



WHITEFOOT ASSEMBLY

MONDAY 7TH DECEMBER 2015
7.30 pm – 9.30pm
Conisborough College
Conisborough Crescent, London SE6 2SE

Minutes of the Meeting

Welcome from the Chair - Cllr Jonathan Slater extended a warm welcome to all and gave a brief overview of the meeting's content.

Head Teacher Conisborough College - Bob Wallis opened the meeting and spoke about the school community and the belief that through teamwork we can succeed both individually and collectively. This success is evident through improved achievement and the positive contribution members of the college make to the wider community.

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;

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 provision is being made re. accessibility for wheelchair users and 'buggies'?

Provision for both will be built into the design.

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 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 will happen to existing walking groups?

Any new provision will not interfere with existing provision for walkers and paths to be introduced will be wide enough to accommodate cyclists and walkers safely.

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 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.

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

Whitefoot 2015-15 Assembly Fund Recipients Presentations

At this point in the meeting all projects that were awarded 2015-16 Whitefoot Assembly Funds gave presentations about their projects and details of how the community can get involved. Projects awarded funds and the respective amounts are listed below;

Goldsmith's Community Association Friday Night Socials £2,750

**Tommo's Christmas Cracker Trip Venues (CCTV)
£1,500 each from Whitefoot and Downham wards**

**Lewisham's Citizen's Advice Bureau
£3,500 each from Whitefoot and Downham wards**

**DNP – Around the World in 8 Dishes
£1,500 each from Whitefoot and Downham wards**

**Dalmain Athletic – Girls 'Fit and Healthy' Footy
£1,724 – NB. – This project will present at the next Assembly in March 2016.**

**Past, Present and Future Parade
Delivery Organisation – Phoenix Community Housing £1,500 each from Whitefoot and Downham wards**

In addition Goldsmith's Community Association gave a presentation on the success of the projects funded from money awarded out of the 2014-15 Whitefoot Assembly pot. The money paid for the weekly Silver Lunch Club project for older residents and the Summer Ball which had 110 guests and a MasterChef quarterfinalist providing the meal plus the Lewisham Concert band and a band of young professional musicians playing music from the 1960's. This was an intergenerational community project in itself with tables served by young people between the ages of 11 and 16 from Goldsmiths Dance Academy and attended by Heidi Alexander MP and local councillors.

Funding permitted, GCC will be holding a Christmas lunch for elderly local residents. Another intergenerational project along the lines of the Summer ball and repeating the very successful formula of last year.

Update on the Youth Agency

Space Invaders - Throughout summer 2015, young people from across our community came together to transform five outdoor spaces in Bellingham, Downham and Whitefoot as part of the Space Invaders Project. The five areas involved were Sedgemoor Nature Garden, Churchdown Gallery, Peter Pan's Park, Downham way Nature Garden and Round Table Road Nature Garden.

ABOUT THE PROJECT:

Space Invaders was awarded £50,000 from The People's Millions, a partnership between Big Lottery Fund and ITV, after winning a public vote. The project was delivered by Phoenix Community Housing, adventure learning charity Wide Horizons and design studio make: good.

They worked with hundreds of people who live or study in the area, giving people the opportunity to get involved with the design and build of the sites.

Space Invaders is about creating spaces in the community that everyone can use and feel proud of. From bird boxes to art galleries and bug hotels to boats, lots of interesting things for the community to see and enjoy. It is hoped that these new spaces will deter fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour in the area, issues that local people really care about.

The Project organisers would like to say thank you to the 250+ people who contributed to the project, whether that was coming up with a great idea at one of the pop-up consultations or rolling up sleeves and getting handy with a hammer during the building of the sites.

Special mention to Bonus Pastor Catholic College, Downderry Primary School, Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy, Knights Temple Grove School, New Woodlands School, Sedgemoor School and the 12th Lewisham South (1st Downham) Scouts for their creative contributions.

The Space Invaders project is now complete. If you would like to know more, please contact;

Sarah Wickers at Phoenix Community Housing, The Green Man, 355 Bromley Road, SE6 2RP
0800 0285 700

Further updates on the Youth Agency - Promotion of the youth agency and recruitment of young people will commence in February 2016. The Youth Agency will be looking for young people who would like to help shape the agency via some practical place making projects. The projects will be confirmed by the end of this year. The Youth Agency will be visiting existing clubs and activities for young people in the Whitefoot area to see how they can work in partnership.

Phoenix Community Housing have been given a MUGA (multi-use games area) that will be located in Whitefoot ward at Falkland House on the Bromley Road. They have also secured funding to train young people who are interested in providing sports coaching at the site. This will be one of the first practical projects that the youth agency will work on.

The Youth Agency will be looking for young people who would like to help design, build and use the MUGA.

Community Safety Update – PC Julie Lloyd advised the Assembly that the Whitefoot Safer Neighbourhood Team were currently down in staff numbers due to two officers being deployed to Downham due to a recent spike in burglaries.

Statistics – There had been a slight increase in theft from motor vehicle in the last quarter thus motorists are advised to not leave valuables visible within their cars. Theft of motor vehicles however was down in the same quarter.

There has been a spike in violence against a person in the lead up to Christmas. This is due to incidents of domestic violence.

PC Lloyd also advised that she had recently been in contact with Transport for London regarding the traffic lights at the junction of Whitefoot Lane and Southend Lane. Progress on this matter will be brought to the next Assembly.

Lastly, PC Lloyd promoted the third edition of the Metropolitan Polices' 'Little Book of Big Scams' a comprehensive guide on fraud prevention, explaining some of the most common scams in existence. A copy of which can be downloaded by clicking on the link below.

http://www.met.police.uk/docs/little_book_scam.pdf

Any Other Business –

Clean Streets - Cllr. Mark Ingleby explained that the Council is currently in negotiation with Fix Green Streets regarding an all, new, improved mobile phone App which will replace the Love Clean Streets App. In the interim, until negotiations are complete and with 1 26% reduction in Council Street Cleaners due to necessary savings that had to be made, Cllr. Ingleby encouraged those with Smart or Android mobile phones to download the Keep Britain Tidy App.

<http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/tidyapp/1724>

Community Round Up -

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

Downham Celebrates – Saturday 12th 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 17th 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 for a Trustee Application Pack. Advance applications only.

Date and time of Next Whitefoot Assembly - Monday 21st March 2016 – 7-9pm St. Luke's Church, Northover, BR1 5JR.

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

Cllr Slater also promoted the Whitefoot Assembly Coordinating Group, explaining the work of the group and encouraging anyone who wished to join the group to contact Ali Williams at;

Ali.williams2@lewisham.govuk

Cultural & Community Development Officer, London Borough of Lewisham, 2nd Floor,
Laurence House, Catford. SE6 4RU

Telephone Office: 020 8314 6293 | Mobile: 07834 145007

Close of Meeting