

**Catford South assembly meeting 10 July 2012,  
7.30pm – 9.30pm  
St Laurence Centre**

**Project feedback**

**1.Catford Sewing and Knitting Group, Delphina**

The project was funded by small grants Local Assemblies funding 2011. The group began in January this year in a room at the St Laurence Centre. They had eight crafters, doing sewing, patching and smocking. The group shared skills and had had a big social aspect. The sewing group received a number of donations, Mrs Cullins donated a seamstress dummy, Agnes Wandsworth, they received three sewing machines from a lady called Jean from Sydenham Delphina wanted to thank the assembly for voting for the group.

**Olympics Themed Community event May 2011**

Lee and Matthew from Corbett Residents Association updated the assembly about the Olympic themed community event on Abbotshall Playing Fields. The event was organised by BTEC PE students at Conisborough College and the Head of PE. 180 children competed in the inter-school sports day on the Friday and all the children brought their school banners to parade around the running pitch. There was a podium and medals given out at the end of the day. Due to interest from the schools this will be held as an annual event.

On the Sunday it was a community festival called the Corbett Games, where everyone could compete in competitions such as the long jump, sack races, javelin. They had an excellent response from people and therefore they plan to hold it as an annual event. The £4,000 of funding for the community event was spent on Gazebos, trestle tables and equipment which will be stored at the Pavilion on Abbotshall playing fields and will be available for community use. Cllr Amrani commented that this was a great legacy for Catford South.

**Catford South Youth assembly update**

700 young people were consulted on about youth activities by the pupils of Conisborough College School Council. The outcome of this consultation has led to a number of youth projects being commissioned for delivery this year by Teachsport who were chosen by the School Council. These projects include:

- a summer Football Academy on Abbotshall playing fields for boys and girls of primary and secondary school age.
- an after-school trampolining club and cheerleading club, open to all young people; in Catford South, to be based at Conisborough College
- an after school drama club, to be based at the drama studio at Conisborough College, open to 14 – 16 year olds.

Activities updates are as follows: the 23<sup>rd</sup> July to 27<sup>th</sup> July & 30<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August/times 10.30am to 3.30pm are booked for football and multisport course, the venue is Conisborough College,. The age range is 7 to 14 years old. Leaflets are being printed and will be distributed across all the local primary schools and the college.

After several meetings with the Head of PE, Head of Drama, the college Business Manager and in consultation with the young people it has been decided to offer cheerleading sessions and the development of a borough based club at the College, this starting with introductory assemblies in September. After meeting with the Head of Drama they have also decided to start in September with the after school drama club, as they have productions this term and this timing would have a better impact on new recruits in the new school year.

Cllr Amrani congratulated the young people for their hard work and hoped maybe the drama club might be able to do a Christmas performance for the November assembly meeting.

### **Greening Catford Tree project update**

Cllr Amrni updated that submissions for trees is now closed, the applications for trees have been passed onto the relevant tree officer at Greenscene, there is still the odd signature being collected from residents for certain trees sites, as Greenscene will not proceed investigations into any site that does not have supporting signatures from neighbours by the site.

Sarah the assembly coordinator will be meeting with the Tree Officer in July to discuss all tree applications and will be liaising directly with applicants. The planting season will commence from late August onwards. 19 tree sites have been requested, the roads include Penerley, Inchmery, Arran Newquay, Muilkirk, Merchinsan. Sites will be subject to investigation for site suitability by LBL tree Officer.£8,800 of funding is available. The trees cost £600 for planting and annual maintenance, therefore the current requests amount to £11,400, funding will be allocated after investigation of all the sites.

### **Questions and comments**

Could I ask that we do not have plum trees as they make a mess on the pavements.

Q.Are there enough people in the Council to look after the trees?

A.The fund covers tree purchase and maintenance, but it is agreed that after one year we need to ensure that Greenscene continue to maintain trees as part of their annual maintenance

Q. The issue raised that some residents asked to provide signatures for trees were not doing so but were not against having trees, how can we get round that is Greenscene insist on having signatures for all sites?

A. Greenscene must have signatures to go ahead, but possibly we could provide a letter asking them to sign to object, rather than support.

### **Bring n Fix, Rushey Green Timebank**

The event is booked for September. In the meantime Timebank are holding an event to brief the community on how to run a Bring n Fix event on the 24<sup>th</sup> July at the Rushey Green Practice.

It is important to stress that this is an intergenerational event and not just aimed at older people. People come along and do simple things such as fixing trousers, changing a plug, polishing shoes. But then you can build on the fixers to have more complicated tasks based on the skills in your local area. When recruiting volunteers at the Corbett event there were electricians and plumbers. The advice is lit light and look after fixers and keep and entertaining.

It was explained that for the event to be a success it still needed a number of volunteers to plan and run this event. Once you have an idea of what skills will be at the event it can be publicised, it is a free event.

There were no questions, and some interest in getting involved but people were to go away and think about it.

### **Catford in Bloom**

The deadline has been extended to the end of July, there has been twelve entries so far but more are needed. If you would like to enter email Sarah Eaglestone or speak to Jeff at the meeting, people can nominate their neighbours. Judging will take place in early August.

