

MINUTES OF THE FOREST HILL ASSEMBLY

Saturday, 3 November 2018 at 1.30 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Peter Bernards, Sophie Davis and Leo Gibbons

1. Welcome from the Chair - Cllr Peter Bernards

Cllr Peter Bernards, Chair of the Forest Hill Assembly welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced Cllr Sophie Davis and Cllr Leo Gibbons.

2. Democracy Review - Cllr Chris Best

Cllr Chris Best delivered the LDR presentation

In summary, the Council has to make cuts to public services. We will need to make tough financial decisions. Strong local democracy is increasingly important. The Council is asking residents about how the Mayor & Council could:

- ◆ enhance their openness and transparency
- ◆ increase public involvement in Council decisions
- ◆ promote effective decision making.

You can access the online questionnaire at www.lewishamdemocracy.com

For further information please email democracy@lewisham.gov.uk

3. Forest Hill Assembly Fund 2018 Presentations

Project 1: Forest Hill Society- Planting and environmental improvements in Forest Hill town centre and station - £600

The Forest Hill Society has, for a number of years, taken responsibility for maintaining planters on the platforms and caring for the forecourt entrance at Forest Hill Station and providing planters in the town centre in an effort to make these areas more attractive to both people and wildlife.

The planting and maintaining of planters is done by volunteers on a needs basis but with working groups to accommodate the seasonal changes as these occur.

If you would like to get involved contact www.foresthillsociety.com or michael@fhsoc.com

Project 2: Colourful Street Trees for Forest Hill- £2240

Funds are sought for the planting of 8 colourful trees in streets where there are already groups of volunteers who have demonstrated their commitment to tree planting. Some of these raised funds for their streets last year and have watered their trees successfully through the recent drought. Others have raised funds for the first time. Together, the 8 participating streets have raised funds for planting 19 trees this coming winter. This application is for funds one additional tree in each participating street.

Together, the 27 new trees will give our streets

- White or pink Spring blossom
- Yellow, orange and red Autumnal leaves
- In the case of Thorpewood Avenue, the Himalayan Birch will also bring the intense white of their bark to the road throughout the year.

The entire project has been coordinated by Street Trees for Living (STfL) which is a voluntary organisation that works with Lewisham Council to plant street trees. The standing of Street Trees for Living can be shown by its award of The Forestry Commissions London Community Tree Award in 2016.

The value of matched funds. Apart from the direct benefits of the additional 8 trees the fact that we were applying for assembly funds has made it easier to raise funds from local residents: donors always like to see their money going further than their funds can afford. Similarly the award of an Assembly grant this year will make it easier to raise funds from residents next year

Project 3: Picturing Christmas' and 'Picturing Easter': Two Community Art Workshop & Publication Projects- £2410

These seasonal community workshop/publication projects, facilitated by the Ichthus Forest Hill Arts Forum and open to the local community, explore how Christmas (Workshop One) and Easter (Workshop Two) have been pictured in the art, craft and spiritual/religious traditions of diverse cultures around the world – many of which are represented in Forest Hill.

Inspired by this, and assisted by experienced artists and teachers, participants will then create personally meaningful Christmas and Easter cards. Sessions and projects aimed at developing design, print-making and photographic skills will be offered. A free home-cooked lunch with live music will be provided. People of all ages, backgrounds and ability levels are welcome (we hope that stories and experiences will be shared). Beautifully-designed post-workshop hardcopy/e-publications will be co-created for circulation and sale.

The Ichthus Forest Hill Arts Forum was started in 2013 by Walter Hayn, a local artist and art teacher, and Jorella Andrews, an art

historian. At our monthly forums, artists attending Ichthus Forest Hill Church discuss, make art, and support each other. Our proposal is modelled after a successful community workshop/publication project (*Reaching Beyond*, 2015), and Easter exhibition (2016) which included talks and invited public participation; we would like to offer such projects more regularly.

Ichthus Forest Hill Arts Forum would like to offer two free community art workshop and publication projects (Picturing Christmas and Picturing Easter) for interested people of all ages, backgrounds and abilities

Project 4: Devonshire Road Nature Reserve Visitors Centre- £2500

The Friends of Devonshire Road Nature Reserve (FDRNR) took over the running of this idyllic local nature reserve in 2000 and have achieved amazing things in the last 17 years, building ponds and paths, new wrought iron gates and railings, signage and two magnificent green-oak timber garden buildings, one with a living roof, the other based on the oldest lychgate in the country and roofed in reclaimed Welsh slate, as well as restoring and enhancing many aspects of the wildlife habitat. They inherited a 30ft square temporary classroom which was installed in the 1970's and has served them well for 40 years but is very close to the end of its life. Maintenance costs are now becoming a significant burden on LB Lewisham's nature conservation budget.

