



WHITEFOOT ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY 12TH JULY 2017

The Green Man, Phoenix Community Housing
355 Bromley Road SE6 2RP

Minutes of the Meeting

Welcome from the Chair and house-keeping – Cllr. Ingleby opened the meeting welcoming all.

Council's Pollarding Policy – Rick Farr, Tree Service Manager – Lewisham Council

Rick explained the reasons behind the council's policy on pollarding. Pollarding is usually done on a scheduled basis and forms part of the council's obligations to keep the roots of large trees in check. There are complex reasons why trees are reduced or pollarded, but such work done by reputable tree surgeons/arborocultural services is not harmful, and usually quite beneficial to the trees.

Pollarding is a method of pruning that keeps trees and shrubs smaller than they would naturally grow. It is normally started once a tree or shrub reaches a certain height, and annual pollarding will restrict the plant to that height. Upper branches of a tree are removed, promoting a dense head of foliage and branches.

One consequence of pollarding is that pollarded trees tend to live longer than unpollarded specimens because they are maintained in a partially juvenile state, and they do not have the weight and windage of the top part of the tree.

Older pollards often become hollow, so can be difficult to age accurately. Pollards tend to grow slowly, with narrower growth rings in the years immediately after cutting.

Pollarding is also often necessary on street trees to prevent electric wires and streetlights being obstructed.

Update on Street Trees – Dom Eliot of the Street Trees for Living Community Group which works across the borough advised the Assembly (via Ali) that they had identified fourteen seemingly suitable locations for planting which now have to be approved by the council's Green Scene department.

The areas identified are centred around Downderry Road which runs almost exactly along the border of Whitefoot and Downham wards. Specifically, twelve locations are on the schools side of Downderry Road alongside their boundaries, and two in Oakshade Road opposite numbers 29 and 31.

If approved, the locations would offer increased impact and benefit as they

- comprise a multiple planting
- are immediately adjacent to two schools so fit well with the air pollution agenda
- allow the choice of large trees, possibly plane, tulip or fastigiata oaks - though this is still under discussion
- are close to a local nature trail so consolidate and expand an existing green feature
- offer visibility and enjoyment to large numbers of residents

So far, Street Trees for Living have not consulted with local residents and schools as none of the sites are immediately adjacent to buildings. However they hope to do so over the next two months. It is important to note that the plans are still subject to approval by Green Scene.

For those wondering what the difference is between Green Scene and Glendale please see below;

The borough has 53 Parks ranging from large metropolitan parks such as Blackheath to small local parks such as Manor Park and Friendly Gardens.

The day to day management of the parks is carried out by the Councils service partner, Glendale Grounds Management under the terms of a 10 year management and maintenance contract that commenced in March 2010. Monitoring of Glendale's performance is undertaken by officers in the Councils Green Scene Service Group

Roles and Responsibilities – Glendale

- Grounds maintenance, including grass cutting, shrub and flower bed maintenance and the care of young trees.
- Cleansing services, including litter and fly tip clearance, bin emptying and graffiti removal.
- Security of sites, including locking/unlocking, park patrols, park keepers and enforcement of bylaws.
- Site safety, including regular inspections of play equipment ,
- Infrastructure repairs and maintenance, including footpaths, fencing, play equipment, bins, benches and sports facilities.
- Event and activities, including bookings and administration.
- Customer liaison, including, service request/complaint handling and customer consultation.

Roles and responsibilities – Green Scene

- Contract management and monitoring, including regular meetings with Glendale, inspection of sites and management systems.
- Approving changes and amendments to the work Glendale carry out.
- Approving events and activities.
- Handling formal complaints

What is not covered within the contract with Glendale?

- Mature trees in parks – Green Scene

- Street Trees – Green Scene
- Nature Conservation sites – Green Scene
- Allotment Service – Green Scene.
- Adventure Playgrounds – Councils Youth Service
- Cycle Paths – Councils Highway's Department
- CCTV- Councils Community Safety Team
- Pathway Lighting - Via Skanska
- Housing grounds infrastructure – Housing provider

Fly-Tipping and Re-use/Recycle Leaflet – Cllr. Ingleby explained the leaflet which has been delivered to every household within the ward and thanked all those who contributed to its production highlighting how Whitefoot is the first ward within the borough to provide such information.

Cllr. Ingleby also advised that the pilot scheme involving a mobile camera is still underway and that in the last couple of weeks the camera has been moved to Haddington Road.

