

# MINUTES OF THE SYDENHAM ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 14 June 2012 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Best, Liam Curran and Marion Nisbet

## 1. The Sydenham Assembly Fund - Marketplace Event

There were 17 projects at the assembly bidding for a share of £17,500. The total amount of all the bids combined was £32,953.

All 17 projects had their own stall, attendees were issued with a pack containing summarised versions of all the proposals and were then encouraged to visit the stalls to learn more about the proposals prior to voting. Voting was open to anyone who lives, works or learns in Sydenham Ward and to people aged 14 and over. Projects were ranked from 10 – 1 with 10 being the favoured project, 9 the second favourite and so on. Attendees could only vote for 10 projects out of the 17 on show. Below are the 17 projects that were applying for a share of the Sydenham Assembly Fund, each project is listed under the Sydenham Assembly priority that it needs.

### Priority 1 – More activities for young people

- Hazel Grove Youth Project £2,570
- Hazel Intergenerational Filming Project £2,500
- Sydenham Arts Festival £2,500
- Storytelling Project £2,400
- Young Carers Respite Service £2,000
- Health and Happiness Activities for under 5s £2,000
- Switch It – Football and Life £2,000
- Teenage Phone App Workshops £1,950
- Residential Weekend £1,570
- Paint a Smile £1,244
- Healthy Living After School £950

### Priority 2 – Community Safety

- Crime Prevention and awareness days £2,019

### Priority 3 – Vibrant high street including inclusive community

- Smartening-up the High Street £1,500
- Where is the Library

### Priority 4 - Environmental improvements for a cleaner and greener Sydenham

- Hanging baskets and Christmas tree £2,400
- A Greener Homecroft £1,900

### Priority 5 – Transport improvements

- Access Sydenham £2,000

## 2. Presentation on Sydenham high street

Ian Ransom Head of Transport at Lewisham and Bavan Saravanah provided the assembly with the enclosed presentation relating to the forthcoming works on Sydenham high street and Station Approach.

Q You need to ensure that local stakeholders have as much notice as possible and not just 48 hours to attend a meeting, we need to be told what is happening.  
A We do recognise this and contractors will have a liaison officer on site.

Q The toilet shown on the presentation looks horrible, is it suitable for the disabled and how about a proper roof?  
A The toilet will be a mixed use toilet that has a disabled facility. This type of toilet is easy to maintain and efficient. However, we will take these views away and have another look at this.

Q There are issues with street drinkers and drugs, will the doors open after a certain amount of time and will there be ultra violet lights which make it harder for users to inject?  
A We will look at the options and get back to you.

Q Will the toilet be cleaned and who will do this?  
A The toilet will be self cleaning

Cllr Best told the assembly that she has had a walkabout with Ian to look at the local issues, but at the last assembly the preference was for a stand alone toilet. Some contractors are interested in leasing an empty shop, but the contract has not yet been awarded.

### 3. Information, Open questions and answers

**Sydenham Arts** – Jonathan Kaufman and Pat Trembath told the assembly that there is a brochure and a flyer available for people to take. The Festival is now in its fourth year and it has been generously supported by the assembly. The Festival is a Community Arts Festival which started off in Kirkdale Bookshop, as it has grown the horizons have broadened and bigger names have been invited. The Festival starts on 1<sup>st</sup> July in Home Park with a family fun day from 1pm – 6pm. On Saturday 14 July there is a word explosion, this is being headed by Roger McGough.

Overall there will be 50 events over two weeks and from the 3 – 8 July there will be a performance of the Jungle Book at Albion Millennium Green. Jonathan stated how much the festival relies on it's volunteers and if anyone is interested in volunteering do speak to the Volunteers Manager Tom.

**Forest Hill Pools** – Cllr Best stated that she hoped that everyone had received the flyer providing the latest news about the Pools. It is hoped that the Pools will open at the end of July. Fusion will be doing the final fit out once Wilmott Dixon have handed the site over to them, this will happen shortly. The official opening will be on Saturday 22 September, we are working with Horniman Museum and Sydenham School.

