

MINUTES OF THE LEE GREEN ASSEMBLY

Friday, 9 December 2022 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Ese Erheriene, Eva Kestner and James Rathbone

ALSO PRESENT: Genevie George (LBL)

Apologies for absence were received – Ade Joseph (LBL)

Record of Meeting

	Items	Action s
1	Welcome, Introduction & Format of meeting	
	<p>Cllr James Rathbone, Chair of the Assembly welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the agenda. Explaining that the meeting was rescheduled from the previous month due to staff illness.</p> <p>Additionally the Lee Gate public meeting which was due to held 13 December has now been cancelled and is provisionally rescheduled to 10 January 2023. Once arrangements are confirmed with planning, invitations will be sent as soon as possible.</p> <p>Introductions of Genevie George, Third Sector Manager and Hojee Man, Energy Advisor & PRS Project Officer, South East London Community Energy [SELCE], who will make a presentation on the Cost of Living Crisis and the measures put in place to support residents of Lewisham.</p> <p>David Forde - Chair, Assembly Coordinating Committee gave a message of appreciation to Ade Joseph for the contribution she has made to the assembly over 11 years and sent their best wishes. Noted by the Third Sector Manager to pass on to Ade.</p> <p>He also raised a concern on behalf of the Coordinating Committee, that members had not been contacted or involved in the decision to cancel & reschedule the 26 October meeting and had not been liaised with to consider and agree the date or agenda for today's meeting.</p> <p>The Committee Chair and representatives requested a meeting with council officers in January 2023 to discuss the process for the future arrangement of meetings. Cllr Rathbone and Genevie George apologised for the oversight which was due to the short notice in cancelling / rescheduling the meeting.</p> <p>Action: Network Coordination Network Chair & reps to meet with Genevie George or Ade Joseph in January 2023, date/venue to be agreed.</p>	GG / AJ

	David Forde suggested it would be useful to meet with other Lewisham coordinating committees.	
2	Cost of Living Presentation	
	<p>Cost of Living presentation was given by the Hojee Man and Genevie George – See Presentation. Alice from Lewisham Local provided an update about the community welcome venues.</p> <p>Overview</p> <p>Main causes for the crisis</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rising Housing Costs ▪ Income Stagnation ▪ A pandemic with many indirect effects ▪ Ongoing Price inflation ▪ Ongoing rise in interest rates <p>Council Actions to December 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launch warm welcomes in libraries and community centres and venues ▪ Food justice action plan – consultation launched ▪ Supporting improvement of the least energy efficient housing stock ▪ Highlighting Warmer Homes Fund to residents ▪ Rolling out national benefit initiatives ▪ Household Support Fund: supporting vulnerable residents with the cost of food and utility bills ▪ Improving take-up of pension credits ▪ Lewisham Works – supporting residents into work ▪ Develop resources for residents worried about money – where they can go for support <p>Support & Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Warm welcomes ▪ Advice & Advocacy ▪ Food Support ▪ Financial Support & Assistance ▪ Utilities & home improvements Assistance ▪ Community Connections Lewisham <p>SELCE Support & Assistance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Energy tariffs and payment methods 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Signing up for discounts and grants, depending on eligibility ▪ Register on to the Priority Service Register ▪ Providing information about energy saving measures around the home ▪ Warm Homes discount ▪ GLA/SELCE Partnership to assist homeowners _£5,000-£25,000 to retrofit their home; insulation, boiler, double-glazing etc. ▪ SELCE can be contacted by telephone or online to book a session <p>Comments & Questions</p> <p>Service & Provision advertising – would be useful promote at a local level: e.g.: supermarkets, Dr’s surgeries, local/estate noticeboards etc.</p>	
3	Community Updates (NCIL)	
	<p>Four organisations submitted a request to provide an update.</p> <p>Lee Green Consortium - Jim Mallory</p> <p>Lee Green Consortium was set up informally in 2016 by 3 organisations; Lee Manor Society, Friends of Manor House Gardens and Lee Green Lives and has now expanded its membership to 16 groups. Its main aim is for groups to work together and support each other, to support the assembly and local volunteers, and to develop groups and help them to secure local funding.</p> <p>The consortium is ever expanding and any local group is welcome to join. Groups do not just have to provide a service to people in Lee Green they can join if the service area is broader as it includes people from Lee Green. The Consortium is now a formal organisation with an approved constitution and has elected officers, Jim Mallory is the Chair.</p> <p>In the last year, the consortium has worked with local groups to support the drafting of their applications to the Lee Green Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy [NCIL] fund.</p> <p>The consortium was granted £8,549 to support local projects; £5,200 has recently been awarded to projects with approx. £3,000 to be awarded in the Spring 2023.</p> <p>The overall grant includes targets for monitoring as do each of the funded projects to assess the overall impact.</p> <p>Round 1 Funded Projects:</p>	