Phoenix Housing's Position on Fly-tipping – Kay Dyett – Kay told the Assembly that any reports relating to fly-tipping on Phoenix estates will be dealt with as soon as possible and that all fly-tips on estates will be removed without question.

On the North Downham Estate six security gates had previously been installed but were redundant as keys had been lost. Moreover, as the gates were not able to be locked they were also very rarely pulled closed. In recent months the locks to the gates have been changed and keys issued to each resident. Kay was pleased to report that those issued with keys were highly vigilant when it came to locking the gates and, as a result, there has been a significant reduction in fly-tipping in this area.

Cameras have also been installed in various 'hot-spots' on Phoenix Estates and any evidence captured will be used to effect prosecution.

In the year 2016-17 802 tonnes of fly-tipping material had been removed by Phoenix Community Housing at a cost of £92,442.

FixMyStreet - Amy Jeffrey, Community Regeneration Team – Phoenix

Community Housing - The focus at this Assembly was Digital Inclusion and helping people to get 'on-line', as such Amy thought it would be a good idea to marry up our efforts in reducing fly-tipping and other street issues with getting on-line and so introduced the FixMyStreet mobile phone App and website.

What is FixMyStreet? – FixMyStreet is a web-based service for reporting all sorts of environmental issues and is particularly useful for reporting fly-tips and getting them cleared. FixMyStreet is not a council website but it does send reports direct to the council. Reports are also published online, so that others in the community can read, discuss, and offer advice where needed.

How Does It Work? - All you have to do is go to the FixMyStreet Website <https://www.fixmystreet.com/> or download the mobile phone app (there's an app for iOS and an Android) then type in a postcode or a place name or let the site locate you automatically by selecting the 'locate me automatically' option. Then simply describe the problem. Check your email inbox for the confirmation mail, click on the link, and job done. Once you click on the link the report is sent by the FixMyStreet team to the council whose job it is to fix the problem.

FixMyStreet covers the whole of the UK. No matter where you are, the only thing you ever have to remember is the web address. <https://www.fixmystreet.com/>

What can I report? - FixMyStreet is primarily for reporting things which are broken, dirty, damaged, or dumped, and need fixing, cleaning or clearing, like graffiti, dog fouling, potholes or street lights that don't work.

Urgent issues: For problems that might put people in immediate danger, like gas leaks or falling trees, contact the council or the appropriate utility company or emergency service directly – by phone if possible.

Non-physical things: For issues such as noise pollution, barking dogs, fires, missing wheelie bins or missed rubbish collections, proposals for speed bumps or pedestrian crossings, or complaining about the council itself, please contact the council directly.

Are reports public? - Yes they are: when you submit your report it is sent to the council, and is also published on the FixMyStreet website. The council will respond directly to you, and from that point on, your correspondence is one-to-one.

For that reason, we suggest you don't include personal details such as addresses and phone numbers until you are in direct communication.

Why are reports public? - Putting your reports online has several benefits. Others can quickly see what has already been reported, so it prevents the council from having to deal with duplicates.

It also creates a snapshot for local communities, so it's easy to see what the common problems are in a given area, and how quickly they get fixed. Other local residents can browse, read and comment on problems – and perhaps even offer a solution.

Why do I have to give my name and an email address? - For a few reasons: firstly, you need to input your email address so that the council can get back to you.

Moreover, in general, when users are asked to provide contact details, the tone of their correspondence tends to be more constructive and less abusive.

Your email address is not published and you can opt to submit your report anonymously – just uncheck the 'show my name publicly' box on submission. This will mean that your name is not displayed on the FixMyStreet website, although it is still sent to the council.

Accounts and alerts

Do I need to register with FixMyStreet to use it? - No – you can send a report without registering. When you submit your report you will be sent you an email with a confirmation link.

If you use FixMyStreet a lot, you can avoid this step by creating an account. Once you've signed in, your reports will be sent as soon as you click 'submit'.

You'll also be able to see all previous reports you've made on one page.

How do I register? - Visit <https://www.fixmystreet.com/auth> and choose 'No, let me sign in by email'. You can choose a password at that point.

I've forgotten my password - Don't worry! Visit <https://www.fixmystreet.com/auth> and choose 'No, let me sign in by email' - then put a new password in the box. You'll receive an email to confirm the change.

I want to change my password or email address - You can do this from your account page.

