

**RUSHEY GREEN ASSEMBLY
MEETING**
Wednesday 13 March 2019 7pm – 9pm
Council Chambers
Civic Suite, London SE6

Record of Meeting

	Items	Actions
1	Welcome, Introduction & Format of meeting	
	<p>Cllr Louise Krupski welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the agenda.</p>	
2	Environment & Waste Consultation	
	<p>Waste & Recycling An officer from the Council's Waste and Recycling services updated the meeting on domestic waste and recycling in Lewisham. Since the food and fortnight collection services was introduced in October 2017 the amount of household waste for recycling and composting has increased greatly and the team has also noted an increase in the target that was set for 2018/19. The Council is now aiming to set a new challenge for the coming year. In December 2016, Lewisham sent approximately 17.5% of its household waste for recycling and composting. By December 2018 the figure rose to 29%. Household waste sent to incinerator decrease from 81% down to 73% and waste sent to landfill also reduced from 0.85% to 0.18%. Special thanks was expressed to all those who helped the Council achieve these targets.</p> <p>Over the coming months, the team are working towards the roll-out of the next phase of the food and fortnightly collection service to residents on red routes. On successful implementation of this phase, there are further plans to roll out an additional 2-3 more phases.</p> <p>Flytipping The meeting was briefed about the step the council is taking to reduce flytipping in the borough. From April 2018 to December 2018 the council received 2,735 reports of flytipping and it cost £341,094 to dispose of these waste. Around 251 waste related fix penalty notices which amount to a value of £67,950 has been issued. Around 60% of flytips is found to be from household waste. One of the purposes of the consultation is to try and identify barriers to disposal of waste and use those information to try and tackle issue of flytipping across the borough.</p> <p>Contamination / Waste Consultation Contamination was said to be a really costly issue for the council. This occurs where items that cannot be recycled are placed in the recycling bin. The council pays a further disposal cost for these</p>	

	<p>items. A 4 stage process is applied to address issues of contamination as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage 1 - an educational letter is sent to residents to remind them of what they can and cannot recycle • Stage 2 - a more formal letter is sent where the first stage has not worked • Stage 3 - final warning letter is sent • Stage 4 – the removal of bin and provision of recycling bags <p>Since August 2018, the council have issues over a thousand letter to residents across the borough educating them about what they can and can't recycle. The meeting was informed of a consultation on recycling and waste management run by the council in line with the mayor's vision in his manifesto to identify barriers to recycling. The consultation will run from 18th February to April 8th 2019. Residents will be asked to complete the survey online or paper questionnaire with details of what they know about waste and recycling in the borough. As an incentive, there would be five chances to win a £50 Amazon voucher from randomly selected names.</p>	
3	Update on Crime Statistics	
	<p>Gary Connors from the Council Crime and Enforcement Regulatory Team provided a brief explanation of partnership work between his team and other statutory partners to tackle crime and various forms of address various antisocial behaviour across Rushey Green ward. The team covers issues such as antisocial behaviour, trading standards and noise nuisance. On the issue of street drinking which was highlighted as a major problem in Rushey Green, this was said to be driven by the availability of alcohol in the area. Officers from the team conducts regular checks at licenced premises ensuring that businesses adherent to the conditions of their licence. The team has also ensures that any new licence coming to the area comply with the regulation of the quantity of alcohol that can be sold to an individual.</p> <p>The introduction of the public space protection order enforced across the borough which gives police and council officers powers to deal with alcohol related antisocial behaviour promptly. The management and control of CCTV also comes under this team. There is CCTV coverage of the Rushey Green Town Centre, main street area and the surrounding area near the Broadway Theatre. It is hoped that the proposal for any regeneration plans will bring forth opportunities for the provision of additional CCTV for the area.</p> <p>On antisocial behaviour and drug dealing, the council has done a letter drop to businesses in the area. A specific email address has been set up for which people can use submit / report incidents of crime and antisocial behaviour in their area. Gary mentioned a recent piece of work with a company called 'London Resilient Centre' which is aimed at supporting and providing advice to small and medium size businesses in Catford and Rushey on cyber security fraud. Representatives from the company will be holding drop in</p>	

surgery and paying a visit to local businesses in the coming weeks.

