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# **DOWNHAM ASSEMBLY**

**TUESDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER 2014 at 7.00 pm**  
King's Church on The Green –  
20 The Green, Downham Way. Bromley BR1 5LS

# Minutes of the Meeting

- 1. Welcome from the Chair** - Cllr David Britton opened the meeting and extended a warm welcome to all. The two, other Labour Councillors for the Downham Ward were then introduced, namely Councillor Andre Bourne and Councillor Timi Ogunbadewa.
- 2. The Downham Assembly Coordinating Group** - Cllr. Britton introduced those members of the Coordinating Group present at this Assembly and went on to explain the purpose and remit of the group. Each local assembly has a coordinating group supported by the Local Assembly Coordinator (LAC). The LAC for Downham is Ali Williams. Cllr. Britton advised the Assembly the group are looking for new members and that no past experience is needed to sit on the group.

The group helps to plan and structure assembly meetings to ensure the smooth running of the meeting. It also takes responsibility for ensuring there is diverse attendance from all parts of the local community at the assembly.

The coordinating group meets at least once between each assembly meeting, usually in the evenings. The coordinating group is appointed from the wider assembly, and anyone who lives, works or learns in the ward can sit on the group. Ideally the group should have between 6 and 12 members.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Coordinating Group or would like more information then please contact the Downham Local Assembly Coordinator is Ali Williams at [Ali.williams2@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:Ali.williams2@lewisham.gov.uk) or Tel: 020 8314 6293 or Mobile: 07834 145 007

- 3. The Big Budget Challenge Lewisham** – Lewisham Council needs to find savings worth £85m over the next three years to balance its budget in the face of Government cuts to its funding. Lewisham's Mayor and councilors will be making decision over the coming months and are keen to know where communities would continue spending money and where money could possibly be saved. Adrian Wardle, Head of the Council's Communications Unit delivered a presentation and Q&A session entitled 'The Big Budget Challenge' which addresses how the Council currently spends its money, where the money comes from, what services the Council provides for the community, how the Council's income is being cut, how and when decisions will be made and how to get involved in helping the Mayor and councilors make the necessary, tough decisions.

The Lewisham Big Budget Challenge is your chance to have a go at balancing the Council's books and to choose your own way to trim the budget using the online budget simulator. For more information visit [www.lewisham.gov.uk/bigbudgetchallenge](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/bigbudgetchallenge)

- 4. The Downham Debate** – The Downham Assembly Coordinating Group have taken the decision to introduce a regular feature to all future

Downham Assemblies, known as the Downham Debate. The Downham Debate will involve a panel of invited guest speakers who will take questions from the floor and, depending on the make up of the panel, cover an array of topics and issues as set by the Coordinating Group or suggested by a previous Assembly. On this occasion, Cllr. Britton was pleased to introduce Heidi Alexander, MP for Lewisham East, Selvin Reid, Neighbourhood Community Safety Officer, David Brinson, Waste Initiatives & Prevention Officer from the Council's Environment & Community Development Team and Eddie Worrel, Environmental Services Manager at Phoenix Community Housing.

Questions from the floor covered issues such as fly-tipping, the positioning of fly-tipping notices, the pros and cons of introducing schemes similar to one run in Bromley borough where residents, on specified days, are invited to bring their unwanted, large items to the front of their residence for collection by the council. People leaving their refuse bins on the pavement after they've been emptied causing obstruction, the contamination of recycling bins, i.e. some residents not recycling properly. Glendale not clearing litter at Durham Hill and in Downham Fields, the 'greening of the ward' and the Phoenix Environmental improvement Plan which involves tree and bulb planting etc. Also, youths riding mini-mopeds on pavements and through estates, noise nuisance, the Council's reliance on Incident Diaries to gather evidence when addressing issues of anti-social behavior, other tools for dealing with low level ASB such as mediation and restorative justice.

Members of the panel took responsibility for specific enquiries, detailing the actions they intend to take with a commitment to feeding back their responses to the individuals concerned within specified time-frames.

