

MINUTES OF THE WHITEFOOT ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 25 November 2014 at 7.00 pm
At Greenvale School, Waters Road, Lewisham SE6 1UF

Minutes of the Meeting

Welcome from the Chair - Cllr Mark Ingleby chaired this evening's meeting and extended apologies for Cllr. Daby who, at the last minute, had to withdraw from the meeting.

Cllr Ingleby also extended a warm welcome to all and gave a brief overview of the meeting's content.

Assembly Funds – Recommended Projects – Cllr. Ingleby reminded the Assembly of the new commissioned approach for the allocation of assembly funds. This entailed using findings from the 'table-top' exercise undertaken at the July 2014 Assembly to identify areas the community wished to focus funds on.

The fund was then launched with clear information on the website and in application packs regarding what type of projects the Assembly wished to commission.

The Coordinating Group then met on 19th November and assessed each application to determine which ones best met the criteria.

Those short-listed were then invited to deliver a brief presentation at the Assembly.

Cllr. Ingleby explained that after each presentation, there would be a vote (show of hands) to determine if those present agreed with the Co-groups recommendations. These recommendations are then subject to formal approval by the Council.

The Presentations –

Christmas Cracker – Tommo Couch – Tommo explained that he was seeking £2,890 from the Assembly Fund to deliver three, Seasonal meals to those in the community who would otherwise be alone over the Christmas and New Year period. The project will bring people together for hot meals, party games and general socialising over the festive season. The project will enable people to meet others and form new relationships.

The project is now in its ninth year. Tommo explained that he has been delivering projects to various communities within the borough of Lewisham for over 40 years.

The festive season lunches have been delivered in Brockley, Grove Park and Whitefoot (partnering with St. John's in Whitefoot). The logistics of the project are three, hot meals delivered to up to 60 people on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and

New Year's Day followed by 'afternoon tea' on each of the days. In addition, each guest will receive a small Christmas present to take home. The Project will work with up to 30 volunteers each day and in partnership with the Whitefoot Christian Lane Centre, taking referrals from the Whitefoot & Downham Community Food Project plus.

The volunteers involved in the project are of differing ages which encourages inter-generational collaboration. Tommo advised that a lot of elderly local people will help out with the delivery of the project.

Community@Goldsmiths - Sue Court, on behalf of Community@Goldsmiths advised the Assembly that their project was seeking £2,950 of assembly funds. The Community@Goldsmiths project will address the lack of community spirit in the Whitefoot ward. The project will also seek to address the lack of community facilities by opening up the community centre to older residents and also by developing links with community safety agencies to ensure that local people have information on community safety and can build up networks to address local crime and antisocial behaviour.

The Community@Goldsmiths will also bring together a range of local voluntary sector partners to address a growing gap in local community provision.

The project will deliver a subsidised, community lunch, in collaboration with the Downham Nutritional Partnership and Tommo Couch of CCTV on Mondays from 12-2pm. The lunches will have an emphasis on traditional meals of days 'gone by' with opportunities to socialise and play.

In addition, the project will seek to deliver, at least, 33 advice sessions on Mondays from 10am to 2pm. Up to 8 external agencies will attend and provide, advice, information and advocacy sessions. Community@Goldsmiths will also seek to arrange at least one Age Exchange afternoon during a school break working in collaboration with Fun Young Goldsmiths partners who work with children aged 8-13. This will generate a positive impact on intergenerational relationships within the community. The project will also strive to deliver one Age Exchange community event at the end of November 2015. This will, provisionally, be a self-funded 1940's dance and supper with live music for all ages. People are encouraged to dress up and experience the sense of a different time.

The project will partner with the Torridon/Downham Library to develop a Community@Goldsmiths reminiscence group which will provide information on what it was like to live in Lewisham during the 1950's.

The majority of referrals will come from Goldsmith's partnership with Community Connections.

The project will commence in February 2015 and cease at the end of October 2015 and hopes to benefit up to 40 people.

To Infinity And Beyond – The Whitefoot Assembly Coordinating Group are recommending that Shade Ashaye of the Infinity and Beyond Project receive £736 of assembly funds. Cllr. Ingleby explained that Shade had sent apologies to the meeting and, therefore, was unable to present her project. In her absence, Cllr. Ingleby gave a brief overview as follows; The project will be free for children aged 8–16 years and will be carried out during the February 2015 school half term.