They want to build a new visitors centre – a new sustainable, low energy building using timber, which can be partly constructed by volunteers and timber building enthusiasts. The activity of building the centre will itself bring the community together as a barn raising. The building will be used to support the Nature Reserve's environmental, educational and community and musical activities and events.

In Oct 2016, they were successful in their application to the Ward Assembly for seed funding to kick-start the planning of the new visitors centre. This has paid for an architect to work with them to draw up early stage concept plans and create two stunning new visuals of the new building

They are looking for £2500 to part fund a number of consultants' reports (and specifically the biodiversity report) which are needed to make a planning application for the new building. They estimate that making a planning application and preparing a pack of information to go out to tender will cost approximately £25k

Project 5: Forest Hill Children's Book Festival- £1550

The Forest Hill Children's Book Festival (FHCBF) is a celebration of literacy and literature for and with children, young people and their carers. It aims to raise the profile of and leverage the significant children's book and related assets we have in and around the Forest Hill town centre to get more children reading more and better book.

The FHCBF includes:

- a flagship festival of events and activities which will be held between Friday May 6 and Monday May 9, 2019.
- support for other literary events and activities at Forest Hill venues throughout the year, including reading promotion activities in schools and childcare centres and children's book walks
- the promotion of Forest Hill as a children's book hub, via promotion of our local network of book related assets, including the local library, specialist and general bookshops, the Horniman museum and Book Nooks.

the creation of an illustrated town centre map detailing these places which will be used to encourage people to visit Forest Hill and/or discover new places in Forest Hill to visit.

Project 6: Book Nooks- £700

Book Nooks are small collections of quality children's books based in public locations which encourage book sharing and reading between children and their carers. Book Nooks are designed to enhance children's access to reading material, broaden the type and number of books that are available to them and promote reading and book sharing as everyday activity that can happen anytime and anywhere.

Book Nooks support children at all ages and stages to develop and sustain a love of reading and secure the wider benefits of doing so.

This project will establish a network of no fewer than 30 Book Nooks throughout Forest Hill adding to the existing network of book related assets and ensuring that children who live, visit or go to school in the ward have easy access to high quality reading material and the support and encouragement to use the books available to them.

Business owners and site managers who agree to locating a Book Nook at their premise will receive an orientation to managing the book collection and in promoting book use, sharing and reading with customers and visitors.

Additional material on the benefits of reading, tips on sharing books with children and information on where to access more books and support will be produced, printed and made available where Book Nooks are established.

Project 7: Raiders Netball club - £2500

Coaching sessions will be held Thursday's weekly for up to 30 juniors aged 10-16 from 18:00-19.20 and adult training sessions are also held Thursday's weekly from 19.30-21.30 for up to 30 women. All training sessions are coached by professional coaches with UKCC qualifications level 2 (under 16's) and 3 (Adults). All participants are taught according to their ability and understanding of the netball rules. Each new member is buddied with a regular participant to ensure they feel fully welcomed and

embraced by the teams. The weekly coaching session is offered at a subsidised fee to both children and adults to encourage them to continue participating in the weekly sessions and matches.

The weekly sessions offer the young teenager girls the ability to grow, develop communication skills and build relationships with their peers.

Both adults and children are encouraged to participate in fortnightly matches hosted by a local league who works in partnership with Kent County Leaders. Raiders offers an environment where the participants feel safe and free to enjoy the weekly training sessions. Raiders offer an onsite Safe-Guarding Officer for children/adults to speak to confidentially, the club also adhere to All England Safeguarding Policy. Once an individual applies to join/commit to Raiders they are then affiliated to All England Netball Association via Kent County and other associated partners which provides weekly updates on the England Netball Association and offers discount on netball

4. Projects put to the assembly's vote

After everyone listened to the presentations delivered by each project, all projects were voted in by a show of hands.

5. Tewkesbury Lodge & Thorpewood Avenue Working Groups Introduction- Cllr Leo Gibbons

Tewkesbury Lodge Working Group Introduction– Lead by Cllr Sophie Davis

This working Group aims to address the frequent complaint of rat-running and heavy goods traffic over the Tewkesbury Lodge Estate. Also the traffic queues at rush hour, air pollution from exhaust fumes and safety concerns for children walking to school.

The following was agreed:

- The working group will include Tewkesbury Lodge as well as the area around Devonshire road (and other roads nearby, if requested by other members).
- Cllr Davis will put together a mailing list including people who attended the assembly and anyone else who contacts her willing to participate, she will then send a doodle to agree a date for the next meeting (a Saturday). She will also tweet
- The following provisional next steps as follows:
 1. At the next meeting, they will discuss in detail what residents want, what has been done to date, and put together

recommendations (including best case scenarios and compromises)

2. They will then send these to Simon Moss, Transport Policy and Development Manager, and invite him to attend another meeting where these can be discussed. In the meantime, Cllr Davis will meet Simon to hear more about the background.
3. Once recommendations have been discussed with Simon Moss, and we believe they are feasible, we will put them forward to Mayor and Cabinet.

