

**Crofton Park Assembly**  
**12<sup>th</sup> November 2012**  
**St Saviour's Church Hall**

**Meeting notes**

**1. Welcome by Cllr Morrison, Chair of Crofton Park Assembly**

**2. Community Cohesion**

Cllr Morrison gave an overview of the Community Cohesion Proposal, and some members of the assembly that are involved spoke about their specific area. It would be good to get more local businesses involved to help bring them together. Mention of the Community Cohesion, bring businesses together. The plan will be part of the assembly but it is a long term plan does not necessarily need to work directly with it. The assembly was asked to vote on whether they agree with setting up a Community Cohesion plan.

Hand vote: Passed

**(Roger** – roads, pedestrianisation  
**Jackie** – Business Association  
**Father Bates** – )

**3. Assembly action plan proposal (Matt Davies)**

A proposal to have more trees planted in Crofton Park which has been put forward by local resident, Matt Davies. The funding asked for from the Local Assemblies will cover 7 trees for the 2013 planting season, and it is hoped that this funding will be matched by applying to the Mayor of London. Worries over tree-planting, such as problems with roots, are no longer an issue because the tree variety is selected very carefully. The new trees would have an obvious positive environmental impact, and they can have a positive social impact – in part because residents can come together to apply for a tree, and also because research shows that house prices can rise by 15% on tree-lined streets.

Hand vote: To approve £1234 to go towards the community cohesion plan and £4200 for trees.

Passed

**4. Safer Neighbourhood Team ward panel update**

A discussion was held with local residents at Beecroft Garden Primary School to find out the key concerns of local residents in terms of anti-social behaviour issues. The top three concerns were fly tipping, parking and dogs. Deirdre Mason and Judith took these concerns to the ward panel.

**Community Safety Officers**

CSOs have made a draft plan of how to tackle issues affecting the Crofton Park area, and some of these have already been addressed. There has been work done to reduce problems with aggressive dogs, 'mini motors', and the lighting around Crofton Park station will be improved in June or July 2013.

Cllr Morrison added an update on dog mess, saying that yellow marking on pavements to remind people to bag and bin would be replaced. She said that residents should let councillors know which roads are particularly bad for dog mess.

There is a free app available called Love Clean Streets which enables a smartphone user to take a photo of fly tipping, graffiti or potholes and send it to the Council.

Q: Cllr Morrison asked if there were any other thoughts on what could be included in the plan.

A: A resident suggested it might be useful to do something about foxes.

Cllr Morrison also said that she would like lights to be put in at the Brockley Rise/Honor Oak Park junction and will follow this up.

## **5. Safer Neighbourhood Team report**

Sergeant David .... From the Crofton Park SNT gave an update on recent work in the area. There are three current priorities dating from the last ward panel meeting which are:

Burglary: An operation has been set up which aims to reduce burglary. The SNT have changed their shifts so they work later and have been doing more plain clothes work. There have been 22 less crimes in the area compared to this time in 2011. There has been a slight increase over the last three months so residents should remain vigilant, and those in terraced houses should be especially aware. Sensible precautions include putting up higher fences, trellis, and setting a light timer to come on at around 3pm.

Theft from motor vehicle: There has been a slight rise in theft from motor vehicles, including theft of number plates. The SNT can provide special screws for number plates to help protect them. Don't leave valuable items, particularly sat navs, on display in car.

Anti-social behaviour: Current priority is street crime and street drinking. The information that the SNT receive from residents is very useful so please contact the SNT if you have concerns about a particular area or group.

The current sergeant is moving on to a new job, but Sergeant Richard ..... will be taking over his role. Residents are strongly encouraged to go along to the ward panel, Crofton Park's panel is one of the strongest in Lewisham and the area is one of the safest.

## **6. Update on Lewisham A&E and Maternity**

There is a borough wide petition against the possible closure of Lewisham Hospital's A&E and Maternity units. The paper petition was available at the meeting and residents can also sign the petition online.

## **7. Unwanted gifts swap and buy**

A swap session will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2013 at the Ackroyd Centre to exchange unwanted Christmas gifts.

## **8. Break**

Attendees could visit the tables around the room to find out more about the SNT, the Community Cohesion plan and the Crofton Park website

## **9. Winter Events**

The following proposals were put to vote.

### **Christmas Community Choir and Fair at St Hilda's (£660)**

To create and train a community choir which will perform at St Hilda's Church, coordinated by Stella Agunabar at the Christmas Fair. The first practise session will be Friday 16<sup>th</sup> November. Anyone is welcome, from those with lots of musical and choral experience to those with none. The Christmas Fair will offer opportunities for local businesses to run stalls.

Hand vote: Passed

### **Santa's Grotto at St Hilda's for the Christmas Fair (£370)**

The funding will be used to supply props for the event, which will include a gift for each child and actors as elves. The Albany Theatre is involved as well as local businesses.

Hand vote: Passed

### **Ackroyd Christmas Community Fair (£270)**

This year's fair will be slightly larger than in previous years with a wider range of activities. The funding will be used to cover a therapist for pampering sessions for older residents, and a children's entertainer.

Hand vote: Passed

## **10. Community Small Grants:**

### **Dalmain Community Pen (£500)**

The funding will be used to provide activities for young people and Sports Leadership courses.

Hand vote: Passed

### **Association for Pastoral Care in Mental Health (£500)**

The funding will be used to provide additional outings to attendees of the group, and to help support them in the coming year.