What are alerts? - FixMyStreet lets you sign up to receive an email every time someone reports a problem in your chosen area – visit <https://www.fixmystreet.com/alert> to see what's available. This is a free service.

I want to stop receiving alerts - There is an unsubscribe link at the end of every alert email – please click on this and you'll be immediately unsubscribed.

Why Get On-Line? – Sara Wickert, Community Development Officer – Sara highlighted the many other advantages to 'getting on-line' in particular it can help you stay in touch with friends and family and help you to be independent and happy 😊

Here's a few ideas for things to do online if you're new to the internet:

Get a free email account. You'll need one to fully access services online. Get yours at any one of the following links:

Gmail: <https://mail.google.com/mail/signup>

Hotmail: <https://signup.live.com>

Yahoo: <https://uk.mail.yahoo.com>

Do it online, access Lewisham Council services. Apply for jobs, parking permits, free school meals, allotments, garden waste collection or a new bin plus much more at <http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/doitonline>

Follow your hobbies. Find Facebook groups and join in the conversation, follow your interests at www.pinterest.com or www.twitter.com or simply use www.google.co.uk and www.wikipedia.com to find out more about the things you love.

Manage your health. Find a GP, book an appointment, search common conditions and treatments and much more at <http://www.nhs.uk>

Connect with friends. Sign up to www.facebook.com to connect with friends and find those you've lost touch with. Make free video and voice calls with www.skype.com

In preparation for this evening's Assembly Sara very kindly set up the Whitefoot and North Downham Community Facebook page.

This group is for residents of Whitefoot and North Downham, London and nearby neighbours.

The aim of the group is to share events, local activities, and to celebrate the Whitefoot and North Downham neighbourhood. We encourage anyone living in South Lewisham to get involved and help us foster a strong sense of community amongst our neighbours.

To join the group and find out what's happening in your area, share local tips, swap skills, swap stuff and so much more please go to www.facebook.com and search for Whitefoot and North Downham Community. Anyone with an interest in our local community is welcome to join.

After the break Sara and Amy facilitated the IT inclusion workshop inviting everyone present to have a go at getting 'on-line'. Computers were set up, enough for everyone to access and one-to-one support provided. Those interested in taking part in the workshops could chose the area they wished to explore.

Amy also suggested participants check out the following websites which help people access the internet;

- **Learn My Way**
- **Go On Lewisham**
- **Digital Unite**

Amy advised that Phoenix Community Housing has signed up as an on-line centre and promoted the weekly 'Digital Drop-In' held at the Green Man every Wednesday. Amy requested that anybody 'tech-savvy' who wished to volunteer at the drop-in would be more than welcome as the group relied on 'IT Buddies' helping those with minimal or no IT knowledge get on-line.

Amy also promoted the 'Techy Tea Parties' also held at the Green Man once per month. These sessions are a bit more festive and an opportunity to not only access the internet but also to simply socialise with others in the group.

Whitefoot and North Downham Residents' Survey – Sara Wickert – Sara

advised that the

Whitefoot Ward Residents' Survey which Sara lead on (results of which have now been published) asked 225 people what they'd like to see happen locally to help our community grow. Top priorities include healthy lifestyles, activities for children and young people, engaging older people, improving our green spaces, creative arts and support for parents and those suffering from addiction, mental health and long term health conditions. The full report is now available to read and can be found by clicking on the following link;

<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/getinvolved/localassemblies/whitefoot/Documents/WhitefootWardCommunityDevelopmentNeedsSurvey%20ResultsSept2017.pdf>

See what residents have to say about our local community

It was agreed at the last meeting of the Assembly Co-group that we would use the findings from Sara's survey to inform the 2017-18 Whitefoot Assembly Fund priorities which are as follows;

- Children, young people and youth work
- Older people and transport
- Creative arts (e.g. participatory art projects like storytelling, theatre etc.)
- Healthy living including fitness, wellbeing and mental health
- Improved parks, play areas and green spaces

Ali agreed to launch the fund week commencing 9th October 2017 with a closing date six weeks later. Please visit the Whitefoot pages of the council website for more information.

<https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/getinvolved/localassemblies/whitefoot/Pages/default.aspx>

Youth Agency Update – Sarah Wickens – Regrettably, Sarah had to send apologies for this meeting. There will be an update on the Youth Agency at the next Assembly.

