



THE LEWISHAM CENTRAL ASSEMBLY

**Thursday 11 October 2012
7-9pm
Leemore Centre
Clarendon Rise London, SE13 5ES**

Minutes of the Meeting

Welcome, introduction & format for the evening

Cllr Stella Jeffrey (Chair) opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending, in particular the groups who were bidding for the remainder of the assembly fund for 2012/13 amounting to £13,750. Elevating success were awarded £5,000 at the previously assembly meeting which was spent on the Mercator Estate summer programme.

Cllr Jeffrey explained that the bulk of the meeting will be taken up with deciding the allocation of the assembly fund. There will be an opportunity for residents who live, work or study in the Lewisham Central ward (and are over 14 years of age) to vote for their favourite projects. The remainder of the agenda included a report about the Playtower, community first update, community safety slot and councillors reports. Cllr Jeffrey then invited the shortlisted organisations to give a brief overview of their projects.

ASSEMBLY FUND PROJECTS 2012/13

The following organisations gave a 2 minute presentation on why they feel their project should be considered for the assembly fund 2012/13

PROJECT 1

The Grenada Benevolent Society UK activities programme

Project description

Within the community there is a lack of Saturday provision for young children and teenagers to support the learning and experiences that they gain during the school week. The aim of the Grenada Benevolent Society UK is to supply a month of activities to support the core areas and skills children and young people need to master/succeed to enable them to progress in the world. The objective of this project is to help make our youth within the Lewisham Borough model good citizens and possible leaders within today's society. The four core workshops will be focusing on the following, Creativity (Art, Music and Food), Literacy and Reading (story telling), Numeracy and Skills for life- resilience.

How much will the project cost?

The total costs of this project will be £4,600

PROJECT 2
Hither Green Community Association environmental project

Project description

To improve the appearance and community use of Hither Green's public spaces: increasing community spirit, reducing anti-social behaviour and improving our environment, through community gardening/clean-ups, walks and initiatives to improve the appearance and use of local main streets - with a community, stakeholder backed approach. Approximately 30-40 local volunteers, residents of Hither Green, will be involved in the community gardening, embankment, and street improvement volunteer sessions. Local groups and those who meet and work in Hither Green, e.g. scouts, schools, St Mungos, Lewisham pensioners, Churches, local builders, shop staff etc will also be invited to participate. Volunteers will be provided with suitable clothing and tools, and trained and supported to carry out the work. Approximately 40-50 local people will also be involved through joining the wild food and historical walks.

How much will the project cost?

The total cost of this project will be £1,630 of which the assembly fund request amounts to £1,055.

PROJECT 3
Hither Green Community Hall and Arts Society film events

Project description

Running a season of film 'events' for the community in an immersive way to attract the local community. We intend to show/produce a diverse array of events from documentaries to musicals that will bring together young and old, black and white, gay and straight. There will be 4 main 'events' planned: A Halloween day comprising of a children's afternoon including games, food and fancy dress and in the evening a silent horror film with live musical accompaniment; A Christmas event for the whole family including Christmas fayre and a family film/musical; A film showing/party at Bar Two8Six on Lewisham High Street in concert with LGBT month; and a Japanese inspired day in the spring to include a martial arts taster from a professional local club for the kids as well as other events for adults with involvement from the Japanese Embassy.

How much will the project cost?

The total costs of this project are £3,500 of which £1,500 is requested from the assembly fund

PROJECT 4

Friends of Hither Green Triangle

Project description

The aim of our project is improve the biodiversity quality of the site by supporting an ecological pond enhancement at Hither Green Triangle, including increasing the size of the pond and creating a hibernaculum. The project will actively engage and support our constituted user group and help us to evolve our membership. The project has been designed to engage individuals and stakeholders with nature conservation volunteering. The project will achieve a more sustainable user group, engage and teach stakeholders in the active management of habitats and species and the natural world. Another important outcome will be developing better working relations with Network Rail so that extensive access and engagement on site will be allowed in the future.

How much will the project cost?

The total cost of this project will be £4,050 of which £3,250 is requested from the assembly fund.

