

MINUTES OF THE LEE GREEN ASSEMBLY

Monday, 5 June 2023 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Eva Kestner and James Rathbone

ALSO PRESENT: Ade Joseph (Lee Green Assembly Coordinator)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Ese Erheriene

Record of Meeting

	Items	Actions
1	Welcome, Introduction & Format of meeting	
	<p>Cllr Eva Kestner welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the agenda.</p>	
2	Police Safer Neighbourhood Team Update	
	<p>PCSO Lulian Matei from the Lee Green Safer Neighbourhood Team provided an update on the work of the team as follows:</p> <p>The team are focusing their attention on the Lee Gate Shopping Centre in the week commencing 12th of June. This was due to concerns raised at the Lee Green ward panel meeting on antisocial behaviour activities including, begging, street drinking, students gathering in large groups around the area and intimidating residents and local business. A joint operation is planned with officers from Lewisham Council Safer Communities Unit. Officers will be holding discussion with residents and businesses to get a better understanding of the issues they are facing and find a solution to address them. Similar issues were also raised around the Staplehurst Road/ Hither Green train station area.</p> <p>Possible outcomes and action proposed by the Police to tackle the problem</p> <p>A verbal and written warnings will be issues for Antisocial Behaviour in the first stage.</p> <p>This would be followed by issuing a Community Protection Warning if the problem persists. The offender will need to comply with the conditions impose by the issuing officers for 6 months.</p> <p>If there are no changes, a Community Protection Notice will be issued, and the offender will need to comply with the conditions impose by the issuing officers for 2 years. Failure to comply with</p>	

	<p>conditions of the CPN might result in arresting the offender.</p> <p>The final stage is the issuance of a Criminal Behaviour Order. This is issued by the courts. Failure to comply can lead to an arrest or time in prison.</p> <p>All the above steps take time and are based on acquiring a lot of evidence. Second, third and fourth stage can be appealed in court, so officers have to make sure they have all the necessary evidence to back up their actions.</p> <p>Member of the assembly raised concerns about shoplifters and anti-social behaviour around Woodstock Court and the Coop store on Burnt Ash Road. Officers said they are aware of these issues and are planning an operation around the area.</p> <p>On the 12th of May, plain clothes officers from the SNT conducted an arrest of a prolific shoplifter at this location. Further operations will continue around the area.</p> <p>A resident reported seeing someone with a knife around Lee Gate Car Park. Officer continues to conduct regular patrols around the car park. Officers also conducted knife searches where this are flagged up. It was strongly advised that police are called if someone is spotted with a knife and NOT to engage with such individual. 999 should always be called for this type of incidents.</p> <p>Cycles on the pavement: This was a problem that was raised by multiple residents at the meeting. This is a problem that affects not only Lee Green but other wards across borough. Whenever officers noticed people cycling on the pavement, they do address this behaviour either by providing advice to the individual or issuing a Fixed Penalty Charges (these also applies to when cyclist goes through a red light etc).</p> <p>Lee Green SNT officers can be contacted by emailing LeeGeen.SNT@met.police.uk This email should be used to get in touch with the Team or to provided information for intelligence purpose and NOT to report crimes. All crimes should be reported to 101, 999 or online.</p>	
3	Updates on ongoing sewer works on Burnt Ash Road	
	<p>The update was presented by Hendrik Zurbier, Contract Director at Cappagh a sub-contractor who were engaged by Thames Water to carry out works on the Burnt Ash Road / Hill sewer. Hendrik apologised to residents and businesses for the lack of communications or explanation about what is going on with the ongoing works. He explained that in hindsight, there should have been a clear communication plan to residents and other stakeholders from the get-go to explain what was happening and should have increase resources to assist with the planning and management of the work. An explanation was provided on the history and nature of the works and the current challenges faced by</p>	

