



**LESHAM CENTRAL LOCAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING**
Wednesday 12 June 2013 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Prendergast Vale College
Elmira Street, Lewisham, London SE13

Record of Meeting

	Item	Actions
1	Welcome, Introduction & Format of meeting	
	<p>Cllr Damien Egan welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the format of the meeting.</p>	
2	An Introduction – Prendergast Vale College	
	<p>An introduction to the newly established school was received from the college headteacher Paul O’Neil. A brand new school catering for boys and girls aged 3 to 18 years with a capacity for up to 850 pupils. The school is keen to engage with the local community and is therefore welcomes the hire of the school hall for community events. Details of the contact person for booking the hall was provided to the meeting. Further information about the school activities, opening hours and arranging for a tour of the facility can be obtained from the school website on prendergastvale.com.</p>	
3	Police Update and dispersal order	
	<p>From 17 June to 17 September 2013, agreement has been made by the local authority and the police to impose a dispersal zone in Lewisham central. A number of reasons has led to the imposition of this order in areas around Lewisham Town Centre including reported cases of antisocial behaviour, police crime indices and information collected from businesses and the general public. The order would involve the police asking people in a group to leave an area because of antisocial behaviour, harassment or distress to residents or the general public. The order would also involved the police returning any person under the age of 16years not accompanied by an adult to their home address. Anyone returning within 24 hours of being dispersed can be arrested.</p>	

	<p>The team would be operating a traffic light system whereby any persons dispersal in the first instance would be placed on green light and have their details recorded, a second dispersal would attract a home visit by police officer or police community support officer, while a third would lead to the imposition of an antisocial behaviour order.</p> <p>The objective of the dispersal zone is to protect and empower the community, prevent antisocial behaviour, build a safe and secure attractive community. To ensure a smooth and effective result an enhanced team has been created comprising of 1 sergeant, 7 police constables and 7 police community support officers. The team would return to the next meeting to report on the impact the order has had in the area. A series of question and answers followed.</p>	
4	Reshaping Lewisham Youth Service	
	<p>It was reported that Lewisham Youth Service in currently undergoing a restructuring exercise to reshape its services to young people in the borough. The exercise would see less money spent on youth centres and more fund available to commission services to support young people in the borough. The service is required to find 23% savings from their annual budget to bring it in line with Council wide savings strategies. These changes are necessary by the department for the improvement of services delivered to young people across the borough.</p> <p>There are already a mixed economy of youth provision across the borough directly supplied by the Council, voluntary and community organisations. As part of the saving two Council run youth centre would be closing. The decision on which youth provision is cut is dependent upon their performance and number of young people accessing their activities. The Council is running a session on 17 June from 1.30pm to 3.30pm to provide information to private and voluntary organisations who wishes to take over some or all of the project which are being shut.</p> <p>The new change is expected to take effect from the beginning of October 2013. Within that a commissioning process will begin in September 2013 with implementation expected from April 2014.</p> <p>The meeting also received a progress report on youth village part funded from the Assembly funding. Additional funding has be sourced to sustain this provision. Activities are run 5 days weekly from 3.30pm to 9pm, including during the summer holiday period from 10am to 9pm.</p>	
5	An open discussion – Is Lewisham the least peaceful part of the UK?	
	<p>Cllr Harris leading on this discussion reported on a recent survey which showed Lewisham as the least peaceful part of the UK to live in. The report was compiled using the following five indicators:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of murder • Number of violent crime rate • Number of reported public disorder offences • Weapon crime rate and • The number of police officers per 100,000 people. <p>There followed a range of expressions views and comments from participants from the floor on this subject.</p>	
6)	Lewisham Central Community First programme Fund ? Assembly Action plan	
	<p>The fund was set up by the government targeting the most deprived area in the country. Lewisham Central was chosen as one of the wards to get extra funding from the cabinet office as it was considered to contain some of the 30% most deprived areas in the country. The funding runs in parallel to the Assembly fund. The area received an allocation of £33,900 to be spent over four years.</p> <p>Eligible wards for the programme are required to set up a local panel and agree a set of priorities. The following 5 priorities set for Lewisham Central ward by the panel:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the health and well-being of the inhabitants of the ward 2. Improve the appearance and use of the environment in the ward 3. Increase the support, activities and facilities for young people in the ward 4. Increase employment opportunities for inhabitants of the ward 5. Increase community cohesion and engagement in community activities in the ward. <p>The panel recommends, grants of between £250 and £2,500 and will be hoping to spend £8,000 this year and £11,000 in the final year. Some local groups have already benefitted from this fund. All projects seeking assistance from this fund needs to be matched with 50% of their group's own or equivalent funding. The next round of application would take place in December 2013. Following a table discussion, the meeting agreed to adopt the above priorities for the Assembly.</p>	
7)	Assembly fund 2013/14	
	<p>The meeting received information about the assembly funding processes. There is £15,000 available this year to spend on projects addressing chosen priorities. An explanation of the breakdown of funding was presented as follows. £12,500 is available for the assembly and the remaining £2,500 can be set aside as discretionary fund for councillors to allocate to local projects. However, Councillors may delegate to have the discretionary fund merge with assembly fund to create a larger pot.</p> <p>From this year all Assemblies are encouraged to adopt a</p>	

	<p>commissioning approach in order to strengthen the relationship between the Assembly fund and the delivery of local priorities. This will be done through identifying needs, developing ideas to address those needs and commissioning partners to address these actions.</p> <p>It is suggested that Assembly must agree how they wish to spend their fund by the end of December 2013 in order to allow enough time for formal approval to be given and processing of payment before the end of the financial year.</p>	
8)	Community update	
a	<p><u>The Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign Group</u> The people's commission is holding a week long justice for Lewisham week from 29th June to 5th July. Event would begin with a commission of enquiry into government plans to downgrade Lewisham hospital on Saturday 29 June 2013, at the Broadway Theatre in Catford. The enquiry would be chaired by Michael Mansfield (QC) Tickets for the event is available for purchase at the end of the meeting. A Judicial Review led by Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign and Lewisham Council is being heard in the High Court from 2nd to 4th July 2013.</p>	
b	<p><u>Community Safety Update</u> A community crime prevention advisory session would be held in the market area outside Lewisham Shopping Centre, Lewisham High Street on Friday 21 June 2013 from 11am to 3pm. Officers from the met police, Council, victim support and local housing providers would be on hand to offer various crime prevention advice to people. They would also be offering security marking of items including mobile phones and bicycles. The Council Neighbourhood Community safety officers holds regular drop-in surgery every second Tuesday of the month, from 11am to 12.30pm.</p>	
c	<p><u>Apprentice scheme for young people</u> Lewisham Council are now recruiting for the apprentice scheme. Application are open to resident aged 18 to 24 years. Apprentices receives the minimum wage and all Council department are encouraged to create spaces for recruitment onto the scheme.</p>	
9)	Declaration of interest	
	No interest was declared at this meeting.	