The project is based on informal learning and confidence building by taking the young people out of their comfort zone and exploring other educational places of interest for example a visit to the Royal Observatory. “To the Stars” activity will focus on young people having an intimate experience with the universe to broaden their minds. The project will put in place engagement strategies to encourage young people to become involved in an attempt to break social and economic barriers they face as result of environmental circumstances.

The project hopes to reach 14 young people.

The Whitefoot & Downham Community Food Project Plus – Andre Wilmshurst of the WDCP+ advised that the project is a voluntary community based project which supports individuals or families who are experiencing hardship and issues relating to poverty. There is a growing need for this 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.

Groups that work with the project are;

- Parent Support Group
- Phoenix Housing advice
- Pre-school Learning Alliance
- Local Councillors Ward
- Downham Nutrition Partnership
- Lewisham Council Community Safety Team
- Ethical Debt Solutions
- Quo Vadis Trust
- CAB Downham Hub
- IAPT Service

The project also has a community cooking and gardens program.

The application to the Assembly Fund for £2,304 is to provide the administration and co-ordination to support the Project.

The Project, so far, has supported over 245 people and there are approximately 50 volunteers who enjoy offering their support to the community.

Whitefoot Community Choir - Hannah Aina gave an overview of the Whitefoot Community Choir Project explaining that they were seeking £1760 from The Assembly Fund to get the choir 'off the ground'. The money would be spent primarily on promoting the choir via advertising, leaflet printing and posters. The choir will be open to everyone in the community and will offer extended taster sessions for those who are interested. The project hopes to foster positive community spirit. Hanna went on to say that music is powerful and promotes good health and well being.

In addition to singing, the choir will provide an opportunity for people to meet and socialise in a warm and friendly environment.

HAKA Futsal Club – Debbie Sedgley of the HAKA Sports complex advised that their project, the HAKA Futsal Club was seeking £1820 from the Assembly Fund to deliver Futsal which will run for 28 weeks every Saturday from 10am- 11am for young people aged 8-11 years old.

Futsal was developed in Brazil where resources were low but demand was high. The game is an adaptation on regular football and is now a game and a sport in it's own right. The game is 5-aside and is particularly useful in helping young people develop their skills with the ball. The setup of the game means all players get more time on the ball and, therefore, more time to develop and hone skills. Futsal is a fast paced fun game for 20 minutes so is an ideal sport for young people to access. The project will work in partnership with the London Football Association's (LFA) Football Development Officer (Inclusion, Education & Futsal) and HF sports.

Whitefoot & Downham 2015 Parade – Cllr. Ingleby explained that as agreed at the July 2014 Assembly £2,000 of assembly funds had been put aside to help fund the Whitefoot & Downham 2015 Community Parade and Party. A working party has been formed to help deliver the parade and party with the first meeting of the working group scheduled for Tuesday 2nd December 2014 from 6.30pm in Committee Room One at the Civic Suite. Anyone wishing to join the group were invited to attend this meeting or express their interest at the end of the Assembly.

At this point, Cllr. Ingleby invited those present to take a short break and to help themselves to the refreshments available. He also took the opportunity to introduce the next section of the meeting.

S016 Market Place and table discussions –The Assembly were reminded that the Whitefoot Ward currently has in the region of £70,000 of Section 106 money to spend on "Community Facilities". The £70k identified are £41k from the Tigers Head pub and £36k from the Courts site on Bromley Road. Because both development sites are physically based within the Whitefoot ward it is this Assembly that is primarily being consulted on how best to spend the money.

Organisations with facilities that could benefit from Section 106 money were invited to attend the assembly and to set up a stall giving information on what they would do with Section 106 money if successful in their bid. Cllr. Ingleby explained that this was the second assembly to focus on Section 106 money. At the July 2014 Assembly, Forster Park had been identified as a potential beneficiary. Cllr. Ingleby explained that there would be a presentation relating to Forster Park and Section 106 at the February 2015 Assembly.

A door-to-door survey will also be conducted in the first quarter of 2015 whereby each resident in Whitefoot will be given the opportunity to elect which facility/facilities they would like the money to go to. Information gathered at the three assemblies and from the door-to-door survey will inform the final decision.