PROJECT 5 **Lewisham Library & Information Service**

Project description

The children's library is very well used and currently offers 2 story and song sessions a week for under 5s. They regularly attract over 50 children at each session. The current furniture is old, worn and dated. The space needs to be brought up to date and to make the setting more attractive for the reader and audience development activities. The project aims to improve the furniture and facilities for local families who make use of the children's library. The Library needs to purchase appropriate child friendly equipment and also offer taster story telling sessions for families.

How much will the project cost?

The total costs of this project will be £3,000

Project 6 **Lewisham Talking Newspaper**

Communicating with Visually Impaired people to raise awareness of the amenities and facilities within Central Lewisham – Shops, Markets, Cafes, Banks, New Leisure Centre, Park areas, Library etc. Making them aware that Central

Lewisham is a safe environment and easily accessible by various means of Transport.

To raise awareness of events that are held from time to time in Central Lewisham by way of Lewisham Talking Newspaper bearing in mind Visually Impaired people are unable to see written advertising.

How much will the project cost?

The total costs of this project is £1,070

PROJECT 7 **Lewisham Youth Theatre**

Project description

Lewisham Youth Theatre (LYT) will provide places for Lewisham Central residents to take part in our youth theatre projects in 2012/13. These projects include:

Junior Youth Theatre, 8-11s: Drama workshops culminating in two performances in June 2013, helping participants to develop confidence, communication & literacy skills.

Junior Youth Theatre, 12 – 14s: Short programmes of drama workshops culminating in sharing of creative work in December 2012 & July 2013, helping participants develop emotional literacy, communication and teamwork skills.

Senior Youth Theatre, 15-19: Two projects, each culminating in a performance in April 2013, building on skills learned in previous programmes and helping to develop responsibility and ambition.

Step-Up Project: Daytime drama sessions from young people aged 16 – 21 who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) culminating in a performance in April 2013, helping to develop transferable skills that will help participants re-engage with education or employment.

How much will the project cost?

The total cost of this project will be £4,040 of which the assembly fund request amounts to £3,375.

PROJECT 8 **Rose activity zone after school club**

Project description

Raz is an after school and holiday activity club providing a diverse range of activities for children aged between 4 to 12 year olds. They work alongside parents, and partners. They are viewed as an asset to the community because they provide childcare facilities for working parents and the local community. The club is professionally run, inclusive and community orientated. The aim is to make a difference by creating an atmosphere in which we can promote and encourage self esteem, self respect, self expression, creativity and developing autonomy for decision making which engenders the growth and acceptance of personal responsibility to those who come in contact with the work they do. They have a

committed well trained team, which is supported by volunteers who bring their own unique skills. The focus is on the children's development and differentiate to meet all their needs.

How much will the project cost?

The total cost of this project will be £5,000.

PROJECT 9 **St Swithins Church community performing arts**

Project description

The purpose of this project is to enhance the capability for community performing arts activities within the large hall, in reality a Victorian theatre, and the small hall, or lower Vestry, at St Swithun's church in Hither Green. This project seeks to further improve the acoustic characteristics of these rooms through moveable baffling systems and through additional cabling which will enable sound to be controlled from a suitable distance from the stage. The baffling systems will double as a means of dividing up space, enabling the halls to be used by more than one group concurrently where feasible. They also seek some stage lighting in order to enhance the theatrical capability and add ambiance to musical performances.

How much will the project cost?

The total costs of this project of this project will be £5,023.48 of which the assembly fund contribution requested amounts to £4,523.48

Following the presentations residents were invited to speak to the projects who each had a table in the community hall. A maximum period of 30 minutes was permitted for this part of the meeting and residents then had an opportunity to exercise their vote on the ballot papers provided. The meeting moved on to the formal part of the agenda whilst the votes were being counted. The first item was the communities first panel update.

Communities First Update

Communities First is a £30 million government-funded initiative that will run for four years up until 31 March 2015. The *Lewisham* Central ward has been allocated £33,910 over 4 years, to support local organisations. In year one the funds allocated was £5,624. A Community First Panel has been established to recommend organizations to the Community Development foundation, who ultimately decided on where the funds will be allocated. The maximum grant is £2,500. Further information is available on the Hither Green Community Association website which are the panel partner

What next for the Playtower?