For a number of years the team have been working with multi agency to address some of the begging issues on the streets within and in the surrounding streets near the Town Centre. Officers have signposted beggars to support and outreach services such as 999 club and other homeless charities where they could receive help.

Road side and pavement parking around Rushey Green particularly on Saturday night were highlighted as an issue. Licensing officers from the council pay regular visits to business premises in the area as part of measures to address this issue. There council is also looking into the installation of extra CCTV camera to identify people parking in restricted areas.

Priorities

- A multi-agency priorities for the area are reviewed annually with colleagues from public health.
- A recent crime statistic conducted borough wide shows the main areas of crime that people are worried about were knife crime, burglary, robbery, drug and alcohol related crime and gang related violence.
- When asked specifically about antisocial behaviour, people were most worried about drug and alcohol related crime, begging harassment and noise nuisance.

Police Update

- Greenwich, Bexley and Lewisham are now combined under one command unit called partnership and prevention team
- The new approach was driven by cuts in funding and resourcing which are designed to get the best out of current resources
- The team main aim is to focus more on long term problem solving to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and bring down demand
- The team are co-located within the council working with local authority colleagues in hot spot and areas with entrenched problems.
- Some good news from this is that the area the team have chosen to focus on within Lewisham is Rushey Green. The reasoning behind choosing Rushey as a focus was explained
- Rushey Green has a transit population of around 250,000 people coming through ward on a daily basis. There is the need to ensure it is a safe place for all.
- The result of a survey conducted with resident back in November was explained. People were asked to identify issues in their local area, where these issues are occurring and why they occur
- Around 11% of people said they didn't feel safe. Many complained about problem with burglary, open drug taking and drug dealing, theft, street drinking, robbery, theft from shops and loitering happening in their community
- Some facts and figures on how the ward is graded on the borough crime rating were provided. Around 1,297 crime was reported in Rushey Green last year and is listed 25th crime hot spot area out of 57 clustered wards in 2018.
- Regular patrol are conducted by the police and enforcement

	<p>officer including intelligent led police actions to address problem in the area.</p> <p>A session of question and answer followed this update.</p>	
4	Update on Assembly Fund	
	<p>The chair provided an explanation of how the remaining Assembly underspent was allocated. Some of the bids presented to the assembly last year which were also looked at by the coordinating group and councillors did not come to fruition. This left the Assembly with an unallocated fund of £9,009 which was later agreed as Councillor's Discretionary Fund. Community groups in the area were approached and asked to resubmit new bids. The good news is that some of the bids resubmitted were approved and funding was allocated as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Catford Fridge – awarded £1,500 for the installation of a fridge at the Irish Centre for people to be able to take food from the Food bank. 2) Rushey Green Time Bank – Food Cycle - £2,003 3) Holbeach Sensory Garden - £1,500 4) Local Volunteer Scheme, Lewisham Irish Centre £1,500 	
5	Bakerloo Line Extension update	
	<p>This is a proposal that is currently in the Mayor of London Transport Strategy to extend the Bakerloo Line to Lewisham. The idea is that the tube which currently terminates at Elephant and Castle would be extended along the Old Kent Road to Newcross Gate and into Lewisham Station. Two new station will also be created along the Old Kent Road.</p> <p>A map showing train journey with proposed stops was shown to the meeting. The potential route will begin at Waterloo Station through Lewisham and terminating at Hayes in Bromley. The route will extended into Catford to Ladywell and Lower Sydenham. In order to promote the scheme and ensure that it is given a priority, Transport for London have consulted on the scheme in the last few year and the overall feedback they got from people in Lewisham shows there is an overwhelming support for the scheme by local people. The council official position on this is that they will welcomed this because of the benefit it will bring to the borough.</p> <p>Local and wider benefit of the scheme</p> <p>As a borough Lewisham is highly dependent on National Rail. There is very little resilience to the frequency of the train. If the new tube line is extended into Lewisham, commuters will get train every 2 minutes, thus transforming the train experience in the borough.</p>	

New Homes - Other benefits will see the new line as a step towards the facilitation for the provision of new homes in the borough. This is highly likely should the scheme go ahead as developers becomes aware of planned railway infrastructure schemes, this makes a business case for building homes much more robust.

