



# The Evelyn Assembly **BIG** **EVENT!**

*Your local assembly, your say!*

**The Evelyn Assembly Big Event**  
**11am-2pm Saturday 18 October 2014**  
**Deptford Park Primary School**  
**Event Notes**



## **11am-12pm The Big Budget Challenge**

Councillor David Michael welcomed people to the event. John Miller the Head of Planning at Lewisham Council presented to people about Lewisham Council's budget challenges in the next 4 years.

He explained that Lewisham Council have to cut £1 in every £3 it is currently spending.

The current budget is £1.2bn:

- £273m for schools
- £246m for housing benefit
- £169m for council housing
- £126m for capital spending
- They get income of £120m
- Net budget of £268m to spend on other council services

The net budget of £268m comes into Lewisham from:

- Council tax £81m
- Business rates £85m
- Central Government revenue support grant £102m

### **Government Money reducing / people increasing**

Money that central government gives to Lewisham is reducing from £208m in 2013/14 to £138m in 2017/18, but Lewisham's population is growing. It is projected that there will be another £36,000 people living in Lewisham by 2021.

Information about how much money each council service is given was shown on a board.

### **£85m to be saved**

There is £85m that needs to be saved from the budget and it was explained that Lewisham is asking local people what council services are most important to them and also to the wider community and which would people would prefer had money taken away from them.

## Online budget simulator

Cards were handed out for people to fill in and they were told about the on-line budget simulator which people can try out to reduce the budget by £85m.

[www.lewisham.gov.uk/bigbudgetchallenge](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/bigbudgetchallenge) twitter #bigbudgetchallenge.

Between September 2014 – January 2015, there will be:

- Cut proposals worked on and published
- Councillors look at proposals
- Service user consultation
- Public consultation

The Mayor and Cabinet would make the decisions on the savings and the budget would be agreed on the 25 of February 2015.

## Question / Comment and Answer Sessions

- It was asked that empty buildings are used to benefit the community
- It was said that too much money is spent on security for empty buildings and they should be managed by not for profit housing organisations
- It was asked that the money coming in from Convoys Wharf and other developments are utilised by Lewisham Council
- It was said that young people need jobs and training for careers that are aspirational and that the developers should fund this
- It was said that money shouldn't be spent on outside services. The local children's centre have the Children's Society and workers should be kept in-house.
- It was said that direct council workers should be used and local people should be trained to take on council jobs on decent wages.
- It was said that management positions should be cut, not just front line services
- It was said that youth services should be protected as Lewisham is a young borough.
- It was said that a solution to the cuts is to not take the cuts as we are paying for the mistakes of the rich.
- It was said that young people and single people need affordable housing as 27 year olds are living with parents.

**Q** It was asked if the council will have to uphold its statutory (legal) duty to provide services within these cuts.

**A** It was answered that this is part of the decisions that have to be made and that the council does have legal responsibilities to provide some of its services.

**Q** It was said that it is frustrating that too much money is spent on consultants that come in to the local area for a short time when there is already expertise on staffing teams.

**A** It was answered that in Lewisham Council Planning Department 95% of the money that is spent on consultants is paid for by developers. Some consultants are needed for specialised work on short term basis and it would be more costly to permanently employ people with those skills.

**Q** It was asked why St Francis Drake school is being knocked down to make way for a school which will not be as good quality as the currently school.

**A** It was answered that there are pressures for more school places and the government are not giving any money apart from the fund that has been allowed for St Francis Drake to be extended, but that Lewisham Council planning will make sure that the layout is not detrimental to

the school.

**Q** It was asked if Lewisham Council's emergency money is being used for the cuts?

**A** It was answered that reserves may be used in the first year but cant be used year after year.

John Miller said that he would be happy to come back to the assembly to talk about facilities within new local developments.

## **12pm - 2pm 'Big Vote' and Information stalls**

There were stalls from community groups and organisations that were bidding for the Evelyn Assembly Fund. Please see the 'Evelyn Assembly Fund Big Vote Projects 2014-15' leaflet for details of the projects that people voted on.

