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# DOWNHAM ASSEMBLY

**TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2015**

7.00 pm – 9.00pm

**King's Church (Church on The Green)  
20 The Green, Downham Way, Bromley BR1 5LS**

## Minutes of the Meeting

**Welcome from the Chair** – Cllr. André Bourne opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

**Beckenham Place Park Presentation by Alison Taylor, Project Manager, Urban Renewal** - Beckenham Place Park is Lewisham's largest park. At 98 hectares it is 30% bigger than Greenwich Park. It boasts ancient woodland, meadow, parkland, a river and several historic buildings, as well as a golf course. However, the park remains little known among the wider community and is under-used. Its historic buildings are in need of significant renovation and the park as a whole requires major investment.

Lewisham Council is keen to improve and enhance Beckenham Place Park, recognising its value as the borough's largest open space. The park has huge potential to be a thriving park, a taste of the country in an urban environment, and to encourage thousands of people to get active and enjoy the outdoors.

Last year it won the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Parks for People' programme and was allocated nearly £5million to spend on the park and some of the historic buildings.

The plan is to work with the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Environment Agency to encourage greater use of the park and to improve facilities for local families and visitors including: Restore the Listed Homesteads to create a learning centre: Restore historic parkland: River works and flood defence: Play and park improvements. The park will become more attractive through a wide range of activities such as exploring, cycling, paddling in the river, picnics, running, informal sports, organised community events, farmer's markets and park runs.

Following the presentation Alison took questions from the floor as follows;

***What will happen with the memorial benches that line the path alongside the golf course and in the ornamental gardens in the new scheme for the park?***

*The design team will endeavour to incorporate the existing benches dedicated to loved ones within the newly designed park in a sensitive and appropriate way. Where possible, the benches will remain in a similar position.*

**What consideration is being given to annual maintenance of the park?**

*When submitting the bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund it was incumbent upon the Council to clearly stipulate where money for on-going maintenance will come from for the first ten years.*

**What consideration is being given to park security at night time?**

*No need for any specific security, for example, Ladywell Park is not closed at night time.*

**Is the Council intending to reduce the existing 18-hole golf course to a 9-hole golf course?**

*Existing golfers, when surveyed, stated opposition to the closure of the 18-hole course and indicated they were not interested in a 9-hole golf course.*

*At present, the 18 hole course dominates more than 100 acres of the most historic parkland and entirely surrounds the key listed buildings, which we are aiming to restore and find productive uses for in future. The proposals put forward aim to renew the park's relevance to the local community, around 80% of whom (according to consultation we carried out in 2014) believe there would be greater public enjoyment of the space if it were not so dominated by golf.*

**What sports provision is proposed?**

*Proposals include: two new free-to-play tennis courts, a new fitness trail to encourage continued use of the park by sports groups and opportunities for young people to get involved in a range of other outdoor activities.*

**What new play provision is proposed?**

*Play is one of the key reasons people visit parks and we want to encourage many more people to visit this park and enjoy using the restored listed buildings.*

*We are suggesting introducing new play provision in the Homesteads area, close to the new visitor centre in the stable block. We are also suggesting that Beckenham Place Park should feature more adventurous and naturalistic play which challenges older children and encourages wider use and appreciation of the park. These features may be grouped in an appropriate location or distributed around the park creating a play trail.*

*We've noticed the popularity of the skate ramp in the park and have included proposals to create a new concrete skate park near the old Bromley Road entrance to the park.*

*A number of people have suggested that better cycling provision within the park would be good and we propose to create more routes to encourage cycling in the park. In addition we have proposed the construction of a bike track/pump track/north shore or skills course within the park for those who want to push their cycling skills to the next level.*

*We will involve younger people (and interested adults) in the design of these elements.*

**What plans are there for the existing pond and how confident is the Council that it won't end up the same way as the existing pond?**

*Maintenance of the newly designed pond is built into the funding bid and will form part of the design plans. The water will be fed from an existing natural spring and the quality of the water tested regularly. It will be some of the cleanest water in London.*

**Timing Activity**

17 February 2016 Mayor and Cabinet consider report on progress of bid for Heritage Lottery Funding and future of golf course.