For further information or to get involved email

cldr_sophie.davis@lewisham.gov.uk

Thorpewood Avenue Working Group Introduction– Lead by Cllr Leo Gibbons

A few minutes' walk from Forest Hill station and the shops of Dartmouth Road, host to a local primary school, and a stone's throw from a leisure centre and swimming pool – the lower section of Thorpewood Road is often a popular area to park for visitors and commuters in our ward. Unfortunately, the lack of available parking on the road has long been a concern for many of its residents.

At the assembly they discussed the different issues of concern faced by those living in at the bottom and top end of Thorpewood Avenue. Suggested solutions included a second CPZ consultation across a smaller area, or a single yellow line on Thorpewood Avenue active for two hours in the middle of the day. The Lower section of Thorpewood Avenue is affected by commuter parking and parking for local amenities, while the upper section of the road has difficulties due to teach parking and aggressive parking during school-run hours.

Provisional next steps agreed:

- Cllr Gibbons will hold a meeting with Simon Moss to raise the concerns of the residents in the working groups and those who have contacted him elsewhere, and raise their possible solutions.
- Cllr Gibbons will put together a mailing list including people who attended the assembly and anyone else who contacts him willing to participate. He will also tweet.
- Once this meeting has taken place, he will feedback to the Working Group at their next meeting.
- If the Working Group are happy with the proposals, we will put them forward to Mayor and Cabinet.

For further information or to get involved email:

Cllr_Leo.Gibbons@lewisham.gov.uk

6. Join the Forest Hill Assembly Coordinating Group

- Feedback forms – agenda items next meeting

Cllr Bernards highlighted the importance of completing the feedback forms and invited members to join the coordinating group which plans the assembly and discusses local issues and updates. If you would like to join contact maya.onyett@lewisham.gov.uk for further information.

7. Community information and question time

SNT Update:

	July 2017-Sep 2017	July 2018-Sep 2018	%
Theft + Handling	75	120	60
Violence vs person	86	83	-3
Burglary	33	30	-9
Crim dam	15	23	53
Robbery	12	14	16
Drugs	5	8	60
Sexual Offences	5	7	40
Total crimes	237	289	22

Crime Stats for the last three (3) months;

Burglary

Kemal.Babaoglu from the SNT asked people to ensure their sheds and garages are secured with approved locks. These offences are sporadic in nature. If anyone needs any advice on suitable locks or crime prevention in general, they can contact us and this can be arranged.

Robbery

There has been a very slight increase in the number of reported robbery incidents within Forest Hill over the last three months.

Violence against the person

The number of reported crimes involving violence over the last three months is noticeably down compared to the previous reporting period.

Theft of and theft from motor vehicle

There has been an increase of reported theft on the ward. The team have conducted numerous night duties and five separate individuals have been arrested. The proactive approach will continue.

Theft person

Unfortunately, there has been a slight increase in the number of reported offences compared to the previous reporting period.

Criminal damage

Again, an increase in the number of reported allegations made to police compared to the previous reporting period.

Total notifiable offences

22% increase in crime from the same period last year. A number of reasons can be the cause of this, firstly being that more crime gets reported to police with internet reporting becoming more regular, less officers on the street with more abstractions, crime can naturally rise.

Millennium Gardens and Town Centre

We have received several complaints from local residents living near to Millennium Gardens over anti-social behaviour and suspected drugs activity in the green to complaints of begging in the Town Centre. We have been doing a lot of work around these subjects and have identified two persons being responsible, we believe for the ASB in both locations. One of the individuals has recently been to court after being charged for several different offences and has been served with a community order. We will continue to deal with ASB, predominately in the town centre as it arises.

Regarding the ASB and drug taking in Millennium Gardens, if found committing offences, those involved could be dealt with in much the same way as previously stated for those begging. Those believed to be involved in drug taking are stop and searched regularly, if we have grounds to search at the time.

We have also had complaints from local residents with regards to these individuals setting up tents in the Millennium Green, these have now been removed from the location.

Summary

The SNT are tasked every three months by our ward panel, the members being representatives of the Forest Hill Community, to deal with specific problems affecting the community. Our last Ward Panel meeting was in September and the promises set were to raise awareness for Burglary, antisocial behaviour with motorists and antisocial behaviour in the town centre.

The team have been running a number of different operations including plain clothes patrols during night duties to tackle theft &

burglary offenders and traffic operations to try and reduce the amount of vehicle offences on the ward. These operations will continue sporadically over the next several months with the aim of reducing crime.

Any complaints or questions can be forwarded to us either in person by ringing 020 8721 2723 or by e-mailing the team on ForestHill.SNT@met.police.uk

Upcoming Christmas activities: Saturday 8th December, Christmas tree Switch on event at Forest Hill station & Kirkdale from 4pm