

**LEE GREEN LOCAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING**

Tuesday 23 February 2016 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 and introduced the agenda.</p> <p>The meeting began with a market place style event where attendees can receive information on local services and other initiatives.</p>	
2	What's new at Adult Learning Lewisham	
	<p>Selina Eldridge from Adult Learning Lewisham gave a brief overview of the types of courses offered by their service as follows: There are three main centres in the borough, Brockley, Centre of Lewisham and Grove Park. Centres offers nationally recognised qualifications in English, Maths, Essol and Childcare. The Maths and English courses are free. The service also offer a wide variety of general interest courses including photography, forestry, cloth making, languages, cookery and ICT. All courses are available from beginners to more advanced level.</p> <p>An extensive family programme is also on offer where children and their parent can learn together. A lot of these courses are run in addition to the main ones, at Children Centres and in partnership with local schools. There is a reduced fee for the over 55s and concessionary fees for people claiming Job Seekers Allowance.</p> <p>A CV writing workshop is run every Tuesday at Catford Library from 10am till 12 noon. It is a drop in session running until June 2016, people requiring this service can come along as of when they need to.</p>	
3	Good Gym Project	
	<p>Adele Prince a trainer for Good Gym Lewisham told the meeting about the service they offer. Although the project was extended to Lewisham about a month ago it has been operating in London for about eight years. Once a week, usually on Monday evenings, participants run as a group to organisations such a charity or a</p>	

	<p>community centre and do a physical task to help people. This tasks ranges from moving heavy items, painting, gardening and sorting food for the local food bank. Something that would make a difference to the organisation that they might not get done by themselves in that time.</p> <p>Along side the above the group has other strands to what they do, including the weekly run and the opportunity for participants to be paired up with an isolated older person in the borough. Runners are committed to running to their coach once a week for social visit and would usually call them if they would be missing a visit. The runners involve their coaches in their activities for example telephoning the older person when they are about to set out asking them to time them against when they arrive at their home.</p>	
4.	Celebrating local volunteers – Volunteer Week	
	<p>Winston Castello from Lewisham Council provided a brief information on the Council’s planned activities to celebrate volunteering in the borough. The Council is working with Volunteer Centre Lewisham and other partners to use the European Year of Volunteering to celebrate and focus around the good works done by volunteers across the borough. A recent survey shows that over a third of people in the borough in any one year undertakes regular volunteering in their area in a variety of forms.</p> <p>In Lee Green it is recognised that several localised works has taken place, mainly projects totally dependent on volunteer’s supports. A recognition that many local initiatives would not have taken off if it wasn’t for the goodwill and support of local individuals. This is what the Council is looking to recognise, celebrate and reward as best as it can.</p> <p>There are a couple of events being planned in celebration of volunteers’ week from 1st to 12th of June. Lee Green is planning an event on a date yet to be finalised. Throughout the borough, a number of activities would be taking place in different wards and communities during volunteers’ week.</p> <p>Volunteers Lewisham is developing a webpage on their current site where they would be promoting the various activities planned for volunteers’ week and encouraging people to participate in events happening in their area.</p>	
5	Lee Green Lives Update	
	<p>Cllr Jim Mallory provided a brief background to the formation of Lee Green Lives, the organisation that runs and manages the Community Centre based at the Lee Gate Centre. The group has recently secured funding from the Council to sustain its delivery, establish a community connection for the area and work collaboratively with organisations which contribute to Lewisham</p>	