Section 106 Stalls;

Goldsmith Community Centre – Repairs to the roof of Goldsmith's and the re-wiring of the entire centre are essential. In addition, Goldsmiths would like to transform the existing café into a training kitchen, redecorate/renovate rooms currently used by local groups and install a new café near to the entrance. Goldsmith's propose working in partnership with the London Community Building CIC, a Lewisham-based social enterprise established to generate social benefit from property refurbishment and general building projects. The business generates training and employment places aimed at 18-24 year olds that are not in education, employment or training, long-term unemployed, people with mental health needs, ex-servicemen and offenders/ex-offenders.

St. Luke's Church Hall – St Luke's wishes to provide a resource for the local residents where they can meet for social, educational and community activities. In order to make the space more useful improvements to the kitchen space to include a coffee bar and cooking facilities and to upgrade the existing lighting arrangements will be necessary. The building can then be used for cooking classes, social meals and a planned drop in to take over from the 999 club which is moving away from Downham.

To further extend the use of the building St. Luke's wish to install VDU screens so that the building can be used effectively for meetings by local organisations that need good sound and visual systems to communicate to their audiences.

As installation of these changes will cause some disruption to the existing décor there will be a need to redecorate after the work which will be an additional cost.

St. Barnabas - Installation of an accessible toilet in the Church Hall and refurbishment of existing toilets so that the space can be opened up to all.

The Whitefoot and Downham Community Garden - A small amount of capital funds is required to improve the existing site and enable more local residents to benefit. In particular the project requires a weather-proof notice board, polytunnel to allow plants to be grown from seeds and gardening all the year round, compost toilet, new summer house/shed, additional raised beds, path to existing beds and installation of drainage channels to prevent site becoming water-logged.

The Fellowship Inn - Phoenix Community Housing have been successful in their bid for Heritage Lottery funding to restore The Fellowship Inn in Bellingham. However, further capital is required to ensure the preservation of the last remaining pub in the area. The Tiger's Head Public House was the last to disappear and it is via the development of the Tiger's Head and Court's site that S106 money has become available. Funding the Fellowship Inn would go some way to addressing the loss of the community asset that was the Tiger's Head pub. Although both sites were situated in the Whitefoot Ward, The Fellowship Inn is well and truly within the definition of 'vicinity' as per the allocation of S106 guidance.

Whitefoot Lane Christian Centre is used for various weekly community activities and is considered a real hub. It has been in the community since 1957 providing children clubs, youth clubs, and more.

Currently one of the ways the building is used for, is the Whitefoot and Downham Community Food Plus Project. Receipt of some of the Section 106 funds would greatly benefit the project as well as to allow more space for serving the local community.

Section 106 money would go towards reconfiguring the space to create the necessary room for those who need and use the building. This includes moving the stage and baptistery to allow for more space in the building to fit its multipurpose needs. With the removal of these elements other costs will be incurred such as decking to be put under the floor and waste and water supply to be shut off. After the structural work has been undertaken there will be a need to redecorate the back room and main hall and replace lighting fixtures.

Beckenham Place Park – The Heritage Lottery Fund have agreed funding for the restoration of Beckenham Place Park. Section 106 money would go towards a number of facilities benefitting from the proposals including the creation of a new café/toilets, visitor and education centre in the listed stable block and the restoration of the Gardener's Cottage as a Friends/Volunteers Centre in the heart of the park. The project as a whole will benefit significant numbers of people when complete and make a significant contribution to the quality of life in the area. Although Beckenham Place Park is not in the Whitefoot Ward it is within the definition of 'vicinity' as per the allocation of S106 guidance.

Proceeding the opportunity for everyone to walk around the various Section 106 stalls Cllr. Ingleby encouraged people to get into groups and discuss what they had seen and then invited each table to feedback.

Following is a sample of some of the feedback;

“There appears to be a mismatch between the various community facilities and what they hope to achieve with S106 money. For example, the Fellowship Inn Project being lead by Phoenix Community Housing, has already been awarded £3.8million from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Should it

also receive S106 money when a smaller but equally valuable community facility could benefit from the money?"

"The larger projects that have already secured Heritage Lottery Funding should perhaps try and secure match funding from other, private fiancé"

"Section106 money should benefit the smaller facilities in particular Goldsmith's Community Centre in light of the fact there are few community facilities for people to access in the North of the ward".

