

MINUTES OF THE SYDENHAM ASSEMBLY

Saturday, 3 December 2016 at 12.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Councillor Chris Best, Liam Curran and Rachel Onikosi

ALSO PRESENT:

Apologies for absence were received from

1. Welcome from the Chair

Cllr Onikosi welcomed all present and opened the meeting by explaining the process for voting on the Assembly Fund. The Assembly had £12,500 available to distribute and there were a total of twelve projects bidding. All projects that were giving presentations were being put forward for funding by the Co-ordinating group who had carefully scrutinised them. There was sufficient funding for all projects to be approved.

Attendees were encouraged to vote for all the projects they wished to see funded, using the voting forms handed out at registration. All projects voted for by at least 50% of those voting would be funded.

Cllr Onikosi reminded the Assembly of the Sydenham priorities for 2016/17 which are:

- 1 Clean and Green – helping to keep streets clean and appealing
- 2 Crime and Anti-social Behaviour
- 3 Health and Wellbeing
- 4 Vibrant High Street
- 5 Bringing the Community Together – Intergenerational and Intercultural

2. Assembly Fund - project presentations and voting

Sydenham Garden: Tom Gallagher outlined the work of Sydenham Garden which supports people recovering from mental illness and also runs a project with people with dementia. Annually they receive around 400 referrals, about 20% of which are from Sydenham Ward. They also offer “twilight” volunteering sessions for people not referred by a GP. The project is to design and build a new garden area.

Q: How long has Sydenham Garden been operational?

A: 15 years

Q: How much are you requesting?

A: £1,300

Q: how many people has the project worked with so far?

A: we work with over 300 people per week and have 80 regular volunteers. Over the course of a year we would involve approx. 1500 different people in community activities.

Single Homeless Project: Tara Carty presented on the services SHP offers to young homeless people in their hostel in Kirkdale. SHP was started in 1974 by three single men, in a bid to make hostels more appealing. Tara is the Learning

and Activities Coordinator. SHP are a relatively small charity who cover 22 local authorities in London.

The project for which they are seeking funding is to convert their basement at Farnborough House into a social and inclusive area. They have received help from 200 FCA volunteers and many donations in kind. They are requesting £1,200 to help complete the project.

Q: What type of training do you offer the service users?

A: We offer regular activities such as fitness, cooking, IT, help looking for work. All residents are aged 16-24.

Q: How many service users do you have?

A: The Sydenham-based facility - Farnborough House – has eleven beds, and we continue supporting service users after they leave, via Floating Support – helping them with, for example, budgeting.

Q: Where do referrals come from?

A: GPs, social services, etc.

Q: Do you have any links with TNG?

A: We have to be careful due to the risks of gang involvement, however we have set up a link with Deniz at TNG, who is helping us get the music studio operational.

Tara noted that she is based in Kings Cross, so is only involved in Sydenham for part of the week.

Sydenham Arts: Ron Warshow from Sydenham Arts introduced James Hodge who is working with them on the Sydenham Lens project. Pop up portraiture started today (3rd December) as part of their “preview” events. The main events of the project will take place in February and March 2017. The aim is to inspire people to celebrate Sydenham – its people and places. Photography has been chosen as one of the most accessible art forms, since today very many people have access to a camera on their phone. Those who don't can access a camera through taking part in one of our workshops. The project will enable people to create memories and pieces of art. We will work in schools and with older people, breaking down the barriers to participating in art.

Q: How will it be marketed?

A: We will produce 10 – 15,000 copies of a brochure, use social media and digital marketing, engage with local businesses, and L&Q are texting their residents.

Q: What are the dates of workshops?

A: Dates are on the flyer available today.

Q: When does the photo exhibition end?

A: 31st January is the competition deadline, 23 Feb – 5 March will be the exhibition. We may hold a public vote to determine the winners.

Jimmy Asher Foundation: Joe Maye thanked the Assembly for inviting him to speak on the project, which is 6 weeks boxing culture sessions, based at TNG. The aims are to work with young people to improve stamina, health and wellbeing, core strength and boxing technique. To give them a positive activity in a safe environment and create greater community cohesion among YP. This is an extension of current provision at TNG.

Q: where will you find the young people to participate?

A: Local schools, on the estates

Q: will it include girls?

A: Yes

Q: We hope that the project will result in good relations with SNT

A: we will link up with SNT.

Hear to Help: Steve Bell introduced the Hear to Help project, which aims to increase its capacity in Lewisham. The project supports people on ear health, how to obtain hearing aids, tinnitus, and community support. We encourage people with hearing loss to take more control and get more support with their everyday life. More information also helps their family and friends, e.g. with managing hearing aids, accessing better equipment (such as phones, doorbells). It helps reduce social isolation. The project has benefitted 120 people in Sydenham alone in the past year. Across Lewisham estimate 550. Information will also be sent to professionals.

No further questions.

SEE3: Cllr Chris Best showed the SEE3 Christmas Calendar which is a listing of the December events in Forest Hill, Kirkdale and Sydenham. The print run is 15,000 and is delivered door to door in Sydenham and Forest Hill wards with the Assembly Newsletter to save on delivery costs. The booklets are also available in the high streets of Forest Hill, Kirkdale and Sydenham.