**If it is decided to proceed with the bid then consultation will continue in order to progress designs for the park. What follows is subject to the decision on 17 February 2016.**

Mid-February to April 2016 Public consultation on the park's designs to include events, public meetings, surveys, and work with young people to inform designs.

May to June 2016 Design verification. Public displays and events

August 2016 Submit final proposal to Heritage Lottery fund for approval

By January 2017 Secure funds from HLF

January to summer 2017 Procurement and finalise detailed designs

Autumn 2017 Works on site begin

By Christmas 2018 Works completed

### **Downham 2015-16 Assembly Funded Projects**

As with last year the Downham Assembly used the Commissioning Approach, in line with other assemblies in the borough, to allocate assembly funds.

The fund was then launched with clear information on the website and in application packs regarding the type of projects the Assembly wished to commission.

The Coordinating Group then met on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and assessed each application to determine which ones best met the criteria.

The successful applicants were then invited to deliver a brief presentations about their projects, at the December 2015 Assembly with details about how people could get involved.

Those projects that received Assembly Funds this year and the respective amounts are as follows;

Academy Achievers Coding Club To be delivered at REAP	£3,000
Aliza – A place To Be Me – Creating Music Through Therapy To be delivered at REAP	£2,570
Lewisham's Citizen's Advice Bureau – To be delivered at DHLC and DWCF+	£3,500 from Downham and £3,500 from Whitefoot Whitefoot agreed to £3,500
Downham Celebrates	£2,000
Downham Football Project – Sports for All – Kieran Connolly	£2,000
Good Shepherd Youth Club GET TOFF	£1,390
Past, Present, future – Downham and	£1,500 from Downham ward

Whitefoot Parade	£1,500 from Whitefoot ward Whitefoot agreed to £1,500
REAP Youth Club	£3,900
Tommo's Christmas Cracker	£1,500 from Downham ward and £1,500 from Whitefoot ward Whitefoot agreed to £1,500

Formal approval can now be given to each project proposer and the grant administrative processes can begin with payments being made anytime from now until February 2016.

All Projects are to be delivered by Project delivery partners by 30 November 2016.

All projects that receive assembly funds will be monitored to ensure that the funds have been used in the agreed manner and that the project has been delivered.

Projects will be invited to return to a future assembly meeting to feedback on progress.

### **Community Round Up**

**Christ Church United Reformed Church , SE6 3HQ, Bellingham Green- Christmas Fayre – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015 10.30am to 4.30pm – All welcome – Hot food!**

**Downham Celebrates – Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015 from midday at Downham Health and Leisure Centre, 7-9 Moorside Road BR1 5EP**

**Goldsmith's Community Association AGM and Public Meeting - Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2015 from 6.30pm** Chaired by Heidi Alexander MP – everybody welcome. Anyone interested in becoming a Trustee should contact Goldsmith's Community Association at Goldsmith's Community Centre, Castillon Road, SE6 1QD or email [gcacomittee@outlook.com](mailto:gcacomittee@outlook.com) for a Trustee Application Pack. Advance applications only.

**Feedback Forms and Co-group Membership –** Cllr Bourne encouraged all present to complete their feedback forms especially Question 9 which invites attendees to make suggestions for future topics at future assemblies.

Cllr. Bourne also gave a brief overview of the role of the Coordinating Group which is to plan assembly meetings and to ensure the assembly is representative of the Downham ward explaining that Co-group members should be familiar with their local area and should play a key role in promoting the Downham Assembly.

An Additional task of the group is to scrutinise funding applications to ensure that they meet the criteria set, this criteria will include the ward priorities, however the group may decide to look at other restrictions such as bid limits and targeting certain priorities.

An ideal Coordinating Group will have the following:

- Diverse age range, ethnic background and representative of the ward profile
- Representative from the third sector
- Local business
- Local community group or society

- Local residents
- Ward councillors

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

**Date and time of Next Downham Assembly** - Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2016 – Venue TBC

**Meeting End**