



**Bellingham Assembly
13 March 2013
7.00pm – 9.00pm
Livesey Memorial Hall**

Meeting notes

Your local assembly, your say!

1. Welcome and introduction to the meeting.

From Councillor Ami Ibitson.

2. Assembly Action Plan Proposals

Councillor Jacqui Pascoud explained that residents had said at the last Bellingham Assembly meeting on 9 October 2013, that they would like to change some of the priorities. It was said that 'Poor Parks and Insufficient Play Areas' and 'Environment' might not be as relevant as other local issues.

At the moment Bellingham Assemblies priorities are:

- **Youth provision and perception of young people**
- **Anti-social behaviour**
- **Environment**
- **Poor parks and insufficient play areas**
- **Older people's issues**

The assembly agreed to the following 3 new actions:

1. To keep three of the priorities that have consistently been important to local people:
 - **Children and Young People**
 - **Older Peoples Issues**
 - **Community Events and Festivals**
2. Give the **Anti-Social Behaviour** priority to the Safer Neighbourhood Panel, Neighbourhood Community Safety Team and Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). All community concerns about crime and anti-social behaviour would be given to these three organisations who would work closely with the assembly and give regular updates.
3. To ask people what they think is the most important thing for the assembly to achieve in 2013, through the voting sheet which will be circulated and used in a consultation. If there is a priority that is different from the three listed this will become the 4th priority and also will give a focus of what the community want to the assembly to achieve in 2013.

It was also said that as the pot of money is getting smaller that we need to focus in on what can be achieved this year.

Priority Voting Forms

Everyone was given voting forms to fill in asking what is the most important thing for Bellingham Assembly to help the community achieve in 2013.

3. Bell Green Development Update

Geoff Whittington from Lewisham Councils Planning Department spoke to the meeting.

Geoff advised that he could be a contact and take any questions that he wouldn't be able to answer during the meeting back to the Highways and Planning departments and give the questions back to individuals and the assembly. Geoff's contacts are geoff.whittington@lewisham.gov.uk 0208 314 9530.

Section 106 Funding

Section 106 funding is money that legally has to be put aside to pay for improvements or help for local people when there is a big development in their area. It was asked at the last assembly meeting what had happened to the 2006 Section 106 Agreement money for the Bell Green Development. It was explained that there was £1,064,000 towards the "Accessibility Works" (see below) but an extra £853,000 has also been added to the pot earlier this year.

The "Accessibility Works" which the Section 106 money would pay for are improvements to make the development easier for local residents, for the Bell Green gyratory the current proposals are:

- **Improvements to the two existing signals (Kangley Bridge Road and Worsley Bridge Road signals)**
- **Linking all 5 sets of signals around the gyratory**
- **pedestrian crossings and crossovers**
- **signs**
- **CCTV**
- **bus shelters**
- **Feasibility into a possible subway through railway embankment at Southend Lane over bridge**

Progress on the subway proposal has not started.

The proposal is to develop a scheme within the budgets, any consultations with the public would start in 2013/2014 for scheme implementation in 2014/15.

KIER Construction

Alasdair Higgs and Emrah Coskun from the developers KIER gave a presentation on the Bell Green development.

New shops will include B&Q, Currys/PC World, Pets at Home, Next Home, Toys R Us and a Halfords Auto Centre. There will be a car park with 460 spaces. The works are due to be completed in June and the shops should be ready to trade at some stage during the summer. There is still a unit that is not currently leased. For more information on the project contact Kier Construction on 020 8778 6333.

Pedestrian access/ Bus Shelter during construction

Residents also stated that the loss of the bus shelter for a whole year throughout the construction was very difficult to manage and the pedestrian access had been difficult and dangerous for wheelchairs and people with pushchairs.

It was said that the SKANSA lighting works happening at the same time made Perry Hill really dangerous and difficult for pedestrians to manage.

End Date

Residents were upset that the finish date had been pushed back twice, Alasdair Higgs from KIER stated that the building works will be finished by mid June this year.

Pedestrian access to Shops

It was asked that there is better pedestrian access from Bellingham Estate and Selworthy Road otherwise it is a very long route around Southend Lane to get to the shops.

Section 106 Funding – Community Involvement

It was agreed that when there is a community consultation on the Section 106 funding that residents will be recruited via the assembly as well as other ways.

Southend Lane Railway Bridge

There was a complaint that the railway bridge on Southend Lane is no longer going to be widened, as was suggested a few years ago. Many people were concerned about the extra traffic and delays around the gyratory. It was suggested that there is a central pier in the bridge as it would be a cheaper way of widening it.

4. Bellingham Safer Neighbourhood Team Update

PC Matt Honour and PCSO Hayley Stringer spoke to the Assembly.

It was said that the number of Police Constables in Lewisham will increase but these won't be allocated to a Safer Neighbourhood team.