Carolyn Unstead Head of Sydenham School told the Assembly that also on the 22 September, but after the Pools opening Sydenham School will be celebrating its 95 birthday, it has been on site since 1917 and there will be lots of activities with

ex staff invited along. The programme is still being finalised and there will also be activities for more mature people.

**Lewisham and the Olympics** – Cllr Best stated that on Monday 23 July the Olympic Torch will be in Lewisham. It will set off from the Laban building of Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in Creekside and will Pass many local landmarks including the new Deptford Lounge, the Stephen Lawrence Centre, Lewisham's clock tower and the Broadway Theatre. It will arrive at Crystal Palace at about 10.30.

**Sydenham and Forest Hill Youth Forum (SFHYF)** – Melissa Knight stated that SFHYF is a collective of professionals that meet regularly to discuss ways to improve services for young people. One of the things that they want to do is to ask local people to give a small donation of £2 per month or what they can. This money will form a pot of funding that will be spent on community projects that benefit all ages within the local area. They also want local residents to help decide on the funding and where the money gets spent. The website catalogues what is happening for youth within the local area and people can add what their organisation is doing, there is a web tool to help people through the process. Email Melissa at [mel@sfhyouthforum.org.uk](mailto:mel@sfhyouthforum.org.uk) for more details. The project is now in its fourth year and that £2 per month can really help.

**Girton Road Car Park – Car Boot Sale** – The next one will be on Sunday 18 July, hopefully more people will come along this time.

**Friends of Sydenham Community Library** – Anthony Scully stated that there is a 'Friends' meeting on at the Library on 19 June from 7.30 – 9pm, if you are interested in being a 'Friend' then please come along.

**Wells Park Youth Club** – Visiting the site with the Mayor of Lewisham tomorrow, also seeking volunteers for the management committee. The centre will be on three floors and will focus on teamwork, trust and friendship. Activities will include cinema, football, a skatepark and a climbing wall.

**Empty Shops Group** - Louise Brooks hosted an empty shops group at Grow Mayow Community Garden on Tuesday 12 June. The rough aims at this stage were:

- To identify and engage landlords.
- To come up with a range of ideas to bring empty ideas into use from temporary arts related projects to initiatives that will encourage new businesses to take up the empty units.
- To explore incentives or penalties to encourage landlords to use empty units as meanwhile spaces.

By the end of the meeting we had agreed to:

- Start to approach local landlords with a pilot project in mind
- Meet with the following groups who specialise in using empty shops for 'meanwhile uses': Meanwhile Space and Spacemakers who both consult on using the spaces and have a database of contacts who might want to use the space, and Space Hive which is a crowd funding site for community projects.

We are interested in speaking with people who might want to use an empty shop for a community or arts project, or for commercial purposes. We are also very keen to speak with landlords.

The next meeting takes place on 18 July. If anyone wants to get involved they can speak with Louise Brooks at [louise@bakelondon.co.uk](mailto:louise@bakelondon.co.uk).

#### **4. Results of the Voting**

The following projects will receive funding from the £17,500 Assembly Fund:

- Hazel Grove Youth Project - XLP £2,570
- Young Carers Respite Service - Carers Lewisham £2,000
- Hazel Intergenerational Filming Project - Image Create Express £2,500
- Sydenham Arts Festival – Sydenham Arts £2,500
- Residential Weekend – Hillcrest / Wells Park Youth Club £1,570
- Switch It – Football and Life – Switch It £2,000
- Where is the Library – Friends of Sydenham Library £1,450
- Access Sydenham – Voluntary Care Centre £2,000
- Healthy Living After School – Adamsrill School £910

#### **5. Dates for the next Assembly meetings**

11am Saturday 8 September 2012 – Grove Centre

7pm Thursday 29 November 2012 - Sydenham Library