

SUMMARY OF THE BELLINGHAM ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 17 October 2017 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Alan Hall, Sue Hordjenko and Jacq Paschoud

ALSO PRESENT:

Apologies for absence were received from

Bellingham Assembly Fund Marketplace Event

The following organisations were bidding for a share of the £15,000 Bellingham Assembly Fund

Proposal 1

Organisation – Bellingham Community Project Ltd

Project – Bellingham Golden Oldies

Amount applied for - £1,100

Project Description – Bellingham Golden Oldies has been established in Bellingham for over 10 years. It provides weekly line dancing and a social session for 90 members. BeGO plays an important role in helping to reduce isolation in the elderly. Slowly over the years funding has declined and sadly the programme has seen the level of activities it can provide reduce. We want to regenerate the programme for the members and also work with other community groups to gain new members, especially focusing on isolated Bellingham residents. The clubs main focus has always been to provide affordable activities for the over 50's living in and around Bellingham. Our aim with this funding is to get more Bellingham Elderly out of isolation and into our club.

Proposal 2

Organisation – Bellingham Interagency

Project – Bellingham Community Festival 2018

Amount applied for - £1,500

Project Description - The project is to stage a community festival on Bellingham Green on 30th June 2018. The festival is an established part of the community calendar and consists of live entertainment, music, workshops, information stalls, charity stalls and more. The 2018 festival has the potential to be the biggest yet as it will be its 20th Anniversary and also will coincide with the completion or final stages of the Fellowship Inn Project. The purpose of the festival is to promote social cohesion, provide the local community with summer entertainment, showcase local talent and promote local community organisations and initiatives to residents. The festival has run successfully for the past nineteen years, with the 2017 attracting approximately 2,000 residents from Bellingham and the neighbouring areas, and including 49 stalls, 14 live performers and 13 local volunteers on the day. We are again aiming to partner with Youth First, the spin out youth services social enterprise that is now located in Bellingham close to the festival site.

The annual festival is a real focal point for the local community where intergenerational and multi-cultural connections are made and well-being is promoted.

Proposal 3

Organisation - The PYE Project Ltd

Project - 'Double Edge' for schools – Knife Crime Prevention and Awareness Programme

Amount applied for - £1,500

Project description – This is a programme designed to effectively prevent the onset of harmful lifestyle choices for young people involved or considered at risk of becoming involved in knife/weapon carrying & gang activity. It provides essential information as well as support & guidance to develop attitudes and thinking skills to overcome many of the known issues presented by a small but significant number of children & young people in Bellingham & across the Lewisham. Key areas will include knife crime prevention, stop & search, youth crime / gangs. The programme will be an intervention course & support a cohort of up to 15 young people referred by Sedgehill School. Any person aged between 11 and 14, identified as being at risk of becoming involved in knife crime or serious youth violence could be referred. The programme will last six weeks & will be delivered in weekly two hours' sessions. It will provide a safe space for young people to learn together & develop transferable skills & attitudes to support their personal, social & learning needs. Double Edge will enable young people to explore these issues & discuss how they affect their daily lives. It will also assist them in reaching the contemplation stages & encourage desistance from criminal and harmful lifestyles choices. The programme has been previously delivered in partnership with the Lewisham Youth Offending Team supporting 55 young people referred & having a 92.7% success rate.

Proposal 4

Organisation – Christ Church URC, Bellingham

Project – Linking Lives Bellingham (Befriending)

Amount applied for - £1,050

Project description – A large proportion of the Bellingham area is deemed to be at High Risk of loneliness for their older population, this can be viewed in the map provided: <http://data.ageuk.org.uk/loneliness-maps/england-2016/lewisham/> This evidence was taken from the English Longitudinal Study of Aging. We have also become aware of this issue of Loneliness through our work with the Bellingham Community Project (BCP) and their recent survey looking at community needs, a need for befriending and a focus on older people was uncovered. Our work in conjunction with Community Connections has also highlighted the need for befriending especially in Bellingham. We will work with the guidance from The Link Visiting Scheme <http://linkvisiting.org/national-scheme> who will provide training and ongoing support to the project. This organisation works with faith groups to set up and support befriending schemes at different locations nationwide. They are already working with Elim church in Catford, Lewisham and St Saviours in Crofton Park, Lewisham successfully. We have taken advice from St Saviours as well as the representative from the Link Visiting Scheme. Lewisham as a whole currently lacks access to befriending schemes. Prior to April 2015 Volunteer Centre Lewisham and Age UK L & S had funded befriending schemes, now the only large and established organisation providing for the whole borough is Voluntary Services Lewisham. We feel that developing a local befriending project led by Christ Church with support from partners and neighbouring churches (St Augustine's, St Dunstan's), will create a sustainable befriending scheme. Our church is very well placed for this project.

