

Perry Vale Assembly

Thursday 11 July 2013 7pm – 9pm

Dietrich Bonhoeffer Church
50 Dacres Road,
SE23 2NR

Summary of meeting

Welcome and introductions

Councillor John Paschoud Chair of the Perry Vale Assembly welcomed everyone to the assembly meeting and introduced the two other Perry Vale Ward Councillors, Cllr Alan Till and Cllr Susan Wise

Transport Issues in Perry Vale – Ian Ransom Service Group Manager Transport

Ian Ransom told the assembly that Perry Vale was one of the first wards to get the new street lights, 80% of these have now been installed with now just some snagging to be done.

Forest Hill Station subway has been refurbished, and they are just waiting for Skanska to install the lighting, this should be soon.

There has been some extra money to repair potholes in the borough and Normanton Street in Perry Vale will benefit. These are the main issues

Q The new street lights in Colfe Road are making it darker and there are more shadows?

A These are the BS standard white light, so it should not be darker, I will look into this

Q Some parts of Inglemere Road have deep shadows and the trees are obscuring the lights

A There have been some issues with the proximity to trees, I will be doing some site visits and making some changes, this road could be one of them.

Q What about signage at bus stops and countdown indicators?

A TFL are responsible for this, but they are not extending the programme due to new technology such as phone apps etc. Our contract for bus shelters runs out in 2015 so we may be able to look at something then.

Cllr Paschoud – There is also new technology around to provide countdowns and bus information in public buildings such as Sainsbury's

Q We have a petition with over 20 signatures concerning speeding traffic on Woolstone Road. There is traffic calming, but only on part of the road with the Council saying that they cannot extend it. There are lots of young people and families in this area and something needs to be done to slow traffic down.

A Traffic calming is popular with some and unpopular with others. It can also affect emergency vehicles and cause discomfort on buses. A few years ago certain routes were prescribed as emergency routes so there has to be a balance here between traffic calming and allowing emergency vehicles to make progress.

Q But this is a straight road, 75% of it has traffic calming and the rest does not. Could we consider enforcement cameras or traffic calming signs?

A The cameras are a TfL responsibility, we do however have a programme regarding the flashing signs and this can be looked at.

Cllr Paschoud – This needs to be noted as it sounds feasible for us to at least get a speed sign up and then look at other measures such as a 20mph borough wide limit.

Q What about the 20mph limit?

A Cllr Paschoud – This is something that we are looking at as a Council

Q At Sydenham Road junction with Venner Road the new pedestrian lights reacted very quickly to pedestrians, but now this has gone the other way, can you change this balance?

A The balance was initially wrong with them favouring the pedestrian too much, the scheme is progressing and being looked at, it will change in September

Q Why is there no pedestrian crossing on the south side of Forest Hill Station, there is a dangerous blind bend with hundreds of commuters trying to cross the road. This is very dangerous?

A There is a line of sight issue here, vehicles have to be able to see the crossing from a certain distance.

Cllr Paschoud – The feeling amongst Councillors is that it may be time to have another look at this.

Q How about having a roundabout opposite Finches (225-229 Perry Vale) as it will help the flow of the A205 onto Perry Vale?

A I will get back to you

Q What about more school signs?

A Research shows that they reduce speed, we do have them but not enough for every school

Cllr Paschoud – How much do they cost

A I cannot say exactly, but probably around £4,000 - £5,000

Q What about cycle lights at crossings?

A The idea is that cyclists can use the crossing as a cyclist, but I will need to get back to you with more detail.

Q What is the timetable for putting traffic measures in place?

A The major schemes are funded by TfL and these are normally 3 year programmes. Normally it takes about 3 years from the initial idea.

Q Where can we see examples of programmes in their third year?

A I am not sure if they are on the website, but otherwise the Mayor and Cabinet Reports which are on the website.

The Perry Vale Assembly Fund

Cllr Paschoud told the assembly that they are not going to recommend that the assembly fund is used for Highway issues as there is very little return for the money involved.