### **Ward priorities 2012**

It was explained by Cllr Amrani that before working on the 2012 assembly action plan it was important to find out if our ward current priorities, were still the most important to people locally, they are:

- Youth provision
- Catford Town Centre
- Streetscape and the environment
- Roads and traffic
- Crime and anti-social behaviour

A brief online survey was placed on the Catford South assembly webpage and advertised it on the ward door to door letter. Unfortunately only one person completed the survey, so we do not have any new information. Cllr Amrani proposed therefore that the current five ward priorities are kept for 2012 which and which will be worked on further in the table exercise.

## **Catford South assembly funding 2012 : Process and timescale**

Cllr Amrani announced that there is £18,750 for the Catford South ward to be allocated by the Catford South assembly. The Funding can be spent on:

1. Ward priorities: existing actions detailed in the assembly action plan - commissioning approach
2. Ward priorities: new actions generated at July assembly meeting and priority survey-commissioning approach
3. Part of the assembly fund can be used as a community small grants fund, to support local projects and activity in the Catford South ward.

The Catford South assembly coordinating group recommended that £8,000 of our funding is ring-fenced as a small grants fund (maximum £1,000 per project), for approval by the assembly. A public vote was taken for and against, by a show of hands. The outcome was a majority vote in favour, no one voted against, and one person abstained.

## **Priority table feedback**

### **Streetscape and the environment**

There was a real consensus around the table that the shopping parades in Catford South were neglected. The Council have a policy for local shopping areas we need something similar for our shopping parades in Catford South. There are big concerns: cracked paving slabs, refuse collection is under-capacity for the businesses' needs, a lack of parking control for shops unloading. When there has been a change in use to residential they do not reflect architecturally the local area. Greening is needed outside the shops such as trees. Catford South should look at areas of transformation like Hither Green and Brockley for advice and inspiration. There is a need to capitalise on best practice and money should be set aside for the shopping parades.

The next steps should be to organise a stakeholder group for annual review. To develop a vision and spend money on a feasibility study, this might take ten years to achieve.

Bike stands are needed and traffic calming measures with collaborative working with the businesses, it has to be strategic and done a community and encourage a group of shop owners to engage with this group.

Maintenance of trees is also important, both large and small, a plan needs to be in place for next year.

### **Youth Provision**

There is a gap in the market for all ages in Catford South, we should continue to build on the relationships developed with schools arrange weekend access

to their playgrounds for toddlers play. Continue what the assembly has started get the young people to make decisions and run youth activities themselves. More sports and drama and short films.

### **Crime and anti-social behaviour**

There are still big fly-tipping problems in the ward, hot spot areas are: Daneby Road, Muirkirk Road, Penerley Road and Inchmerry Road. Some solutions given to encourage residents to use the Love Lewisham app and take a photo and download it. For problematic areas there is the possibility of getting a temporary camera installed.

Gatherings of people on the streets that make people feel uneasy, around bus stops and the shops at Sandhurst parade. It was reported that begging in the area has increased around the shops. The shops could have signs to say not to give money to beggar and people should be encouraged not to give money so not to encourage begging the area.

Supporting Neighbourhood Watch, the £1,000 allocated to the schemes has encountered the problem that not all schemes own bank accounts to receive funding. A solution put forward that the money could be paid directly to the costs such as hall hire.

For fly tipping if residents see a truck dumping goods, they should take a picture of the number plate.

### **Traffic and Roads**

The table was in of the community gritting proposal for Catford South. At present it is not clear where the bins would be located and who would oversee and keep an eye on them.

It should be ran as a pilot, need to decide where and when.

Road safety for cyclist was considered an important issue to champion. The table also discussed speed humps, people around the table were in favour of them but felt they could be adapted to suit cyclists better.

For cyclists, bike ramps are needed and clear cycle routes, a lot of the signage has disappeared. The cycle routes need to be publicised.

In regards to CPZ's there needs to be a review done of who is parking where in the ward in regards to Lewisham employees, SELCO, the bus garage. Cllr Stamirowski reported that as part of the Borough wide review on CPZ's is anyone had any concerns or views they would like to feed into the process to email her.

### **Table 2 Roads and Traffic**

Regarding parking, it was felt that the greatest cause was Lewisham Council employees parking in the daytime and that to solve the problem Lewisham

Council should look into providing more parking at Laurence House car park or consider subsidising oyster cards or providing travel loans to encourage staff to use public transport, with a pool car provided for key workers.

Cyclist safety, the road signs can't be seen Thornsbeach. Also the problems with Skanska the lighting variable with pools of darkness and some street lights are located in the middle of pavements and now covered by trees. It was requested and agreed that there would be a discussion about street lighting at the next Catford South assembly meeting and will request a representative from Highways and Skanska to attend.

### **Councillor Questions**

SELCO are going down Crantock Road in large wagons.

Q. Is Lewisham Council no longer spraying weed killer on the pavements as the weeds are getting bad and blocking drains.

A. No Lewisham stopped spraying the pavements with weed killers as part of the budget cuts, but the street sweepers will dig large weeds up.

It was requested that a further discussion on the access issues across Laurence House car park need to be re-visited as Lewisham Council are no longer responding.

Cllr Amrani, put a call out for new volunteers for the Catford South assembly coordinating group and thanked everyone and closed the meeting.

No declarations of interest were raised at the meeting