

MINUTES OF THE BROCKLEY ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 8 November 2016 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors John Coughlin and Sophie McGeevor

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Obajimi Adefiranye

8. Welcome from the Chair

9. Brookmill Park Update - Jan Farmer

The council has been working with the Friends of Brookmill park user group and Section 106 funding has been allocated to the following projects:

- New thermoplastic NO Dogs signs are due in to be fitted at each entrance by the end of October.
- The pre start meeting for the replacement of the See-Saw at Brookmill Park will take place 1st November 16 and works are expected to take place during late November into early December.
- The footway works at Brookmill Park and Broadway Fields are due to take place during November.
- Colleagues have had an onsite meeting with representatives from the friends group and have agreed a planned programme of staged bankside management.
- If anybody is interested in getting involved in the Friends group please [contact: glendale@lewisham-services.co.uk](mailto:glendale@lewisham-services.co.uk)

10. Summary of 2016/17 successful assembly funded projects

- Regular Bike Doctor sessions at Hilly Fields park

Brockley Dr Bike is a non-profit private initiative set up to help cyclists in Brockley to maintain their bikes, learning basics of bike maintenance and cycling good practices. Dr Bike runs maintenance and advice sessions on Hilly Fields, every Saturday (weather permitting) during warm months.

In the season of 2016 Dr Bike have fixed over 60 bikes, on top of providing help and advice to some of the borough's cyclists.

You can get in touch and check out Dr Bike's activities on Facebook:

www.facebook.com/drbikebrockley

- Love Luxmore Gardens

The Love Luxmore Gardens project is a community led initiative by local residents. Luxmore Gardens is a local park in SE4 nestled in between Lewisham Way, Malpas Road and Rokeby Road. It has many beautiful mature trees, a small children's play park (for under 11 year olds) and open green space.

Love Luxmore Gardens Project will include community consultation and development of a feasible landscaping design.

The project will ensure the community's love for Luxmore Gardens is reflected in the planting and design of the garden, creating a more inviting space for all ages,

abilities, and backgrounds, with spaces to connect and learn.

Phase 1 of the project will be for community consultation and will include the development of a community/classroom kitchen garden, a model which has been successfully run in Hackney and could directly benefit the local primary schools, including Myatt Garden Primary School.

It will also include setting up a volunteer base to help build and maintain the garden, similar to gardens in New York City, providing opportunities for residents to connect but also to provide access to fresh food for local residents on lower incomes.

- Number 1 Pensioners Club

The Brockley No 1 pensioners club has been meeting at St Andrews for many years, it started around the time of the war and is a club for men and women who would like a couple of hours, mixing with other people, just for a chat or to play a game.

Current regular activities include going out for lunch once a month, playing games, outings in the warmer weather to parks and the seaside. They also arrange short holiday breaks a couple of times a year. All this and a nutritious meal.

The group is now run by volunteers, with help from community work students and the centre manager.

- St Johns Society

The St. Johns Society are looking to employ a web designer to build a website, building on the existing online presence established on their Facebook page. The aim of the website is to engage local residents and interested parties, promote the activities, successes and event conducted by the Society, as well as providing as useful resource of local history and knowledge.

- Local community street tree planting initiative

The street tree campaign continues.

During the summer, residents may have noticed new dark green labels on the over one hundred trees planted in and around Brockley ward since 2012. The labels are one of Brockley Society's initiatives to publicise the scheme, delivered in partnership with Lewisham Council. In this era of desperately tight budgets, the council has been a willing partner in an initiative to build on the green legacy of a more affluent time. We enjoy over 10,000 trees on Lewisham streets but according to the council's own records, there are around 2,000 unused pits, and countless potential planting sites. All await trees!

For this winter's planting, they have raised money for dozens of individual trees, and have agreement in principle for several larger schemes. Please watch this space!

In appreciation of sponsorship so far, and to alert residents to the possibility, the Tree Committee wants to remind residents that all planting is the result of local fundraising efforts and generosity. Brockley is incredibly lucky in this regard, and with your help will continue to be so. Private residents, businesses and local assembly members have all given time and energy and funds to enable the

planting. Equally important, the scheme has benefitted from regular and practical help. For every tree, Brockley Society works with a local volunteer willing to water the tree for its first two years.

To find out more, please use the link on the Brockley Society website, or search *brockleystreettrees*

- Plants and planting boxes for Brockley Common

The Brockley Cross Action Group (BXAG) aim to keep investing in the Coulgate Street/Brockley Common site by making it greener and more beautiful. They are aware that there are still problems with litter and with occasional disregard for the common value of the site. BXAG believe that if they keep demonstrating their collective investment in this site, that litter and vandalism will reduce.

They aim to establish some large planting boxes, planted up with trees and/ or shrubs, to make the Coulgate Street works greener and more interesting. They would seek to consult with local residents and businesses on planting preferences, but their overall aim is to reflect the planting ideas that shaped the Brockley Common garden plant design. They want plants that echo those in the Common garden, and that includes plants that attract wildlife and that have interest for passers-by in a range of seasons.

- Brockley Max Opening Night

They will be taking to the streets for the Brockley Max Opening Night on Friday 2 June! It is a fantastic, free evening of live music outside Brockley station. The line-up includes a handpicked selection of the most exciting and talented local musicians, performers and singers who are guaranteed to get the party started (4pm - 10:30pm).

- Starlight Music Academy

They aim to provide an intergenerational music programme that brings people from different backgrounds together to share in the joy of creating and producing music that embraces diversity.

- Breakspears Mews Community Garden

Breakspears mews community garden grew from the commitment of some local residents to see an improvement to our local mews.

The garden is a haven of peace and tranquillity for local residents. They grow mainly vegetables and some flowers. They come together on a regular basis to garden, chat, exchange ideas and the obligatory cup of tea and cake!

After a wet and bumpy start this year they have had a wonderful harvest of tomatoes, basil and beans

They have had open days, school visits, a gardening club for older people and day trips to interesting gardens.

As the garden comes to a well-deserved rest for the winter period they are already planning next year. They hope to see new people when they kick off the New Year around March 2017

- Little Bubbaz Club

Little Bubbaz is based on volunteers who will be providing the children in and around the community with 5 weeks of fun, laughter and memories. It is aimed at

families who are out of work or not financially able to bring their children on day trips to places such as; The Horniman Museum, Stratford beach, cinema, park, Mudchute Farm, bowling and swimming.

- Heston Nature Garden Group (HNGG)

The Heston Nature Garden Group aims to make something positive out of the disruption caused in the garden by both recent and past building works. So out of the rubble they will make a rockery, expanding diversity in the garden and showing how they can combat climate change with plant species that will thrive in dry conditions. Out of the dumped scaffolding boards and detritus they will make a raised bed to grow food. Their bid also includes a small amount for maintaining, harvesting and replanting the vegetation, so that they can successfully complete a whole season and grow on to the next.

11. Vicky Foxcroft MP

Vicky Foxcroft MP, thanked everyone for the invite and explained how she enjoyed her time as a Brockley councillor prior to becoming an MP.

She outlined some of her key work namely;

- EU referendum, where 70% voted to remain currently there are debates and discussions on what parliament's role is around evoking Article 50.
- She is the whip for the labour party position, which is basically an official in a political party whose primary purpose is to ensure party discipline in a legislature. They are a party's "enforcers," whose role is to ensure that party members vote according to the official party policy.
- Priority around schools.
- NHS dismantle and privatisation ,in particular A&E and Maternity services that are under threat. She urges local people to fight to maintain local services.
- Living wages.

Contact details as follows:

<http://www.vickyfoxcroft.org.uk/>

Email: vicky.foxcroft.mp@parliament.uk

Tel: 020 8469 4638 (10.00am-4.00pm Monday-Friday)

Post: Vicky Foxcroft MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

12. Community information

- Condolences and a one minute silence held in memory of Joan Francis.
- Cllr McGeevor explained about the work Lewisham Council is doing around the support for children from refugee camps. They are fighting for more funding from the government to help with this. So far, 4 boys have been settled with their families in the borough.

- Healthwatch- Magna Adu, Trustee of Healthwatch Bromley/ Lewisham explained that the organisation was developed from the Health and social Care Act 2012. It aims to work with local people, individuals, organisations, and families to help with social care issues Healthwatch Lewisham gives children, young people and adults in Lewisham a stronger voice to influence and challenge how health and social care services are provided within the borough. Recent work has been around access, i.e. lack of easy access to facilities and visiting schools. They aim to find out what the issues are around health and social care. They have also been working with Pharmacies.

They are looking for volunteers to increase more activity in Lewisham. Further information and upcoming events can be found at your local GP or by visiting <http://www.healthwatchbromley.co.uk>

Email: admin@healthwatchbromley.co.uk

Phone: 020 8315 1916

- A local resident highlighted STPs- Sustainability and Transformation Plans and urged people to take an interest. Sustainability and transformation plans (STPs) were announced in [NHS planning guidance](#) published in December 2015. NHS organisations and local authorities in different parts of England have come together to develop 'place-based plans' for the future of health and care services in their area. Draft plans were produced by June 2016 and 'final' plans were submitted in October. These plans now need to go through a process of assessment, engagement and further development. But what do STPs really mean? And what will they mean for the NHS and for local populations?

Visit the following for more information:

<https://www.kingsfund.org.uk/topics/integrated-care/sustainability-transformation-plans-explained?>

There is also a link to updates and other local information from the Save Lewisham Hospital campaign:

<http://www.savelewishamhospital.com/>

- Festival of Ideas for Change
Sunday 20 November 2016, 10am till 5pm
The Mural Hall, Prendergast Hilly Fields College, Adelaide Avenue, SE4 1LE
Brockley Society and St John's Society are organising this FREE festival for everyone in the community. We aim to "Think Global ... Act Local" and also believe that "Without Participation, Democracy is Meaningless".
Brockley has many interesting thinkers and activists and the festival will celebrate our community strength. 17 Speakers will give short talks followed by questions and contributions from the floor. Entrance is free, but contribute £5 if you can afford it as the event is self-funded. Affordable food will be available, or you can bring your own. Book your FREE ticket to reserve your place at www.brockleyfestivalofideas.com

Closing remarks

- Join the Brockley Assembly Coordinating Group
- Feedback forms

Cllr McGeevor highlighted the importance of completing the feedback forms and invited members to join the coordinating group which plans the assembly and discusses local issues and updates. If you would like to join contact maya.onyett@lewisham.gov.uk for further information.

Close

Cllr McGeevor thanked everyone for attending the assembly
The next assembly will be on: **Tuesday 7 February 2017**