Job Opportunities – Where there is confidence in an area, employers like to invest and create jobs. In areas like Lewisham and Catford, there is a belief that this investment will make it even more realistic to build homes and in particular the genuinely affordable homes that is needed in the borough thus creating more job opportunity in the construction field.

Reduce air pollution and improve air quality – The divide between the north and south of the borough in terms of transport facility was highlighted, where public transport in the south is not as good as facility in the north. If the Mayor of London is to achieve its target for getting people away from their cars using more sustainable mode of transport there needs to be an improved transport infrastructure investment for the area. The extension of the tube to these areas would be a bonus.

Other benefit – The Bakerloo Line extension will mean Lewisham will be on the tube system for the first time which will enhance perception and image of the borough.

Transport benefit – The Bakerloo Line extension will be the only line that interchanges with every other tube line in London. If this is extended it is anticipated that this will increase the frequency of trains and reduce congestion at other interchange such as the Jubilee Line at Canada Water. The BLE proposal includes a planned upgrade. The current facility has not been invested in over the last 40 years and runs on 22 trains per hour. An upgrade to the tube line if approved, will deliver around 25% more capacity with more new train, potentially with frequency increased from 22 to 36 trains per hour.

Benefit of extending the line to the South - TFL are looking for opportunities where there are lands to park the trains. This will create more opportunity for stabilising more trains in the south facilitating greater train frequency. Extension of the tube line could also see the BLE run close to some of the wards in the Borough which suffer from high levels of deprivation. Respective local authorities will ensure that people have access to the opportunities that the extension could bring to the area. Planners are currently engaging in a masterplanning process around Newcross Gate, the first station that the tube will come into in Lewisham. An artist impression of what the new station could look like and where it will be situated was presented to the meeting.

Lewisham Station has been stated in the Mayor of London Transport

	<p>Strategy as one of a number of key strategic interchanges in London. So there needs to be a fundamental look at improvements to Lewisham Station. An artist impression of a plan which the Council commissioned with TFL and Network Rail was presented to the meeting.</p> <p>Proposed Timeline for the extension</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation with the public is expected to take place in Summer / Autumn 2019 • A Transport and works order will be submitted in 2021 and a decision expected by 2022 • Construction is envisaged to start in 2023 with an estimated date of completion of 2029. <p>A question and answer session followed this presentation</p>	
6	Mayor's Question Time	
	<p>The Mayor of Lewisham Damian Egan was introduced to the meeting. A brief update on some of the challenges the council is currently facing were explained. Finance was highlighted as one of the huge pressure for the council along with the level of cuts to its budget from 2010. Council budget was £400m back in 2010 but has been reduced over the years to £230m. The government wants this reduced by another £30m. There is also a reduction in funding to Public Health from £28m to £19m. There are 40 schools in the borough with a deficit.</p> <p>A second challenge for the council was said to be in relation to people power. Back in 2010, around 4,000 people were employed by the council, providing vital services, this has been reduced to just over 2,000.</p> <p>A third challenge is around culture change, to ensure that the new direction and the vision set out by the current administration is delivered across the council. On Monday, mayor held a conference with over 100 managers in attendance where they were briefed on the priorities for the council and the political priorities on which the Mayor & Councillors were elected on which they have to deliver on.</p> <p>A key issue for the council in meeting the needs of around 10,000 families on the housing waiting list remains a top priority for the mayor. The council has 2,000 families in temporary accommodations and a further 600 families placed in emergency hostels and bed and breakfast. Works has already begun to identify sites across the borough where social housing can be built. There is a commitment in the manifesto to build 1000 new social homes. Various options are being considered in meeting this target including buying homes off the market and competing against private landlords, to provide</p>	

housing for homeless families. The main challenge in progressing this initiative is getting the staff to project manage all of this commitments. As a result the council has submitted a bid to the GLA for £750,000 to recruit people who can help project manage this ambitious project.

