



**LEWISHAM CENTRAL LOCAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING**

Tuesday 1 February 2022 7pm – 9pm

Meeting held online via Teams

Present: Councillors Patrick Codd, Aisling Gallagher

Also Present: James Lee, Adeyinka Joseph

Apologies: No apologies received

Record of Meeting

	Items	Actions
1	Welcome, Introduction & Format of meeting	
	Cllr Patrick Codd welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the agenda.	
2	Mayor of Lewisham presentation	
	<p>A presentation was given by the Mayor of Lewisham, Damien Egan who expressed his thanks to all the residents who volunteered during the peak of the Covid 19 pandemic to support their neighbours and family members. In his presentation, the Mayor sets out his priorities for the coming years, highlighted some of the challenges faced by the council in its delivery of services to support the most vulnerable in the community, puts into context what is happening in local government generally and cited some examples of how the council has made a difference across all locality.</p> <p>An explanation on the state of the budgets over the past ten years and the difficult decisions that councillors has to make to balance the books was given. In real term, Lewisham budget has dropped from 2010 till date from £400m to £240m. The Mayor outlined his priorities for the future as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Environment – clean-up of the borough• Improving jobs prospects, digital skills and infrastructure• Protecting local shops and restaurants• Ensuring continued improvements in children’s social care• Housing and heritage (keeping building within the local character) <p>An announcement was made on the launch of Lewisham Borough of Culture event. An event to kick-start the yearlong celebration will take place on Friday 28th January.</p> <p>Further announcement was made about the restoration of the Ladywell Playtower. The Council has agreed the plans for the restoration of the building. The explanation was provided that</p>	

	<p>although the scheme had suffered some set back when Curzon Cinemas pulled out of the scheme during the Covid pandemic, the developers has now managed to secure a new partner, one of the forerunner of Picture House.</p> <p>A question and answer session followed this presentation to hear people's thoughts on what they think is important to them and where they think the council needs to focus on.</p>	
3	Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL)	
	<p>A presentation was given on the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy by Sakthi Suriyaprakasam (Community Development Service Manager) and Adeyinka Joseph (Community Development Officer) who provided detailed explanation on the context of the NCIL funding, application and assessment process and a summary of projects that have been recommended for NCIL funding and those that have not been recommended for funding. A list of recommended and non-recommended projects presented to the meeting are as follows:</p> <p>Projects recommended for Lewisham Central NCIL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gilmore Road, Clarendon Rise Resident - £18,961 • New playground in Lewisham Central - £166,928 • On Your Bike Lock it or lose it - £46,800 • Putting the green in Hither Green - Street Trees - £65,000 • Lewisham Central Health and Wellbeing Covid19 Recovery Programme - £27,000 • Lewisham Youth Theatre - £35,000 • Food 'n' Fun in the Fields (FFF) - £4,060 • Clarendon Rise Car Park - £4,746 • Refurbishment Ennersdale Road: Pavements for Pedestrians - £30,000 • St. Mary's Forest School Garden - £25,000 • Lewisham Central Street Based Youth Team - £42,389 <p>Non-Recommended</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ted Ray Scout Hall Air source heat pumps and solar panels • Safer Crossings in Hither Green • Greening The Gateway - Phase 1: River Rain Garden • Reviving the Community Garden • Decolonising the Archive • St Swithun's Dragonfly and Lavender Rooms and Community Hall • Migration Museum • Ladywell Fields North Lighting Improvements • Modernising Refuse at Estate • Expanding St Mary's Therapeutic Garden into the northeast churchyard: securing the site for new visitors and volunteers • Care Listen Aspire • Community Engagement and Facilities • Hither Green High Street • Extending Facilities at Woodlands Health Centre to provide 	

community education support and Covid vaccine facilities

Following the presentation the chair invited comments and view from people in attendance to establish whether they agree with the recommendations or not.

