



**GROVE PARK LOCAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING**
Thursday 23 January 2014 7pm – 9pm
TA Centre
261 Baring Road
SE12 0BH

Summary of Meeting

1.0 Marketplace Event

The start of the assembly consisted of a marketplace event to decide the £15,000 2013/14 Grove Park Assembly Fund. Applicants were provided with a proposal number and a stall and there were 13 applications in total. Attendees were then asked to visit each stall and talk to each of the applicants before marking each project individually out of 10. Officers would then total the votes with the projects that receive the most votes up to the £15,000 available being funded. For details of the proposals contact paul.gale@lewisham.gov.uk

2.0 Welcome and introductions Cllr Christine Allison Chair

Cllr Christine Alison welcomed everyone to the assembly meeting and thanked Paul Gale and Matt Henaughan for organising the marketplace event which went very smoothly.

3.0 Update from the Police – Sergeant Stephen Ellis

Sergeant Stephen Ellis from the Brockley Safer Neighbourhood Team told the meeting that Brockley ward falls within the Central Cluster and consists of: 1 Inspector, 5 Sgt's 40 PC's (soon to rise to 46) plus 21 PCSO's and these officers cover the following wards

- 1) Lewisham Central
- 2) Rushey Green
- 3) Catford South
- 4) Lee Green
- 5) Blackheath
- 6) Grove Park

Grove Park has 1 PC and 1 PCSO dedicated to patrolling the ward on a daily basis. With the other officers being deployed to where needed on the cluster when not dealing with other abstractions.

He then ran through the headline crime figures for Grove Park compared with 2012.

Burglary = 137 (-24 on 2012)

Robbery = 34 (-7 on 2012)

Assaults = 250 (+5 on 2012)

Theft of Motor Vehicles = 54 (+13 on 2012)

Shoplifting = 12 (-13 on 2012)

Sgt Ellis then stated that the team regularly carry out the following:

Anti Burglary Patrols with officers deployed in both uniform and plain clothes

Tackling ASB by working in partnership with Housing Associations and other partners

Road Safety initiatives (In line with the promise made at the Grove Park Ward Panel)

Q) A member of the audience wanted to know why police had targeted an Eastern European man by refusing to grant him a licence to distribute alcohol from his private address in Ashwater Road.

A) Sgt Ellis pointed out that they had not targeted the man in question and that it had been local residents who had raised concerns at the prospect of Alcohol Distribution from a residential address in their street and the police have a statutory duty regarding licence applications

4.0 CHART update – Gayle Wallace

Gayle Wallace from the steering group Chinbrook Action Residents Team (ChART) spoke to the assembly about the forthcoming award of £1 million pounds coming to the Chinbrook area. The money is to be spent over the next 10 years and is awarded by the national lottery. 150 areas in the country have been awarded this sum over the last few years. The residents in the area did not apply for the money, the decision on where to allocate funding is made by the national lottery. Uniquely unlike other funding schemes how the money is to be spent and on what is entirely in the hands of the residents who live in the area. There is a total of 1615 properties which fall within the catchment area which sits between Mottingham playing fields and chinbrook Meadows and encompasses the right hand side of Chinbrook rd from Amblecote rd leading down to Grove Park Road up to the playing fields and extends up to Grove Park Cemetery.

Gayle mentioned that over the period since hearing about the funding allocation she has had a number of people mention what they believe the funding should be spent on but emphasised that the decision about that, is in the hands of the people who live in the catchment area and if the majority of residents in the area decide they want it spent on a particular initiative then that is how it will be allocated. What CHART have endeavoured to do is make it possible for all sectors in it's community to have a voice in this decision making process. To this end they have been awarded some initial start up funding for the purposes of raising awareness of the forthcoming money and engage with the community to encourage them to become

involved and find out what they want. Two events aimed at families with young children and older people have already taken place as well as a survey going to every household. Infrastructure work is currently taking place to develop a timebank in the area, in which residents can exchange their services so that much needed support can be given to build a greater sense of community spirit, decrease isolation and enable exchange without money. An example given was someone in the area provides an hour of their time to paint a fence for a neighbour. They may then exchange that time banked for someone else in the area to do an hours ironing for them and the person whose fence has been painted may deposit an different kind of service. It s a way of making things happen in a community where no money has to exchange hands.

Comments from the audience were made about the use of time credit vouchers that can be exchanged. Gayle replied to say that this is something that they will consider in the future, but that initially they will be setting up to get people in the habit of depositing their services as a form of exchange.

Gayle also mentioned that as well as a timebank the steering group are looking into developing a credit union in the area to help people get out of the cycle of poverty caused by borrowing from loan sharks and ready cash high interest organisations. Of particular interest is that of starting up savings opportunities for children attending the local primary schools as a way of breaking a cycle of debt in future generations and teaching money management.

Both of the initiativeS mentioned are to provide a legacy that lasts long after the million pounds has come and gone.

Gayle finished by saying that she welcomed more involvement by residents who live in the catchment area. They currently hold meetings alternately in the morning and afternoon to encourage as many people to attend.

5.0 The Grove Park Neighbourhood Forum

Stephen Kenny told the assembly that the Grove Park Forum was formally constituted at the AGM on 2nd December and urged people to get more involved and speak to him about signing up.

6.0 Community updates

Cllr Clarke told the meeting that there is lots of casework regarding trees due to the stormy weather with over 240 fallen uprooted and 22 in Grove Park ward.

Grove Park Station – Network Rail is still pushing access for all. There is lots of concern about this and we want the stairs to stay as lifts do not always work.

7.0 Results of the vote

The following projects will receive funding from the Grove Park Assembly Fund:

Baring School Community Reading Shack – Baring School

Local Scouting Development – 9th Lewisham Scout Group
Poetry and Literacy Skills – Emmangel School
Infant Club & Carers Group – Carers Lewisham / Ringway Centre
Ringway Junior Play / Cookery Club – Grove Park Community Group
Girl's Football Project – Dalmain Athletic Girl's Football Club
Fencing and gate repairs – Friends of Grove Park Nature Reserve

The next placed projects were Chinbrook Meadows and the Community Newsletter from the Grove Park Community Group. These received the same number of points, however, Stephen Kenny Chair of the Grove Park Community Group kindly agreed that the remaining £199 will go to Friends of Chinbrook Meadows for their seating.

Councillor Alison and Cllr Clarke both thanked everyone for coming along to the meeting and stated that the next meeting will take place after the elections. They thanked the attendees for their support.

The meeting closed at 9pm.