programme for older people targeting the sheltered housing scheme in Hurren Close 'Village Court' and Heathside and Lethbridge/Parkside estates lunch club.</p>

Two experienced reminiscence practitioners would run five reminiscence sessions at each scheme, each session could take up to 25 people. The sixth and final session would bring the two groups together in the 'Bakehouse' theatre at Age Exchange. This final session would be an afternoon social event such as a reminiscence quiz or a tea dance and include a short talk on volunteering and centre activities. The aim with the final session is to give participants the knowledge and confidence to come to the centre once the programme is over or to take up volunteering.

The aims of the project are to enable participants to;

- Meet other people who live in the same scheme and to learn more about their neighbours through sessions run by experienced reminiscence arts practitioners
- Build their confidence to come to the community centre to provide them with company, activities and a place to meet new people
- Introduce them to volunteering opportunities
- Enhance their well-being
- Reduce feelings of loneliness
- Keep fit, active and independent for longer and have fun

Voting result

53 people voted in favour of this project and 1 person voted against allowing this project to be funded.

Project 3. Community Blackheath Village Day - December 2015

Sue Parks who helped organise the 2014 Village Day presented to the assembly.

The Blackheath Village Day 2014 was a community wide event, attracting over 2,000 people. There was an array of special events in and around the village which culminated in a children's lantern parade and the switch-on of new festive lighting.

The success of 2014 is hoping to be built on and for a bigger and better Village Day to be presented for 2015. It is planned this will include the King's Troop, entertainment, special events and live music and a large exhibition and craft fair in Blackheath Hall's Great Hall.

The aim is to celebrate Blackheath Village at Christmas including Father Christmas at his grotto at Age Exchange, reindeer in the café and snow at the Conservatoire's Winter Wonderland. Village children would be able to make lanterns and parade them. There will be live music in the pubs and restaurants and several other events on the day. At the end of the day, people will gather together in the heart of the village to sing some carols and turn on the Christmas lights.

- It was advised that volunteers are needed to help organise the day.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was advised that there will need to be formal road closures for 2015. <p>Voting result 50 people voted in favour of this project and 4 people voted against allowing this project to be funded.</p>
	<p>Project 4. Benches for Blackheath</p> <p>As people entered the assembly they were given a sticker to plot where on the map they would like a new bench to be placed on the heath.</p> <p>It was brought up in the consultation that there were not enough stopping points for people that want to walk across the heath, Especially for older people or those with mobility difficulties. In the October meeting this was voted to be the most popular Environment project/action.</p> <p>This money will pay for 4 new benches at £874.95 per bench to be installed on the heath.</p> <p>Voting result 36 people voted in favour of this project and 18 people voted against allowing this project to be funded.</p>
6.	<p>Update on last years assembly fund projects</p>
	<p>Wash House Youth Club</p> <p>Simon Riley presented to the assembly.</p> <p>He explained that the project had been delayed due to problems recruiting a youth worker after the Lewisham Council part-time youth worker posts were cut.</p> <p>This has now been resolved though and there will be a weekly club from end January 2015. The club are already working with the Conservatoire on music workshops. They will also be moving to the new Parkside Community Centre in Summer 2015 which should attract much more young people into the club. There will be outreach workers engaging with young people during the half term holiday programmes also. Simon advised that the Wash House age range is between 8-13 but that the recent proposals for further reorganisation of Lewisham Youth Service focus on their statutory provision for 13-19 year olds and he was worried that the younger age range is being overlooked. Wash House Management Committee has written to the Mayor, emphasising the importance of maintaining provision for the 8-13 age group.</p> <p>Older Peoples trip Simon Riley and Cilla Bartlett from the Darby and Joan Club advised that both trips to Worthing and Eastbourne had been very successful. Approximately 50 older people went on each trip and were given a fish and chip supper. There</p>

	<p>was also a harvest festival lunch at the Heathside and Lethbridge Club that people from Darby and Joan came along to. It was something that was looked forward to for a long period and very meaningful to those involved. (Pictures of the trip were handed around.)</p> <p>Blackheath Society members Lights and Village Day It was advised that the 2014 Village Day was a great success with over 2,000 in the village enjoying the programme. Pictures of the day were shown. The Blackheath Society allowed a bridging loan to ensure that the lights were ready for the switch on as not all of the fundraising covered the costs. Some of the old style lights need to be taken down but there are negotiations to do this.</p>
7.	<p>Any Other Business</p>
	<p><u>Individual Electoral Registration</u></p> <p>Joe Dunton from Lewisham Council spoke to the assembly. He explained that from June 2014 Individual Electoral Registration (IER) was introduced. Please see the IER attachment on the website with these minutes.</p> <p>To contact us at Electoral Services: electoral.services@lewisham.gov.uk or call 020 8314 6086 To register online go to www.gov.uk/register-to-vote</p> <p><u>All Saints School</u></p> <p>Margaret Brightman from All Saints school advised that there will be works going on at the school to improve the buildings and allow 30 extra places at the school and to improve facilities for all children. Two buildings will be knocked down to allow for a 2 story building. The new buildings will not impact on the view from the heath and will improve the Blackheath Vale street scene.</p> <p>Consultation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • January 29 public consultation event after school • January 30 Saturday consultation <p>It was commented that the school are trying to get funding from the football foundation to renovate Talbot Place changing rooms.</p> <p><u>Blackheath Joint Working Party</u></p> <p>It was advised that Thursday 19 February is the annual public meeting of the Blackheath Joint Working Party.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age Exchange start 7.30pm • The Bake House (entrance off Bennett Park) <p>The joint working party advises both Lewisham and Greenwich Councils on issues affecting the heath. The meeting will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an update on events for 2015 • a vote by the Lewisham residents on the £15,000 funding for community

projects to improve the heath.

Montpelier Vale

Blackheath Councillors have worked to introduce double yellow lines on one side of Montpelier Vale. Council officers have started the necessary statutory process to have them added.

There were declarations of interest at this meeting