

**LEWISHAM CENTRAL LOCAL ASSEMBLY  
MEETING**  
**Tuesday 11 October 2016 7.00pm – 9.00pm**  
**Lewisham Methodist Church Hall**  
**Albion Way, London SE13**

**Record of Meeting**

	Item	Actions
1	<b>Welcome, Introduction &amp; Format of meeting</b>	
	<p>Cllr Stella Jeffrey welcomed everyone and went through the format of the meeting.</p>	
2	<b>Police Safer neighbourhood update</b>	
	<p>The meeting received the following updates from the ward safer neighbourhood sergeant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The team are holding a street briefing session on 12<sup>th</sup> October in the Centre of Lewisham where representatives from community groups across Lewisham Central can raise issues with police</li> <li>• Police priorities for Lewisham Central were robbery, motor vehicle crime and antisocial behaviour.</li> <li>• A reduction in robbery has been recorded lately. The team has been proactive in regular patrol leading to the arrest of several suspects.</li> <li>• Motor vehicle crime is also down by around 50% in comparison to the figures recorded last year.</li> <li>• In the case of ASB, very good success has been recorded with regards to a particular estate. Warrants have been issued targeting drug dealers in the area.</li> </ul> <p>A question was raised about the recent stabbing incident in the Town Centre. The police confirmed that this was an isolated problem and that the victim was known to police. The incident is being investigated by the trident team.</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 <a href="mailto:Lewishamcentral.snt@met.police.uk">Lewishamcentral.snt@met.police.uk</a></p>	
3	<b>Changing Town Centre – update on the delivery of Local Plan and Future Development</b>	
	<p>Officers from the Council planning section provided an explanation of the existing and future plans for Lewisham Town Centre. Some</p>	

	<p>background to the development happening in the immediate areas around the centre of Lewisham were provided. There are two main documents governing planning proposal in Lewisham, these are the Lewisham and London Local plans. This documents identifies Lewisham Town Centre as one of the opportunity areas for building new homes. Planning officers has the task in ensuring that the new development fits in with existing street scenes and the right infrastructure supports and facilities are in place. Lewisham is preparing a new local plan for the borough which will set out how the Council deliver new homes and infrastructure over the next 18 years starting in 2018. A chapter in the new plan will outline plans for the regeneration of Lewisham Town Centre.</p> <p>In terms of infrastructure in the Town Centre, the Council are aware that there are serious concerns about public transport capacity at Lewisham Station. Lewisham Has now been identified as one of the 10 priority stations in the country. To fully understand the capacity, the Council is currently undertaking a Rail Capacity Study along with TFL.</p> <p>Discussions continues to take place on plans for the Bakerloo line to come to Lewisham, onto Catford and Hayes. The Council are fully supportive of this and are developing plans along with the GLA and the London Borough of Southwark. Ideally a new station would be built at Lewisham which incorporates the Bakerloo Line. A number of short and medium term intervention are being looked at to improve capacity which would not prejudice the Bakerloo line coming to Lewisham.</p> <p>Crossrail will also improve capacity at Lewisham as it will divert trains at Abbey Wood leaving greater capacity on trains coming into Lewisham. The Lewisham Gateway proposal also proposes to enhanced cycle ways and bus capacity.</p>	
4.	<b>Assembly fund bids Presentation</b>	
4.1	<p>The chair provided a brief overview of the Assembly fund as follows: There is a total of £15,000 to apply from. This is made of £12,500 for the assembly and an additional £2,500 Councillors' discretionary fund to benefit local projects. The Lewisham Central Councillors agreed to add their grant to the Assembly fund to make a larger pot every year. All the bids received for the 2016-17 funding had been looked at by the assembly coordinating group and the three bids that met the criteria set by the Assembly is being presented at the meeting.</p> <p><b><u>St Mary the Virgin Parish Church – Therapeutic Garden</u></b>  This project aims to develop part of the churchyard into a “Therapeutic Garden” for people recovering from poor mental health. St Mary’s Church is situated on a busy, noisy Lewisham High St close to the hospital, the fire station and the police station. The noise of traffic is constant, increased by the incessant wailing of sirens. Noise pollution, as well as poor air quality make it difficult place to live in, particularly for people suffering from mental ill health. This project aims to develop part of the church yard as a</p>	

gardening space, a peaceful and quiet area away from the traffic noise to aid the recovery of people living with mental health.

Work has already begun on a small area of Church Meadow to create a “Sensory Garden” specifically for Service Users to develop and maintain by themselves. A Faculty has been granted for this garden and funding sourced. It has been designed by a professional garden designer in consultation with Service Users, and will be under the supervision of the Peer Support Co-ordinator based at the Ladywell Unit. St Mary’s is working in close collaboration with the “Sydenham Gardening Project” whose gardeners have a professional understanding of mental health issues.

The total cost of the project is estimated at £20,000. The project has secured £4,000 from Metropolitan Public Gardens Association and £4,700 from Award for All. The project asked the meeting to consider a contribution of £5,000 towards the delivery of the garden.

