



DOWNHAM ASSEMBLY

TUESDAY 15TH MARCH 2016

7.00 pm – 9.00pm

Downham Health & Leisure Centre

7-9 Moorside Road BR1 5EP

Minutes of the Meeting

Welcome from the Chair – Cllr. David Britton opened the meeting and welcomed all present.

Wesley Halls - Cllr. Britton updated the Assembly on the recent Mayor & Cabinet's decision regarding Wesley Halls. He advised "there is nothing further to report following the Mayor & Cabinet decision last November which agreed it is recommended to undertake more consultation with the Downham Community Association, users and residents on the best way to provide both housing and community space on the site and adjoining land".

The Council will be looking at this again at some stage in the future but there is no timescale for this at present and there is no closure proposed as per what is happening elsewhere.

Group discussion on how to improve the Downham Assembly and increase attendees – At this point in the evening Cllr. Britton asked those present to form groups and discuss ways of improving the Downham Local Assembly with a view to attracting more participants. The discussion went for 20 minutes and then groups fed back their thoughts as follows;

- Consider earlier meetings in the autumn and winter as many people do not like coming out when dark.
- Consider outdoor meetings in the warmer months and incorporate fun
- Ask Neighbourhood Watch Groups to be more involved and to take an active part on the Coordinating Group and in shaping future Assembly Agendas
- Make the meetings more inclusive by including content which specifically appeals to marginalised groups
- Conduct a survey to determine what concerns/interests members of the Downham community and build meetings around the most popular responses e.g. the redevelopment of Catford which will have a knock-on effect for Downham residents or Transport infrastructure and improvement etc.
- Better publicity, consider changing the flyer format and using the Council's Lewisham Life e-newsletter plus utilising community notice boards
- Ensure posters are placed in local shops, GP surgeries, the post office etc.
- Make Assemblies relevant to young people

- Approach schools and youth groups to ask them to provide entertainment at the opening of each Assembly – e.g. a dance exhibition, poetry reading etc. This approach may bolster the amount of young people who attend Assemblies.
- Involve the Young Mayor's Team, recruit their expertise re. engaging young people
- Invite VIP Guest Speakers to draw people in
- Consider Raffles and Prize Draws
- Organise a suggestion box

Cllr. Britton explained that the suggestions would go to the next Coordinating Group meeting where members of the group help to plan and shape future assembly meetings and ensure they are representative of the community.

Downham Health & Leisure Centre – Emma Greenslade gave a presentation on all that is on offer at the Downham Health and Leisure Centre including Trampolining, football, activities for children and people 60 years+. There are also swimming Lessons for adults and children and a fully equipped gymnasium. Referrals to use the services are accepted via GP's. DHLC also plays host to the annual Downham Celebrates Summer and Christmas Festivals. The summer festival will take place on Saturday 11th June at 11-4pm.

If you would like a stall at the event please contact Emma Greenslade, Health & Physical Activity Manager, Downham Health & Leisure Centre, 7-9 Moorside Road, BR1 5EP .
Tel: 0208 461 9200
Facebook: Downham Health & Leisure Centre
Twitter: @DownhamHLC

Stalls will cost £12.00 and any stalls dealing with food will need to send food hygiene certificates to Emma prior to the event. Stall allocation will be on a first come first served basis and there maybe the chance that your stall is positioned outside. If you would rather be outside please let Emma know in advance.

If you would like any other information relating to Downham Health and Leisure Centre please contact Emma as above.

Emma invited people to take a tour of the building and the services on offer during the break.

Good Gym Presentation – Adele Prince, Running Coach of Good Gym Lewisham gave a presentation on what the Good Gym is.

Good Gym run and jog in groups and help out local community organisations, charities and public spaces. They can also revisit a site as and when tasks emerge. Good Gym has been operating in other boroughs across London for the past 9 years. Lewisham have been involved in the initiative since January this year.

Good Gym's first run in Lewisham involved 33 eager runners. Good Gym are always on the look-out for tasks, with their group run taking place each Monday evening. The group meet at the Glassmill Leisure Centre and then run to whatever community organisation or public space needs their assistance. Once they arrive at their destination the group engage in a 'physical activity' for up to 30minutes. This might not sound like a lot of time but when there's 33 runners involved a lot can be achieved. The group is usually made of between 20-25 runners who are fit and strong but above all else, enthusiastic. Recently the group ran from Glassmill Leisure Centre to New Cross Learning Library which had recently held a book sale. There were a lot of books which needed to be returned to the

basement which would have taken the two volunteers on site some significant time. The runners were able to complete this task in less than half an hour.

Examples of other tasks the group are happy to engage in;

- Gardening, weeding and clearing parks or open spaces
- Moving heavy furniture or items
- Painting, sanding or decorating
- Tidying communal areas
- Setting up for events
- Sorting and moving boxes at food-banks

In addition to the above, Good Gym runners can also be paired up with older people in need of assistance. These tasks are usually 'one-off' tasks and may involve clearing an over-grown garden etc. A minimum of X2 runners who have been DBS checked will attend the site usually on a Saturday.