The following are a summary of issues raised on the recommendations:

1. A question was asked by a resident about the formal process for NCIL following tonight's meeting.
 - Council officer provided the following information in respect of the process that will follow the agreement of the recommendations by the Assembly as follows:
 - a. All the agreed bids will be put forward to Mayor and Cabinet on 9th of March for final approval.
 - b. Applicants would be notified of the final outcome of their application after M&C meeting.
 - c. A standard grant agreement will be drawn up for each organisation where the Council is not the delivery agent.
 - d. Where the council is the delivery agent, further discussion will be had with the applicant and the relevant department about how deliverable each aspect of the project are in consultation with technicians and designers. This will apply to items such as tree planting and highway projects.
2. A question retrieved from the chat asking about how many people were informed about the NCIL funding and how the funding opportunity was advertised to residents across borough.
 - In responding to the question about how the funding was advertised officer provided the explanation the all of the Council communications media was used to publicise the opportunity including via the Lewisham Central Assembly mailing list. Information was also sent out via all of the council's partner organisations and leaflets posted to every household in the borough.
3. The resident who submitted the proposal for Safer Crossing in Hither Green which had not been recommended made a comment that some of the items in the bid does dovetail with some of the recommendations to retain the Low Traffic Neighbourhood along the bothering areas in Hither Green. The resident asked if there was another pot of funding that the council could access to deliver some of the safer crossing projects specified in the bid.
 - In responding to the question on the Low Traffic Neighbourhood Scheme Cllr Codd explained the reasoning behind some of the decision taken by the council to retain the revised LTN scheme, adding new factor such as school streets, changes to some of the junctions in the scheme to become camera controlled and other measures affecting surrounding areas. He further explained that project such as the ones specified in the Safer Crossing

proposal tends to be funded through TFL funding and this isn't secured at the moment. Although councillors and officers did acknowledge there is a good justification for need for these works in Hither Green however, restriction on the budget has influenced some of the decisions from taking this project forward. A discussion will be had with the relevant Council department making a case for this item to be revisited at a later date.

4. A comment made by a resident that assuming majority of the NCIL funding would have come from the developments in the centre of Lewisham by the station, yet many of the recommended projects has not impacted on these area. They have observed that the area is turning into a concrete jungle, densely built up and very unwelcoming. The current state of Confluence Park was a raised as a concern. There was a call-out to prioritise this area, softening it with better planting etc.
 - On the comment about lack of projects to mitigate the impact of development in centre of Lewisham and current state of Confluence Park, officers responded that they have taken note of the points made and that there would be opportunities for future funding to spend on improving these areas. There was also a recognition that more targeted engagement is needed to engage the newer communities around the centre of Lewisham who presently may not know what they need or want.
5. A question was asked about whether there are other funding source available this year for groups to deliver events to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee
 - Funding for Queen's Platinum Jubilee – officers confirmed that are no specific funding currently available for this. However, officers are aware of a working group that is putting on various activities. They can find out their contact details and pass it to on.
6. A comment from one of the organisation whose bid was recommended highlighting the profound need and the impact that Covid had on the people they have supported through the food bank base at Salvation Army in Lewisham at the height of the pandemic. They were happy to see their bid recommended for funding and this will enable them to offer their service to more people in the community.
7. A resident asked if there was a breakdown of the cost for the Ennersdale Road proposal. They questioned whether NCIL funding can be used in this way and if there was the possibilities that the project could be funded from some other pots to allow the funding recommended for this project to be spent on other non- recommended schemes.
 - Breakdown of cost of project – officers explained that it is too early to get an actual break down of cost. What would have

	<p>happened at the initial stage was that the resident who submitted the bid would have received advice from the relevant council department about the rough costing of the project prior to submitting their proposal</p> <p>Further explanation was provided that the funding requested was to conduct a feasibility report to look into the design of parking and some funding for implementation of it in consultation with traffic team. The application was supported by a petition signed by 105 residents who were concerned that the street in its current form is dangerous to pedestrians. Evidence provided with the application showed there was significant community support for the project. In view of this, NCIL funding can be used to deliver projects which benefits the community in this way, where budget constraints does not allow for the council to act upon them. Following the final approval by Mayor and Cabinet a discussion will be had with colleagues from highways team and the resident who submitted the proposal on the feasibility of the delivery.</p> <p>8. Comment from a resident read out from the chat who said they were delighted that the Council are recommending funding for a new playground in Lewisham Park. They said this is greatly needed and when it happens it will make a big difference to the local community.</p> <p>All 78 participants in attendance broadly supported the recommendations proposed.</p>	
7	Community updates and any other business	
	There were no items to update the meeting.	
8	Declaration of interest	
	<p>There were no interest declared at this meeting.</p> <p>The chair thanked everyone in attendance and brought the meeting to a close.</p>	