



**LEE GREEN LOCAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING**
Wednesday 18 November 2015 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Trinity Church of England Secondary School
Taunton Road, London SE12

Record of Meeting

	Items	Actions
1	Welcome, Introduction & Format of meeting	
	<p>Cllr Hooks chair of the Lee Green Assembly opened the meeting with a warm welcome to all the attendees. Cllr Hooks gave an overview of the Lee Green Assembly. He informed the meeting that the current priorities were voted in by the assembly and the work that is done in regards to the priorities is monitored by the coordinating group.</p> <p>Cllr Hooks encouraged the participants to get involved with the co-coordinating group, if they were interested in learning more about the work of the assembly.</p>	
2	Neighbourhood forum	
	<p>A quick update on the neighbourhood forum was provided as follows.</p> <p>Around 91 local people have put in an application to set up a neighbourhood forum. The main aim of the forum is to work with resident across part of 2 wards and cross borough.</p> <p>The plan is being written for the Lee Green area to increase communities say in planning applications arising within the designated areas. As the plan covers Lewisham and Greenwich Boroughs, there is still consultation around the plan which ends on Friday.</p> <p>A steering group has been set up comprising of those people that have shown an interest to date. The first steering group meeting was held last Monday 16 people attended that meeting. The group discussed Lewisham's local plan consultation, which the neighbourhood plan would need to fit in with and immediate short and long-term steps.</p> <p>The council has 20 weeks to designate the forum. if the forum becomes designated, which is governed under the localism act it would have to work closely with the council. A question and answer session followed this update.</p> <p>Q: it is very largely a self-selecting group of people, how does the council choose whether adopt this model</p>	

A: we have tried to advertise as widely as possible, and also other groups have had the opportunity to feed into the process from the start

Q; how do people vote

A; like a local election, the vote is run by the council

Q: where does the money come from

A; the money comes from central government funding and lottery funding

The main aim of the forum is to give local people more say in the planning process.

Q; When you say that the forum will have to work closely with council. How would the neighbourhood forum work with the local assembly?

A: the forum has to consult with local residents and local groups and it goes to a vote at the end and also to an examiner, if we haven't worked with anyone that's made a representation, it will be picked up by the examiner at the end.

Q: Will you be coming back to this meeting every time to give us updates as to what the forum's been doing

A: yes they could do depending on whether there are any updates to give. There can be stages where there's quite a lot of background work to pull together such as research and training. But yes would be very happy to report back.

Q: You say that you would like to

A: Yes if that's ok with the councillors

Q: it just sounds loose, how will we know what's happening

A: you can join our email list, you don't have to be a member to be on our email list it just means that you will receive regular updates. In the last month we sent out 6 emails. Just giving you information on what different forums are doing such as Grove Park neighbourhood forum

Q: I view this whole idea with extreme scepticism as it is part of the 2010 to 2014 Tory government's localism agenda which is very largely aimed at reducing the power of local authorities. You need to look carefully at the democracy

A: The group is elected once a year at an AGM, EGM's can be called in emergency situations. Neighbourhood forums can do more than local assemblies and they are more democratic because everybody votes on ideas. More consultation goes into it and goes into normal planning policy on top of that the neighbourhood plan, is to be adopted by the Council.

	<p>The council could choose not to adopt the plan at the end, they probably wouldn't if the examiner hasn't recommended the plan, although it wouldn't it be considered by the council if the plan hasn't been voted on.</p> <p>Q; How does the council choose whether to adopt this method?</p> <p>A; this will be done through a scrutiny of the process</p> <p>Q: Can you tell me how people vote?</p> <p>A: Its the same as the local election, its run by the council</p>	
3	Motion on air pollution was sent to local MP Heidi Alexandra	
	A briefing paper containing a response to the Assembly motion on air pollution to Heidi Alexandra was read out at the meeting.	
4.	Lee Green Safer Neighbourhood Update on Policing and Community Safety	
	<p>The update provided by the Lee Green Safer Neighbourhood Team is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased street drinking around the Co-operative on Burnt Ash Hill, the police will pop into the Co-operative and speak with the managers, regarding selling of alcohol to street drinkers. • Regards to door-to-door sellers, please check ID to ensure that they are registered • Lee Manor Community Gardens – Complaint received about people visiting the gardens of becoming rowdy, is this a police matter? Shift patterns can be changed to patrol the area at different times • Reports of street begging, the team are currently working with St Mungo's as the people, identified as begging are coming from the hostel. The police have now set up an operation to address this matter • The next safer neighbourhood team panel meeting will be held on 12 March 2016 the venue will be Manor House library this meeting will be held on Saturday. 	
5	Lee Green Assembly Website	
	The development of the website has taken a lot of time and effort The site has been going for about a year. A new look of the site was shared with the meeting.	

	<p>What we've got out of it so far is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular updates on the website • Up to 500 followers on twitter • Photo competition • Campaign to remove unsightly rubbish, on the corner of Taunton Road • 480 users, 14,000 page links • An explanation of the website was given • Promotion of local stories <p>We are looking for more people to get involved and are currently looking for people with the below skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News editor • Technical director • Photographer-editing skills • Writers <p>Please leave your contact details on the sheet, if you're interested in getting involved.</p>	
6	Proposal for Manor house library	
	<p>The Council Libraries section have been consulting over the past month on the proposal to downgrade three of the libraries, into community run libraries. The libraries affected includes the one in Manor House Gardens. The proposal is not to close the library, but to change how libraries are run. This would require a community group/organisation to run the library. This is as a result of savings that have been imposed by central government.</p> <p>The Council is looking to cut a third of its budget. Around £1 million worth of savings needs to be made from the libraries budget. A large proportion of those savings will be made in reducing library staff. Therefore the proposal for Manor house library is to have rotating librarians, who won't be based there but will be moving around the borough and to outsource the management of the building. At this stage the proposal is just something that is being consulted on and the concept of the idea.</p> <p>The Assembly agreed to set up a working group to respond to the proposals. A number of groups expressed an interest in being involved in the working group. It is important that local people are involved in the specifications, drawn up for the tendering of the library and its historic building. It was remarked that, If the proposal is not successful, what will happen to this historic building?</p> <p>Cllr Mallory - new ways need to be sought in the provision of services, given the number of cuts that need to be imposed. Recommendations around the libraries will be made individually. Councillor Mallory suggested that a working party was formed to discuss the way forward. What would be required would be a dedicated librarian. It is accepted that the library is a valuable</p>	

	<p>community resource that is well used. If we can envisage something that will sustain the library that includes some form of income generation, either through activities or space hire.</p> <p>There is also a need to look at the type and range of services that will be consistent in maintaining the integrity that is needed to sustain such a resource. Also legal obligations of the council and partner organisations would need to be considered.</p>	
7.	Close and Networking	
	<p>The chair of the assembly Cllr Hooks thanked all participants for attending the meeting and invited them to network and enjoy the festive nibbles.</p> <p>The date of the next Lee Green Assembly meeting is on 23rd February 2016</p>	
8.	Declaration of interest	
	There were no interest declared at this meeting.	