On education, the Mayor explained that Lewisham has amongst the best early years in the country and is ranked amongst the best in London in primary school education. However, this is not replicated in secondary education. Things are now beginning to change with some good results emerging which has lifted Lewisham off the bottom of school performance indices. The Mayor encouraged anyone searching for secondary for their children and grandchildren to consider schools in Lewisham first.

Finally, the mayor talks about Brexit and the impact that this has in the community and the growing division it causes. With over 170 languages spoken in the borough, Lewisham was said to be a place that welcomes people from different background and often celebrate this diversity. However, as hate crime increases across the country, Lewisham is not immune from this and remain a value that the council has to fight for. Lewisham is one of the borough which took in refugee Family and is committed to continue as a sanctuary borough for refugees and migrant and asylum seekers.

Question time

1. Has any assessment been made on the introduction of the 20 mph speed limit? Most vehicles passing along Ravensbourne Park are clearly breaking this limit and the automatic radar warning device close to the junction with Westdown Road has been out of order for some months

Mayor's Response: A commission report on the 20mph has been submitted to Mayor and Cabinet to look at the effectiveness of the speed limit control. Result shows there has been a small reduction in speed across the borough. However, the average speed recorded are not under 20mph and this is where more needs to be done. Community Road Watch Scheme was cited as a useful tool in addressing some of this issue. Mayor would like to see more enforcement to make the scheme more effective and continues to work with the police and council enforcement team to consider other options.

2. Given that government cuts have led to the cancellation of People's Day in 2019 and also further pressure on the council budget. Has the council considered revising the Mayor's salary, something most other council don't have to fund?

Mayor's Response: The council has talked through the impact that austerity has on its budget. One of the proposal agreed was to reduce the occurrence of People's Day. People's Day will be returning in 2020. To keep the programme running and sustainable for the time being it has been reduced to once every 2 years. There is an independence person that works across London council to

reviews salaries and the Mayor's salary has been frozen for 10 years. Councillor's salaries has gone up by 2% which is in line with inflation. The cost of Mayor and Cabinet in Lewisham in comparison to other London borough shows Lewisham as one of the lowest.

3. The floor space in newly built homes are too small which estate agents described as legally uninhabitable bedrooms. There are also building causing severe overshadowing. What measure can the mayor take to stop this happening?

Mayor's Response: Any new build from around 2015 onward has to meet a tougher space standard. These building will be more environmentally friendly, and bigger. Although some councils have allowed smaller new build properties, this is not something that Lewisham supports. For example, In the first week of this administration coming into power, the sale of the Saville Centre to Pocket Homes, a private property developer specialising in very small homes was cancelled. A main challenge for the council has been around the changes to government legislation a number of years ago to "Committed Development". This means that if a business owner decides to change the use of an office block or shops into multiple residential there is very little that the council can do to stop the conversion going ahead. The problem with this is that there are no space standard attached to this type of conversion and there is no requirement on the developer to provide affordable housing. All the London council are planning a campaign asking for a change to the current regulation granted to permitted developer.

4. What is happening about a cinema in Catford?

Mayor's Response: A Cinema is opening in late July. Work is planned to begin on Monday and is estimated to finish by the end of July 2019. The venue will take a capacity of 205 seats.

5. Why does the area struggle to upgrade shops?

Mayor's Response: The council has been doing extensive work with local businesses to bring and open new businesses in the area. As part of the wider regeneration of Catford, people wants to see a mixture of local business. One of the great thing about the borough is that there are lots of small independent traders and this is something the council wants to protect and keep and encourage more people to come in. It is hoped that the regeneration of Catford will bring forth more opportunities to boost this. The benefit that the Bakerloo Line extension could bring to the borough was also mentioned as an added bonus.

6. Following the review to grants to charities, is there any analysis of the type of projects that did not receive continuing support? Is there any evidence that long standing grant receiving projects were rejected in favour of newer projects run by "bright young people" as has been suggested in some quarters?

Mayor's Response: Every year the council gives out grants to community and voluntary sectors, something that the council values.

This year around £2.4m was given out to community and voluntary groups from around the borough. A review is conducted every 3 years to check how those organisation are performing. The total bids received was almost £6m against £2.4m available fund. Clearly not every organisation can be funded. All the organisation funded are spread across the borough and have established long working relationship with the council. There are some new organisation that were also funded to deliver some of the new emerging issues in the borough, which was seen as a good thing. The council will be analysing who got funding and also working with those organisation who did not get funded to explain the reasons they were not successful in their bid and to offer help with bidding in the future.

7. Is Lewisham borough involved in the wild life nature friendly schools scheme as part of the government 25 years environmental plan supported by DEFRA? If so where and how can people get involved and find out more?

Mayor's Response: The mayor could not respond to this question but promised to find out and send a response.

8. What can be done to improve the terrible street lighting recently replaced in George Lane? The main issues is that shorter lamppost had been replaced with a much taller posts and these provide inadequate lighting especially when the trees are fully grown.

Mayor's Response: The advice is for people to report any issues concerning street lighting using the numbers provided on the lamppost. The light bulb can be changed to brighter once where this is required. People can also make a report to their local councillors who will take the matter up on their behalf.

9. Why is the council destroying threes in parks and green spaces in the borough, declaring a climate emergency? Beckenham Place Park cited as an example.

Mayor's Response: Beckenham Place Park is a major investment for the council. More trees have been replaced in this park in order to make it a more pleasant place fort locals. There is a golf course on site and it is see as a family park and the mayor hopes to retain that. There is considerable funding already invested in the park which has led to a greater support from many organisations as well as from the Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority (GLA). For the summer a wild swimming Lake will be opened to the public due to popular demand. Lewisham is a green borough for which the mayor is proud of. The borough recently won an award for the best park in London. The biggest thing that people can do to improve air quality is by reducing the number of car journey that are made in the borough. This is why supporting a scheme like the Bakerloo Line and partnership with TFL to ensure and promote buses running on green energy is important. Getting people to cycle more to support the borough cycle infrastructure is vital. Working with local schools to bid for funding from the GLA to install green screens around schools was said to be equally important. There are further proposals to

	<p>change the current CPZ charging so that charges are set according to the level of vehicle emission.</p> <p>10. When can we expect a more visible police presence on our streets?</p> <p>Mayor's Response: Mayor has meets with the borough commander and will raise the perceive issues around the lack of police in the community. There has been around £1billion of cuts by the current government to police budget since 2010, which has led to fewer police. Inner London authority such as Lewisham has been hit hard by the austerity. It is essential that local government is given more funding so that services are provided properly and to ensure more police visibility in the community.</p> <p>The mayor was thanked for his attendance.</p>	
7	Community updates and any other business	
	<p>Lewisham Pensioners Forum The chair of the forum informed the meeting about an annual event, a gathering for the elderly from across the country to discuss and receive information about things that affects them. From the end of March the Forum will be signing new members. A digital drop-in is offered at St Mauritius House.</p> <p>ULEZ Zone A reminder by the chair about the introduction of the Ultra-Low Emission Zone which is due to begin in the current congestion charge zone on the 8th of April. People need to check that their vehicle is worthy of entering the zone and if not be prepared to pay the £12.50 daily charge. The restriction operates 24 hours. The fine for non-payment is £160.</p> <p>The chair thanked everyone in attendance and brought the meeting to a close.</p>	
8	Declaration of interest	
	There were no interest declared at this meeting.	