James Jennings from the Ladywell Tower Development Trust gave a brief update to the assembly. The Trust has been established to oversee the renovation and re-use of the 'Playtower', the Grade II Listed Victorian former swimming baths situated on Ladywell Road. James explained that a conservation management plan has been drawn up and discussions were ongoing with stakeholders. Work was taking place to the roof and passers by will have observed scaffolding to secure the property. A feasibility study has begun in consultation with English heritage and Lewisham Council. An architect has been appointed to work on the project. Kay Kelleher (Chair of Voluntary Action Lewisham) is taking part in a sponsored bike ride in Cambodia and Vietnam and hopes to raise £8,000 which will go towards the development of the Playtower.

A resident asked James about the projected completion date of the project. James said that around £900,000 would be needed to transform the building to a reasonable standard. It was estimated that it could be about 7 years before the building would be available for community usage.

Community Safety Update

Kennedy Obazee from Lewisham Council community safety service began by clarifying the role of the team. They work with a variety of partners (both internal and external) with the aim of improving community safety and enhancing the lives of residents. The community safety team would very much like to hear from anyone who has been subject to anti-social behaviour or any related matters. Kennedy then went on to describe the kinds of things that the team have been involved with recently. Young people are disproportionately victims of crime and the team have visited a number of local schools giving advice on personal safety matters. Other examples of the teams work include investigating hate crimes, criminal damage and shop lifting. Kennedy concluded his presentation by extending an invitation to a cycle and skating safety event. This will take place on Friday 19 October 2012 at the Lewisham Shopping Centre. A free security cycle marking will be available to residents.

Community Updates

The community updates section is an opportunity for elected members and residents to share information about what is happening locally. The updates at this meeting included the following items:

There will be river clean up on Saturday 11 November from 2pm onwards. Everyone is welcome to participate on the day.

The annual switch off the Christmas tree will take place from 5pm on Friday 23 November 2012. The meeting point will be the main entrance to Lewisham Shopping Centre.

Lewisham Central has a brand new secondary school based in the ward. Prendergast Vale College is located at Elmira Street, SE13 7BN and boasts many important features including a swimming pool which will be opening next year. It is

hoped to hold a future assembly meeting at the venue where residents will have an opportunity to have a close look at the school.

There will be a newsletter to promote the work of the Lewisham Central assembly prior to the next meeting. Articles should be sent to the Local Assemblies Coordinator by the second week of December 2012.

Cllr Mike Harris reported that the Lewisham Council will be required to make approximately £88 million cuts over the next three years. This was mainly due to a reduction in the grant awarded by central government. This information will shortly feature on the Councils website. The level of cuts are likely to have a significant impact on the community within Lewisham. Residents are invited to work with their ward councilors in responding to the difficult challenges ahead.

Samuel from the Lewisham Ethnic Minority Partnership expressed concern that the cuts will disproportionately affect the BME communities in the Borough. An important event will be held on Thursday 8 November 2012 between 5pm and 9pm at the Civic Suite. The guests will include Cllr Dwayne Brooks. This will be an opportunity for BME communities to discuss the impact of the austerity measures and mobilize support to defend public services. The event will be free to everyone and there will also be entertainment provided.

Announcement of ballot result

The result of the ballot and assembly fund allocation was announced as follows:

- 1 Lewisham talking newspaper £1,070
- 2 Hither Green community hall and arts society £1,500
- 3 Hither Green community association environmental project £1,055
- 4 Lewisham Library (equipment) £3,000
- 5 St Swithuns community performing arts £4,523.48
- 6 RAZ after school club and holiday activity programme £2,602
- 7 Grenada Benevolent Society UK
- 8 Lewisham Youth Theatre
- 9 Friends of Hither Green triangle

Cllr Jeffrey congratulated the successful organisations and commiserated with those who missed out on funding this year. This should not deter them from applying for future funding and consider other options such as communities first

Close of assembly business and date of next meeting

Cllr Stella Jeffrey closed the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and patience during the counting of the votes which took longer than expected. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 5 February 2012 from 7pm until 9pm. Venue to be advised.

There being no other business the meeting was officially closed at 9:10pm.

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting