



Twenty-second Sydenham Assembly

**Tuesday 4 June 2013, 7pm - 9pm
TNG – The New Generation Centre,
Wells Park Road
SE26 6AD**

Minutes of Meeting

1. Introduction and Welcome

Cllr Chris Best Welcomed everyone to the Sydenham Assembly and introduced The New Generation Centre (TNG).

2. Discussion Groups

Attendees were asked to form groups to discuss the following issues relating to a review of the Sydenham Assembly priorities.

3. Feedback from Groups to the meeting

Feedback

Table 1: Older People

- This group believe it's time for the older generation to be considered and to counteract isolation, they outlined a need for an information leaflet about what is available locally. Currently people do not really know where facilities and services are in the area, such as training, art and craft classes, exercise classes etc.
- They would like intergenerational activities to encourage the younger and older generation to share some social activities and to also include intercultural activities.
- Encouraging resident associations throughout Sydenham to network and create opportunities for neighbours to meet.
- Continued need to keep an eye on community safety. Whilst it has improved, we need to ensure a police presence is kept up especially of the police station is closed.
- Lewisham A+E should be retained as a matter of urgency as older people and mums with babies need local facilities and should not have to take more than one bus.

Table 2: Youth

- Discussions took place on how to tackle of the issue of Sydenham rivalry involving Lower and Upper Sydenham. Young people want to plan how they

can bring the young people from Lower Sydenham up to use the centre to encourage integration. A good way would be to choose a centre Ambassador from either the local councillors or the young people who use the centre to spread the word and organise mini events. All designed to keep the community together.

- Another initiative could be a local cinema as Lewisham borough is the only borough in London that doesn't have a cinema.
- A skate park in Sydenham is also something the young people have asked about which helps young people to come together.
- The changing rooms in Home park could be updated so that young people can use it to change when playing football and other sports.
- Make the TNG accessible to all and discuss how you could attract people to the centre by advertising. This can be used by people of all age groups rather than just 11-19 yr olds.
- **Cllr Best** responded to the last point outlining that the centre will be available for use in the daytime as young people are at school and the plan is for the building to be utilised during this time.

Table 3: Community Safety

- More crossings and lights/lighting which has been an issue with Skanska in the past, but Sydenham will be getting some new street lamps.
- Looking at safety in Wells Park and play areas for under 10's on housing estates.
- Security around cash machines, maybe putting up more CCTV which some shops are doing.
- Concerns are still high around fear of crime.
- Comment was made 'Street drinkers have been moved and have received ASBO's so we as a community need to keep vigilant with the police.'

Table 4: Greens and Parks

- Would like to get the café and toilet in Sydenham Wells Park back into use, which would encourage people to use all the facilities in the park.
- Would also need security as well as more people will be visiting Sydenham Wells Park because of the TNG and want to keep everyone safe.
- Park keepers needed everyday - there are currently 2 days per week when there are no park keepers.
- Community have won a grant for the tennis courts at Sydenham Wells Park and feel it would be nice to have the tennis courts well maintained.
- Regular dog patrols to minimise dangerous dogs and owners - park could offer dog training.
- Ensure café in Mayow Park is completed and used as a community café with managed toilet facilities.
- Encourage youth to use all 3 parks (known as SE26parks.com) as there are different facilities in each park.
- Home Park temporary class rooms, residents want to ensure that there is good development regarding the tarmac of new areas and improved changing room facilities. They also feel that they want to lay down a legacy

for the park and want to ensure that the rooms can be used by the park after the school has gone.

- Arts in the Park is a Family Fun Day in Home Park as part of the Sydenham Festival plus there is the event in Mayow Park on 7 July – need to encourage more community events in parks.

Table 5: What would young people like to see in the area?

- Cinema/Cinema club which they believe is underway, whereby young people can sell popcorn to help the project to be self sustainable.
- Safer Streets – provisions are great, but journeys need to be safe to and from the venues and this will help to alleviate the worry and concern of parents.
- More fundraising events to generate funds and for young people to carry out those events (e.g. young people could go to Sainsbury's and help to pack bags to raise money).
- More activities for young people to feel safe (e.g. to get parents to do a walk to and from venues so they know how safe the walk is)
- After school clubs.
- More police presence around the area.

Table 6: Young People Table

- Skate park in Sydenham – preferably Sydenham Wells Park as opposite the TNG and would add to the facilities that already include a tennis courts and outdoor table tennis.
- More activities at the TNG to make it a great place for young people.
- Funding for provision of more after school clubs including a homework club.
- Young people to have space for making money such as market stalls – support for a youth market.

Table 7: Older People

- Discussions took place around provisions for older people. The TNG is available during the day so residents feel that there should be more activities for older people to attend which helps with physical and mental wellbeing.
- Money to be used to advertise the services that are offered, but also research to be carried out to see what else is on offer that could be transferred, and also to get use of the venue for free if possible.
- Would like to know what plans are in place already.
- To have an agreement that the TNG is a shared space for all the community and not just for young people.
- More intergenerational work.
- Tasters sessions for the adults such as gardening, baking, sewing
- Promoting transferable skills between generations.
- Possibility that Glendale could come in and do some gardening sessions in the park?
- Build connections with the Health Centre in Sydenham, one resident said, 'this is a perfect opportunity to do this with the new TNG.'

Table 8: Neighbourhood planning

- Planning and retail - look into ways in which community can help the Council in restricting licensing applications for the sale of alcohol to counteract shops selling early in the morning and even 24hrs.
- Resist the rapid expansion of takeaways and fast food outlets.
- Resist proliferation of pawn brokers, betting shops and payday loan companies.
- Preserving local pubs. It was felt that shutting too many local pubs is a bad step as these are areas that provide social spaces and community facilities.
- Enforcement and regulation of forecourt displays.
- Enforcement of satellite dishes in a Conservation Area.
- Enforcement of illegal change of shop fronts.
- Enforcement of illegal parking on forecourts.
- Concerned about the lack of police presence.
- Increased activities at TNG and in other community centres for older people.
- The work at Sydenham community library has been very positive, maybe this work can be extended.
- To roll out computer classes is seen as a good step, especially as many services are completed online, including booking doctor appointments and repeat prescriptions.

Table 9: Vibrant high street

- Sydenham road will be anchored by Sainsbury's at both ends with Tesco in the middle as well as the Coop and Lidl. Tesco said that they will be taking on 20-25 local people part time but concern with the chain supermarkets blocking out other traders.
- The table wanted an update regarding the Greyhound 'as it's a bit of an eye sore.'
- Portas Pilot scheme – update on how its working, there is an understanding that the Sydenham market is a great success, but would like to encourage some young people to have a stall.
- A question was asked on whether some of the Portas pilot money could be used to clean up the shop fronts.
- Business rates are very high and puts off a lot of start up businesses
- Promote local shops joining up together and providing home delivering services (example butchers, greengrocers etc). this will be good local competition for Tesco's and Sainsbury's.
- Lots of leisure centres and sporting facilities in Sydenham but there are no sport shops selling related goods – need to bring more diversity to the high street.

Table 10: General

- A need for more trees on pavements, but small ones only as the large ones block light and obscures road signs.
- Litter is another problem in quite a few areas – can chewing gum be removed from the pavements?
- Litter bins should have a recycling section and be emptied often.
- Garden waste need to be reinstated or like Horniman museum, a large compost site introduced.
- Town Hall, the phones need more operators to answer promptly or a facility for them to call us back.
- Council tax needs to reflect hard (non draining) surfaces of a property as too many driveways and hard surfaces are leading to flooding in the area and high street.
- There needs to be parking facilities for the TNG centre as people will want to visit by car.
- Will the introduction of this centre affect the attendance of Sydenham Hill Community centre as we don't want to lose a facility in the process?
- Can we enforce dog fouling on the streets?
- How can we deter people from cycling on the pavements? Although we understand Sydenham road is very bad at the moment and the traffic is quite fast.

Table 11: Transport issues/concerns

- Need to improve the flow of traffic and buses.
- Train services are good at the moment through improvement. However this may be disrupted as London bridge is being rebuilt and the southern services will suffer greatly. There will be no weekend services from the stations to London bridge between 2015-2018. This will cause a huge disruption and will mean having to take extreme measures just to get into London.
- Residents feel that it is important that we continue to see improvements at our train stations to help ease congestion and improve access and safety at these stations.
- There are plans to bring the Bakerloo line down to the south.
- When Sydenham Station Approach is completed, there will be even less space for parking as the space will be taken up by the turning point.
- Residents feel that there should be a turning point on the Spring Hill side – the Peak Hill Gardens entrance to the station.
- The area around the roundabout will continue to be congested, so the importance of having congestion boxes and junctions, so that traffic turning right into Kirkdale is not blocked, was highlighted.
- Regarding buses, a need for more bus countdown timers was expressed.

4. Voting on top 5 priorities

Cllr Best summarised the top 5 priorities for the ward:

1. Bringing the community together

- Intergenerational and intercultural - activities for elders and youth - use of TNG during the day for community groups, after school clubs

- Volunteering - time credits and timebanking
- Residents Associations
- Information and communication - written and electronic

2. Health, Well Being and Community Safety

- Leisure activities - library, active lifestyles, Arts Festival, CEL taster sessions
- Public Health - restrictions on Alcohol Licensing and Takeaways
- SNTs

3. Vibrant high street

- Shop local and home deliveries
- SEE3 Portas Pilot - street markets inc youth market
- Neighbourhood planning and enforcement - keep local pubs
- Levels of rent and business rates

4. Clean and Green

- More street trees
- Parks with cafes
- Park keepers 7 days a week - dog patrols
- Range of activities for all residents - walking, tennis, skate park

5. Transport

- Completion of Sydenham Road - Mayow Road to Bell Green
- Countdown bus stops
- Improvement to train service - long term Bakerloo line

The Assembly agreed that these priorities should form the basis of the Action Plan for the Assembly for the next two years. These areas will be the priorities for the Sydenham Assembly Fund.

Cllr Liam Curran as Chair of the Sustainable Development Committee advised the Assembly that with Tesco's and Sainsbury's planning applications the Council can refuse the application but they are generally overturned at the appeal stage. The Council will continue to support our high streets. There is a new planning policy put in place by the Council to protect our local pubs this follows on from the Localism Act which enables pubs to be seen as community assets.

5. Sydenham Assembly Coordinating Group – Call for new members

Pat Trembath asked for volunteers to join the Coordinating Group as there is capacity for new people . Meetings take place quarterly so committing doesn't take up a lot of time. For further information contact the Coordinating Group that includes Cllr Chris Best, Maya Onyett, Pat Trembath and Barry Milton.

6. Latest from SEE3

Update on Pop Goes Sydenham –

Louise Brooks told the Assembly after some very successful work the focus is now on Sydenham. Pop Goes Sydenham is a series of events, the main part is for 4 pop up shops. The first opened on the 18 May on Sydenham Road with the second opening in a few weeks this will be at Kent house Road and it will be a café.

SEE3 is also in the process of securing 2 additional shops and Louise will feedback in due course.

SEE3 has received a great deal of comments regarding rejuvenating the night time economy, as a result of this they are forming some evening supper clubs. There is also a community event coming up (Pop Goes Sydenham community party on 13 June 2013).

SEE3 will run some further supper clubs throughout July and are hoping that supper clubs and pop up restaurants will become a regular event.

Louise stated that they are also collaborating with Sydenham Arts Festival on introducing street arts to the area. This is still in the early stages, but we will update you as the information flows.

SEE Sydenham market

Cllr Best highlighted the flyers for SEE Sydenham monthly food fair held on the last Sunday of every month on the new Venner Square. The next market is on Sunday 30 June from 10am to 4pm..

Town Team Action Groups -

Cllr Best explained the concept of the Town Team and the Action Groups where people can get involved with initiatives to improve the area. She asked for volunteers from anyone interesting in joining one of a number of groups. There are currently 4 Action Groups -:

- Community involvement and development
- Creative and Enterprise – working with traders and businesses to bring more diversity to the area
- Neighbourhood planning
- Marketing, events and communications

If anyone is interested, please speak to Cllr Chris Best or go to the SEE3 web site and subscribe to the eNewsletter for more information.

Other activities include the monthly SEE Sydenham Market on the last Sunday of the month – next one is Sunday 30 June.

7. Information items and open questions and answers

Feedback on Youth Consultation – Melissa Knight

Along with the previous Coordinator (Paul Gale), consultation took place with young people to find out what they actually want in the area and what services they knew about. Other key questions included:

- How far do they want to travel?
- How much would they pay?
- What stops them attending events?

680 responses were collected, if you would like to see the report contact Maya Onyett , maya.onyett@lewisham.gov.uk.

Sydenham Mosaic Update– Valerie Kelly

Valerie Kelly updated the Assembly on the following relating to the Mosaic Project:

- The redecoration of the building has been finished
- The installation is almost finished and should be finished by the close of Friday 7 June.
- There will be an official opening where acknowledgement and information plaques will be presented.
- There is also a website, for more information contact valeriekelly@btinternet.com or call 0208 778 4775

Adamsrill School Temporary Proposed Relocation

Chris Threlfall stated that he is working with Margaret Brightman to ensure there are enough school places. He highlighted that the issue now is to find a temporary place so that Adamsrill School can be rebuilt. The plans are to build a larger building to accommodate enough students and in the meantime the lower age children will need to be based off site whilst the building works takes place. At the moment there is a discussion surrounding the proposal to use a part of Home Park for around 14 months (until the Autumn term). There will be a formal consultation period for people to express their views. For more information please contact Margaret Brightman - Margaret.Brightman@lewisham.gov.uk - 0208-314 -8031.

Sydenham Road improvements

Barry Milton asked for a meeting with Lewisham Highways to be arranged by local cllrs. Cllr Chris Best reassured Barry that a meeting to discuss the next phase from Mayow Road to Kent House Road would be arranged as soon as draft plans had been completed.

Sydenham Arts Festival – Jonathan Kauffman

Liz mentioned the partnership with Sydenham Arts Festival in running the Family Fun day in Home Park on Sunday 30 June from 1pm – 6pm.

Jonathan handed out the programmes for Sydenham Arts Festival which is in a 5th year and bigger than before with a 90 plus event programme. Jonathan highlighted a few of the key events including the Sydenham street celebration on Saturday 6 July taking place in various locations along Sydenham Road. Jonathan then handed over to Tom to talk about the volunteers programme. There is a Volunteers Meet and Greet meeting at the Golden Lion, 8 pm on 5th June. The age criteria for volunteering is between 16-25 years old and they hope to sign up new volunteers on the night.

Rachel Onikosi – Mentoring Project

Rachel informed the Assembly that she will be matching residents with young adults (aged 15-25 years) to help increase their aspirations and to reduce the baggage they often face in relation to education and employment. Services provided include sourcing work experience with local people, Councillors, or particular fields they may be interested in. She is working in partnership with Melissa Knight and plans to have services in place by the end of June/early July.

Windmill Pub Update

The Windmill Pub may be put up for sale to be bought by Sainsbury's for a new site. An application has been submitted. It was highlighted that the pub is one of the few places where the community can hold functions. Anyone who wants to express their views contact Lewisham's Licensing Department ; licensing@lewisham.gov.uk

Cllr Best mentioned that, as Councillors, they have already objected.

Gerry Devine (Centre Manager) offered a tour of the new site and gave information on opening times which are:

Monday-Friday 10am-9.30pm

Saturday 10am-6pm

Sunday 11am-4pm

Cllr Best thanked everyone for coming to the Assembly and told them that the next meeting is at 7pm on Thursday 12 September 2013 at The Sydenham Centre.

Meeting closed at 9:10pm