Proposal 5

Organisation – Christ Church URC, Bellingham

Project – Carols on the Green 2017

Amount applied for - £1,000

Project Description - This will be the 14th Annual Community Carols on the Green which is planned to take place on Monday 4th December, 2017, from 4pm and will involve all the primary schools in Bellingham ward.

Proposal 6

Organisation – The Young at Heart

Project – The Young at Heart

Amount applied for - £1,500

Project description - The Young at Heart meeting weekly at Christ Church URC in Bellingham. This group meet to have a hot beverage and bingo. It focuses on older people and helps them socialise within the Bellingham Ward, so helping to reduce instances of loneliness among older residents. It is friendly and convenient for all participants, and this would include vulnerable adults. The participants use Dial-a-Ride to attend the venue, which is designed to cater for wheelchair users. The Young at Heart's members from 60yrs to 90yrs and the vast majority of the members live alone or are in residential care. They would like to celebrate Christmas dinner, which the Bellingham Assembly enabled them to do in 2016, which will include Entertainment, as an outreach to Bellingham's older people

Proposal 7

Organisation – Friends of Sydenham Community Library

Project – Adult Crafts at Sydenham Library

Amount applied for - £965

Project description - Crafters will meet weekly in term time with one of four members of the popup shop group, who make and sell craft items elsewhere in Lewisham, and who can offer tuition in their special skills. They have piloted this approach in late 2017 and it has been well received. The project will be intergenerational and open to all adults of all ages. It will be marketed to people from the local area, including participants graduating from Sydenham Garden's therapeutic crafts group. Crafts can be stimulating and therapeutic, and the concentration on new projects can have positive impact on people's mental wellbeing. Meeting new friends and building networks can also improve people's social connections. The team of teachers can offer a wide variety of skills, including jewellery making, painting and drawing, card making, and working with textiles, and will help participants to develop similar skills. Classes will take place in the library which is a welcoming social space open to all. Sales of work will be held and the classes will be publicised on posters, in social media and by direct contact.

Proposal 8

Organisation – Youth First (Bellingham Gateway Youth Club)

Project – Bellingham Gateway October Holiday Scheme

Amount applied for - £1,500

Project description – The project is an October holiday scheme for young people aged 8-19 up to 25 for SEN in the Bellingham and Catford area, Monday to Friday from 12.30-5.30pm. The club usually only runs a Summer scheme and only provides evening sessions 3 nights a week during holiday times. Due to the demand from parents/carers and young people, we are aiming to run a full time October scheme. The project will provide a safe space with engaging and practical activities, which educate and empower. We also aim to help young people have fun, socialise, take risks, discover their own identities and acquire the life skills and self-confidence needed to live happy and fulfilled adult lives. All activities are suggested and recommended by young people and aim as well as being fun and

engaging, to support young people with their social, emotional and behaviour needs, as well as communication, team work, confidence, self-esteem, healthy eating and healthy lifestyles and peer to peer support.

Proposal 9

Organisation – Moremead Green Community Group

Project – More for Moremead – Neighbourhood Improvements

Amount applied for - £806

Project description - This application would really kick-start an ongoing community project, the limits of which are only the ambitions and dedication of the group of residents driving the change. So far, we have given our time and created positive improvements that cost nothing. Our other ideas need funding to be realised.

We would like to make numerous improvements to our immediate environment through the construction of new landscaping and planting, fencing and murals. The community collaboration so far is energising and inspiring residents, and the physical end results will reduce antisocial behaviours such as littering, flytipping and loitering. The public spaces will be more pleasant for everyone, and a source of community connection and pride.

Proposal 10

Organisation - Moremead Green Community Group

Project - Litter bins in the top of the Waterlink Way Park

Amount applied for - £1,000

Project description - We would like to install three new fox-proof litter bins in the Waterlink Way Park, close to the train bridge. This place lacks bins and is notoriously loitered.

We will replace two bins and install one new bin.

