



**PLEASE SCROLL DOWN
TO READ MINUTES**

WHITEFOOT ASSEMBLY

MONDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2016 - 7.00 pm – 9.00pm
Bonus Pastor Catholic College, Winlaton Road BR1 5PZ

Minutes of the Meeting

Welcome from the Bonus Pastor's Principal – Ruth Holden welcomed everyone to Bonus Pastor a modern Catholic College with high expectations for everyone within their community.

Ruth explained that Bonus Pastor's vision is to work in partnership with students, parents, parishes and local community to create a positive environment for learning and teaching, where everyone is valued and respected and where an ethos of inclusion and a strong sense of community prevails.

Ruth then played a short video which was well received and which celebrates the student's strengths and achievements.

Following the short video, Councillor Ingleby opened the meeting and moved on to the first agenda item which was the feedback from the Green Spaces and Forster Park Improvement questionnaire as tabled at the last Assembly in July 2016.

Responses to Forster Park Questionnaire

Item/Improvement	Total supporting the idea
Café/Kiosk	10
Outdoor Gym Equipment	9
BMX Track	7
Additional Seating	5 (x1 respondent specifically suggested additional seating in the play area)
Play Equipment	5
Toilet improvement	4
Path Repair	4
Cycle Hire/Storage/Racks	3
Band Stand Rejuvenation	2
Pop Up Enterprise, e.g. Theatre, Cinema, Concerts	2
Designated Dog Exercise/Playa area	2
Improvements to Flower Beds	2
Mini-Golf	2
Reinstate/Re-think Pitch & Put Area	1
Herb Garden	1
Orchard	1
Mini-Maze	1
Outdoor Games e.g. Chess, Draughts etc.	1
Paddling Pool	1
Running Track	1

Responses to Green spaces Questionnaire

Greenspaces you are aware of / use	Issues/Ares of Improvement
Woodland Walk	Stream within the walk – Who is responsible for caring for it? Paths need maintenance Fly-tipping

Forster Park	See responses to consultation above
Railway Children Walk	Needs some TLC
Reigate Road (near fire station)	Needs some TLC
Beckenham Place Park	No issues identified
Chinbrook Meadows	No issues identified
Hither Green Cemetery	No issues identified
Whitefoot Lane Playing Fields	No issues identified
Allotments	No issues identified

Cllr. Ingleby advised that following the July 2016 Assembly, all those that had expressed an interest were invited to a meeting to discuss 'greening the ward' which took place on the 5th September 2016 at the Green Man and that from this meeting the idea of reforming the 'Friends of Forster Park' came about. It was proposed a second meeting should be convened to specifically to look at Forster Park and that invitations should reach as many residents as possible and the meeting well publicised.

The second meeting took place on the 22nd September 2016 and was well attended. Following is a summary of some of the ideas / issues raised at that meeting

Would like to see an array of activities on offer in Forster Park, something similar to the programme offered at Abbotshall Road Healthy Lifestyles Centre. Click on link below for more information. http://www.abbotshallhc.org/home
Consider developing a partnership with Abbotshall
Abbotshall more organised and less 'free-form' than Forster Park, however, their outside space is limited so there may be scope for them to develop outside activities at Forster Park
Can the Section 106 money be match funded – answer yes
Nothing to do for children at Forster Park. Would be great to see play equipment for children installed and an area for children to build dens
There has been a lack of focus on Forster Park – the reason there is now 41K to spend is due to S106 money
Would be good to get costings on rejuvenating existing equipment and providing new children's play equipment
Do we think the existing play area is in the best location?
Security is an issue – wouldn't want to enter the park alone
Can the park ranger/grounds maintenance person employed to care for Beckenham Place Park be 'ported' over to care for Forster Park now that the golf course is to be closed?
A local resident with carpentry skills may consider re-vamping the existing BMX track
Wholly support the idea of re-vamping the BMX track if only to keep children from cycling dangerously on the roads
There used to be a cycle track in Forster Park which was incorporated into the main path and later removed as it was deemed dangerous – cyclists were having races and jeopardising pedestrian safety
Can a detailed map of Forster Park be produced to determine what already exists and what we would like to see exist to determine what is achievable
There needs better signage at the entrances to the park – perhaps a map board with directions to the BMX track, woodland walk etc.
Children from Connisborough College could get involved in designing and making some park signage as part of their carpentry class
The Director of Wide Horizons is currently in discussion with Connisborough College with regards to erecting a gate between the park and the college so that children can easily access the park to do activities there and to use it as an outdoor classroom
There needs to be a focus on activities and infrastructure for young families especially given the impending re-development of the Excalibur Estate and the amount of new families that will bring into the area
A paddling pool for children would be desirable though there would be issues around risk and health and safety
There is a paddling pool in a park in Bromley which is filled to a couple of centimetres only on days when it's deemed hot enough
A fountain may be a better option that turns on and off which children can run through
Forster Park used to have a paddling pool but it was mostly used by dogs
Is there any other money available to make improvements to Forster Park?
Emma Talbot, new Head of Planning may be able to provide information on any other S106 that may be