- FUSS – Christmas Fair
- Friends of Manor House Gardens - Community Corner
- Fair Share Timebank – Exercises for older people
- Manor House Friends – Hold a spring fair & improve a community room
- Manor House Library – to support the 250 anniversary events

Questions & Comments

Lee Green development – what are the plans for the Lee Green community centre once the development starts? as it has a number of activities being held there. Is there a long term strategy for if it were it to be closed?

Jim advised that the planning for Lee Gate had been anticipated across a number of years and there is a contingency plan. The consortium will be able to discuss with partners alternative venue for activities. Further discussion is to be had once more information is known about the Lee Gate development timeline.

Lee Forum Neighbourhood Plan – Sarah McMichael

Sarah is the Chair of Lee Forum, it was set up 7 years ago to draft the neighbourhood plan. Firstly, apologies for Lee Forum being quiet recently as in early Autumn the website host migrated their server and lost Lee Green’s website and most importantly their membership database. They have been working diligently through Facebook to build their contact database back-up.

Work conducted has been the Neighbourhood Plan consultation – a series of consultations in Spring 2022 have been undertaken asking people what they like / don’t like and would like developed in the area.

Two of the councils responded with a lot of comments, Lee Forum received support and assistance from Locality an organisation that supports forums to help facilitate the discussions and to assist with the response. To ensure that the documents were worded and some of the language / comments reflected the feedback from residents.

Next steps – is to have draft a statement of common ground, the Locality facilitator will assist and a meeting is being held in January 2023 with the Councils to go the statement.

Following the meeting, the statement will be further amended and will go to an Examiner which is an independent to ensure that it meets basic conditions and is qualified to be adopted by both Councils and national planning.

A referendum for local residents will be held to vote on the

statement, discussion to date have been friendly and positive.

Comments & Questions

River quaggy area – there was a lot of feedback requesting to open the riverside up to become a walkway, it has been a long-term community aspiration so that people can walk and avoid the busy roads. The Forum received funding from Greenwich Council in 2021 to conduct a feasibility study, there are some aspects that may be difficult such as private landownership, but it is hoped that these can be resolved.

Suggestion for increasing the contact database; send a summary of the update to the consortium which could be circulated to community groups with information about how to sign up with Lee Forum for regular updates.

Lee Manor Society Street Trees – Charles Batchelor

Lee Manor Society was set up to maintain and enhance the character of the conservation area which is quite a big area. There is a general deterioration in many of the cherry trees which were planted 70-80 years ago.

The Society has several sources of income including NCIL and individual donations. Street Trees for Living, a partner organisation to the council that delivers part of the replanting of trees programme. Trees will be planted to fill the gaps in Burnt Ash Avenue which is quite a feature of the area.

Residents are consulted as part of the planning as the trees are planted directly at the end of people's gardens and they may have comments or reservations.

Comments & Questions

Will the cherry trees be replaced? this will be discussed with Street Trees to decide what will be an appropriate replacement, also it will also depend on what people with a tree outside their front garden can live with.

Agreement that some of the cherry trees are a bit worse for wear and it be a shame to lose them as when they flower, they are a local feature and people visit to photograph them.

Lee Fair Share Time-Banking - Frances Mignuolo

A monthly newsletter is -e-circulated, Frances is a Board Member and the Secretary. One of my main roles is to help with fundraising, we employ a part-time coordinator to deliver the Time-Bank programme and a trainer to deliver the chair exercise class which is funded by the NCIL.

The Time-bank was set up in 2004 to promote and support people to help each other by exchanging activities. Each hour is credited and

	<p>you can spend this credit on another activity from a time bank member. The coordinator helps match people up, activities are varied from taking rubbish to the council tip, gardening, French lessons, cooking etc.</p> <p>The longest standing activity is the cake, coffee, cake and company session at the Lee Gate centre – it is free and a good social activity for people to get to know one another, learn more about our other activities – walking and chair exercise class.</p> <p>It is a warm place, and everyone is welcomed. Please promote and encourage people to come along. To raise funds, stalls are held at community events to raise money to fund our activities and to promote the work we do.</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>	