Proposal 11

Organisation – Jasmine Parker in partnership with Bellingham Youth Group

Project – Mural painting in Bellingham

Amount applied for - £800

Project description – This involves painting the railway Riverwalk tunnel with a mural. With the help of Bellingham Youth Group, we will turn tunnel into a bright, colourful public artwork. The mural theme will be nature as it is an entry point to a green space alongside the Bellingham estate and will help limit graffiti. I will run workshops to gather ideas from the youth group. I will then make a cohesive, artistic design from the ideas. We will spend a day practising and then paint the tunnel in the Easter holiday 2018. There will be an onsite launch at the tunnel for the community and stakeholders followed by tea at a local café. In the second part of the project (funded by the arts council – tbc), I will run workshops and oversee the youth group designing a mural for their computer room. They will paint the computer room in May half-term 2018 with a project launch in June. We will invite

members of the Golden Oldies art group to the event, along with stakeholders and key community members.

Proposal 12

Organisation - Kids Kitchen Bellingham – Cooking Together!

Project - Kids Kitchen – Cooking with Kids

Amount applied for – £1,200

Project description - Local resident Aneta wants to deliver fun and relaxed monthly sessions for local children under 5 and their parents or carers in Bellingham, Attendees will make healthy and delicious food using locally sourced ingredients

The Kids Kitchen delivery model is designed to build parents' confidence, skills and understanding of cooking and sustainability issues, help kids to enjoy home made food and provide a social community feel with an adaptable and relaxed activity that supports isolated or nervous parents. Local volunteers are an important part of this model too. Since moving to Bellingham, Aneta ran a series of sessions for local residents at the ABC centre, adapting those sessions to suit the attendees needs and wishes. She needs further funding to deliver these on a more regular basis and develop the community aspects of the sessions.

Proposal 13

Organisation - 8th Lewisham South Scout Group

Project - Circus Workshop Outdoor Activities

Amount applied for – £1,000

Project description - The Beavers, Cubs and Scouts of the 8th Lewisham South Scout group would like to participant in the Circus Skills badge. We would like for our children to achieve this badge through workshops that will teach children to achieve different skills, encouraging them hand and eye co-ordination. Help children through some of their disabilities such as Autism and ADHD. Examples of what the children will be doing is plate spinning, juggling, tight rope walking, these are just but a few. At the end we will present their achievements to parents and guests.

Tobogganing is a fun outside activity which all ages can enjoy and allowing them to get fresh air and make a break from television, i-pads and games consoles.

Proposal 14

Organisation – N/A (local advisory group to be established)

Project – Bellingham Park: Creative Play Park Plan

Amount applied for - £1,500

Project Description - My proposal is to use this investment from the Assembly as a kick-start for a campaign to make Bellingham Play Park a more welcoming, fun, creative and safe place for local people to use and enjoy. I have plans to engage local parents, children and other park users to help raise additional funding and decide how it should be spent on new equipment and repairs.

At a minimum, I hope to raise enough money to:

- Put in new equipment that promotes creative play, particularly as much of the existing gear seems to be past its best (see pictures attached at the end);
- repair holes or replace the surface altogether, to make it safer for small children to run around without tripping over;
- fill in pot holes;
- repair or replace the front gate, which currently swings open;
- As part of the wider campaign we will put in place fox-proof bins to prevent the foxes from scattering rubbish all over the park.

The initial £1500 would allow us to achieve some of these objectives but we aim to raise more money through a local campaign (our goal is £10,000) that would enable us to put in more equipment for toddlers and younger children as the slide and climbing frame are not suitable for their age group. Both Mayow and Blythe Hill parks are a good examples of similar size play parks in the area that cater to a wider age-range for children and have better equipment.

I have been speaking to local parents and we are keen to explore the idea of putting in equipment that promotes un-structured and creative play e.g. sand pits. We have also been in touch with Catford Creative to explore ways we can make links with their work and Lewisham's bid for London Borough of Culture.

Welcome and introductions

Councillors Jacq Paschoud, Alan Hall and Sue Hordjenko welcomed everyone to the Bellingham Assembly.

Lewisham London Borough of Culture – Nancy Stridgen

In the Summer, the Mayor of London made an announcement about a borough of culture competition. The scheme is about using art and culture to make a difference to people's lives. Lewisham already has a good track record for the use of art and culture and we want to build on this. There is a 1.5 million prize for the winner. Winning the competition could also attract additional investment to the borough. People are being asked for their ideas on how to use art and culture to make a difference, what are the issues that need to be addressed and how to celebrate art and culture across the borough. People are also encouraged to think about the hidden arts and culture within their area.

There is a social media campaign which people can tweet using #loveitlewisham or by visiting www.loveitlewisham.co.uk

Results of the Vote

Once again the Bellingham Assembly operated a 'give back scheme' whereby the fully funded projects were given the opportunity to donate some of their award to enable the unsuccessful project to receive some money

As a result of these generous donations Sydenham Community Library will be part-funded the sum of £200.