Hand vote: Strongly in favour

### **Acorn after school club Christmas Party (£581)**

The funding will be used to hold a Christmas Party for children who attend the after school or breakfast club. It is a chance for the children to all mix together in a big group, which is really important for their social skills development

Hand vote: Passed

### **St Saviour's Edible Community Garden (£500)**

The garden is open to everyone and anyone who contributes to it can use the produce grown on it. The funding will be used to create publicity to increase local knowledge of the garden, and also to buy new plants.

Hand vote: Passed

**Blythe Hill Fields Festival (£500)**

The funding will be used to support the festival, which has been running now for six years.

Hand vote: Passed

**The Elder People's Support Project (£298)**

Cllr. Morrison declared her interest in this project due to being on the committee. The funding will be used to subsidise day trips, in particular to be able to hire a double decker coach for the popular Henley visit, as this will enable more people to go.

Hand vote: Passed

**Equipment for Crofton Park Community library (£200)**

The Community Library would like to purchase more equipment in order to be able to publicise the library at outdoor events.

Hand vote: Passed

**Dalmain Athletic Girls FC (£490)**

This is the only all girls Under 11 football team in the borough. They have applied for funding to be able to set up a girls football tournament to attract more members. The tournament will be followed by six free coaching sessions to encourage new members to keep returning.

Hand vote: Passed

**Parking Survey for Honor Oak Park (£100)**

It has been suggested that the recent parking survey missed out some people who were keen to input their views. This funding would go towards creating a survey which will be distributed quickly in the area in time to add input to the first council meeting about their own survey in December.

Hand vote: Passed

**Ackroyd Centre improvements (£597)**

Funding is to refurbish the entrance lobby to the Centre. There are three areas of improvement which are: professional cleaning of the tile flooring, full redecoration, and installation of thermostatic radiator valves.

Hand vote: Passed

**Leftover funding**

There was a remaining £734 from the original funding, and Cllr. Morrison proposed that this is kept for planting more trees.

Hand vote: Passed

**11. Community updates****Walk in space**

A youth club that originally started at St Hilda's has now been moved to St Saviour's and meets every Friday from 5-7pm. The Club is aimed at children aged 8-14, although some older children also come along to it. There are 59 members, with 41

regular attendees. Of the 59 members, 41 are boys and 18 are girls, and they come from 7 different schools in the local area. 3 members of staff run the youth club along with 6 volunteers who are aged between 15 and 17 who have all completed the Sports Leadership course run by the Pen. There are a range of activities available to the children attending, including sports sessions, arts and crafts, table tennis, pool, cooking and games tables. The children have been really good at making up their own games. All the sessions have been successful with positive feedback, and the club would welcome any donations of items that might be useful for the target age group. Residents are welcome to come down and have a look if they want to see how the club is running. Thanks go to Deirdre, Simon and all the local leaders that have contributed to the club.

No questions

### **Ewhurst Rd Residents Association**

An update on the group which is opposing plans to expand Prendergast School/Ladywell Fields College and the plan to move the main entrance into Ladywell Fields.

Q: Would the group want to/have they tried to get involved with the planning group that are putting forward these proposals?

A: Could be useful, the councillors would be interested in this.

### **Community Library update**

The library gained £15000 of assembly money as start up costs, for the floor plan and a café. The café is now being completed and will be set up and ready to go in a couple of weeks. The café will also be a training academy to teach young people to be baristas; and IT training will also be available, with much of the funding coming from housing associations that are very supportive. There will be opportunities for staff training on different aspects of community work. The library is now made up of Lewisham library books and refurbished eco computers. Cllr. Morrison has started a Scrabble Club, which has been popular so far.

There will be a Christmas Fair held at the library on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December at 4pm. The event will start at that time to attract people who are coming home from work, and parents that are collecting children from schools.

No questions

### **Crofton Park Community Garden**

Funding from the Assembly has enabled a community garden to be created on the corner of Marnock Road, which was previously an area which had a lot of fly tipping problems. Southeast trains, who own the land, have been very helpful in supporting the garden. A group of keen gardeners have got involved, with lots of ideas ranging from raised flower beds to vegetable patches. Bulbs have been put in so the area should be bright and colourful in the Spring. There were previously a lot of letters and complaints about the area, so hopefully this will improve it permanently.

No questions

### **12 AOB**

### **Crofton Park website**

The pro forma for the website is ready, and the site will go live in about a week (from 12/11/12). There are a variety of sections on the website and if anyone wants to get involved in maintaining them they would be very welcome. Technical expertise is not required, St Hilda's don't know how everything works either so everyone will be learning together! Volunteers do not need expertise in a specific area to take it on, just some interest and local knowledge. For example, for the 'Health' section you do not need medical knowledge, just information on where the doctors is and the local pharmacies. Each person who takes on a section will only be expected to contribute about half an hour every fortnight, so anyone can get involved. Some volunteers have already agreed to work on certain sections, including Deirdre who will be working with the SNT, the Friends of the Cemetery will contribute, and Jane is looing at creating a section on Life in Crofton Park. In the future, a blog or forum could be a possible option.

Question: Will the website have links to other relevant websites?

Answer: Yes, everyone who takes on a section will do some research to find some relevant links. For example, if there is a spate of burglaries in a specific area, the SNT can put up some information and useful links.

### **13. Thanks and close of assembly**

Cllr. Morrison thanked everyone for attending and closed the assembly.