

**LEWISHAM CENTRAL LOCAL ASSEMBLY
 MEETING**
Tuesday 26 January 2016 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Lewisham Methodist Church Hall
Albion Way, London SE13

Record of Meeting

	Item	Actions
1	Welcome, Introduction & Format of meeting	
	<p>Cllr Stella Jeffrey welcomed everyone and went through the format of the meeting.</p>	
2	Reporting back from Assembly Funded projects	
	<p>The meeting received feedback from the leader of 4th Lewisham Scout Group on how they have spent the Assembly funding awarded to the group last year as follows:</p> <p>The project had focused on repairing the hall roof, as the previous roof had been leaking for some time. The building is 1950's design and the roof is concrete asbestos corrugated panels. Several years ago the roof was recovered (boxed in) however it was not done to the highest standard which resulted in damp in parts of the hall.</p> <p>Funding secured from the Assembly allowed the firm to engage a local firm, H. Stevenson and Sons to carry out the work, working on all areas of the roof, guttering and skylights. The group now has an outstanding new roof that will last for many years.</p>	
3	Lewisham Regeneration – Gateway Development	
	<p>Representatives from Local Dialogue, the public relation company supporting the Gateway Development provided a short update on the current status on the regeneration project in the centre of Lewisham.</p> <p><u>Taxi Rank</u> Works to the final taxi rank on Station Road is now complete and operational. Taxis will access the new rank via Lewisham Road and exit on Loampit Vale. The new rank is clearly signposted across the site. A slight delay has occurred with the completion of the road lay out. Completion was planned for the Spring of 2016 but this has now been put back to accommodate works by Thames Water on the two main water supply in the centre of Lewisham which has taken longer than anticipated.</p>	

	<p><u>Bus Stops</u></p> <p>The locations for the bus stops are outlined as follows: Two bus stops on the northern section of the station near the taxi rank. There would be another bus stop outside the DLR station and four more Located on Molesworth Street. The ones on Lewisham Road will remain. TFL are yet to make a decision on which bus service will be stopping at each stops at this stage. Further information would be posted on the Gateway website and made available to the Assembly when they are ready.</p> <p>A question and answer session followed this presentation.</p>	
4.	Police Safer Neighbourhood update	
	<p>Sgt O'Neil from the Lewisham Central Safer Neighbourhood Team gave a short update on policing activities in the ward. The meeting received information about a special focus concentrated on seven key points in the Lewisham Central area to tackle crime like burglary, theft to person, criminal damage, motor vehicle theft e.t.c. The team has recently devised an initiative called operation ford, using a variety of different techniques to tackle crimes in the area.</p> <p>Residents are encouraged to report any suspicious incidents either by dialling the police on the 101 number for non- emergencies or email the Safer Neighbourhood Team at Lewishamcentral.snt@met.police.uk</p>	
5.	Place Ladywell – update on Ladywell Leisure former site	
	<p>Whilst the long term vision of the Ladywell Leisure Centre former site is still being worked up by the Council, a ground breaking project has been designed to bring the former site back into active use for up to four years. The project will provide 24 quality 2-bed units to house homeless families in the borough. The plan would help meet an urgent housing need, whilst longer-term plans to regenerate the wider area are developed.</p> <p>There would also be an additional eight commercial units at the ground level. This can be used to house varied projects including start-up businesses, junior enterprises and café e.t.c. One of the immediate thought for the usage of these spaces in the interim is to consider meanwhile usage to support community businesses over a three to five years period. It is expected that the project would be moved elsewhere in the borough at the end of this period.</p>	
6.	A review of Current Assembly Priorities	
	<p>Cllr Stella Jeffrey provided a brief introduction to the review of the Assembly current priorities. This exercise is conducted yearly to ensure that the Assembly is working on what it should be working</p>	

	<p>on and is also able to capture new issues of concerns. The priorities would form the basis for which the Assembly fund is allocated. People present at the meeting were asked to work with others on their table to check if the current issues listed in the priorities were still relevant and take note of any new issues arising.</p>	
7.	Councillors Update	
	<p><u>Council Budget</u> Comprehensive spending review took place before Christmas. The review sets out for Local Authorities serious questions on way forward. The revenue support rates will be abolished by 2020 and the government are still looking for the Council to make savings of over a third of its budget. There is an assumption by the government that local authorities are expected to raise its Council tax rate by around 2% yearly to fund services such as social care. The Council is currently considering all options.</p> <p><u>Housing</u> The Council is looking at various income generation options to make up for the shortfall in its budget. There is a programme with around 500 new Council homes most of which is in the Lewisham Central ward. There is also the Pocket Homes units built on Marischal Road, available for first time buyers. In recognition of the huge rise in rent in the private rented sector, the Council is about to begin a 250 unit scheme in New Cross to help with the regulation of rent at a discount, in the private sector. The scheme is aimed at people who cannot afford to buy their own homes but most importantly the scheme is set to raise much needed income for the Council.</p> <p>In addition to this, there is a launch of the first Open Self Build Land Trust in the Country on a piece of land in Church Grove in Ladywell.</p> <p><u>Operation Black Vote</u> A scheme run by the Council to encourage more people from the Black and Ethnic minority background to become Councillors, Magistrate and School governors.</p> <p><u>Mauritius House</u> The chair highlighted a recent media story featured on Mauritius House about mouse infestation. Senior managers from Hyde Housing who manages the scheme responded quickly to the problems following the video post on you tube. An internal enquiry is currently being conducted to establish how things got that bad.</p>	
	Declaration of interest	
	There were no interest declared at this meeting	