available for the Whitefoot ward or earmarked to be spend on green spaces
Many Phoenix Community Housing residents use Forster Park – can Phoenix contribute any money, maybe match fund the S106 £41k?
There is £100k which makes up the Phoenix Community Chest and can be used on capital works – an application would need to be submitted when the fund next opens. The Phoenix residents vote on which projects to fund at the Phoenix festival so if Forster Park were to get enough votes it could be awarded funds
Could Whitefoot Assembly Funds be spent on a project/equipment for the park? – answer yes
The Whitefoot fund will be launched on Wednesday 5 th October 2016 and will close four weeks later
Catford South residents also use Forster Park could an application to their Assembly Fund be made? – answer yes except the Catford South Fund is now closed.
Need to encourage young people and families to use the park then the café could re-open as a social enterprise bringing the park back to life
If it were a 'not for profit' business running the café it would increase the amount of funding opportunities open to it
Perhaps we should consider holding future 'Friends of Forster Park' meetings in the park – maybe in the old Sure Start building
This group need to consider becoming a 'constituted group' – will need to provide 12 months of accounts as a constituted group to attract larger amounts of funding
A Space Hive Crowd Funding platform has been created in an attempt to raise funds
Are there any restrictions/covenants we need to know about relating to Forster Park? – e.g. no alcohol in the park
Perhaps we could apply for funding for two benches in memory of Lord Forster's sons who dies in WWI. One son died in the actual war and the other after the war. The 100 th Anniversary of WWI will come to an end in 2018 therefore, now would be a good time to secure funding for benches and plaques to commemorate Lord Forster's sons.
A History board relating to the origins of Forster Park could also be erected at the various entrances

At the second meeting, it was agreed that the reformed Friends of Forster Park should become a constituted group.

A third meeting has now been convened and is scheduled to take place on Thursday 6th October 2016 at the Green Man. Councillor Ingleby urged all those with an interest to come. Prior to the meeting there will be a walk around Forster Park. Those interested in joining in should meet at 5.30pm at the 'top gate' on Whitefoot Lane. Following the walk-about the group will make their way to the Green Man for the meeting which is due to commence at 7pm.

Councillor Ingleby then posed the question 'How can we take green ideas forward in relation to the Assembly?'

Stephen Kenny of the Friends of Railway Children's Walk gave an overview of ideas regarding possible improvements to the walk including the idea of an edible garden and / or a fruit orchard plus the idea of doing something with the area locally known as the 'green crater'.

The Friends of Railway Children's Walk are keen to make the walk a greener and safer area of the community connecting Whitefoot and Grove Park wards. The footpath/cycleway from Reigate Road to the railway footbridge that connects to Grove Park, which is near to shop and other amenities including the railway station and nature reserve, is not inviting. Many residents from the vicinity, when asked, said they wished to see the area made to feel safer and less overgrown. A programme of branch and nettle clearing on both sides of the walk would be necessary to achieve this plus thoughtful planting schemes. A Forest School would provide opportunities for young people to get involved with the added aim of connecting the green corridor down to Downham Woodland Walk and onto Beckenham Place Park.

Councillor Ingleby also high-lighted the idea of a gate from Reigate Road into Hither Green Cemetery and out on to Verdant Lane which the residents of Cumberland Place could use to connect them to Verdant Lane and all its amenities. The idea would be for the gate to be open during daylight hours.

Maps of this area were distributed amongst the Assembly attendees who were invited to put down their thoughts / comments in the space provided which would then be collated at the end of the Assembly and recorded along with the Minutes.

A path through Hither Green Cemetery linking Reigate Road / Cumberland Place residents to Verdant Lane and beyond

Comments Received

Cumberland Place, as the crow flies is very close to Verdant Lane and yet the current route for residents of Cumberland Place to Verdant Lane is very long and much polluted. A path through the cemetery would not only be lovely it would be much shorter and much healthier for users.

Could the new TFL cycle route be incorporated?

Nice idea but have concerns a path may invite problems for some of the relatives and friends of deceased that are buried in the cemetery.

Do not like the idea, do not want a path or any gates. Some monuments in the cemetery are so old they are in a bad state of disrepair. There may be damage to the monuments. This is a health and safety issue.

A good idea but three gates would be necessary, one at the beginning of Railway Children's Walk and two on Cumberland Place.

Good idea taking people off polluted roads.

There is a high asthma rate amongst children within the ward – good idea to create more green spaces for people to enjoy

A good idea. The cemeteries in Brockley and Nunhead are both open during daylight hours and dog walkers, cyclist, nature enthusiasts all the share the space. There have never been any problems with the arrangement.

The ward needs more green spaces for people to enjoy and a path through the cemetery would contribute to this as would planting more trees in the ward. Trees work very hard to remove pollutants from the air, we need more trees.

Following the discussion Councillor Ingleby gave feedback from a meeting he had attended with Ali Williams and Dom Elliot of the Brockley Street Trees Group which had been convened to explore the tree initiative in Brockley and to determine if something similar could be rolled out in Whitefoot providing there were enough interest. Dom had explained that the Street Trees Group in Brockley had been running for 5 years now.

The Brockley Street Trees group, in collaboration with the Council's Greenscene, plants trees that are approximately 5 years old. Initially much younger trees were planted but they often failed so investing in trees of some maturity increases their chances of surviving to full maturity.

£240 is the basic fee to purchase a tree from Greenscene. This includes the cost of digging the tree pit, the cost of the tree, the installation of a corrugated watering hose, two tree stakes and a guard.

In addition there is a commitment from Greenscene to replace the tree if it fails in its first two years of planting. The actual responsibility for watering the tree is down to the individual or the group who sponsored the tree or the Tree Warden of the street if one exists. Alternatively, for the higher fee of £340, Greenscene will take responsibility for watering the tree in the first two years after planting.

Dom explained that in Brockley, Assembly Funds have previously been used as seed funding to get the initiative 'off the ground' but there have also been various fund-raising activities and awareness raising in terms of getting individuals or groups to sponsor trees.

Dom was very keen to work with the Whitefoot Assembly explaining that his efforts were now being directed towards enthusing others to look at the bigger picture in terms of 'greening' the whole borough. He explained there are over 2,000 empty tree pits across the borough which in collaboration with partners could be filled over the long term.

Greenscene recently declared that existing 'recorded' tree-pits are viable sites on the proviso that if it is discovered (via scanning equipment) that the site now has utilities in the way the Council will not foot the cost of digging any pit to determine whether or not there really are utilities beneath.

In previous years, Glendale took charge of the planting of trees on behalf of the Council. That contract has now terminated and the Council now employ sub-contracts 'Street Tree Care Limited'. The current agreement in place with the Brockley Street Trees group is between Greenscene and the Street Tree Care Team.

Until recently the Brockley tree planting project was approached in an ad-hoc way which was a piece-meal response to greening 'our' streets. This ad-hoc approach is sponsor dependent and takes up a lot of time and energy. Going forward it is hoped the group can be more strategic and more fund raising activities have been planned.

At this stage Councillor Ingleby invited questions from the floor

Q. Can the Council guarantee that any trees removed due to new development projects be replaced? Can Section 106 money be directed toward replacement trees? Hitherto, Lewisham had a policy that any tree taken away for whatever reason be replaced. Over 20 mature trees have, in recent times, been removed from Olstead Road and at the bottom of Beckenham Hill Station. Will the Council make a commitment to replace them? When the community loses a mature tree it loses the green benefit. Any delay in replacing the trees runs the risk of new people moving in to the area and not necessarily wanting a tree in front of their property when historically there had been one.

Q. Will the Council commit to replacing trees that fail through age or are blown over in strong winds etc.?

Councillor Ingleby explained firstly that the Whitefoot councillors will always push for Section 106 to go towards tree replacement when trees have been removed to make way for new developments.

Councillor Ingleby also reminded the Assembly that tomorrow the new round of Assembly Funding would be launched and that it could be used to contribute to any of the ideas raised if people wanted to come together, work in partnership with existing groups or form new, constituted groups and put an application forward.

2016-17 AF Fund – Exercise to determine this year's Assembly Fund priorities – Cllr. Daby lead this next section explaining the exercise to be undertaken during the break. Those present were given the opportunity to decide the priorities for the ward and for the next round of Assembly funding.

The 2015-16 Priorities were;

- **Older People & Intergenerational Projects**
- **Safety, Crime & Anti-social Behaviour**
- **Community Facilities**
- **Neighbourliness, Community Activities, Events & Cohesion**
- **Unemployment & Skills Development**

Following the break and 'priorities exercise' it was agreed that the 2016-17 priorities would be as follows;

- **Creating a high-quality living environment**
- **Connecting Communities**
- **Children & Young People**
- **Older People**
- **Unemployment and Skills Development**

It was noted that creating a high-quality living environment received significantly more votes than the other four priorities. This is not a surprise given the Assembly has been focusing on 'greening the ward' and many members of the Assembly are enthused by the promise of a cleaner, greener, safer environment to live, work and play in.

Ali announced that the 2016-17 Whitefoot Assembly fund would now be launched on Wednesday 5th October 2016 and that the closing date would be Wednesday 2nd November 2016 at 5pm

A young man called Neathen asked if Assembly Funds could be directed towards a motor-cross project for young people. Neathen was invited to say a few words to the Assembly.

Neathen explained that he was 15 years of age and currently studying for his last year at secondary school.

Neathen's interest is in creating a better place for youths and adults to inhabit. Neathen had taken the opportunity to ask the young people in his street what they would like to see in their area and their response was a space where people could ride motorbikes/mopeds off road so as to reduce the amount of young people riding, unsafely, on roads. This space would also act as a safe environment for young people to come together to socialise.

Neathen felt the local park was run down and not attractive to young people and so wondered if anything could be done at the space known locally as 'the green crater' near Reigate Road. Neathen recognised that the development of a motor-cross park would mean chopping down some of the existing trees but he felt they could be designed back into the build. Neathen was also aware of the noise pollution motor-cross bikes would make for nearby residents and suggested the space only be open during day-light hours.

It was agreed to put Neathen in touch with the Young Lewisham Project to explore his ideas further.

Fly-Tipping within the ward – Questions and Answers – Cllr. Slater gave feedback on fly-tipping within the ward on behalf of Nigel Tyrell, Head of Environment as follows;

Pasture Road has seen a lot of fly-tipping of late and an investigation found it is not due to anti-social behaviour from residents within the ward but more the 'work' of 'professional' fly-tippers. In response to this increase in fly-tipping the Whitefoot councillors held a community meeting on the road with Nigel Tyrell. It was decided that signs deterring fly-tippers should be erected and, if resources allow, a CCTV camera to capture offender's vehicle licence plate numbers.

Cllr. Slater advised if residents suspect certain areas are being targeted by professional fly-tippers they should raise the issue with the Whitefoot councillors who will work with Nigel Tyrell and the community to bring about an end to the activity. Community meetings can be convened where pre-emptive plans to respond to the issue can be devised.

Cllr. Slater also reminded everyone about **the all new, improved LOVE LEWISHAM Mobile Phone Ap.**

Love Lewisham is an award-winning environmental management system, established in 2004.

It is the quick and easy way to report fly-tipping, graffiti, abandoned cars - or any environmental

Street issues to the Council so they can fix it.

To report environmental problems [use our website](#) or download any open source based app like [FixMyStreet](#)

Cllr. Slater then opened up the floor for questions;

Q. Haddington Road used to be an area that suffered significant fly-tipping and as a result signs were erected and a CCTV camera, which has since been removed, installed. It was a waste of time, effort and money as once the camera was removed the fly-tipping continued. Signs alone are not enough to deter people, a camera needs to be re-installed on Haddington Road. Can this be done?

Q. Reigate Road currently suffers significant fly-tipping but not by 'professional' fly-tippers, these are people who dump their garden refuse and other stuff next to the two, small green areas. The Council street-sweeper leaves his council issue, blue-bags in these two areas and people perhaps think if they place their refuse in the same spot the council will take it away. Only the blue, Council bags are removed leaving the other rubbish to pile up. This activity

has increased since the introduction of the brown bins which residents have to pay to have emptied. Many people cannot afford this service nor do they own a car which they could use to take their refuse to the landfill site on Landmann Way. Can the old system of green waste collection points be reintroduced?

Q. What is the council's current position on collecting mattresses and other large objects? It is not clear. There needs to be clearer information and better advertising. Can this be arranged?

Cllr. Slater asked all those with specific queries to meet with him after the meeting or at a subsequent surgery to give him the details so that he can follow the issues up. In response to all the general enquiries, Cllr. Slater advertised that Nigel Tyrell would be invited to the next Assembly where he could answer everyone's queries directly.

Another question from the floor related specifically to people allowing rubbish to build up in their own front gardens. Selvin Reid from the Crime Enforcement Team advised that in these situations the owner of the property is determined and then a letter is dispatched asking them to deal with the issue. Landlords are reminded that they are responsible for their tenant's actions when it came to them breaking their tenancy/lease. As a last resort an enforcement notice can be served.

It was agreed that a comprehensive information pack was needed across the whole borough.

Community Safety Update – PC Susan Hailes regrettably had to send apologies. Susan was due to give a talk on Hate Crime given the reason spike in incidents following the referendum and BREXIT result.

Sergeant John Berry was in attendance however and introduced the new Dedicated Ward Officer (DWO)

PC Lauren Gillam to the Assembly. Sergeant Berry also went on to thank PC Julie Lloyd, the previous DWO for all her efforts within the ward.

Sergeant Berry explained that changes were afoot re. how the borough was policed and that by the time of the next Assembly he would be in a better position to outline what that meant for the Whitefoot ward in particular. Currently, there are a small team of officers operating within the south cluster but this will change. The officers will still be available (currently x2 DWO's and x1 PCSO) for the Whitefoot ward but could also be deployed borough-wide.

Crime Trends – Crime, historically, has been falling across London however, there has been a slight increase of late. There has been a small increase in burglaries within Whitefoot and this might be due to Downham, which has a higher burglary rate, getting the SMART Water packs. The SMART Water packs and subsequent 'sticker' which residents put in their windows act as a deterrent which means a possible knock-on effect in that burglars are crossing into Whitefoot ward where the SMART Water programme has not been rolled out.

Also - there was a recent arrest on the Whitefoot ward and a charge laid for 'handling stolen goods'. Over £6,000 worth of musical instruments had been located.

In addition, x2 search warrants had been executed on the ward in relation to dangerous dogs. As a result, x1 offender had been prosecuted and a second one was 'in the offing'.

Another search warrant had also been executed for drugs offences. This issue is on-going.

The Whitefoot SNT have been keeping up their 'Chips and Chat' community engagement initiative and anyone wanting to know when the next one might be should refer to the website;

<http://content.met.police.uk/Team/Lewisham/Whitefoot>

Community Updates

Goldsmith's Community Centre – Sue East addressed the audience advising that Goldsmith's was now fully open after a tumultuous time dealing with the removal of asbestos in the building and the ensuing, necessary closure or part closure of the building.

Sue was happy to report that the doors are open again from Monday to Thursday from 9-5pm and that many of the old groups are returning and new groups are being discovered.

The Goldsmith's Christmas Fayre will be on Saturday 10th December 2016. Sue urged everyone to look at the website;

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

AOB

South Park Crescent Nature & Wildlife Park – Theresa Webb, a member of the South Park Crescent group raised awareness of the nature and wildlife park on the corner of Verdant Lane and Pasture Road explaining that, essentially, it's a small park that local residents are hoping to transform.

A local artist has been approached to create a piece of sculpture using the old, heritage lampposts that were removed when Lewisham and SKANSKA replaced all the street lighting in the borough. Theresa has conducted a survey to firstly determine if people want a sculpture in this park the answer to which was a resounding yes. Theresa is also keen to garner support for gardening projects and already many people have come forward offering their services. Anyone interested in getting involved can contact Theresa via the email address below;

theresa@kitchenbuddy.eu

TFL – Cllr. Daby gave the Assembly feedback on recent meetings with TFL. When Cllr. Daby was first selected as a Councillor it very quickly became apparent, when knocking on doors, that one of the most pressing issues for residents within Whitefoot was transport connections. People on Reigate Road and Cumberland Crescent couldn't get to Verdant Lane and generally speaking one still has to catch x2 buses to traverse across the ward. There are no buses from the top of Whitefoot Lane to the bottom of Whitefoot Lane, a very long road by anyone's standards and a steep hill, the list goes on, Various petitions, over the years, have been put together and presented to TFL but each time TFL insisted that Councillor's have to put together a robust business case for any increase in public transport.

Len Duvall, Member of the London Assembly for Lewisham and Greenwich and based at City Hall has met with the Whitefoot councillors and staff from TFL. Following discussions it has been decided to keep Whitefoot as a priority re. transport infrastructure. As a result Len will be conducting an analysis of current provision to get the necessary evidence needed to, hopefully, make the important, over-due changes.

Continued Local Authority Budget Cuts – Cllr. Slater talked about the Council's position on continued budget cuts. Since 2010 Lewisham borough has fared badly under central government's austerity programme. Previously, boroughs were funded by level of need. Since 2010 the formula has changed. The net effect of this is that wealthy boroughs get more central funding and poorer boroughs get less. Since 2010 Lewisham Council has lost approximately 50% of its income. Some services remain statutory services and must remain although there is requirement that they be delivered in more cost-effective ways. Other services have seen their budgets slashed significantly or the service de-commissioned altogether. Cllr. Slater sited the Local Assembly Fund, the pot of money (£15,000) that each ward gets each year to fund community projects. This fund is currently being reviewed and there's no guarantee it will remain in the coming years. Councillors are currently fighting to keep it but

it would help if residents showed their support by attending assembly meetings etc. Other boroughs in London don't have this fund which supports local communities.

The Council's Budget going forward from 1 April 2017 will be published around February next year.

Feedback Forms and Co-group Membership – Cllr Slater took this opportunity to encourage 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 it to contact Ali Williams, Whitefoot Local Assembly Coordinator at Ali.williams2@lewisham.gov.uk or

Tel: 020 8314 6293 or Mobile: 07834 145 007

Cllr. Slater then 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 Whitefoot ward explaining that Co-group members should be familiar with their local area and should play a key role in promoting the Whitefoot 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

Date and time of Next Whitefoot Assembly – Tuesday 13th December 2016 –from 7.00pm – 9.00pm venue to be confirmed.

Close of Meeting



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Emma Talbot, new Head of Planning may be able to provide information on any other S106 that may be available for the Whitefoot ward or earmarked to be spend on green spaces
Many Phoenix Community Housing residents use Forster Park – can Phoenix contribute any money, maybe match fund the S106 £41k?
There is £100k which makes up the Phoenix Community Chest and can be used on capital works – an application would need to be submitted when the fund next opens. The Phoenix residents vote on which projects to fund at the Phoenix festival so if Forster Park were to get enough votes it could be awarded funds
Could Whitefoot Assembly Funds be spent on a project/equipment for the park? – answer yes
The Whitefoot fund will be launched on Wednesday 5 th October 2016 and will close four weeks later
Catford South residents also use Forster Park could an application to their Assembly Fund be made? – answer yes except the Catford South Fund is now closed.
Need to encourage young people and families to use the park then the café could re-open as a social enterprise bringing the park back to life
If it were a ‘not for profit’ business running the café it would increase the amount of funding opportunities open to it
Perhaps we should consider holding future ‘Friends of Forster Park’ meetings in the park – maybe in the old Sure Start building
This group need to consider becoming a ‘constituted group’ – will need to provide 12 months of accounts as a constituted group to attract larger amounts of funding
A Space Hive Crowd Funding platform has been created in an attempt to raise funds
Are there any restrictions/covenants we need to know about relating to Forster Park? – e.g. no alcohol in the park
Perhaps we could apply for funding for two benches in memory of Lord Forster’s sons who dies in WWI. One son died in the actual war and the other after the war. The 100 th Anniversary of WWI will come to an end in 2018 therefore, now would be a good time to secure funding for benches and plaques to commemorate Lord Forster’s sons.
A History board relating to the origins of Forster Park could also be erected at the various entrances

At the second meeting, it was agreed that the reformed Friends of Forster Park should become a constituted group.

A third meeting has now been convened and is scheduled to take place on Thursday 6th October 2016 at the Green Man. Councillor Ingleby urged all those with an interest to come. Prior to the meeting there will be a walk around Forster Park. Those interested in joining in should meet at 5.30pm at the ‘top gate’ on Whitefoot Lane. Following the walk-about the group will make their way to the Green Man for the meeting which is due to commence at 7pm.

Councillor Ingleby then posed the question ‘How can we take green ideas forward in relation to the Assembly?’

Stephen Kenny of the Friends of Railway Children’s Walk gave an overview of ideas regarding possible improvements to the walk including the idea of an edible garden and / or a fruit orchard plus the idea of doing something with the area locally known as the ‘green crater’.

The Friends of Railway Children’s Walk are keen to make the walk a greener and safer area of the community connecting Whitefoot and Grove Park wards. The footpath/cycleway from Reigate Road to the railway footbridge that connects to Grove Park, which is near to shop and other amenities including the railway station and nature reserve, is not inviting. Many residents from the vicinity, when asked, said they wished to see the area made to feel safer and less overgrown. A programme of branch and nettle clearing on both sides of the walk would be necessary to achieve this plus thoughtful planting schemes. A Forest School would provide opportunities for young people to get involved with the added aim of connecting the green corridor down to Downham Woodland Walk and onto Beckenham Place Park.

Councillor Ingleby also high-lighted the idea of a gate from Reigate Road into Hither Green Cemetery and out on to Verdant Lane which the residents of Cumberland Place could use to connect them to Verdant Lane and all its amenities. The idea would be for the gate to be open during daylight hours.

Maps of this area were distributed amongst the Assembly attendees who were invited to put down their thoughts / comments in the space provided which would then be collated at the end of the Assembly and recorded along with the Minutes.

A path through Hither Green Cemetery linking Reigate Road / Cumberland Place residents to Verdant Lane and beyond

Comments Received

Cumberland Place, as the crow flies is very close to Verdant Lane and yet the current route for residents of Cumberland Place to Verdant Lane is very long and much polluted. A path through the cemetery would not only be lovely it would be much shorter and much healthier for users.

Could the new TFL cycle route be incorporated?

Nice idea but have concerns a path may invite problems for some of the relatives and friends of deceased that are buried in the cemetery.

Do not like the idea, do not want a path or any gates. Some monuments in the cemetery are so old they are in a bad state of disrepair. There may be damage to the monuments. This is a health and safety issue.

A good idea but three gates would be necessary, one at the beginning of Railway Children's Walk and two on Cumberland Place.

Good idea taking people off polluted roads.

There is a high asthma rate amongst children within the ward – good idea to create more green spaces for people to enjoy

A good idea. The cemeteries in Brockley and Nunhead are both open during daylight hours and dog walkers, cyclist, nature enthusiasts all the share the space. There have never been any problems with the arrangement.

The ward needs more green spaces for people to enjoy and a path through the cemetery would contribute to this as would planting more trees in the ward. Trees work very hard to remove pollutants from the air, we need more trees.

Following the discussion Councillor Ingleby gave feedback from a meeting he had attended with Ali Williams and Dom Elliot of the Brockley Street Trees Group which had been convened to explore the tree initiative in Brockley and to determine if something similar could be rolled out in Whitefoot providing there were enough interest. Dom had explained that the Street Trees Group in Brockley had been running for 5 years now.

The Brockley Street Trees group, in collaboration with the Council's Greenscene, plants trees that are approximately 5 years old. Initially much younger trees were planted but they often failed so investing in trees of some maturity increases their chances of surviving to full maturity.

£240 is the basic fee to purchase a tree from Greenscene. This includes the cost of digging the tree pit, the cost of the tree, the installation of a corrugated watering hose, two tree stakes and a guard.

In addition there is a commitment from Greenscene to replace the tree if it fails in its first two years of planting. The actual responsibility for watering the tree is down to the individual or the group who sponsored the tree or the Tree Warden of the street if one exists. Alternatively, for the higher fee of £340, Greenscene will take responsibility for watering the tree in the first two years after planting.

Dom explained that in Brockley, Assembly Funds have previously been used as seed funding to get the initiative 'off the ground' but there have also been various fund-raising activities and awareness raising in terms of getting individuals or groups to sponsor trees.

Dom was very keen to work with the Whitefoot Assembly explaining that his efforts were now being directed towards enthusing others to look at the bigger picture in terms of 'greening' the whole borough. He explained there are over 2,000 empty tree pits across the borough which in collaboration with partners could be filled over the long term.

Greenscene recently declared that existing 'recorded' tree-pits are viable sites on the proviso that if it is discovered (via scanning equipment) that the site now has utilities in the way the Council will not foot the cost of digging any pit to determine whether or not there really are utilities beneath.

In previous years, Glendale took charge of the planting of trees on behalf of the Council. That contract has now terminated and the Council now employ sub-contracts 'Street Tree Care Limited'. The current agreement in place with the Brockley Street Trees group is between Greenscene and the Street Tree Care Team.

Until recently the Brockley tree planting project was approached in an ad-hoc way which was a piece-meal response to greening 'our' streets. This ad-hoc approach is sponsor dependent and takes up a lot of time and energy. Going forward it is hoped the group can be more strategic and more fund raising activities have been planned.

At this stage Councillor Ingleby invited questions from the floor

Q. Can the Council guarantee that any trees removed due to new development projects be replaced? Can Section 106 money be directed toward replacement trees? Hitherto, Lewisham had a policy that any tree taken away for whatever reason be replaced. Over 20 mature trees have, in recent times, been removed from Olstead Road and at the bottom of Beckenham Hill Station. Will the Council make a commitment to replace them? When the community loses a mature tree is loses the green benefit. Any delay in replacing the trees runs the risk of new people moving in to the area and not necessarily wanting a tree in front of their property when historically there had been one.

Q. Will the Council commit to replacing trees that fail through age or are blown over in strong winds etc.?

Councillor Ingleby explained firstly that the Whitefoot councillors will always push for Section 106 to go towards tree replacement when trees have been removed to make way for new developments.

Councillor Ingleby also reminded the Assembly that tomorrow the new round of Assembly Funding would be launched and that it could be used to contribute to any of the ideas raised if people wanted to come together, work in partnership with existing groups or form new, constituted groups and put an application forward.

2016-17 AF Fund – Exercise to determine this year's Assembly Fund priorities – Cllr. Daby lead this next section explaining the exercise to be undertaken during the break. Those present were given the opportunity to decide the priorities for the ward and for the next round of Assembly funding.

The 2015-16 Priorities were;

- **Older People & Intergenerational Projects**
- **Safety, Crime & Anti-social Behaviour**
- **Community Facilities**
- **Neighbourliness, Community Activities, Events & Cohesion**
- **Unemployment & Skills Development**

Following the break and 'priorities exercise' it was agreed that the 2016-17 priorities would be as follows;

- **Creating a high-quality living environment**
- **Connecting Communities**
- **Children & Young People**
- **Older People**
- **Unemployment and Skills Development**

It was noted that creating a high-living environment received significantly more votes than the other four priorities. This is not a surprise given the Assembly has been focusing on 'greening the ward' and many members of the Assembly are enthused by the promise of a cleaner, greener, safer environment to live, work and play in.

Ali announced that the 2016-17 Whitefoot Assembly fund would now be launched on Wednesday 5th October 2016 and that the closing date would be Wednesday 2nd November 2016 at 5pm

A young man called Neathen asked if Assembly Funds could be directed towards a motor-cross project for young people. Neathen was invited to say a few words to the Assembly.

Neathen explained that he was 15 years of age and currently studying for his last year at secondary school.

Neathen's interest is in creating a better place for youths and adults to inhabit. Neathen had taken the opportunity to ask the young people in his street what they would like to see in their area and their response was a space where people could ride motorbikes/mopeds off road so as to reduce the amount of young people riding, unsafely, on roads. This space would also act as a safe environment for young people to come together to socialise.

Neathen felt the local park was run down and not attractive to young people and so wondered if anything could be done at the space known locally as 'the green crater' near Reigate Road. Neathen recognised that the development of a motor-cross park would mean chopping down some of the existing trees but he felt they could be designed back into the build. Neathen was also aware of the noise pollution motor-cross bikes would make for nearby residents and suggested the space only be open during day-light hours.

It was agreed to put Neathen in touch with the Young Lewisham Project to explore his ideas further.

Fly-Tipping within the ward – Questions and Answers – Cllr. Slater gave feedback on fly-tipping within the ward on behalf of Nigel Tyrell, Head of Environment as follows;

Pasture Road has seen a lot of fly-tipping of late and an investigation found it is not due to anti-social behaviour from residents within the ward but more the 'work' of 'professional' fly-tippers. In response to this increase in fly-tipping the Whitefoot councillors held a community meeting on the road with Nigel Tyrell. It was decided that signs deterring fly-tippers should be erected and, if resources allow, a CCTV camera to capture offender's vehicle licence plate numbers.

Cllr. Slater advised if residents suspect certain areas are being targeted by professional fly-tippers they should raise the issue with the Whitefoot councillors who will work with Nigel Tyrell and the community to bring about an end to the activity. Community meetings can be convened where pre-emptive plans to respond to the issue can be devised.

Cllr. Slater also reminded everyone about **the all new, improved LOVE LEWISHAM Mobile Phone Ap.**

Love Lewisham is an award-winning environmental management system, established in 2004.

It is the quick and easy way to report fly-tipping, graffiti, abandoned cars - or any environmental

Street issues to the Council so they can fix it.

To report environmental problems [use our website](#) or download any open source based app like [FixMyStreet](#)

Cllr. Slater then opened up the floor for questions;

Q. Haddington Road used to be an area that suffered significant fly-tipping and as a result signs were erected and a CCTV camera, which has since been removed, installed. It was a waste of time, effort and money as once the camera was removed the fly-tipping continued. Signs alone are not enough to deter people, a camera needs to be re-installed on Haddington Road. Can this be done?

Q. Reigate Road currently suffers significant fly-tipping but not by 'professional' fly-tippers, these are people who dump their garden refuse and other stuff next to the two, small green areas. The Council street-sweeper leaves his council issue, blue-bags in these two areas and people perhaps think if they place their refuse in the same spot the council will take it away. Only the blue, Council bags are removed leaving the other rubbish to pile up. This activity has increased since the introduction of the brown bins which residents have to pay to have emptied. Many people cannot afford this service nor do they own a car which they could use to take their refuse to the landfill site on Landmann Way. Can the old system of green waste collection points be reintroduced?

Q. What is the council's current position on collecting mattresses and other large objects? It is not clear. There needs to be clearer information and better advertising. Can this be arranged?

Cllr. Slater asked all those with specific queries to meet with him after the meeting or at a subsequent surgery to give him the details so that he can follow the issues up. In response to all the general enquiries, Cllr. Slater advertised that Nigel Tyrell would be invited to the next Assembly where he could answer everyone's queries directly.

Another question from the floor related specifically to people allowing rubbish to build up in their own front gardens. Selvin Reid from the Crime Enforcement Team advised that in these situations the owner of the property is determined and then a letter is dispatched asking them to deal with the issue. Landlords are reminded that they are responsible for their tenant's actions when it came to them breaking their tenancy/lease. As a last resort an enforcement notice can be served.

It was agreed that a comprehensive information pack was needed across the whole borough.

Community Safety Update – PC Susan Hailes regrettably had to send apologies. Susan was due to give a talk on Hate Crime given the reason spike in incidents following the referendum and BREXIT result.

Sergeant John Berry was in attendance however and introduced the new Dedicated Ward Officer (DWO)

PC Lauren Gillam to the Assembly. Sergeant Berry also went on to thank PC Julie Lloyd, the previous DWO for all her efforts within the ward.

Sergeant Berry explained that changes were afoot re. how the borough was policed and that by the time of the next Assembly he would be in a better position to outline what that meant for the Whitefoot ward in particular. Currently, there are a small team of officers operating within the south cluster but this will change. The officers will still be available (currently x2 DWO's and x1 PCSO) for the Whitefoot ward but could also be deployed borough-wide.

Crime Trends – Crime, historically, has been falling across London however, there has been a slight increase of late. There has been a small increase in burglaries within Whitefoot and this might be due to Downham, which has a higher burglary rate, getting the SMART Water packs. The SMART Water packs and subsequent 'sticker' which residents put in their windows act as a deterrent which means a possible knock-on effect in that burglars are crossing into Whitefoot ward where the SMART Water programme has not been rolled out.

Also - there was a recent arrest on the Whitefoot ward and a charge laid for 'handling stolen goods'. Over £6,000 worth of musical instruments had been located.

In addition, x2 search warrants had been executed on the ward in relation to dangerous dogs. As a result, x1 offender had been prosecuted and a second one was 'in the offing'.

Another search warrant had also been executed for drugs offences. This issue is on-going.

The Whitefoot SNT have been keeping up their 'Chips and Chat' community engagement initiative and anyone wanting to know when the next one might be should refer to the website;

<http://content.met.police.uk/Team/Lewisham/Whitefoot>

Community Updates

Goldsmith's Community Centre – Sue East addressed the audience advising that Goldsmith's was now fully open after a tumultuous time dealing with the removal of asbestos in the building and the ensuing, necessary closure or part closure of the building.

Sue was happy to report that the doors are open again from Monday to Thursday from 9-5pm and that many of the old groups are returning and new groups are being discovered.

The Goldsmith's Christmas Fayre will be on Saturday 10th December 2016. Sue urged everyone to look at the website;

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

AOB

South Park Crescent Nature & Wildlife Park – Theresa Webb, a member of the South Park Crescent group raised awareness of the nature and wildlife park on the corner of Verdant Lane and Pasture Road explaining that, essentially, it's a small park that local residents are hoping to transform.

A local artist has been approached to create a piece of sculpture using the old, heritage lampposts that were removed when Lewisham and SKANSKA replaced all the street lighting in the borough. Theresa has conducted a survey to firstly determine if people want a sculpture in this park the answer to which was a resounding yes. Theresa is also keen to garner support for gardening projects and already many people have come forward offering their services. Anyone interested in getting involved can contact Theresa via the email address below;

theresa@kitchenbuddy.eu

TFL – Cllr. Daby gave the Assembly feedback on recent meetings with TFL. When Cllr. Daby was first selected as a Councillor it very quickly became apparent, when knocking on doors, that one of the most pressing issues for residents within Whitefoot was transport connections. People on Reigate Road and Cumberland Crescent couldn't get to Verdant Lane and generally speaking one still has to catch x2 buses to traverse across the ward. There are no buses from the top of Whitefoot Lane to the bottom of Whitefoot Lane, a very long road by anyone's standards and a steep hill, the list goes on, Various petitions, over the years, have been put together and presented

to TFL but each time TFL insisted that Councillors have to put together a robust business case for any increase in public transport.

Len Duvall, Member of the London Assembly for Lewisham and Greenwich and based at City Hall has met with the Whitefoot councillors and staff from TFL. Following discussions it has been decided to keep Whitefoot as a priority re. transport infrastructure. As a result Len will be conducting an analysis of current provision to get the necessary evidence needed to, hopefully, make the important, over-due changes.

Continued Local Authority Budget Cuts – Cllr. Slater talked about the Council's position on continued budget cuts. Since 2010 Lewisham borough has fared badly under central government's austerity programme. Previously, boroughs were funded by level of need. Since 2010 the formula has changed. The net effect of this is that wealthy boroughs get more central funding and poorer boroughs get less. Since 2010 Lewisham Council has lost approximately 50% of its income. Some services remain statutory services and must remain although there is requirement that they be delivered in more cost-effective ways. Other services have seen their budgets slashed significantly or the service de-commissioned altogether. Cllr. Slater cited the Local Assembly Fund, the pot of money (£15,000) that each ward gets each year to fund community projects. This fund is currently being reviewed and there's no guarantee it will remain in the coming years. Councillors are currently fighting to keep it but it would help if residents showed their support by attending assembly meetings etc. Other boroughs in London don't have this fund which supports local communities.

The Council's Budget going forward from 1 April 2017 will be published around February next year.

Feedback Forms and Co-group Membership – Cllr Slater took this opportunity to encourage 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 it to contact Ali Williams, Whitefoot Local Assembly Coordinator at Ali.williams2@lewisham.gov.uk or

Tel: 020 8314 6293 or Mobile: 07834 145 007

Cllr. Slater then 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 Whitefoot ward explaining that Co-group members should be familiar with their local area and should play a key role in promoting the Whitefoot 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

Date and time of Next Whitefoot Assembly – Tuesday 13th December 2016 –from 7.00pm – 9.00pm venue to be confirmed.

Close of Meeting

