

MINUTES OF THE LEWISHAM CENTRAL ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 12 October 2022 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Edison Huynh and Aliya Sheikh

ALSO PRESENT: Winston Castello (LBL)

	Item
1	Welcome and Introductions
	Councillor Edison Huynh welcomed attendees and thanked Lewisham Youth Theatre for hosting the assembly meeting.
2	Police Safer Neighbourhood Updates
	The coordinating group has decided to keep the SNT agenda as a separate meeting which is held at the police station on Lewisham High Street. This means that there is dedicated attention paid to crime-related matters. Anyone wishing to join the SNT meetings should contact: Dan.P.Dewdney@met.police.uk
3	Healthy Street Programme – Consultation on Changes to Lewisham to Catford Walking & Cycle Route
	<p>Zoe Murphy of Transport for London introduced herself and outlined TFL's consultation process, stating that TFL were keen to receive residents' input to ensure that decision making was fully informed by local needs.</p> <p>She further stated that TFL had started to review on a number of schemes that were introduced during Covid, including the A21 Lewisham to Catford Cycle Scheme. The consultation on this scheme had started in May and is due to close in November. A report will be published in September 2023.</p> <p>Following Zoe's presentation, a number of questions were raised and comments made, as follows:</p> <p>Q How can consultation feedback be given? A TFL try and organise a range of activities to facilitate feedback. Drop-in sessions have been particularly popular.</p> <p>Q There was concern that the cycle lane was resulting in more congestion. A TFL aware of concerns about Molesworth Street and would seek to address this as part of the consultation.</p> <p>Q The cycling lane not necessarily in the most logical place. It</p>

	<p>is clear that the decision had not been made by cyclists.</p> <p>A Zoe stated that TFL has met with Lewisham Cyclists and is aware of the number of concerns.</p> <p>Q Is Lewisham Gateway part of the consultation? A It is not part of the consultation but residents should feel free to comment on it in their response, as well as on the gyratory system in general.</p> <p>Zoe encouraged residents to take part in the consultation and agreed to send the report to councillors when it is published for circulation and possible discussion at a future Assembly.</p>
4	<p>Cleaner, Better Streets – Concerns Around Rubbish on Streets</p>
	<p>John Wheatley, Interim Head of Service, Public Realm, LB Lewisham and his colleague, Wendy Nicolas, introduced their respective roles.</p> <p>John explained that he had worked in street cleansing for over 40 years across a number of London boroughs and he aims to bring best practice and many years' learning to Lewisham.</p> <p>He outlined the new strategy for improving the quality of street cleaning. He stated that his approach is to work in partnership with residents, including market stallholders where relevant. In relation to the market, he is aiming to arrive at agreement about standards and implement measures to achieve them from 1 December. He reported that a funding bid had been submitted to improve the market infrastructure.</p> <p>He stated that he hoped that residents would start seeing improvements in the near future. He has been working closely with all cleaning staff, focusing on individuals and team performance. Training of street sweepers and refuse collectors is a priority.</p> <p>Questions raised included:</p> <p>Q Is there a significant level of contamination in recycling collections?</p> <p>A John responded that his team is aware of the need to provide more information on the impact of contamination. Currently, approximately 20% per month of collected recycling is contaminated, with an associated adverse financial impact. He confirmed that information distributed to residents will be updated and that his team will be arranging to speak directly to residents.</p>

	<p>Q Food caddies are not fit for purpose.</p> <p>A Current caddies are being replaced. Residents can request replacements.</p> <p>Q Cleaning in town centre should be daily but this doesn't happen.</p> <p>A Cleaners are required to make daily returns on the work they have undertaken. Will be working to improve current performance.</p> <p>Q What is the plan to undertake after-hours cleaning, including human waste, from areas close to high street?</p> <p>A John explained that the strategy is to allocate resource to the areas where and the times when it is most needed. This will include cleaning late into the evening.</p> <p>Q What are plans to collect from flats?</p> <p>A The Council is working more closely with housing providers and with estate managers.</p> <p>The Chair thanked John and Wendy for the presentation and their candid and clear answers</p>
5	Lewisham Library Concerns
	<p>Cllr Huynh provided an update on Lewisham Library.</p> <p>He informed attendees that the Council is very aware that significant work is required to improve the building and explained that a Levelling Up application had been submitted for refurbishments to take place. He confirmed that the results were expected at the end of November and that, if the Levelling Up funding application was unsuccessful, other sources of funding would be explored.</p> <p>Attendees commented on the need for improved services operating within the library, facilitated by improved physical surroundings.</p> <p>Attendees confirmed that the library is currently not very welcoming and that it would be a great advantage if future use of the library could include support services such as warm hubs as community provision.</p> <p>It was agreed that Councillor Walsh, the Cabinet member responsible for libraries, should be invited to a future</p>

	assembly meeting.
6	Councillors' Updates & Any Other Business
	<p>Questions to councillors:</p> <p>Q What steps are in place to support homeless people?</p> <p>A The Council is working closely with community based services.</p> <p>Q Given the significant developments which had taken place in the ward and which had led to increased demands being placed on services, what plans are in place to address this?</p> <p>A Councillors are working with Council officers to ensure that plans are in place to develop infrastructure within the ward including regenerating the high street.</p> <p>Q Concerns were expressed about licence enforcement – it was felt that licence conditions were not being enforced as noise was continuing well after agreed closing times.</p> <p>A In order for officers to act on complaints, they require detailed evidence including dates and times where breaches of licence conditions have occurred. In the discussion which followed, examples of how evidence could be collected were given. More information can be found on: Lewisham Council - Noise and other disturbances from commercial premises.</p> <p>Q Concerns were expressed about the increase in the number of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs).</p> <p>A The Council plans to put in place an “Article Four” Directive which is currently being consulted on. If agreed, HMOs will require a licence.</p> <p>Q Why have there been delays in implementing NCIL Projects?</p> <p>A It was agreed that officers will contact projects to provide an update on timescales for implementation.</p>
7	Councillors thanked residents for attending the meetings and encouraged them to complete the feedback form to assist in planning for future meetings.