



The Rushey Green Local Assembly

Wednesday 17 October 2012

7pm to 9pm

Rooms 1 and 2 Civic Suite

Catford Road SE6 4RU

MEETING MINUTES

Welcome, introduction & format for the evening

Cllr Helen Klier (Chair) welcomed everybody and introduced the agenda for the meeting which was in the following format:

- Rushey Green community hub workshop
- Catford Town Centre regeneration
- Community safety update
- Communities first panel
- Summer festival 2013
- Community updates
- Close of assembly business and date of next meeting

RUSHEY GREEN COMMUNITY HUB WORKSHOP

Cllr Klier invited residents to participate in a workshop about the Blockbusters site which has been empty since August 2011. The coordination group are pursuing the possibility of using the facility as a community hub, subject to agreement from chief council officers. The assembly was divided into 7 workshops and asked to focus their discussions on 3 questions:

What is your vision for the hub?

What activities/events should take place inside the hub?

How would your '*themed table*' contribute to the hub?

Positive Ageing Council

What is your vision for the hub?

- meeting place for all groups
- drop in centre for people to meet
- many ways of finding out what is available
- opportunity for community to do things for itself
- connecting residents of Rushey Green, particularly for older isolated people
- a place where people could go to report older people who are isolated
- chair base exercise
- reminiscence/ local history
- coffee shop/ drop in
- social function

- time bank type activities
- place for people to meet and make friends
- identifying Rushey Green
- people of all ages can meet together
- encourage people to take up activities

What activities/events could take place inside the hub?

- keep fit
- tia chee
- seated exercise
- knitting, sewing, etc
- history/memories
- book exchange
- learn new skills
- personal safety
- signposting/ information desk
- good suggestion desk
- poetry/ reading
- befriending group
- line dancing
- indoor bowls
- intergenerational choir

How would your '*themed table*' contribute to the group?

- older people have more time to give and promote how we can age positively
- help promote enjoyment of working together with both young and old people
- we could encourage older people to keep active and informed. Give them a clear purpose to come of their homes

Younger People

What is your vision for the hub?

- place where youth organisations can meet up, for example Baseline, Lewisham Youth Theatre, CAB

What activities/events could take place inside the hub?

- space for rehearsals
- life skills/ family training
- business enterprise centre
- advice

How would your '*themed table*' contribute to the hub?

- multi- space for a number of groups to use
- social enterprise centre
- could help tackle youth unemployment

Artisans/ Professionals

What is your vision for the hub?

- rebrand Catford as Rushey Green
- office space
- pop up shop
- enterprise hub

What activities/events could take place inside the hub?

- zumba dancing
- yoga
- energy efficiency
- indoor tai chi
- seminars for business/ young people
- chess/ ping pong
- art gallery in the evening
- reading area

How would your '*themed table*' contribute to the hub?

- volunteer time
- get involved with range of activities
- promote hub in the community as a whole

Skills/ arts/ crafts

What is your vision for the hub?

- Daytime and evening usage
- lots of different groups using the facilities
- flexible space- internal divisions moveable
- meeting point for local people
- cultural exchange for our diverse community
- would need a director/ coordinator and a team of volunteers
- make building vibrant and welcoming to people
- involve local shops and trade people to volunteer refurbishment in exchange for advertising and possible use on occasions

What activities/events could take place inside the hub?

- free/ very cheap venue for local people

- community groups to use
- drops in centre, for example, pensioners, homeless and the disabled
- advice, legal and money advice sessions
- play groups and after school clubs
- exhibitions (art, information, campaigns ,etc)
- charge for advertising around the hub
- co-operative for exchange of skills- can RGTB move to the hub?
- Community Café
- Day and evening classes
- Youth Club
- Indoor sports- table tennis, snooker,etc
- coordinate residential street cleaning by volunteers after council cuts
- crafts fairs

How would your '*themed table*' contribute to the hub?

- use it and facilities on offer
- sharing skills for upkeep and running of the hub
- publicise and encourage use and amongst other local residents and community groups
- volunteer personal time to maximise usage of the hub
- donations and fund raising
- be major contributors to a steering group

Sharing skills/helping one another

What is your vision for the hub?

- art venue
- café- coffee shop
- skills training for young parents

What activities/ events could take place inside the hub?

- attractive to professionals
- community art
- horticultural workshops
- jam making
- multi- use
- moveable furniture
- yoga
- affordable space for hire
- use green space outside
- intergenerational perspective
- Catford pound currency

How would your '*themed table*' contribute to the group?

- assist with the setting up of a film club/ pop up cinema
- businesses could support by marketing idea
- 50 people at £5 per ticket or £20 per sitting
- matinee club and kid club
- restaurant
- arts space

Market traders

What is your vision for the hub?

- creative arts space- exhibitions
- place with nice atmosphere to encourage social activity
- café
- a place to support the local community- information centre, What's going on in Catford? What opportunities are there available?

What activities/ events could take place inside the hub?

- live music, somewhere that young people can go to showcase their musical talent
- school choirs
- poetry exhibitions
- art exhibitions
- somewhere that embraces the diversity within Catford
- celebrations of the different religions and cultures
- film screenings
- food fair
- encourage local designers to assist with the re-development of the space and the same applies to web design/ graphics design
- if there is an outdoor space then why not redevelop it, creating a green space/herb garden/ café or is there a way of bringing it outdoors

How would your '*themed table*' contribute to the group?

- Market traders to supply a mentoring scheme to help younger/ local people to set up own stalls and encourage market trading. Set up meetings to overcome problems at an early stage

Local businesses

What is your vision for the hub?

- Café area – drop in centre for the community to use
- people can socialise and exchange ideas
- get to know local businesses and for us to know them
- a list of reputable tradesmen in the area

What activities/ events could take place inside the hub?