	<p>engineers.</p> <p>A major defect was identified during a routine survey in a brick sewer beneath Burnt Ash Road north of the railway bridge. Thames Water instructed Cappagh, a sub-contractor of the company to mobilise immediately to site with a view of ascertaining condition of the asset and any potential issue that the void may cause. Investigations found a void in the ground above sewer which needed to be made safe to avoid a sink hole appearing. A number of initiatives were introduced to address the challenges found by engineers. Several residents and business owners present at the meeting criticised the lengthen period of the repairs and the damage this has done to local trade.</p> <p>Timeline for the completion of different stages of the works were provided as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of temporary over pumping – by 14/06/23 • Breaking into sewer and install structural liner – 15/06/23 • Building manholes in the shaft - complete by 06/07/23 • Backfill and reinstate – by 17/07/23 • Pressure inject void – by 10/07/23 • Demobilise compound – 20/07/23 <p>A question and answer session followed this presentation.</p>	
4	Manor House Garden Festival 2023	
	<p>Paul Lowndes, chair of Friends of Manor House Gardens group updated the meeting about what is planned for the Manor House Garden which is scheduled to take place on Saturday 24th June 2023. The festival will be delivered in the same format as previous with funfair, live performances, plenty of local street food stalls and several activities for families to enjoy. This is a free event, and everyone is welcomed to attend. The friend's group has taken on numerous projects to improve the biodiversity of the park and are always looking for volunteers to join the group. The group can be contacted by dialling 07725 623510.</p>	
5	Feedback from Ward NCIL funded Project – Lee Green Consortium	
	<p>Lee Green Lives</p> <p>This update was provided by Shirley Kirkland, Lee Green Community Centre Coordinator. Shirley provided a brief overview of the grant that the group secured from the ward NCIL fund to continue with the delivery of a Seniors' Healthy Exercises sessions at the Lee Green Community Centre. Two exercise sessions are run every Tuesday from the Community Centre. The first session runs from 10am till 10.45am and the second follows straight after from 11am till 11.45. A total of ten members attends each class.</p>	

The sessions are led by a professional trainer. At least 40 beneficiaries, majority of them from the BAME ethnicity benefits from the sessions.

LGL has devised a simple assessment form which they use to collect baseline information to monitor the progress of each participant. Some of the data collected includes age, ethnicity, self-care, general well-being coordination and mobility etc. The sessions were said to be oversubscribed and a valuable community resource which provides a much-needed activity in an area without sufficient provision for older people especially those with disabilities. Quotes extracted from feedback provided by some of the participants were read out to the meeting. "An excellent class, Jean (Exercise Instructor) makes the classes interesting, she is very caring and the time flies fast". Participants shared some of the benefits of the sessions as keeping them active, increasing their confidence, improved their health and well-being and many people have benefited from meeting new people.

Lee Fair Share

Lorraine Spencely the Coordinator for Lee Fair Share (LFS) project provided a progress update on the Staying Healthy, Safe and Connected in the Community project funded through the ward NCIL fund. An outline of the works of Lee Fair Share was provide for the benefit of those attending the meeting for the first time. Lee Fair Share is described as one of the oldest Time Bank in the borough where skills are exchanged for volunteering time. The scheme was founded in 2004, projects has evolved and developed over the years using the time banking principles of volunteering.

Since Covid the project has supported more elderly people and those with mental and other health issues. Their main activities Coffee Cake and Company which the NCIL fund supports aims to provide weekly group session. Sessions are held every Monday afternoon in which people can drop in for a coffee and chat. There is a core of between 10 to 15 regular attendees with other members dropping in occasionally. In year 1 NCIL fund was used to support seated exercise and one hour of fun, games, quizzes so that people can play card games, bingo, scrabble and other games in a safe and welcoming environment. By holding weekly Games sessions, such as quizzes and scrabble members can get together and mental faculties may be improved. For more information or to join activities at the project contact Lorraine the project coordinating by emailing leefairshare@hotmail.com

V22 Communities

James Rathbone, manager at Manor House Library, presented the update on behalf of Simon Higgs, V22 CEO who had given his apology for the meeting. The NCIL funding was secured to buy replacement furniture for the library. V22 have been working with furniture which they inherited from the council in spring 2017 and much of it has broken or been used to the point of looking shabby, and no longer fit for purpose. NCIL funding was used to purchase new chairs and tables for the library and the function rooms. Unfortunately, the new chairs ordered for the library were

	<p>misplaced by delivery company DPD. The library will be making arrangement to purchase replacement using V22's funds. There are some funding sets aside for some works around installation of signage about the history of the Baring Family. There is a memorial plaque of the Baring Family on the building which is currently covered up due to issues around their involvement in the slave trade. Some funding has been secured from the council and Mayor of London to re-contextualise a more comprehensive history highlighting the positives and negatives of the family contributions in Lee Green and where their wealth has come from. The library staff will be collaborating with a local historian to get this done. Once the signage is installed, visitors to the library will be able to learn about the building and the Baring Family who once owns the Manor.</p>	
6	Community updates and any other business	
	<p>Concerns were raised about issues around road safety on Manor Lane near the shops, problems with speeding cars. A call for a pedestrian crossing to be installed.</p> <p>Another concern was raised about the constraints to pedestrian access by the bus stop on the Lewisham High Street outside the DLR Station caused by hoarding installed on the pavement. The hoarding has been extended forcing pedestrians to walk dangerously around the hoarding. Residents wants to know what the council can do about this and how long the pedestrian access will be blocked.</p>	
7	Declaration of interest	
	<p>There was no interest declared at this meeting.</p> <p>The chair thanked everyone in attendance and brought the meeting to a close.</p>	