	<p>advice. This way, the Centre can become part of one of the out post for interactive advice giving sector that the Council is trying to set up across the borough.</p> <p>Part of the requirement of the funding is also to support local community groups to develop a network so they can become stronger together. That could involve responding to the training needs of local groups or communicating more effectively.</p> <p>There are plans to hold a showcase event at the annual Manor House Gardens Festival where local community would have the opportunity to promote and show what they have been doing locally. The event will also present the opportunity for people to find out more about the activities of Lee Green Lives and see whether they want to sign up as a volunteer with the project.</p> <p>Jim and Shirley would be attending community groups meeting over the next couple of months to find about their needs, their level of commitment in the forthcoming community showcase event, their future aspiration and how Lee Green Lives may offer support.</p>	
6	Lewisham Local Card	
	<p>Philippe Granger representing the Lewisham Local Card initiative provided a brief background to the scheme. The Lewisham Local Community Contributor Card scheme is an initiative designed to recognise the invaluable contributions volunteers add to strengthening their community. With a dual purpose, the scheme aims to boost local economy by encouraging people to shop locally. This way local businesses are also contributing to the scheme by generously giving favourable deals to card holders.</p> <p>Local businesses and organisation contributors wishing to join the scheme is asked to contact the coordinator by emailing lewishamlocal@rgtb.org.uk</p>	
7.	Update on Manor House library	
	<p>A brief background to the current cuts to library services in Lewisham was provided. The service is facing a million pounds cuts to its budget. Rather than close the affected libraries the Council is downgrading the three libraries affected. One of those is Manor House library. The library service would still be run by Lewisham Council but hopes to hand over the management of the building to a community group or social enterprise who could give suggestions on how things will be run in future. The Council has agreed to work with the Assembly and local residents to ensure that the new form of library, however it is going to be run would listen to and respond to the needs of residents in continuing to deliver the services needed locally.</p> <p>To facilitate the dialogue with the Council, the Assembly has</p>	

	<p>established a working group. The group has since met with the Council Executive Director for Community Services to get a better insight into what is proposed as a replacement service and what is planned for the management of the Manor House building itself. The group is therefore seeking:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) A robust business plan, commercial exploitation of the assets which would be essential for the survival of the library, proper librarian support and also the use of the building apart from commercial purposes, for community usage. 2) The group requests a pen portrait of the opportunity for Manor House which should be included in the documentation. <p>Council officers provided the following points by way of explanation of the order for which the process of seeking suitable organisation or group to manage the building will take place:</p> <p>An important document which goes out to people who wish to tender called the Lewisham Library Building and Information Application Guidance, would be circulated to potential bidders by the end of February.</p> <p>There would also be an open day when bidders and community stakeholders can meet. In the meantime, the working group felt it was vital at this stage to get the Assembly input into what the Manor House building could be used for. People present at the meeting were asked to list preferences of the kind of things that could be done in the building. Ideas could also be sent to the Lee Green Assembly Community website at info@leegreen.london</p> <p><u>Proposed Timetable</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance would be sent out to potential bidders in February 2016 • Public debate on matters relating to bids is likely to take place after the Mayoral Election in May 2016 • Management of the building would be transferred to its new managers by the end of August 2016 	
8.	Assembly Showcase Event	
	<p>An event to showcase and promote the works that volunteers and community groups does in area to improve Lee Green ward would take place on Saturday 18th June 2016 in the grounds of Manor House Gardens. The event would be held alongside the annual Manor House Gardens Festival and would replace the first Assembly of the financial year.</p>	
9.	Community Updates and any other business	

	<p>Lee Neighbourhood Forum The Forum has recently being designated by Lewisham and Greenwich Councils. This means that it can now begin to write planning policies which will carry the same weight as those designated by the Councils and Central Government. Everyone who lives, work or has an interest in the area is eligible to be a member.</p> <p>The Forum Neighbourhood Development plan would be designed by its members, with input invited from local groups. The Forum's wish is to be able to support the Assembly Local Plan when matters concerning planning issues are raised at meetings and used as an opportunity to engage with a wider audience.</p> <p>The three stages involved in developing the plan were outlined as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a management committee comprising of fifteen volunteers. Around nine people have already expressed an interest to join the committee. An AGM will be held toward the end of April • The group is currently seeking external funding to progress Forum's activities. • Developing the Neighbourhood plan drawing on the Assembly Local Plan priorities which relates to planning in guiding future development and growth in the area. <p>Nordic Walking Group An energetic form of walking using poles useful in exercising the upper body strength. Sessions are supported in Lewisham by the NHS and are free to all over 40s who have not been active for sometimes. The group meets in Manor House Gardens and walk to Manor Park.</p> <p>Manor Park Volunteers are needed for two events taking place in Manor Park on 12th of March for the Big Clean-up of the Park and Quaggy River. The other event would take place on 19th March, the building a greenhouse using recycling bottles.</p> <p>New School for the area The meeting received information about a new Free School due to open in September 2016. The school would be using the King's Church premises on Meadow Court Road as a temporary home for the first two years. In the third year, there are plans to build a new premises for the school.</p>	
8.	Declaration of interest	
	There were no interest declared at this meeting.	