He then explained that the process is slightly different this year with £12,500 available. This must be linked to the action plan and the Perry Vale Assembly priorities which are:

- the environment
- roads and traffic
- activities for younger people
- antisocial behaviour and crime
- activities for the whole community

This year the recommendation is that we focus on three key areas and ask people who are interested to make fully costed bids in these three areas:

1. Environment – For example signage to promote the Nature Reserve
2. Activities for Young People – The Youth Survey will provide a good basis to come up with a long term project
3. Activities for the whole community – This could be a one-off event, but must include groups / communities that are not so well presented.

If the assembly agrees to this the Coordinating Group can come up with a brief and we can invite people to bid for the fund.

Q Is there a maximum bid limit for each activity?

A I am hoping that you will trust the Coordinating Group on this, but it could be a third for each area.

Q What about a small contingency kitty for small projects around £1,500

A Yes this is a good idea

The assembly agreed that there will be £11,000 for projects centred upon the above areas with £1,500 available for small projects.

The Perry Vale Coordinating Group

Cllr Paschoud encouraged volunteers to join the Perry Vale Coordinating Group which meets no more than 4 times per year and helps to plan the assembly meetings and scrutinise funding applications.

Update from funded groups

Dacres Wood Nature Reserve – Tim Lund thanked the assembly for the £2,000 that was provided for the pond restoration. He told the assembly that there is an open day at Dacres Wood Nature Reserve on the last Saturday of every month between 12 and 3pm.

Friends of Kilmorrie School – Eva Lee thanked the assembly for the £1,500 which went towards the Physic Garden. Most of this has now been spent with various plants on display and a slate signs for the children. There is also a herb garden which is being used by the kitchen staff.

Young Lewisham Project – Carol Letchford thanked the assembly for awarding £1,800 to go towards an edible gardens project. This initially started slowly because of the weather, however the first group started in April and the project will be expanded over the summer with one full day over 3 weeks. This is open to anyone aged 8-14 and also Special Educational Needs students.

The Forest with the Big Hill – Judith Barrett thanked the assembly for the £1,500 that went towards the Storytelling event. So far there have been 2 events the last was in April and the first was in October. The last event was held at Forest Hill Methodist Church and had over 60 adults and children in attendance. They are now fundraising for a further event and they are also looking for volunteers.

The little greenscreen – Erika Sager thanked the assembly for the £1,052 that went towards the pop-up cinemas. So far 4 have been held and these have included an Arts workshop. The Cinema is at Grow Mayow and they have also linked in with the Sydenham Arts Festival.

Love Perry Vale

Cllr Paschoud told the assembly about Perry Vale's own exclusive website for all things Perry Vale, this is not run by Council officers and is still very much an experiment. However, it is a great link for promoting events, organising campaigns and promoting activities and meetings. Visit LovePerryVale.org for more information.

The Young People's Survey, introducing the final report

Cllr Paschoud reminded the assembly that at the last meeting Melissa Knight from the Sydenham and Forest Hill Youth Forum gave the assembly a presentation relating to the results of young people's free time questionnaire. Cllr Paschoud encouraged people to visit www.sfhyouthforum.org.uk to read the report in full, he then praised the excellent work that Melissa Knight has done in compiling this report.

Community updates

Mayow Park – The pavilion is being restored, there has been a delay due to a sewer problem, but the process for tendering is going ahead and there have been 40 expressions of interest.

Cllr Wise stated that that this is wonderful news for Mayow Park and will ensure that it remains a great place to visit with the opportunity to host events and meetings at the location.

Lewisham People's Day – Councillor Paschoud reminded the attendees that this is from 12pm on Saturday 13 July at Mounsfeld Park

Save Lewisham Hospital – Deliberations are still ongoing and the results of the judicial review are expected at the end of this month, money is still being raised for the campaign. Monitor is the new healthcare regulator, there are letters that people can sign and then return to the campaign with proof of residence.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 8.40pm. The next Perry Vale Assembly will be Tuesday 17 September, the venue is yet to be decided.

No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.

