

MINUTES OF THE NEW CROSS ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 4 June 2013 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Paul Maslin

ALSO PRESENT:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Madeliene Long and Councillor Stephen Padmore

1. Welcome and introductions

Councillor Paul Maslin opened the assembly meeting by welcoming everyone and briefly outlining the purpose of the Assembly programme for the benefit of residents attending for the first time.

2. Census results from New Cross and community group research findings

Brigid Howarth, London Borough of Lewisham Development Officer with responsibility for the New Cross Assembly, summarised the latest information to be released from the census:

- Of the 18 wards in Lewisham, New Cross has the third lowest number of people in full time employment (36.4% of New Cross residents) and high levels of unemployment (7.6%).
- Levels of home ownership are low (second lowest in the borough after Evelyn ward). Overcrowding and rented accommodation is high in New Cross and Evelyn, particularly social housing.
- New Cross has the highest number of single person (below pensionable age) households.
- New Cross and Evelyn have the highest levels of non white residents. The number of Black African residents in Evelyn and New Cross is more than twice the borough average. The number of households where no-one speaks English as the main language is highest in Evelyn (16%) and New Cross (15.3%).

3. The New Approach to Assembly Funding and Introduction to Workshop

Brigid Howarth explained that the Co-ordinating Group had decided that in future less money would be spent on refreshments for Assembly meetings. This money would be used to support projects to benefit the local community.

The Assembly Fund will be developed to ensure maximum value for money for local communities where budgets are being squeezed elsewhere across the Council. An action development led approach will ensure the Assembly Fund is spent on the most suitable actions to best meet priorities for the ward; is more planned and strategic in its approach; and has the potential to achieve better value for money. In future it is anticipated that Assemblies will deliver a smaller number of high value projects that will have a greater impact on the ward.

4. Workshop on themes for 2013-2014

A workshop on ideas for the fund was facilitated by members of the Co-ordinating Group. People were invited to join one of 6 themed groups reflecting the priorities of the Assembly: reducing crime, improving community facilities and shops, increasing youth provision, traffic and road safety and the environment. Each group presented their ideas and everyone voted for their top four priorities from the list of projects.

The projects and priority level (determined by the number of votes) is outlined below:

THEME	PROJECT	PRIORITY LEVEL
Unemployment	Promoting local jobs to local people	Medium
	Prioritising local jobs for local people	Low
	Work placements for people	Low
	Local currency scheme	Medium
	Build Time Bank	Low
	Skills Swap scheme for New Cross	Low
Child Poverty and Young People	What's on and available update put into School newsletters	Medium
	Explore how to expand free breakfast clubs at local schools	High
	'Better off' advice sessions to inform people about benefits that might be available to them	Low
	Open air table tennis tables: equipment and launch event	High
	Explore the installation of more open air gyms	High
Community Facilities	Community cinema	Medium
	Fete/ New Cross Festival – intergenerational Summer event	High
	Youth music events	Low
	Food bank with volunteering opportunities	Medium
	Community CB Radio for older people	Low
Community Cohesion and Engagement	Peer to peer communication, new platforms on which the community can communicate	High
	Regular public events/ street parties/ local talent showcase	High
	Community Forum	Low
The Environment	Improvements to the environment on New Cross Road: linking to new Cycle Superhighway, New Crossing Programme partnership. Include noise pollution as a problem. Highlight the fact that community lives and works around the A2	High
	Tree planting	Low
	Gardening Projects	Low
Crime and anti-social behaviour	A comprehensive programme that addresses gang culture. A diversionary project that could involve theatre. Outreach and engagement, include skills development such as design, technology, lighting etc	High

Brigid Howarth explained that the Co-ordinating Group will review the information and determine how the funding can be best used to meet the priorities. Projects will be developed further, with the support of Council officers, to include costs, how project will be delivered, timescales etc. The Co-ordinating Group present project ideas back to assembly who will agree what to fund.

5. Health Improvement Programme Evaluation

Keji Kazzim, Health Improvement Officer attended but unfortunately, there was not time for Keji to present the evaluation of the Health Improvement Programme. Keji shared handouts and can provide further information on request.

6. Community updates

A representative from Quay Point explained that a newspaper and on line news site is being developed for south east London. The first printed edition will hopefully be available in July.

Cllr Paul Maslin closed the Assembly meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

No declarations of interest were made at this meeting.