Further Green Road Neighbourhood Watch Presentation – Jon Carr of the Further Green Road Neighbourhood Watch Project gave a presentation on the some of the successes of the group. The group were formed a little over 3 months ago and their primary aim was to raise issues such as fly-tipping. In particular, there are several alley-ways on Further Green Road which were being used as a 'dumping ground'. The group very quickly decided to focus their efforts on raising enough funds to secure five gates to cordon off the area so as to prevent further fly-tipping. Quotes were sought from three, independent companies that supply and fit gates and then, when a figure was decided upon, the group set about consulting the residents most effected and seeking individual pledges to support the project. In total £1,900 was raised in a period of three months plus £500 was secured from the Whitefoot Councillor's Discretionary Fund.

Anybody wishing to set up their own Neighbourhood Watch is welcome to contact Jon Car for advice on how to go about it. To contact Jon Car, please go via the Assembly Coordinator, Ali Williams at Ali.williams2@lewisham.gov.uk

'Our Place' project overview with Sarah Wickens and Melissa Knight – Phoenix Community Housing are currently leading on a project called 'Our Place' which is funded by Central Government. 12 months ago, Phoenix undertook a consultation involving over 800 residents in the Bellingham, Downham & Whitefoot wards. The two main issues that came out of that consultation were 'not enough things for people to do' and 'the environment'.

Phoenix put together a bid for £35,000 from Central Government to allow them to develop the 'Our Place' project which will focus on youth leadership, improving the environment and place-making. The Our Place project aims to give young people more power over local services and budgets in their neighbourhoods, aligning these with all the other resources that the community can bring.

Communities and public service organisations will be supported to develop an operational plan and take control in their area to make sure that things work in the

best way for local, young people. A Youth Bank will be set up made up of youth and community organisations & their members within Downham, Whitefoot and Bellingham wards. Partners already involved in the project are Sedgehill and New Woodlands schools, Voluntary Action Lewisham, Lewisham Youth Service, Dumps Adventure Playground, Councillors for the Whitefoot ward and the Local Assemblies Team.

Melissa advised that if anyone would like to get involved in the project they are invited to attend the 'Our Place' funding meeting which will explain in more detail what it is and what it means to you. The meeting will take place on Wednesday 17th December, 11am-1pm at the Green Man, 355 Bromley Road, London, SE6 2RP.

For more info, please contact: Sarah.Wickens@phoenixch.org.uk

Police Community Safety Updates – PC Andy Morris gave an update on community safety issues. Burglary, remains low which is a welcome trend as, historically, it has been the main crime issue within the ward. Officers from the Whitefoot SNT have been involved in Operation Bumblebee which is an initiative introduced to directly target burglary.

During Operation Bumblebee, officers provide additional crime prevention advice and also conduct additional patrols in identified 'hot spots'.

Theft from a person (robbery) also remains low as compared with previous quarters.

Theft **of** motor vehicle has remained static however, there has been a slight increase in theft **from** motor vehicle amounting to 22 incidences between the period of 01 July 2014 to 31 October 2014.

Violence against the person (ABH and GBH) in the same period remained the same, however, there has been an increase of reports of violence against the purpose during the month of October 2014 as compared with the same month last year. Sergeant John Berry explained that the figures mostly relate to incidence of domestic violence which is high within the ward and on the increase. It is not clear whether the increase is due to an increase in violence or an increase in the reporting of violence.

Criminal Damage to Property has also increased in the last quarter though PC Andy Morris was quick to explain that the incidences reported are often linked to the incidences of domestic violence emphasising that the perpetrators are mostly known to the victims.

Other initiatives the Whitefoot SNT have been involved in are the drink/drive awareness campaign and improvement of cyclist's safety and security.

PC Andy Morris urged the community to get involved in the 'give a gift' initiatives explaining that the large Christmas Tree outside Lewisham Station will be adorned with tags. People are encouraged to take a tag from the tree which will have detailed instructions on how to provide a present for a child who may not otherwise

receive one. The child is identified by an encrypted code so ensuring their anonymity. The child could be located anywhere within the Metropolitan area. PC Andy went on to say that he had already taken part and had bought a gift for a child in Lambeth.

Whitefoot SNT welcome aboard a new recruit, namely, PC Sam Facey. We look forward to meeting Sam and wish him every success in his new posting.

Close of Meeting