**4.2**

The Tabernacle Church – Evergreen befriending scheme

This group is asking the Assembly to consider an allocation of £1000 start-up funding to start a befriending scheme for older people in the Lewisham Central area. The project aims to provide coffee morning sessions, and interactive activities for seniors living in sheltered accommodations and on estates in Lewisham Central ward. The programme will become part of the national network of befriending scheme. It would also support and offer much needed activities for the house bound and isolated elderly people. Some statistics on elderly isolation and loneliness in the borough was provided to the meeting.

**4.3**

Greening Lewisham – Assembly Commissioned project

A review of the Assembly priority was conducted at the January and July Assembly meeting where the decision was taken to choose the environment strand as a key priority for 2016-17. A general consensus be the meeting to set aside some of the assembly fund to deliver various environmental improvements in areas across the centre of Lewisham. Since then, a tour of the Town Centre was organised with local residents and Councillor and a social campaign identified several sites as needing improvements. Some of the proposed work will include deep cleaning and repairs to pavements. Replace the clustered streetscape with easily cleaned streamlined street furniture. The meeting received several ideas of street furniture and planters which can be used to revitalise the focal area.

A couple of areas were also identified and chosen for quick wins environmental improvements for reasons of easy access, quick permissions and good input from the community. The areas chosen were neglected strip of land on either side of Lewisham Railway Station ideal for mini urban meadow planting. This project can be delivered cheaply and will provide high impact and low maintenance. Dates for two community work days has been set for 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> October from 11am till 1pm. Meeting point will be by the main entrance to Lewisham Train Station. Anyone wishing to participate is asked to

	<p>The other aspect of the project would involve the use of mural to revitalise public spaces. The two areas identified for this works are Molesworth pedestrian tunnel leading to the river and Cornmill Gardens and the column of the railway bridge on Lewisham Road. Some of the ideas proposed includes painting the columns in bright colours and the use of urban wildlife to decorate the foot tunnel. Residents can follow the progress of this project on Facebook at <a href="https://www.facebook.com/greening-Lewisham">https://www.facebook.com/greening-Lewisham</a> or on Twitter @GreenLewisham. The project email is GreeningLewisham@gmail.com</p> <p>People at the meeting were invited to consider the allocation of £9,000 to cover some of the costing for the proposed works.</p> <p><b>Voting</b> A vote was taken by show of hand to decide which project gets funded. All the bids presented received a seal of approval from the meeting.</p>	
5.	<p><b>Proposed Improvements to Lewisham Shopping Centre</b></p>	
	<p>A written update produced for the meet was read out by the chair as follows:</p> <p>Land Securities see Lewisham as a town with great opportunity and the potential as a key shopping and leisure destination in South East London.</p> <p>The aspiration of their business plan is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring an improved retailer line up to the scheme – this is underway with new retailers such as Foot Asylum and Malmetto</li> <li>• Deliver food &amp; beverage (restaurants) into the shopping centre / town centre – this is something the town is lacking</li> <li>• Deliver high quality leisure activities to the scheme – again, this is something the town is lacking</li> </ul> <p>We have engaged with a company called CORD to deliver our strategy to improve the look and feel of the centre, to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mall entrances – improve the first impressions of the scheme by replacing / updating our multiple entrances</li> <li>• Way finding – review &amp; replace our internal maps and signage</li> <li>• External signage – review &amp; replace our signage and soften our elevations to bring a new identity to the building</li> <li>• Public realm space – work closely with the LA to enhance and soften the external elements of the centre</li> </ul>	
6.	<p><b>Councillors Update &amp; A</b></p>	
	<p><u>The newly refurbished Leemore Centre</u> Services at the Leemore Centre are expanding. The Leemore Centre will continue to support the partnership between the council</p>	

	<p>and the voluntary sector working with vulnerable adults, with providers delivering day opportunities to adults with learning disabilities. The voluntary sector groups who have their offices at the centre will also remain but will be joined by a Voluntary Services Lewisham and a number of Advice Lewisham partners, including Lewisham Citizen's Advice Bureau.</p> <p>The building will provide a new welcoming public space with information, advice and specialist support from trained advisers from Advice Lewisham partners. As more people are required to use computers in their daily life the centre will also provide WIFI and computer access for public use. As well as this public space, there is back office space for organisations providing services within the hub and other voluntary organisations supporting vulnerable residents.</p> <p><u>Nature Reserve news</u> A local nature reserve by St John's Station will be holding their work day on 29<sup>th</sup> October. Visitors are welcomed.</p> <p><u>Housing update</u> The Council is running an event with a campaign organisation on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> October at Deptford Lounge from 7pm, focusing on people living in private rented and shared accommodations. The Council has made this a priority as part of its housing strategy to get ideas and hear from residents. The event is open to all. Anyone wishing to attend this event is asked to send email their contact to Cllr Egan.</p> <p>Some good news expressed about the progress made at Ladywell. Some family has moved in occupying 23 out of the 24 flats. The show flat still remain for visitors to view the layout. The scheme has generated a lot of interests from other Council.</p> <p><u>Job Fair</u> The borough held a job fair last Thursday and Friday which attracted a lot of people in search of work.</p> <p><u>Refugee Appeal</u> An appeal was made at the meeting for support with new arrival to the borough. The Council is seeking shelter to house the new arrival.</p>	
	<b>Declaration of interest</b>	
	There were no interest declared at this meeting	