



Forest Hill Assembly

Monday 21 May 7pm – 9pm

**Horniman Museum
100 London Road, SE23 3PQ**

Minutes of the meeting

Finbarr Whooley from the Horniman Museum welcomed people to the first ever local assembly at the museum. He told the assembly that the Horniman Museum has been part of Forest Hill for over 100 years and that it aims to continue to play an active role within the community. He also thanked the Forest Hill Assembly for funding the Busy Bees programme which once again is proving to be hugely popular.

Finbarr stated that the launch of the new community gardens will take place on Thursday 31 May with Joe Swift from Gardeners World and the Mayor of Lewisham Sir Steve Bullock in attendance.

1. Welcome, introduction and format for the meeting.

Cllr Feakes, chair of the Forest Hill Assembly welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then introduced the other Councillor present Cllr Philip Peake's and passed on Cllr Anne Affiku's apologies for not being able to make the meeting.

2. Local updates

Louise House - Hilary Renwick from Lewisham Council told the assembly that there is no designated use for Louise House and that the council is looking to transfer the building on a long lease to a community organisation / creative industry organisation or business. A local agent will handle the tender, but the procurement will be done by the council. There will be a consultation meeting on 13th June at Forest Hill Methodist Church from 5pm – 6.45pm.

The timetable will be:

14 June – 6 July - Expressions of interest

11 July - Full tender pack available

19 September - Deadline for completion of tender applications

The council will also be commissioning a condition survey of the building so that potential bidders can see what work needs to be done prior to bringing the building back into use, this will be part of the tender pack.

Q What happens if there are no bids?

A Hopefully we will have some bids, but we have a duty of care to the building as it is listed, so if there are no bids we may have to start the process again.

Q Will there be Council assistance once the building is taken on?

A It depends on the organisation, for example if it is a creative or cultural organisation it would be my department, likewise employment. Once the tender goes out we will run some workshops to support people doing business plans.

Voluntary Care Centre (VCC) – Evelyn Brady from the VCC thanked the assembly for agreeing to have VCC at the meeting. She stated that the VCC was founded in 1969 and its role is to support the community by providing services. There is a Voluntary Driving Scheme which has 25 volunteers on the books, these people give up their own time and using their own car they take residents to crucial appointments. There is also a befriending scheme for housebound people and we do voluntary gardening to help people keep their gardens tidy as well as DIY around the home. Last Christmas VCC provided a successful Christmas project and 1800 people were helped, this included hampers, supermarket vouchers, toys and drivers.

There is also an Amazon button on the VCC website so if you wish to purchase anything from Amazon please go via our website.

It costs £20 per year to be a member of the VCC.

Q How can you manage to fund all your volunteers as CRB checks are expensive?

A We have 200 volunteers in total and we build-in funding through grant applications.

Forest Hill Society – Michael Abrahams from the Forest Hill Society told the assembly that St George's Church (Vancouver Road, SE23 2AG) are running a Craft Fair from 11am to 5pm on Saturday, 26 May. They will have 32 stalls including jewellery, cake, food, face painting, story telling and ice creams.

On Sunday 3rd June there will be a Jubilee Food Fair in Forest Hill Station Car Park between 10am – 2pm with lots of local produce.

On Wednesday 26 May there will be a meeting of the new Forest Hill Traders Association . Cllr Feakes stated that he is pleased to hear that the traders association is reforming as it will be good for Forest Hill, both traders and customers.

3. Feedback from priorities consulted at last assembly and ideas / aspirations linked to the action plan

Cllr Feakes explained that the Forest Hill Action Plan is a correlation of ideas and aspirations for Forest Hill. Some of these are immediately achievable, some require a bit more work and some are very long-term and many be dependent upon outside agencies such as TfL. Each identified action has a progress update so that people can chart what is happening. The action plan is a living document and is constantly being updated, for example the idea for the reforming of the traders association came from the last assembly. Other ideas and suggestions came from the last assembly and the action plan has been updated to accommodate this, there is also a page at the back of the plan detailing the work carried out at the last meeting.

4. Open Forum – The Forest Hill Action Plan

Attendees were encouraged to browse through the Action Plan and comments were invited.

Q B5 refers to the lack of a GP surgery within the ward, is there any update about this?

A Forest Hill is one of only 3 places within zone 3 where GP surgery is more than 1 km away. Cllr Affiku was looking into this as she has a contact at the local PCT

Q with regards to D1, when will the Forest Hill Pools re-open?

A We are optimistic for a soft opening at the beginning of July and an official opening on 22 September

Q Where will any further housing units go and what will be the benefits of the community infrastructure levy?

A The Forest Hill Society and the Sydenham Society are taking the lead in this.