People can 'self-refer' if they would like the services of the group. Referrals are also via GP's and Community Connections who are part of Age Concern.

Anyone can join up to be a Good Gym runner including people who do not have a history of running. Their motto is 'nobody gets left behind' and they have a 'Back Marker' (someone who runs at the very rear) to make sure nobody is left behind.

For more information contact - Adele Prince - adele@goodgym.org

Macaroni Woods Presentation – Denis and James Hunter gave a presentation on Noah's Ark Children's Venture at Macaroni Woods.

Macaroni Wood provides low cost, high quality residential accommodation for groups working in the voluntary, community and statutory sectors of youth & community provision. There are two well equipped self-catering units – Bazley House and Castree House. Castree House in particular is ideally suited for groups working with people with disabilities.

The Centre is in a safe and secure woodland environment in the beautiful Cotswold countryside and offers a wide range of stimulating and active experiences both indoor and outdoor.

Macaroni Wood was initially set up in London in the early 1970s with the idea of giving children a countryside break from their inner city lives on the council estates of Deptford. From these small beginnings Macaroni Woods can now offer two well equipped, modern units that are open throughout the year. There is accommodation for up to 42 people. Bazley House sleeps 27 people and in 1996 funds were raised to build Castree House which was designed specifically for people with disabilities and sleeps 15.

Macaroni Woods is part funded by the London Borough of Lewisham and offers free accommodation to all Lewisham based groups in Bazley House. Priority is given to Lewisham groups working with disadvantaged people.

The Centre has the use of 17 acres of woodland and there are many outdoor facilities that allow children and young people to play and explore safely. There is specialist play equipment for people with disabilities.

Following is a list of some of the attractions and activities -

Animals - The animals are a very popular feature of the Centre. There are lots of rare-breed chickens, guinea fowl, guinea pigs, rabbits, fantail doves and two dogs. Visiting groups become involved with the animals in many ways. There are eggs to collect, chickens to feed and chicks hatching under broody hens and in the incubator as well as the adopted lambs and kid goats that need to be bottle feed. There are two micro pigs that are very friendly and playful.

BMX – There are a number of BMX bikes available for groups to use. They can only be ridden in specific areas of the wood. Cycle helmets are provided. There is also a small BMX track that is very popular. It has a non-slip riding surface on all the structures. It costs £25 per group for the use of the bikes and the games room for a weekend and £50 for a week.

Rope Swings - There are rope swings and play structures outside including slides, swings, a non-working farm tractor and trampolines for everyone to use. There is also an area of grass for playing five a side football.

Sports Hall – The hall is in the building adjacent to the bike storage area. There is play equipment for five-a-side-football and short tennis. This is a large room with a table tennis table, bar football table and pool table.

Playroom - The playroom is a new addition to the facilities available in Castree House. It was converted from the old garage in January 2008 and is now fully equipped as a sensory playroom with equipment including a light projector, bubble tube and two sensory boards. The room also has a 38" flat screen TV with digital television, a DVD player, a good quality sound system and a computer that is connected to the internet.

There is a 7-seater mini-bus available for rent at a cost of £50 for the weekend.

To watch a short film on the centre cut and paste the link below into your browser.

<http://www.macaroniwood.org.uk/about-us/history/>

For further information

Telephone: 01367 850356

Mobile: 07746 862312

Email: macaroniwood@btconnect.com

Update on the Whitefoot and Downham Community Parade - Cllr. Bourne gave an update on the Downham and Whitefoot Community Parade, Past, Present & Future which, among other things will celebrate 90 years of the Downham Estate.

The Parade will take place on Saturday 14th March 2016 and will culminate at Forster Park where it will join the Phoenix Festival. If you are taking part in the Parade in a motorised float you will need to assemble between 8am and 8.30am. If you are walking, biking, wheel-chairing, skating etc. you must arrive by 9.00am. Everybody needs to be assembled by 10.30am.

The actual Parade will take place from 11am – 12pm.

For those that wish to start the march from Downham Health and Leisure Centre please be at the junction of Downderry Road by 11.15am.

When the main group meet The Downderry Road Junction, it was agreed that The Downderry Group would march behind the main group to Forster Park.

Publicity for the event is being finalised and will be delivered to every household in both the Downham and Whitefoot Wards. Posters will also be displayed in prominent places and networks within the Bellingham Ward will also ensure the information reaches Bellingham residents.

Break/Refreshments – Tour of the Leisure Centre

AOB

Electoral Roll Registration for the London Mayor & GLA Elections on 5th May 2016

– On 5 May 2016 people from across London have the chance to vote for the Mayor of London and the 25 Members of the London Assembly.

The people you vote for in these elections are responsible for many aspects of your everyday life – from the underground, local bus services and policing, to green spaces, air quality and Trafalgar Square. To have your say on 5 May you need to make sure that you are registered to vote by **18 April 2016**. You can do this on–line or complete the paper form and post it back to electoral services. You will need to provide your date of birth and national insurance number as 'identifying' information.

The all new, improved LOVE LEWISHAM App launched

The Council has taken another innovative step forward in the battle to keep streets clean and tidy while making local services more efficient and economic.

The LoveLewisham mobile app set the standard for many years in public services and has helped our workforce and active citizens combine forces to ensure the quick identification and removal of graffiti, flytipping, abandoned vehicles and other environmental blights.

Now the Council has upgraded its technology significantly using open source code to save more money for local taxpayers and better serve both its own workforce on the streets and users of a variety of new and emerging, similarly open source-based, apps. The Council and our users are no longer tied to any particular app and dependent on fee-based providers who periodically demand expensive upgrades.

Council staff have developed a new generation of LoveLewisham for internal use saving £13,000 straight away. They have already used some of these savings to increase street sweepers, refuse collection staff and purchase new smartphones.

Using these new phones, Council staff on the street will now be able to put their own reports directly into the system, with no need for re-input of information back in the office. This frees up customer service staff time, which the Council estimates will save more than £100,000 and improve service response.

To report environmental problems use our website or download any open source based app like FixMyStreet.

Update on Future of Beckenham Place Park - Local people are being asked to help shape the future of Beckenham Place Park as the Council develops its detailed bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund for an investment of £4.9m.

Lewisham Council's Mayor and Cabinet agreed at its meeting on Wednesday 17 February to proceed with a Stage 2 bid. It also agreed that, should the bid be successful, it would close the golf course by the end of the year to facilitate the redevelopment of the park. The course currently dominates the most historic parkland and entirely surrounds the key listed buildings in the park, which the Council is aiming to restore and find productive uses for in the future.

A new phase of public consultation will now take place during March and April on the park's designs that will include public meetings, surveys and work with young people. There will be an Easter Fun Day in the park on Saturday 26 March from 11am to 3pm when visitors will have a chance to view draft designs and give their views. May and June will see a period of design verification with public displays and events before the Stage 2 bid is submitted in August. The result of the bid is expected by the end of the year.

Community Round Ups

- **St. Barnabas Update** – Rev. Stuart Leck advised that St. Barnabas is currently under-going roof repair and as such there will be scaffolding in place until approximately the end of April 2016. The roof repair is part of a programme of works which became necessary after a fire caused damage last year. In addition, thanks to S106 money awarded by the Local Assembly the hall is being redecorated and an accessible toilet built. The aim of the accessible toilet is to ensure that the Hall is able to meet the needs of all sections of the local community, particularly those with restricted mobility. This will mean that the Hall is a more appropriate venue for community groups to use for activities and meetings. Disabled access will also be improved to the Hall.

- **People's Day** – People's Day celebrates its 32nd year in 2016 in Mountsfield Park, Catford. This year the event takes place on Saturday 9 July, from noon until 8pm. The festival extends comfortably across the entire park, and is expected to once again be split into four zones or areas, each designed with different ages, tastes and cultural preferences in mind. The event is free to attend and around 25,000 visitors are expected over the day. There will be hundreds of community stalls and organisations, craft stalls from around the globe, performances from outstanding local talent and great entertainment throughout the day. The organisers would love to hear from talented performers, community groups, caterers, crafters and businesses who would like to get involved.

Applications to be an exhibitor or performer can be made and found online:

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/events/whats-on/peoples-day/Pages/default.aspx>

Adult Learning Lewisham – (ALL)

- Offers nationally recognized qualifications in English, Maths, ESOL and Childcare, also GCSE qualifications in English and Maths – courses are **FREE**.
- ALL sites offer a wide variety of general interest courses, from floristry to photography, to clothes making, to cookery and computing – from beginners to more advanced levels.

- ALL also offer an extensive family learning programme where children and parents can learn together. Courses are run at ALL main centres, children's centres and schools. Most courses are FREE of charge. Further details can be found on the website.
- There are three main centres in Lewisham – Brockley, Central Lewisham, and Grove Park (a few minutes walk from Grove Park Train Station).
- ALL offer reduced fees for the over 65's, and concessionary fees for people claiming JSA and ESA.
- ALL run a free CV writing workshop which takes place every Tuesday at Catford Library from 10am-12noon. It is a drop in session so you can drop in as and when you want to.

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

Cllr. Britton also gave a brief overview of the role of the Coordinating Group which is to plan assembly meetings and to ensure the assembly is representative of the Downham ward explaining that co-group members should be familiar with their local area and should play a key role in promoting the Downham Assembly.

An Additional task of the group is to scrutinise funding applications to ensure that they meet the criteria set. The criteria will include the ward priorities, however the group may decide to look at other restrictions such as bid limits and targeting certain priorities.

An ideal Coordinating Group will have the following:

- Diverse age range, ethnic background and representative of the ward profile
- Representative from the third sector
- Local business
- Local community group or society
- Local residents
- Ward councillors

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Coordinating Group or would like more information then please contact the Downham Local Assembly Coordinator is Ali Williams at

Ali.williams2@lewisham.gov.uk or

Tel: 020 8314 6293 or Mobile: 07834 145 007

Date and time of Next Downham Assembly meeting - to be confirmed

Meeting End