

MINUTES OF THE LEE GREEN ASSEMBLY

Held Virtual on Tuesday, 23 November 2021 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors Jim Mallory, James Rathbone & Octavia Holland

Also present: Sakthi Suriyaprakasam (LBL) Adeyinka Joseph (LBL)

Apologies for absence were received from - Lee Green Police Safer Neighbourhood Team

	Items	Actions
1	Welcome, Introduction & Format of meeting	
	Cllr Jim Mallory welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the agenda.	
2	Lee Green Police Safer Neighbourhood Team Update	
	<p>Due to Covid outbreak, officers gave their apology for this meeting but provided a short report read out by the chair as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team have done a lot of engagement with residents regarding shed burglaries. Local officers have paid visits to all burglary victims personally and conducted cocooning where leaflets are distributed to residents in the vicinity to let them know there has been a burglary in the area. • Numerous Community Protection Warnings and Notices have been issued to local beggars causing ongoing nuisance within the ward. This has worked really well and resulted in positive results. • Officers were involved in Op Sceptre last week with some brilliant results leading to numerous positive stop and searches, immediate response calls attended and local weapons sweep conducted. One weapon sweep being in Manor House Gardens. • The team have been targeting wanted offenders and have had some good arrests, mitigating risk on the local ward. • Targeted patrol conducted by officers in robbery hotspots and violence known areas. This has resulted in stop and searches and some positive engagement. • The team has issued warning notices to local shop lifters who are targeting local businesses. • Officers from the team attended Mental Health Assessments with medical professionals, ensuring that individuals 	

	<p>experiencing mental illness are in a place of safety and receiving the care they need.</p> <p>Questions and comments was invited by the chair on the update read out.</p> <p>A resident expressed disappointment for the absence of police officers at the meeting. They reported an ongoing antisocial behaviour incidents caused by some school children kicking and busting front door open in the area. This was said to be related to a Tik-Tok challenge. The matter was reported to police and the officers has been in touch with the school involved and the affected residents.</p> <p>Cllr Holland also reported that she had been made aware of this incidents and had contacted the affected residents. She promised to contact the police and the school again.</p>	
3	Update on Leegate Redevelopment	
	<p>A presentation was given by representatives from Galliard Homes who provided some background information about the developer, their projects countrywide, proposed design plan for Leegate and pre-planning consultation they started in early November.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The site was acquired towards the end of 2020 • Meeting has been had with representatives from the local authority, community /amenities groups and businesses on site on a number of occasion • Around 227 people attended the pre-planning consultation sessions held last Thursday & Saturday. • The deadline for community comments is by 30th November • It is estimated that works on the site will begin from 2023 following the approval of planning application by the council. <p>A question and answer session followed this presentation.</p>	
4	Updates from Local Groups	
	<p>Update from Lee Forum</p> <p>A presentation was given by a representative from Lee Forum as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A brief overview of the areas covered by the Forum were explained • This group is a community interest company run by local volunteers to promote and improve the social, economic and environmental well-being of the designated neighbourhood. • The forum has powers designated by the Localism Act of 2010 	

of which one of those is through the production of a Neighbourhood Plan to support and protect local traders, community facilities and heritage.

- The plan has a life span of 5 years and is designated by the council (Lewisham & Greenwich Council). Each time the community has to be consulted on the plan and has to follow certain steps to do this.
- An explanation was provided on how the Neighbourhood plan fits in with the national planning policy, the London plan and the local plan
- The Neighbourhood plan once adopted by both council will give community direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and shape the development and growth of the designated local area

Benefits of neighbourhood plan were described as follows:

- The plan contains policies which can be used to influence a new building designs or an alteration to an existing building
- It can protect areas from having too many one type of business in an area
- It can protect or propose the creation of open spaces and important historic assets
- It enables local community to retain more of the money collected from development in their area to spend on local projects
- It gives residents more say and control over their community
- It allows the community to have a say by influencing developers on what they build in the area by ensuring the proposal meets the need in the community (such ensuring there is greater number of affordable houses in the development)
- The plan can state where and what type of development should happen