Home Park

It was stated that a resident had complained about drug activity in her block but that the police had not responded and didn't feel that her concerns about safety were taken seriously.

Drug problems

It was asked that there are more patrols as residents felt that burglaries had increased and that drugs were the issue that needs to be tackled.

20 March Fraud Awareness Day

This will be held 1pm-4pm at Bellingham Lifestyle and Leisure Centre, open to all residents.

5. Lewisham Hospital Update

Cllr Alan Hall, Jos Bell and Simone Boothe from the 'Save the Lewisham Hospital' campaign spoke to the assembly.

What has happened so far

It was explained that in July 2012 a 'special administrator' was appointed to take over South London Healthcare Trust which is in financial difficulty. The administrator has completed a report that recommends Lewisham Hospital close their A&E, children's wards, critical care, emergency and complex surgery units and current maternity services. He also advised to sell off Lewisham Hospital's empty buildings for £17million, (only £5million less than the A&E refurbishment last year).

Lewisham Hospital is not part of South London Healthcare, and is not in financial difficulty. This would mean specialist services such as HIV aids, sickle cell and intensive care would also have to close in Lewisham and ambulances in 999 situations would not be able to take patients to Lewisham.

The Department of Health have accepted the recommendation. Lewisham council have been advised that the way the consultation was carried out leading to the planned closures was not legally correct and are challenging the closures via a judicial review at the High Court. This might be in May/June 2013.

Sydenham Childrens Hospital

It was noted that the campaign are aware that Sydenham Childrens Hospital was only closed in the confidence that the same care would be able to be given to local children at Lewisham Hospital.

Queen Elizabeth Hospital Woolwich

It was commented that Queen Elizabeth Hospital already has more people trying to access its services that it has capacity for, with a regular 4 hour wait in A&E and women in labour diverted to other hospitals.

Travel

It was noted that London Ambulance Service has opposed the closures and were not consulted about the time advertised by the administrator that it would take a Lewisham resident to get to Woolwich by ambulance. Simone was filmed taking 1 hour 40 minutes on public transport from Lewisham Hospital to Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

Events

Saturday 16 March - Born in Lewisham - Lewisham Hospital

21 of March – Goldsmiths University – Open meeting

23 March Davys wine bar – Gig with profits to campaign

26 March demonstration in Westminster against privatisation of health and social care

Jos asked everyone to remember to keep using the hospital and not travel elsewhere.

More information on the website:

www.savelewishamhospital.com

Statement for Lewisham Councils Mayor and Cabinet

The following motion was agreed, furthermore, it was resolved to forward this to the Mayor and Cabinet to show the strength of feeling of the Bellingham Assembly:

"The Bellingham Assembly supports the councils legal challenge to save Lewisham Hospital. We support the retention of all services at Lewisham Hospital"

agreed by all present at Bellingham Assembly 13 March 2013.

6. Feedback from Funded Groups

Bellingham Golden Oldies

Bellingham Golden Oldies (BEGO) had funding through the Assembly Fund for an event for older people called 'All Our Yesteryears'. Members of the group explained to the assembly that it was a successful event with 90 older people attending, who were served food by police cadets. There was also a 17 piece band playing music from the 40's and 50's and the event was enjoyed by everyone that took part.

Farmstead Road Community Garden

Merissa from Farmstead Road Community Garden spoke to the assembly. The gardens received Assembly funding that has helped achieve many improvements. There have been open days and volunteer days at the gardens. Local children with special educational needs have been visiting and using the gardens. Raised beds for wheelchair users and people with mobility problems have also been built.

If you would like to get involved please email

farmsteadroadcommunitygarden@hotmail.co.uk or call/text 07944735271

www.farmsteadroadcommunitygarden.webs.com

7. Community Updates

Friends of Home Park

Anthony Scully from Friends of Home Park spoke to the assembly. It was confirmed that the banners on the library have been put up to make the library more visible to people walking past. The park has also been awarded £70,000 of 'Pocket Park' funding which will allow the old changing rooms to be refurbished. There are plans for a café area outside the library also.

Bellingham Time Bank

Jane and Simone from Rushey Green Timebank spoke to the assembly. A time bank is an organisation where people come together to donate an hour of their time to help someone locally to them, which gives them a credit where they can receive an hour of help back from someone else. People can be skilled in some way or just help in any way they can. They confirmed that they are working with Bellingham Community Project to set up a Time Bank in Bellingham.

Well London

Gary Buswell from Bellingham Community Project spoke to the assembly. Gary advised that there are many 'Well London' projects happening in Bellingham that people can get involved in and also volunteer for.

If you would like to volunteer and for free training and information, contact Gary on 020 8461 2213 or gbuswell@bcp.uk.net

Community Information

Find out what's happening in Bellingham and connect with local people at www.bellinghamonline.ning.com and follow Bellingham's Community Twitter Account **@BellinghamSE**.

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.