Forster Memorial Park Update

Results from the extensive community consultation suggests the Section 106 money, as discussed in previous assemblies, should go towards the costs of an outdoor gym, playground equipment and the cafe and toilets, which are close to opening.

The three benches to be funded from the Assembly Fund will soon be in place with the following wording engraved on bronze plaques.

Bench 1: In honour of Lord Henry William Forster

Bench 2: In memory of John Forster

Bench 3: In memory of Alfred Henry Forster

The women in the Forster family will be commemorated too. If anybody has any suggestions on how to do this you can email them to your Assembly Coordinator, Ali Williams at Ali.williams2@lewisham.gov.uk or you can telephone Ali on 020 8314 6293

The Friends of Forster Memorial Park are planning on holding an Autumnal event at Forster park on 29 October, between 1 and 3pm. They hope to be able to celebrate the cafe opening by which time the benches should also be in place. Our local MP, Heidi Alexander, has also be invited to the event.

The Friends hope everyone will be able to join them to celebrate the on-going improvements to the park.

Update on the Regeneration of Beckenham Place Park (BPP)



Plans for the capital works are progressing well.

It was necessary to tender again for landscape and heritage architects to work on the project to carry out detailed design through to completion of the works.

The local architect firm Thomas Ford and Partners, who specialize in heritage buildings, and worked on BPP to prepare the Heritage Lottery Fund Round 2 bid and planning application, have been re-appointed. BDP have been appointed as landscape architects.

The new designers are working well finalising designs before the Regeneration team tender for the works contracts.

Some scrub and tree removal will be necessary in the autumn as preparatory works for the wider regeneration, and to restore the historic parkland feel of the landscape. The new trees which have already been planted (11,000 woodland trees and 25 large

parkland trees) are all doing very well. Further parkland trees and an orchard will also be planted as part of the regeneration works.

The works will begin in the spring 2018 and will take place over 12 – 15 months.

Progress on the eastern side of the park has unfortunately fallen behind the western side. This is because this part of the park will be part of the Environment Agency's flood alleviation scheme, protecting Catford and Lewisham town centres from fluvial flooding. This is a complex programme involving 10 interdependent sites. A planning application detailing the whole flood scheme, as well as the works in the park will be submitted by the Environment Agency in November 2017. It is hoped that works on this side of the park will start in summer/ autumn 2018.

The BMX track was delayed in planning, and has had several planning conditions to satisfy since the application was approved in May 2017. The track will be completed by end of September 2017. The project team apologise for the delay with this.

British Cycling and Access Sport have been busy carrying out schools work with Sedgehill School and Coninsborough College, encouraging pupils to cycle, and particularly getting girls who have never cycled before on bikes. This programme is in association with the BMX track and has been highly successful. Schools work will continue in the autumn and a new BMX club will be established at the track.

Since the closure of the golf course the park has become much busier, and we are now seeing more children and families accessing the space.

There are several weekly activities in the park now which are:

Tai chi, bootcamp and little explorers (preschool nature group). School visits have increased, and a drone club has also visited the park.

The mansion short term tenancy is also bringing life to the park with artists' studios, a yoga and Pilate's studio, and KHY sewing and Splattermake art and theatre.

The project manager has recently applied for a premises license for the park to allow regulated entertainment to take place in the park (music and other performances, cinema). This will allow occasional events to take place in the park, (of up to 5000 people) to help draw new audiences in. All events will be properly planned with event management plans, noise constraints etc.

Why not schedule a visit to see the improvements to the park for yourself;

Beckenham Place Park, Beckenham Hill Rd, Beckenham BR3 1UH

Alternatively, visit the Lewisham Council website at www.lewisham.gov.uk to sign up for regular updates on the park.

Once on the Council website, click on the 'My Services' tab at the top of the page, then click on the letter 'R' then scroll down and click on the word 'Regeneration'.

Now click on 'Improvements to Parks' and then select 'Beckenham Place Park. Now click on the button which says 'sign up to get regular updates about the plans for Beckenham Place Park'.

Changes to Waste Collections – Cllr. Slater explained the recent changes to the Borough's waste collections as follows;

Starting in October, most households will have a new food waste collection service and fortnightly black rubbish bin collections.

Free weekly food waste collections

In October the council will be introducing free weekly food waste collections for people who live in a house or a flat in a converted house.

Fortnightly black bin collections

From October the council will empty the black bins every two weeks. Your black bin is for rubbish that can't be recycled in your green bin or food waste bin.

