

# MINUTES OF THE CROFTON PARK ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 7 March 2017 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Chris Barnham and Pauline Morrison

ALSO PRESENT:

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Roy Kennedy

Cllr Pauline Morrison and Graham Voller Head of Beecroft Garden School welcomed everyone to the assembly meeting.

## **Air Quality in Crofton Park**

My name is Chris Howard and I'm in the Environmental Protection Team. I have been asked to give an update on the measures being introduced to help improve air quality in the area: My previous manager and the air quality officer gave an update to this assembly last year on the air quality measures/projects that were being considered and funded through the Mayor's Air Quality Fund. They have both subsequently left the Council so I'm picking up on managing the projects.

Project Areas: Greenscreen - I understand questions have been raised about the proposal the Team has been progressing in introducing a Greenscreen at Dalmain School. Before my involvement different locations were considered and Dalmain School was the favoured location for the following reasons

- The School and more importantly the playground is directly adjacent to Brockley Rise near the junction with Stanstead Road, where it has a 42 metre fence line.
- In this area there has been Nitrogen Dioxide levels measured through diffusion tubes for several years and these are exceeding the limit values.
- Children are particularly susceptible to adverse affects from poor air quality and so measures to reduce the exposure was an important consideration.

The Proposal - The proposal is to introduce plantings of Confederate Jasmine which will trail up and along the blue palisade fencing covering the whole length and eventually the height. There will be troughing introduced on the School side, so it won't be visible from the street and a micro irrigation system will be provided from the school water system. All that you'll be able to see will be the planting and when in season, it has a white flower. The plant is ever green and has a small leaf and dense coverage. There is some research that shows the benefits of plant coverage with small leaves in absorbing pollutants from the air.

We have chosen the supplier and we're now ready to put together a contract with the aim for the installation to be completed during the end of the October half term. I've been meeting and communicating with the Head Teacher and one of the Governors on a fairly regular basis to get an agreed scheme. The school was keen to have a low maintenance option to reduce the ongoing costs.

Other Project Areas - The Mayor Air Quality Fund is also being used to help fund the transport design changes, which Simon will be covering. The best option for reducing air

quality affects is through directly tackling the source of the pollution which is the road traffic.

There are also ways of bringing behavioural change through education and awareness. Tom will give some feedback on the art project, which is looking to raise awareness on air quality issues along the Brockley Road and Brockley Rise corridor.

Funds have also been directed to a School air quality engagement project. This has been carried out in 5 local primary schools and has recently been completed. There were 9 teaching sessions, looking at the science, history, art and some hands on Nitrogen dioxide monitoring by the use of diffusion tube. I've received some very good feedback on how successful this project has been for both the children and the teachers.

There has been cycle training given to 6 local primary schools and there is a further proposal for a tree project where children will be taught about the importance of trees.

## **Save Lewisham Hospital**

Gillian Lewis told the assembly about the Save Lewisham Hospital Campaign which started in 2012. Lewisham Council helped the campaign defeat Jeremy Hunt's plans twice, helping with legal fees to take the challenge to the High Court. Despite this services are still not safe and there is a national march on 4th March starting at Tavistock Square. Gillian urged people to join in and support the NHS.

Part of the role of The Campaign is on-going vigilance regarding budgets. The Service needs an increase of about 4% per year to maintain current levels of service and the current government are increasing budgets by about 1% per year. This is leading to pressures such as the bed shortage that is currently hitting the headlines. For example, Croydon Hospital is currently running at 99% beds full and hospitals usually run at 85% occupancy to allow for effective management of patients.

The compound effect of the cuts is that there will be a £20 billion shortfall by 2020 and the effect is further compounded by the cuts in social care services, despite government policy advocating referral to this provision.

Evidence on the crisis in NHS and Government Plans - some facts and figures. The NHS Federation <http://nhsfunding.info/> including:

- list of failed contracts with private health companies, and the resulting consequences
- info on closed A&E's and 40% of Maternity Units due to hospitals being overcrowded
- list of Royal Colleges, Patient Groups, Unions, Think Tanks, Associations, Select Committee's, Unions & the Government's own task force on mental health - who have repeatedly warned the Government of the dangers of it's deliberate policy of under-funding the NHS and Social Care
- record breaking figures – five-fold rise in just two years, of patients waiting more than 2 hours to be transferred from ambulance to hospital: lowest income rise for NHS since 1950's: unprecedented staff and GP shortages, highest published figures of patients delayed in hospital
- a new study published in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine in Feb - linking an unprecedented rise in mortality in England and Wales to cuts to the NHS and social care
- CHPI – Centre for Health and the Public Interest - an independent non-party think tank <https://chpi.org.uk/> including:

- the Sustainability and Transformation Plans - a critical assessment of the Government's current plan to reorganise the NHS: reduce funding by £22b by 2020, create 44 areas in England with no regard for how existing organisations work together ie hospitals, clinics etc and the enforced sell off of NHS buildings and land
- Patient Safety in Private Hospitals – with the underfunding / overcrowding of NHS hospitals, business is booming for Private Hospitals. The NHS pays a premium for each patient sent, 28% of patients in private hospitals are now NHS, but 6000 patients a year are admitted to NHS hospitals from private hospitals. Data on patient care is not collected by an independent body and is officially rated 'poor' by the CQC. Private hospitals don't employ medical staff, but use Bank staff so post operative care is left to a Resident Medical Officer, typically a Junior Dr, who will usually be monitoring over 40 beds, with no on site Specialist to turn to, and usually no access to intensive care beds if a patient's condition deteriorates
- Full list of MPs with connections to Private Health Companies  
<http://www.mirror.co.uk/news/uk-news/selling-nhs-profit-full-list-4646154>
- Health Campaigns Together – umbrella organisation for most of the Health Campaigns in England, for up to date News and information  
<http://www.healthcampaignstogether.com/>
- Professor Allyson Pollock, co-author of the NHS Reinstatement Bill  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cz5dl9fhj7o> TED talk on the abolition of NHS with latest figures from American Institute of medicine re fraud, unnecessary admin costs, overpricing  
Report on the myth that people living longer are causing the NHS to be unsustainable <https://www.sochealth.co.uk/2016/11/14/myth-demographic-time-bomb/>
- Keep Our NHS Public <https://keepournhspublic.com/> a wealth of information, KONP are briefing Cllrs and other bodies on the Governments Plans
- <http://www.savelewishamhospital.com/> Our local campaign, working together with KONP, The NHS Reinstatement Bill Campaign and many others – also briefing Cllrs, attending Local Authority Health Scrutiny Meetings, Trust and CCG Board meetings

## **Techy Tea Parties**

Damian Griffiths told the assembly that Techy Tea Clubs help elderly people learn internet skills using tablets and laptops in a social setting. I initiated them in September 2014 with MyCompleteFocus CIC, and support from the Lewisham Pensioners' Forum. After running these clubs for a year, we were approached by Rosa Parker of Community Connections, acting on behalf of the Go-on digital project. We were commissioned to run 15 "Party pop-ups" around the borough of Lewisham. This piece of work was successful, and we met our targets before the sessions were completed. During the course of this work, we developed a connection with Dominique Gorman and Moira Stanton of Ewart Community Hall.