Further explanation was provided on the guidance around what a neighbourhood plan can or cannot be. It was said that the plan does not carry the same legal weight as a planning policy but can be included for recommendation of projects. Collaborations works with other community groups were highlighted. A draft plan has been drawn up and awaiting submission to Lewisham and Greenwich Council. The council will be sending out letters about the forthcoming consultation on the plan to household in the

	designated area in January. A draft of the plan can be found on the Forum website – www.leeforum.org.uk or email the group at info@leeforum.org.uk	
5	Cllr's Discretionary fund Update	
	<p>The meeting received information about an underspent from 2020-21 Cllr's Discretionary Fund. An amount of £1,124.30 has been carried over to current financial year which is held in Lee green Lives account as custodian of the fund. There is still opportunity for local group to bid for a share of the remaining amount to support local projects which fits within the assembly priorities and delivering on community cohesion.</p> <p>A breakdown of how the £2,500 Cllr's Discretionary fund was allocated back in 2020/21 were detailed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends and Users of Staplehurst Shops (FUSS) - £700 towards a bench planter on Staplehurst road • Lee Fair Share (LFS) - £289.70 Covid recovery photo exhibition at Manor house library • Lee Forum (LF) - £386 for street trees 	
6	Proposed changes to Assembly meeting & Future Opportunities	
	<p>A brief overview of the Assembly programme was provided by council officer. Assembly was said to be a key way by which the council consults and engages with residents and communities. The council is now conducting a review of how assemblies are run. This review was highlighted in the Democracy Review carried out in 2018 which found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some assembly meeting were not consistent in the way they were operating across the different wards, there were different levels of engagements and different levels of representation. • Assembly are meeting led engagement and tend to engage people who were already democratically engaged. • That assembly in its current status don't reach out to seldom heard communities, some BAME communities and some of the borough vulnerable residents. <p>As a result a SWOT analysis was conducted recently to specially look into the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats of the programme in its current state. Some of the findings from the analysis are listed below:</p> <p><u>Strengths</u></p> <p>Findings shows a number of key strengths in that in every ward, there is an opportunity for councillors and council officers to engage with residents through the meetings held on a regular basis. This allows a structure where officers are able to share information and</p>	

	<p>residents to feedback some of their issues and concerns to the council.</p> <p><u>Weaknesses</u></p> <p>One of the weakness found in the current approach views the current process as top down in many areas. Feedbacks were expressed by many residents in some areas during the Democracy Review that it feels like the council telling them what has already been decided or inviting comments not necessarily feeding back but rather on what has happened.</p> <p>Another weakness identified was around issues of representation. A number of issues were raised about whether the people attending meetings are a true representation of the population of the each ward that the assembly is held in.</p> <p>Further explanation was given on how the council has tried to address the weakness identified in the report. This includes looking at successful engagement model that worked in other part of the country as well as good examples of local engagement in Lewisham such as Sydenham Fund Palace, some of the work delivered in Lee Green and collaborative work done with the Primary Care Team to address issues around lack of vaccine take up in some areas.</p> <p><u>Key things the council is looking to change going forward</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular ongoing engagement with continuous feedback through assembly meeting • Local leaderships – through the creation of local community network made up of residents and organisations leading future meeting • The council’s future role within the new process would be to connect and facilitate rather than leading and informing • The consultation function that the assembly were first set up to deliver were seen as still very important, and what is being recommended is for this function to continue by having a mix of 2 virtual and 2 face to face meeting that are community led. Officers’ role will be to connect people and not to lead the delivery of the meeting. • Aim to use more innovative hybrid technology / apps to facilitate small group discussion to engage wider range of people than those we would engage by just having meetings. <p><u>Timeline</u></p> <p>The proposed changes will come into effect after the May election.</p> <p>A question and answer sessions followed this update inviting thoughts and reflections from participants.</p>	
7.	Community updates and any other business	
	<p><u>Assembly meeting</u></p> <p>It was announced that the next Lee Green Assembly will take place on Tuesday 18th January 2022, online via Teams at 7pm. Key items</p>	

	will includes update on the Low Traffic Neighbourhood programme and presentation of the ward NCIL recommendations.	
8.	Declaration of interest	
	There were no interest declared at this meeting.	
9.	Thanks & Close	
	The chair thanked everyone in attendance and brought the meeting to a close.	