Collection day

The council will collect your black rubbish bin, green recycling bin and silver food waste bin on the same day. If you subscribe to the garden waste service, we will also collect this on the same day.

Who is affected by the changes?

- If you have your own rubbish and recycling wheelie bins (mostly people who live in a house, or a flat in a converted house), you will get the new food waste service and your black bin collections will change to fortnightly.
- There will be no change for blocks of flats that use communal bins
- Some properties on red routes will still get a weekly rubbish collection.

Community Safety – Regrettably the Whitefoot Police Safer Neighbourhood Team also had to send apologies for this meeting.

Selvin Reid advised in relation to staying safe while using the internet, most high-street banks currently hold presentations on how to stay safe on-line. For more information visit your local bank. Selvin also advised he has a booklet produced by the Metropolitan Police called 'The Little Book of Big Scams' which he was happy to forward to anyone should they want a copy.

Please contact Selvin at Selvin.Reid@lewisham.gov.uk if you would like a copy or call Selvin on 020 8314 6480

Cllr. Jonathan Slater also alerted the Assembly to bogus emails suggesting that if you look at the sender's email address, although it may look genuine at first glance, if it's a bogus email and you look closely at the address you will notice something is not quite right.

Whatever you do, if you are not sure about the address do not open the email or click on any links until you can get further advice.

Cllr. Janet Daby added that there was now more 'white-collar' crime which includes on-line fraud than any other crime.

Amy Jeffrey reiterated that anyone wanting to know how to keep safe on-line could also drop in to the weekly Wednesday IT Drop-In at the Green Man.

Community Announcements – Janet Hurst asked everyone interested in nature and keeping it clean and green to join her and others on the last Sunday of each month to help clean up the woodland walk.

The group meets at 3pm and the next meet will be on the 30th July 2017. The group don't usually meet in August. For more information please check the Whitefoot and North Downham Community Facebook page www.facebook.com 😊

Mixed Tape – Family Fest. At GCC this weekend – Sara promoted the Mixed Tape Family Festival to be held at Goldsmith's community Centre Castillon Road SE6 1QD this Sunday 16th July 2017 from noon to 6pm.



- Great Food - Jamaican patties, delicious noodles, home-made lemonade and more on sale, money raised will go to some fab local charities.
- Great Music - a mixture of bands performing throughout the day including an open mic session from 5pm-6pm
- Great Artwork - create your own dot art painting, take part in community art installation and more.
- Great Energy - we'll have activities for you to try out including yoga, acupuncture and mindfulness. Try out some ways to take care of you.

Sara thanked the Whitefoot assembly for their generous donation which made the Mix Tape Festival Possible.

David Andrews – R.I.P. - Last but by no measure least Cllr. Ingleby informed the Assembly of the very sad news regarding the passing of a much valued and respected member of the Whitefoot Assembly Coordinating Group and local resident Mr. David Andrews.

David passed away at the end of May and his funeral took place on the 23rd June 2017. Those that knew David will not be surprised to learn that his funeral was packed out.

David had been a member of the Whitefoot Assembly Coordinating group since the inception of the Assembly programme back in 2008. David attended pretty much every meeting without exception and contributed greatly in helping to shape the Assembly agenda ensuring the Assembly was representative of the Whitefoot ward. David had lived in Whitefoot for much of his life and subsequently was an expert on the local area. In addition to all that, David was a warm and generous soul, always willing to help pack up at the end of our meetings and indeed, more often than not, would insist on doing the washing up.

Although unable to attend David's funeral Ali was able to organise a wreath on behalf of the Assembly to say a heartfelt goodbye and thank you to David.

Ali also advised that an Apple tree will be planted at Goldsmith's Community Centre in memory of David. He is sorely missed.

Date and Time of Next Meeting – The next Whitefoot Assembly is scheduled to take place on Tuesday 28th November 2017 at Goldsmith's Community Centre, Castillon Road SE6 1QD from 7-9pm. This Assembly will announce the successful bids for 2017-18 Assembly Funds.

We look forward to seeing you all there.

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

Ali also gave a brief overview of the role of the Coordinating Group which is to plan assembly meetings. 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.

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

Ali.williams2@lewisham.gov.uk or Tel: 020 8314 6293 or Mobile: 07834 145 007.

Meeting Close – Cllr. Ingleby closed the meeting and thanked everybody for attending and for their invaluable input.