### **Information Stalls**

There was also information stalls from:

- **The Wharfs Development**  
020 7729 1705 or email [info@thewharvesdeptford.com](mailto:info@thewharvesdeptford.com) [www.thewharvesdeptford.com](http://www.thewharvesdeptford.com)
- **Community Revival Pepys Estate**
- **Smash Fest** [www.smashfestuk.com/](http://www.smashfestuk.com/) [lindsay@refinery.tv](mailto:lindsay@refinery.tv)
- **Cycling Quietway (planned to run through Evelyn Ward)**  
[www.lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/regeneration/deptford/north-lewisham-links/Pages/Cycling-Quietway.aspx](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/regeneration/deptford/north-lewisham-links/Pages/Cycling-Quietway.aspx)

### **Deptford Park School Choir**

Roz Amat introduced the Deptford Park Primary School choir who sang for the assembly at 1pm. Deptford Park school was thanked for its help in putting on the assembly and the work of the choir who had been practicing for the event.

### **Evelyn Assembly Stall**

There was information on what the assembly does and people were also asked what the assembly should work on in the area. They said:

- Cycle lock facilities near the river around Pepys Library Pepys Resource Centre
- Turn the area surrounded by railings and a rowing boat into a community garden
- Work on community cohesion
- Active kids programme
- Children need more respect and justice
- Keep the parks
- No more tower blocks
- More childrens activities – 5-7 years
- More positive activities for teenagers
- Provide more parenting support for all parents
- Support for survivors of domestic abuse and young people exposed to violence
- Better play areas for children
- Better communication with local council
- A more peaceful environment
- Safer place for single women
- New things in the local environment and playgrounds

- More homework clubs
- Youth activities
- We could achieve a closer community working together to help ourselves and each other. Food from the community garden could be used to make food for the community café.
- Children could take part in workshops teaching them how to grow the food or cookery workshops preparing food they have grown.
- Better use of community spaces (they should be monitored). Spaces are being used by groups who are not utilising their potential.
- Creative writing and storytelling for older people
- I would like to see a borough wide market garden in which people donate space/skills/time even funds to grow fruit and veg for local markets shops restaurants etc creating employment, healthier environment and healthier food.
- Hopewell Practice – we can help improve health and wellbeing of members of the community
- Better social connection with the community
- Children to play outside without their parents worrying
- Improve road safety
- Community Garden and childrens play areas to be improved.
- Make our community better and have better and more interesting parks
- More traffic lights
- Road maintenance footpaths and roads bad
- Get the Lennox built at Convoys Wharf to bring something amazing to the area
- Flytipping is bad
- Get information of local organisations to the local community
- To have a front garden growing project that helps people with front growing spaces and balconies upkeep and grow things, to provide free mulch bark to keep weeds away and encourage people to take pride in their streets mix with neighbours and improve the environment.
- There should be a 'family centre' where people can come together group activities and talents for young people
- Road safety
- More play areas on estates so parents can keep an eye on children
- Community gardens for people to relax in.

## **Big Vote Results**

People looked at the Big Vote leaflet, browsed the stalls and spoke to the organisations who were asking for their projects to be funded. They ranked some projects out of 10 and some YES/NO. The projects with the highest scores were funded, some projects were funded less than they bid for as they were ranked lower. There was a community give back section where Hornafrik gave £150 of their funding back to the project ranked below them. Results table on the next page.

<b>Evelyn Assembly Fund 14/15</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Anyadwe Children and Family Welfare Association	£1,500	419	Older Peoples Provision
Family Services - Growing Older Feeling Great	£1,550	411	Older Peoples Provision
Mindful Arts - try Something new Pepys Resource Centre	£575	384	Older Peoples Provision
<b>Older People total</b>	<b>£3,625</b>		
Hornafrik (£150 donated to other projects)	£1,700	417	Community Capacity Building
999 Project - Life Cycle Project	£1,368	356	Community Capacity Building
John Evelyn Community Garden - Outward Facing Garden	£557	337	Community Capacity Building
Eat a Rainbow	£0	334	Community Capacity Building
<b>Community Capacity total</b>	<b>£3,625</b>		
Evelyn Parents Forum - Family support project	£2,625	YES	Children and Young People – Families & Children
Youth Event bids	£3,625	YES	Children and Young People - Young People
<b>Children and Young People total</b>	<b>£6,250</b>		
Cllrs Discretionary Fund	£1,500		
<b>Total Assembly Fund</b>	<b>£15,000</b>		

### **Youth Funding**

It was explained that there will be work with young people so they can decide what the £3,625 funding for young people should be spent on. The Assembly decided by voting YES at this meeting that young people should be enabled to be more involved in allocating this money.

There were declarations of interest at this meeting.