**5. Launch of the Downham Local Assembly Fund - The Commissioned Approach** - Ali Williams gave a brief outline of the new commissioning approach to allocating assembly funds.

During 2013 –14, a more commissioned approach to spending the Assembly Fund was encouraged. This decision was made following observations and analysis on how the fund has performed in achieving its principle aims in previous years; and to take into account the changing financial climate.

As public sector budgets are squeezed and service areas are less able to respond to requests from local areas, the Assembly Fund will become an increasingly important tool in helping assemblies to meet local priorities. Assemblies are encouraged to deliver a smaller number of high value projects that will have a greater impact on the ward.

Ali Williams went on to explain that using findings from a number of information gathering activities, needs had been identified and a list of ideas to address need drawn up. The list of ideas, enough for one per person, were then placed on each table with everyone invited to score their top Five. The results would then inform the criteria for applications to the Assembly Fund.

The results of this exercise are as follows;

- outreach and social activities for isolate, older people
- activities for 3–16 year-olds
- activities for the over 50s
- 'greening of the ward' including planting of trees and bulbs
- pop-up enterprise in empty local shops

So, if you have an idea for a project that will help make Downham an even better place to live and work you can apply to the Downham Assembly Fund to make it happen. The total fund for this year is £13,000.

The deadline for submitting applications is Friday 31 October 2014. Applications must be for projects which can address one or more of the priority areas: To download an application pack and the Assembly Fund Guidance Visit

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/getinvolved/localassemblies/Downham-Assembly/Pages/default.aspx>

or contact Ali Williams, your Local Assembly Coordinator for more information and to request an application pack to be sent in the post.

The Coordinating Group will next meet in November to assess all applications received and decide which projects best meet the criteria. A shortlist of projects will then be taken to the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2014 Assembly. Those shortlisted will be invited to attend the Assembly to let people know what they plan to deliver and how to get involved. Attendees at the December Assembly will then take a vote on which projects to commission.

Formal approval will then be given and the grant administrative processes will begin with payments being made Nov 2014 – Feb 2015.

Projects to be delivered by Project delivery partner by 30 November 2015.

- 6. Presentation form Downham Tavern** – The Licensee of the Downham Tavern was due to introduce the recently opened, newly renovated Downham Tavern but was unable to attend. An invitation will be extended to attend the next Assembly.
- 7. Community Updates - The HAKA Sports Complex Badminton Club** - Debbie Sedgley of the HAKA Sports Complex gave an overview of the services available at the HAKA for the community to take advantage of and reminded the Assembly that the HAKA received £1,894.00 in Assembly Funds under the priorities; 'Youth Activities & Older People'.

In particular, Debbie wanted to promote the Badminton Club which benefits from a qualified Badminton Coach and runs every Friday from 6:30-8pm from 4th April – 28th November 2014.

There is Full Court Sports Hall containing 4 courts.

Participants get group coaching and the opportunity to play matches.

Downham Ward residents are admitted free of charge.  
People living outside of Downham Ward are still able to take advantage of the club but are required to pay £4.50 per person.  
Up to 20 people can attend.

Attendees get the opportunity to meet other local residents and people in the local community and get the opportunity to get fit and keep active within their local area.

Badminton is also a sport that is accessible for most ages and abilities.

- 8. Date and time of next Downham Assembly** – Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2014 from 11.00am to 13.00pm at Wesley Halls Community Centre, Shroffold Road, Bromley. BR1 5PE. See you there!

### **Meeting End**

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| <b>2.</b> | Welcome from the Chair / House-keeping / Introduction to new Councillors   |
| <b>3.</b> | The Big Budget Challenge - your chance to have a go at balancing the Council's books   |
| <b>4.</b> | Break  |
| <b>5.</b> | The Downham Debate - Panel Discussion with MP Heidi Alexander (Chair), LBL & Phoenix Community Housing Environment Officers & PC Dean Hyett-Powell |
| <b>6.</b> | Launch of Assembly Fund -The Commissioning Approach  |
| <b>7.</b> | Presentation from Downham Tavern   |
| <b>8.</b> | Close  |