- free/ very cheap venue for locals

How would your '*themed table*' contribute to the group?

- projects for young people
- information centre
- community garden for different groups in the area to use.
- volunteer personal time to maximise usage of the hub
- donations and fund raising
- be major contributors to a steering group

There has been an increase in burglaries since the last assembly. The police have made a number of arrests with some perpetrators being charged and sentenced. Investigations are ongoing with other forces and officers are working in partnerships across other teams including Bromley. 1 drug warrant has been executed and the Safer Neighbourhood Team currently monitor a number of ASBOs. They have developed a good working relationship with the community safety team and recently both teams successfully implemented a burglary initiative at Ravensbourne Park. Pc Redden also reported that the new metropolitan commissioner was prioritising vehicle crime. This was aimed at tackling illegal drugs and stolen goods, amongst other things.

The team is currently working on a problem solving protocol in Mountsfield Park, to combat all forms of anti-social behaviour in the park. This involves work from various agencies including Lewisham Council, and Glendales to reduce ASB related incidents. Police and Glendales were able to negotiate earlier park closure as a number of the incidents occurred in the evening. There is regular police presence inside the park, and the team has a very good working relationship with the park keeper. This enables the team to receive intelligence in a timely manner, which can then be acted on robustly.

Pc Redden was asked about the problem of street drinkers congregating outside the Rushey Green group practice in Hawstead Road. Pc Redden advised residents to phone the office number and the team would investigate. There is a likelihood that the problem could get worse due to the warmer weather. The powers available to the police include a section 27 dispersal notice.

REGENERATION OF CATFORD TOWN CENTRE

Eleanor Hoyle and Deborah Efemini from the project team in Lawrence House presented on behalf of the Council. The main points were as follows:

- Redevelopment of the shopping centre

- Demolition and redevelopment of Council and other public sector office space and replaced with new public service hub
- New homes
- New community facilities
- New pedestrian areas and open spaces
- Improved transport network
- Improved public realm
- Milford Towers decant 100% off-site
- Mayor and Cabinet report in April 2012 updating on the programme
- Tenant moves by agreement
- ongoing leaseholder discussions at Milford Towers
- Area Action Plan process will recommence and consultation will take place in the Autumn 2012
- Negotiations with parties holding interests on the shopping centre site will continue.

Cllr Muldoon then invited residents to break into groups in the foyer area to discuss the plans with the project team. Tea, coffee and biscuits were available and an opportunity to speak to the presenters and other residents.

Communities first panel

James Walshe introduced himself as the Chair of the communities first panel. He then went on to describe the purpose and aims of the panel as follows:

The Cabinet Office have awarded Rushey Green £67,820 which can be spent on locally agreed priorities. The panel will be independent of the assemblies programme and local volunteers are encouraged to participate in the delivery of the project. At the previous assembly meeting a number of volunteers came forward to join the group. James Walsh was elected to chair the group with Robert Turkentine becoming the vice-chair. The community foundation (CDF) have been appointed by the Cabinet Office to facilitate the process. Each panel is required to have a panel partner who hold a small amount of funds and offer support, where necessary.

The panel will be able to allocate funding to community groups who are able to demonstrate that they meet one or all of the priorities. £250 is the minimum and £250 is the maximum amount that can be awarded to groups for a period of one year. Groups can reapply each financial year for funding as the panel will be in operation until 31 March 2015.

James presented the group priorities as follows:

- Improving the built environment
- Traffic
- Activities for younger people
- Anti-social behaviour and crime
- Activities for older people
- Strong and loud community voices

The first five priorities are existing assembly priorities and the sixth (Strong and loud community voices) is a new one. The assembly was asked to consider whether the priorities were relevant and bring forward any ideas that might assist the process.

The meeting then broke into small groups to discuss the priorities and consider whether these are relevant to the ward. The assembly overwhelmingly supported the proposed priorities. A number of community groups expressed an interest in applying for funding and information was provided at the meeting.

Election of the coordination group

John O'Reilly (local assemblies coordinator) explained that the annual election for the coordination group will take place at this meeting. The coordination group helps to plan and shape assembly meetings. The group meets quarterly between assembly meetings, chaired by a ward councillor. They provide advice and ideas on how to promote the local assembly and how to reach different members of the community, living in the Rushey Green ward. There are a variety of other things the coordination group does including scrutinising applications for the Assemblies Fund.

The following person were elected to serve on the group for the next 12 months:

James Walshe
Karen Small
Bill Rouse
Gloria Rouse
Billl Tutt
James Dobson
Tessa Pearce
Lauren Saunders
Robert Turkentine
Nalini Ramanah
Anthony Kalu

Community Updates

The Lewisham Youth Theatre will be holding a showcase event over the weekend of Friday 13 April and Saturday 14 April 2012. This will be held at the studio, with access from the main road. Tickets are available from the box office.

Richard Salthouse is the owner of the newly opened Catford Bridge Tavern, formerly the Copperfield. The company is registered as Antic Ltd and they own 23 public house across London. The aim is to have a traditional feel with restored interior and flooring. An open kitchen will be available on Saturday. An important feature of the Catford Bridge Tavern is real ale taps. Richard said that they were open to suggestions on how future improvements can be made.

Close of assembly business and date of next meeting

Cllr Muldoon (Chair) concluded the meeting at 9pm and thanked everyone for coming. Residents are invited to the summer festival which will take place on Saturday 16 June 2012 in the green squares between Brownhill Road and Riggindale Road starting at 12pm. The steering group are meeting regularly in the Civic Suite

The next formal assembly will take place on Wednesday 17 October at the Civic Suite. The summer festival will take place this year on Saturday 16 June at the green squares between 12pm and 4pm. Everyone who lives in Rushey Green are invited to attend.

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

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting