

**LEWISHAM CENTRAL LOCAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING
Wednesday 14 June 2017 7pm – 9pm
Lewisham Methodist Church Hall
Albion Way, London SE13**

Record of Meeting

	Item	Actions
1	Welcome, Introduction & Format of meeting	
	<p>Cllr Stella Jeffrey welcomed everyone and went through the format of the meeting.</p>	
2	Development in Centre of Lewisham – Traffic and Transport	
	<p>A brief background to the item was provided by the chair. A number of questions were raised at the last Assembly meeting about the traffic resulting from the new road design at Lewisham. Katherine Abraham from Transport for London attended the meeting to provide some explanation about the scheme and take questions from the floor. A brief explanation was provided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since 2012, Transport for London (TFL) has been working with the Lewisham Gateway Development, officers from Lewisham Transport Division and the Greater London Authority (GLA) to develop and deliver a road scheme that works for everyone in the centre of Lewisham. An area in the middle of the town centre with various bus routes attracting a large number people walking and cycling around, whilst at the same time trying to deliver a scheme within the constraints of the shopping centre, railway line and the rivers. • The new road design replaced the previous large roundabout. The design was agreed with the developers and Lewisham Council before it was implemented. TFL are aware that there are some issues with it, particularly at the crossing points and traffic are not flowing as it should be. <p>A question and answer session followed:</p> <p>Q - question was raised about the right turning into Brookmill Road from Loampit Vale and the long tail of traffic resulting from this.</p> <p>R – TFL are already aware of this issue and steps are being take to investigate the problem. To get a better understanding of the problem, Katherine will ask one of her colleague to drive round the area and report back on their observation.</p> <p>1) A question was raised about the reasoning behind a double lane reduced to single lane at the approach to the intersection by the Glassmill Leisure Centre, under the railway bridge, especially where the buses are joining this section of the road from the train station.</p>	<p>Katherine Abraham</p>

	<p>organisations at the end of February 2017 from which the top 5 proposals were shortlisted to move forward to the next stage. This stage involves bidders providing an in-depth proposal which identify the buildings intended use, a robust business plan, proof of concept, conservation and local value. The deadline for these submission was set for 14th July, after which the Council will run a number of local consultation activities allowing residents the opportunity to comment on the bidders proposals. All the shortlisted bids will be evaluated and a number of recommendations delivered to Mayor and Cabinet in September 2017 for a final decision.</p> <p>The consultation exercise:</p> <p>Kick-off event – Residents from Ladywell and Lewisham Central wards would be invited to a presentation bidders would showcase their outlined designs and propose uses for the renewal of the building. Residents would have the opportunity to view and comment on the ideas displayed. This session is proposed to take place on either 19th or 20th July.</p> <p>Online Questionnaire – Each bidders would be asked to produce an information pack summarising their proposals which will be made available online and comments invited.</p> <p>Drop –in session – A number of local drop in sessions would be organised for residents to ask questions and comments on the proposal.</p> <p>Site boards – information boards will go up on the site boundary at Ladywell Road so that passers-by can see the proposals and provide feedbacks through the on-line links.</p> <p>The estimation completion date for the restoration is expected no sooner than summer of 2019.</p>	
4.	Lewisham Community Connection Service	
	<p>Lewisham Community Connections is a consortium of partners led by Age UK Lewisham and Southwark. Partners that make up the consortium comprises of six voluntary organisations including Age UK Lewisham and Southwark, Voluntary Service Lewisham, Lewisham Disability Coalition, Rushey Green Time Bank and Voluntary Action Lewisham. The project aims to improve community well-being through supporting the development of community based services and increasing the capacities of those services to the most vulnerable adult within Lewisham. The service works across four neighbourhoods using the same area outline as social services.</p> <p>What do they do?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The service has four development worker and four facilitators who befriend and support the elderly and isolated people in the community and support them to access services and social activities in their area. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It also signpost and refer people to community services that supports well-being • It runs referral services and support voluntary and community organisations to increase their provisions <p>A testimonial story from a recipient of the service was read out at the meeting.</p>	
5.	Update on the development of the Old Snooker Hall	
	<p>Since becoming the new owners of the Old Snooker Hall building on Lewisham High Street, the Tabernacle Church has commissioned various independent and heritage experts report to ascertain the scale of work required to restore the derelict listed building. Planning approval has been granted by the Council and the Heritage board. The Church is currently in discussion with building contractor about the designs. The aim is to transform the building into a church and conferencing Centre. It is estimated that renovation of the building would commence in July.</p>	
6.	Feedback from Assembly funded projects	
6.1	<p><u>Marischal Road Community Garden</u> The project received funding from the Assembly in 2015 to turn a piece of disuse land on Marischal Road into a community garden. Residents on the street has endured several years of youth using the land as a congregating spot 3 to 4 times a week, drinking and playing loud music from their cars until the early hours. These activities often result in bottles and food stuff strewn across the street. The site is also a known location for flytipping.</p> <p>Action taken by residents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To tackle these problem, a small group of residents came together to form a resident association. • The group also set up a social media site, held regular meetings to identify and prioritise street issues. • A number of actions were agreed at the meeting and developed into an action plan. • Finances were raised from the Assembly and project dirt for the site development into a community garden. • Residents volunteered their time to maintain the garden regularly. • The group also organised street clean up days where the Council provides them with cleaning equipment and refuse sacks and all rubbish collected from the work sessions are collected by the Council the next day. <p>The result</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents noted a massive improvement resulting from the action they have taken to rid their street of various forms of antisocial behaviour • Less street drinking • Almost no flytipping at this location 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is now a sense of pride amongst residents of their achievements. • The community garden was officially opened by the local MP in June 2017. <p>The group aims to continue to grow the resident association with new members and new initiatives.</p> <p>6.2 <u>Evergreen Befriending Project</u> The project was funded by the Assembly to establish a befriending scheme for older people in Lewisham Central. An establishment of a partnership approach between the Tabernacle Church, Linking Lives National and supported by Lewisham Community Connection Services. The project has since identified and built local links/networks across the Lewisham Central ward. Volunteers from the project have attended borough befriending network meetings and other relevant training aimed at supporting their work.</p> <p>What has been done so far</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since securing the fund the project has developed a policy and procedure document for the scheme • Secured training for volunteers who will be working on the scheme • delivered 3 coffee mornings attended by around 58 elderly resident in sheltered accommodations. • Attended home visits once a week/fortnight, supporting and signposting the elderly to community activities where appropriate. • With support from Community Connections Lewisham – held 8 meetings with 4 sheltered housing scheme managers <p>Next step</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management to sign off policy/ procedures document • From July – November 2017, match 2 individuals with a volunteers each month <p>A testimonial feedback received from people who have benefited from the scheme were shared with the meeting.</p>	
	<p>Update on Greening Lewisham Project</p>	
	<p>A summary information on the progress made with this project since the last meeting were provided. One of the site benefiting from this project was the rear of Lewisham Library. The site was nominated for a makeover by the Council enforcement team. Two separate event took place for this improvement. The area was professionally sanitised and local residents joined with volunteers from Good Gym to scrape, sand and paint the large rear wall. There are plans to add a book themed mural to the wall.</p> <p>Another area benefiting from the makeover was the entrance to Burton's. This area was also professionally sanitised and painted. Residents above Burton's yard and local shops were delighted with the makeover. The gate repairs to secure the area is pending as well as the urine paint application to stop people urinating on the walls.</p>	

	<p>There has been a delay in the orders for the large planters planned for the frontage of Place Ladywell due to the minimum orders required by the Dutch supplier. An alternative company who does similar is being sought in the UK.</p> <p>Possible future sites earmarked for improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molesworth Street – New meadows on the pyramid roundabout and stone planters, permission has been granted by TFL • Lewisham Shopping Centre – living wall. The shopping centre is looking for a partnership with the assembly on this project. • Planting on the small green area in Clarendon Rise car park 	
Launch of 2017-18 Assembly fund		
	<p>The chair directed people to the briefing note included in the meeting pack which provided a summary explanation of the Assembly fund. The note provided how much is available and a list of the projects funded from last year allocation. Local groups and organisation were therefore encouraged to come forward with ideas for projects which the fund can be spent on. Similar to previous years, the Cllrs' discretionary fund would be added to the assembly allocation to create a larger pot. The decision on how the fund is allocated lies with the assembly.</p>	
Councillors Update & Any other business		
	<p>Lewisham response to Grenfell Tower Fire incident</p> <p>Cllr Damien Egan updated the meeting on how the Council has responded to the Grenfell Tower tragedy. The Council has been working with their Arm's Length Management Organisation, the Gateway Development and a number of registered social landlords in the borough to look at a number of high rise social and private blocks of flats across the borough to ensure they conform to fire safety regulation. Many of the blocks were built in the 70s. The Council has ordered a full risk assessment of all block of flats that has been identified as most at risk in the light of what has occurred in recent weeks. Necessary works would be done to bring all high rise blocks across the borough to acceptable fire safety standard.</p> <p>A question and answer session followed this update.</p> <p>Update from Lewisham Pensioners Forum</p> <p>A representative from this organisation updated the meeting on the works of the forum. The forum began in 1986 to support pensioners across the borough. It caters for people aged 55 years and over. The forum works actively as a campaign group for pensioner, ensuring that people receives information about policy and legislation affecting older people. It also organises and delivers various talks, trips and activities which is aimed at getting people out of their homes and socialising with others.</p> <p>There is an annual membership fee of £10 for those who wish to become members. Meetings are held every other month. The</p>	

	meeting was informed of a current surveys on public transportation for older people which they invites people to complete.	
	Declaration of interest	
	There were no interest declared at this meeting	