With the funding from the Sydenham Assembly SEE3 organises a range of events under High Street Happenings including the entertainment on market day, Easter Bonnet workshops and parade, Halloween and a Christmas event. Cllr Best asked people to support the project, engage with SEE3 and share ideas to improve the high street Sydenham.

No questions

Friends of Sydenham Community Library – Adults Craft Sessions: Ilse Towler explained the craft sessions project, which will provide 28 sessions, which support people to make new friends whilst learning a skill and developing their confidence and self-esteem. The craft sessions take some people from the Sydenham Gardens dementia project after they finish there. They now have an offer of time from a tutor who works out of Bellingham Church. The sessions are timed to fit in with school runs which helps parents of young children who may have limited opportunities to socialise and meet people.

Q: Do people contribute financially to the classes?

A: Yes, they pay for extra tutor time and have contributed to the library

Friends of Sydenham Community Library – Rhyme time for under-fives: Ilse spoke on this project which serves under-fives and their parents and carers. It is attended by up to 20 adults and 30 + children each time. Its popularity has led to new developments such as a parent's choir. They have received part-funding from Bellingham Assembly, and are asking Sydenham Assembly to top this up to complete the project.

Lewisham Carers – girls club: Luisa Depaoli introduced this project. Lewisham Carers serves 7,000 unpaid carers in the borough, of which approx.. 600 are young people age 5 – 18 years old, catered for by the Young Carers project. They are requesting funding for a girls club in Sydenham because this part of the borough has a very high proportion of young girls caring compared to other wards.

They aim to have a club in every ward to make it accessible. It's an 8 week project, 1.5 hours per week. Caring can cause young people to have anxiety/depression and lack confidence. This is about empowerment, giving the girls a toolkit for life, and a break from caring.

Q: what venue will you use?

A: Looking for one in Sydenham

Q: Do you start from 5 years old?

A: Yes

Q: How many young people will be served by the project?

A: We expect 12

Q: Is finding a venue dependent on funding?

A: Yes, we will not be able to deliver the project without funding.

Q: Could the activity be held at the library

A: Possibly. The young people need privacy.

Q: What times of day does it run?

A: After school – so 4 – 5.30 pm.

Q: How will you identify the 12 girls?

A: Based on our existing database. We will try to involve more than 12, if more ask to join we will accommodate them.

Q: Will it include boys?

A: Not this one, (see above) but we run many other clubs that do include boys.

Q: There seems a high proportion of the budget on a residential break

A: We prioritise this because it gives the YP a complete break from caring.

Cllr Onikosi summed up the bids by reminding the Assembly that the Co-ordinating group supported all of them. She explained that an amount of £389 had been set aside after funding all the bids, by the Co-group to support improving the Xmas tree and lights for 2017.

Q: If all projects are to be funded, why hold a vote?

A: It is important that the Assembly expresses its view to ensure the decision is democratic. If there wasn't 51% support at the Assembly for a particular project, that project would not receive funding.

3. LB Lewisham Housing Strategy

Cllr Damian Egan spoke to a presentation which outlined the challenges faced by LB Lewisham on providing sufficient housing. This is part of a London-wide problem, and exacerbated by fewer homes being built in neighbouring boroughs. Due to housing shortages local people are unable to afford to buy and there has been an increase in rogue landlords. Lewisham has 9,000 families on the waiting list for social housing, and there are significant increases in homelessness. New developments are providing very little "affordable" housing and varying definitions of "affordable" mean that many such homes are not in fact affordable to the majority of people. By one definition affordable means 80% of market rent. Cllr Egan showed a film clip illustrating the experiences of working people unable to find housing.

Lewisham's strategy to address the housing problem included innovative schemes such as the Pop up housing in Ladywell and supporting local housing charities.

The presentation and film clip can be seen here:

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/getinvolved/localassemblies/sydenham>

Q: There is planning permission already in place for a lot of homes – how can we actually ensure these get built?

A: Cllr Egan agreed – developers delay because the land increases in value.

Q: A local development seems to have stalled – could a pop up housing scheme be developed there instead?

A: Private developers have shown interest in the pop up schemes. Using council land gives more flexibility.

Q: Some boroughs appear not to want to build social housing

A: There is much scope for developers to appeal against social housing targets, and in recent times the Mayor of London has agreed a number of schemes like this. The new Mayor has committed to only approving schemes with a minimum of 35% London Living Rent.

4. Planning proposals at Our Lady and St. Philip Neri Schools

Cllr Curran spoke on the planning proposals for the schools. The initial proposals were met with some concerns about parking. The revised proposals include a dedicated entrance, well lit with good access from the park side. It is felt that creating a school entrance on this side will help reduce some of the Anti-Social Behaviour seen in the area. These proposals are due to come before Planning Committee shortly.

Q: Will there be any planning gain to help refurbish the younger children's playground?

A: Councillors would support this. The existing equipment was funded by Bellingham Assembly, some S106 if it became available could potentially be used for this purpose.

Q: What is the timescale to completion of the work?