Q This was not mentioned at the Localism meeting

A We will get some clarity for the next assembly meeting

Q How serious are you about diverting the A205?

A It is a TfL road, but it is in the plan because it is a primary issue and we need to account for this.

Q What is the latest news regarding Honor Oak Rec?

A There will be a final decision next month, but we need to keep lobbying regarding this as it will keep coming up.

5. Update from previously funded groups

Friends of Albion Millennium Green, Theatre Consultation – This project was awarded £1,000 by the Forest Hill Assembly. Tim Lund told the assembly that they are running a consultation exercise on Sunday 10 June at Albion Millennium Green between 5pm – 6pm.

Q How can we get involved if we want to perform?

A Get in touch via our website amgfriends.org.uk

Kirkdale Village beautification project – This project was awarded £1,000 for a beautification programme. Rebecca Leathlean and Jenny Holland from Kirkdale Village told the assembly that they are in the process of obtaining planters, bicycle racks and trees. The planters will have mosaics on them in time for the Sydenham Arts Festival. There was a very well attended consultation meeting and students are helping with the street planning.

Cllr Feakes stated that Kirkdale Village was a really good example of how a small amount of money can have a great affect.

Horniman Museum Busy Bees programme – This project was awarded £3,420 by the assembly and has proved extremely successful. Zoe told the assembly that Busy Bees runs twice a week during term-time and thanked the Assembly for providing the funds, the programme will continue to run until November 2012.

Centrepont Healthy Living workshops– This project was awarded £1,500 by the assembly. Tina Efebe from Centrepont told the assembly that the charity works with homeless people and helps them to become more independent such as providing cooking skills for cooking on a low budget. The assembly money enable Centrepont to purchase a cupboard for food and utensils and start an allotment for growing vegetables. There are now 12 residents with their own cupboard and workshops have taken place with many residents taking part, all of them are now cooking more often. Tina read out a letter from one of Centrepont's residents detailing how the cupboard has helped her to cook more.

Sydenham and Forest Hill Youth Forum, Youth workshops – This project was awarded £5,222 from the assembly. Melissa Knight told the assembly that the idea of the funding was to train young people in fundraising and give them the skills to run fun and find innovative ways to get locals giving £2 per month. Since August they have made a song and released it on iTunes, with sales coming from UK, Canada, Australia and USA. They also made a music video and filmed a comedy sketch show on how not to raise £2 per month. So far the group have raised £600 return on the £5,222, with a target to reach 200-300 givers by the end of 2012 meaning that by the end of 2013 the money Forest Hill Assembly gave would have raised the same amount whilst continuing to do so as people's donations grow. The next step is to continue the sessions into Autumn and they are going to hire young people to take the lead in running a door-to-door campaign, asking the whole of Forest Hill area to invest in the fund. The money raised goes on to fund gaps in youth provision in the local area and they are now piloting their first funded project called 'Paint A Smile' getting young people to paint homes of children, elderly and disabled people (who cannot physically paint a room). So if you have any ideas or people who would benefit, contact mel@sfhyouthforum.org.uk and also if you are a provider of services, please add yourself to our online directory where they map in a fun friendly way the things that are going on locally for youth. It is free to use with a userguide so that it will only take 15 minutes. Any questions, please call Melissa on 07886116055. If you would like to donate £2 a month, please go online to www.sfhyouthforum.org.uk/donate They do not take bank details, instead they give theirs out. The bigger the fund, the bigger the difference!

Ageing Well in Lewisham, Arts Befriending and Theatre Project – This project was awarded £4,960 by the assembly. Kerry Hagger told the assembly that 23 people are regularly involved in the project and visits have included Trinity Laban, but they hope to visit Canvas and Cream. They still want more referrals for people between 60 – 98 years.

6. Launch of the Forest Hill Assembly Fund

Cllr Feakes told the assembly that the Forest Hill Assembly Fund is now officially open, this year there is significantly less money available as last year we joined 2 years of funding together and added some underspend which gave us around £45,000.

Cllr Feakes explained the following:

- £15,000 available to Forest Hill ward
- maximum bid £2,000 unless 'extraordinary' proposal
- deadline for bid submission Friday 31st August 5pm
- applications to be presented to Forest Hill assembly on Monday 8 October, assembly will then vote for favourite proposals up to the £15k available

All bids must meet one or more of the Forest Hill assembly priorities, these are:

- Town centre regeneration and revitalisation.
- Growing community facilities within the ward.

- Improving and safeguarding our environment including parks and open spaces.
- Better facilities for all, young and old

7. Community Updates - None

Cllr Feakes then thanked everyone for coming to the assembly and requested that people complete the feedback forms.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9pm. The next meeting will take place on Monday 8 October with the venue to be confirmed. Further details and information will be circulated to all residents nearer the time. No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.