

# **New Cross Local Assembly meeting**

Monday 09 July 2012 – 7pm-9pm  
Woodpecker Community Centre

## **Agenda item**

### **Summary of discussion**

#### **Introductions**

- 1
  - Cllr Maslin welcomed everyone to the meeting and explained the agenda to the meeting

#### **Lewisham's Plans for the 2012 Olympics**

- Carmel Langstaff, LBL Officer, gave a presentation outlining Lewisham's plans for the Olympics. The full presentation can be found on the New Cross Assembly webpage.
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    - The Chair then opened the meeting for questions
    - A member of the audience expressed a general concern about London having the Olympics.
    - The Chair responded that this was not an issue in Lewisham's control but there were lots of people looking forward to it in the borough.
    - No further questions were received

#### **Mapping exercise**

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  - Cllr Maslin explained the exercise and people were encouraged to participate. People were asked to identify on maps where their particular issues were; e.g flytipping hotspots.
  - Issues raised can be found in the appendix of these minutes.

#### **Launch of the New Cross Assembly Fund**

- Cllr Maslin explained that there was £15,000 available to apply for from the 2012/13 Assembly Fund
  - He explained that the Fund is designed to help deliver the Assembly's ward priorities
  - These ward priorities are currently tackling crime and anti-social behaviour; youth provision; traffic/road safety; improving community facilities and shops; environment
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    - To be eligible to apply, groups that have previously received funding must have completed all of their monitoring obligations by the deadline date
    - Each project can apply for up to £2,500
    - Deadline date is Wednesday 3 October 2012 at 5pm
    - Cllr Maslin said people who were interested could get forms from the Local Assembly Coordinator Lisa Buckingham

#### **5 New Cross Coordinating Group**

- Cllr Maslin explained that the New Cross Coordinating Group is chosen

from the wider Assembly and help plan meetings and drive actions forward

- He announced that two new people would be joining the Coordinating Group: Kath Dunbar and Kazzim Keji
- In addition, due to the importance of tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, a Neighbourhood Community Safety officer will be invited to join the group
- Cllr Maslin said that if there was anyone who was interested in joining the group they should talk to Lisa

### **Community information**

- PC xxx gave an overview of what the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) were doing to combat crime and anti-social behaviour in New Cross ward
- He explained that the focus was still largely around street drinking and drug dealing in the Deptford High Street area
- He said positive progress has been made on some of the estates where reports of crime have fallen
- The Chair asked if anyone had any questions for the SNT
  
- Q1. Have the problems with crime & anti-social behaviour got worse since more betting shops opened in the area?
- A1. Betting shops are a focus for this activity and the SNT have been working closely with the shops. They are dealing with the problem in several ways including looking into applying for a dispersal order. View of the SNT is that street drinking and drug dealing are closely linked. PC XX said Paddy Power had been very supportive and had installed CCTV and built a wall to prevent people hanging around at the back of the shop.
  
- Q2. If there weren't so many bookmakers would there be a problem?
- A2. There have been street drinkers in Deptford High Street for a long time so it's not just related to bookmakers. Getting an ASBO against one helps the situation because it leads to more of them dispersing. However this is displacing rather than solving the problem.
  
- Q3. I think the situation has got worse than it was 30 years ago. Surely we can do something more?
- A3. If a problem is left unchecked it will get worse. The SNT and partners are taking a strong enforcement approach with zero tolerance for bad behaviour. The shop keepers know they will be backed up by the Police so are more likely to report incidents.
  
- Q4. Can we put pressure on the bookmakers to bring in private security?
- A4. Lots of them already have it, for example Paddy Power.
  
- Q5. Have the longer opening hours of the bookmakers worsened the situation?

- A5. No. Always been an issue around Reginald Road and suspect there would be one without the bookmakers. Other betting shops in the borough do not have this problem so it not simply related to this kind of business.
- Cllr Maslin interjected to say that the Council also felt there were too many betting shops in the area but it was difficult for them to refuse planning applications due to legislation. The law is currently permissive rather than prohibitive. The Council and Dame Joan Ruddock MP are actively lobbying central government for a change in the law that would give local authorities more control to prevent bookmakers opening.
- Q6. Was there a license for a bookmaker refused recently?
- Cllr Maslin answer that there has been one refused on anti-social behaviour grounds. But, refusing applications is always a bit hit or miss because the decision can often be overturned on appeal.
- Q7. How far do the consultation leaflets for betting shop applications have to be delivered?
- Cllr Maslin said we would get an answer in time for the next meeting.
- Q8. Does the SNT feel there is a child protection issue with a tattoo parlour being in the same building as a children's art group?
- A8. Not sure without knowing the details.
- Misrule Theatre gave an update about their project to bring art provision to the local area. Sessions will be free on 21 July at 10am, 12noon and 2pm.
- Representatives from Sage Educational Trust gave information about their free healthy weight programme.
- New Cross Learning Zone gave an update about their new opening times and range of books.
- Phoenix Fry gave an update about the Deptford Film Club and explained they were planning on building a pop-up cinema at the Stephen Lawrence Centre. He asked for ideas of what films to be shown saying they were going for a foreign theme.
- A representative from Lewisham Ethnic Minority Partnership (LEMP) gave an update about some activities going on in the area.
- A representative from the New Cross Gate Trust gave information about their summer theatre project.

### **Close and thanks**

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- Cllr Maslin thanked everyone for coming and reminded people to fill out their evaluation forms.

**No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.**