A: This is not clear at the moment, work could start in March 2017, it will probably take a minimum of one year to complete.

Q: Can we have support to promote walking to school rather than dropping off by car?

A: The School has already adopted that policy, and the new entrance design should facilitate that. However we recognise that this can be a challenge to working parents.

5. Safer Neighbourhood Team update

Shaun Rodway PC - SNT gave the presentation. Burglary is reducing, however this is a peak time and people are advised to be vigilant. Handouts are available giving advice on securing your home, and the message has been tweeted and emailed to contacts.

Criminal damage levels have not changed from 2015. Drug crime has reduced since 2015. Robbery has increased, it is important to be aware especially of opportunistic crimes – do not have valuables, gadgets etc. on view when out.

Lock garages and sheds. We are trialling Smartwater locally, which security marks your valuables with a code.

Changes in SNT – John Berry is the new Sergeant, he will also be covering Bellingham ward. The other team members are Shaun and Jonathan Peters. Please contact the police with any concerns.

Q: is Grace leaving?

A: Yes, there will be one police officer patrolling alone.

Q: Why are these cuts taking place?

A: Local teams are not in a position to provide the information.

Q: How can people get involved?

A: We have a web page, all our contact details are there.

Q: Can you explain the boundaries between police and council on transport issues, e.g. dangerous road use, HGV's on the high street?

A: Parking is regulated by the council. If there are problems with motorbikes, let us have the registration number and we will follow up.

Q: Who should we report flytipping to?

A: The council (don't forget to use Fix My Street app)

6. Announcement of funding votes

The votes cast were as follows:

Project	Votes cast
Sydenham Arts – Photography Project	23
Jimmy Asher – Fighting Fit	22
Single Homeless Project	26
Sydenham Garden	23
Hear to Help	26
SEE3 – Sydenham High Street Happenings	17
Friends of Sydenham Library – Adults Crafts	25
Young carers girls Club	24
Friends of Sydenham Library – Rhyme Time for U-Fives	24
Sydenham Assembly Christmas 2017	19

The Chair confirmed that all the above projects are therefore funded.

7. Assembly Feedback

8. Announcements and Close

Planning proposals - Our Lady and St. Philip Neri Schools

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Gas holders at Bell Green (additional item admitted by Chair)

Annabel McLaren, Chair of Sydenham Society, informed the Assembly of a drop-in consultation sessions on Wednesday 7th and Saturday 10th December, on the future of the Bell Green Gas Holders. These iconic landmarks are at risk of being demolished by developers. In other areas they have been used as part of developments. There is also concern that the plan to build an additional large Aldi store will greatly increase traffic in this area. Annabel urged attendees to take part in the consultation.

Q: Would the new Aldi replace the one at Elmers End?

A: No, this one is additional.

Sydenham Centre S106 funds

Cllr Best reminded the Assembly of the refurbishment and remodelling project that is near completion at the Sydenham Centre, making this a fantastic space for community and arts events, performances etc. The centre includes a new sprung floor on the ground floor for exercise classes and an expanded stage area on the first floor. In order to support professional standard performances, the venue now requires a suitable audio-visual and lighting system.

Previous awards of S106 monies were from the St. Clements Heights development - £6,226 for curtains, carpet tiles, tables and chairs at the previous meeting in October

Previously S106 funds were £8,163 from Rotary Centre Addington Grove and £5,526 from 255-269 Sydenham Road – a total of £14,389 that was agreed at the meeting in September 2015 as £5,335 for the new boiler and rood repair at Sydenham Community Library and £8,354 for the AV and lighting system at The Sydenham Centre. However, having taken qualified technical advice and reviewed the specifications, council officers now advice that this will fall short of what is required.

Cllr Best proposed that the new S106 funding arising from development at 22 – 24A Sydenham Road which is £5,623, should be used to complete the AV facilities including the sound system and hearing loop as well as providing lighting for the stage. This would bring the total to just under £14k to complete the project. The aim is to make the original vision of the centre as a thriving community and arts hub in the centre of Sydenham, a reality. We have support from the arts community and we also now have a microbrewery on site which will provide the venue an alcohol license.

Q: Is your proposal to spend the whole of the £5,623?

A: Yes. It is proposed that if there is any money left over this could be brought back to the Assembly for further decision.

Q: Is there a quote and a timetable?

A: Yes, this information will be taken to the internal S106 Board. The total needed is approx. £13,000.

Q: Can we write into the Microbrewery contract that they provide the alcohol license for the venue?

A: Yes, this is in progress. This would enable marketing of the space to attract a wider range of uses. The spaces at the rear of the top floor of the building can also be used at evenings and weekends.

The proposal was agreed.

The Chair thanked Laura Luckhurst, Development Officer, for her work this year.

Annabel McLaren mentioned the project to install artwork at Sydenham Station. Network Rail are interested in funding this, and it will involve a local artist and artwork from heritage railway posters. Sydenham Society hope to have more information to report at the next Assembly.

Barry Milton proposed a vote of thanks to councillors for their hard work and dedication on behalf of local residents.

The meeting closed at 2.00 pm.