

**LEWISHAM CENTRAL LOCAL ASSEMBLY  
MEETING  
Tuesday 6 June 2023, 7pm – 9pm  
Lewisham Youth Theatre  
142-144 Lewisham High Street, London SE13**

**Record of Meeting**

	Item	Actions
1	<b>Welcome, Introduction &amp; Format of meeting</b>	
	<p>Cllr Edison Huynh welcomed attendees and went through the format of the meeting.</p>	
2	<b>Cleaner Better Lewisham High Street and Town Centre</b>	
	<p>John Wheatley, Council's Head of Public Realm and Wendy Nicholas Council's Strategic Waste and Environmental Manager introduced their respective roles.</p> <p>John outlined what the team have been doing since attending the last Assembly in October 2022. Apart from dealing with refuse collection and street cleansing, John is also responsible for overseeing the collection of commercial waste and hoping to increase recycling rate in these area across the borough. Recent improvements made to recycling and refuse collection to Lewisham Market were specified as follows:</p> <p><b>Recycling</b></p> <p>The market now seems more organised with the installation of recycling bins where food waste can now be separated from cardboards. The new scheme was said to save money by reducing the charges paid by the council to bio-gas in Dagenham to burn waste at a charge of £75 per ton. Introduced areas of responsibility by a split into two areas i.e., north and south to simplify management of the market. Brushes have been supplied to each stall owners to encourage them to keep the immediate areas around their stalls clean and tidy during the day themselves. There are 4 operatives assigned to this area focusing on ensuring that the market and its wider area is kept clean and waste are disposed of accordingly.</p> <p>Following the introduction of new measures, the team has noticed a steady increase in recycling rate. This also applies to the collection rate of household waste. Around this time last</p>	

year, the council was collecting around a 100 tons of food waste from household across the borough a month. Lately collection of food waste has grown to 600 tons a month. This shows a big turn around in recycling resulting in paying less for disposals.

The Council have launched apps which can be used on handheld device to report rubbish dumping and flytipping boroughwide either by staff for removal or for enforcement purposes. Once this information is received, they would be automatically transmitted to Council devices, digitally mapped and allocated for immediate action to be taken. This will reduce officers' time in going over paperwork in the office and ensure they are more visible in the community.

There are also plans to increase the hours of street cleansing in the Town Centres across Lewisham. Hours of operation are currently from 6.3am to 7.30pm Monday to Sunday. The current arrangement will be extended to incorporate the cleaning duties on Friday to Sunday until 11pm in the evening. A consultation process will first take place before these changes are implemented. The team continues to work in collaboration with the Parks Department and its contractors to remove weed growth on pavements.

A question and answer session followed this presentation.

Q – What can the council do about wheelie bin left on pavements with broken / missing lids?

A – John will look into this and will work with Wendy's team on how to inform / educate residents of the importance of keeping their bins off the streets and to request new ones where the lids are either missing or damaged. He further provided the explanation that where recycling items are placed in recycling bin without lids all items are contaminated and these ultimately becomes unfit for recycling.

Q – Concern was raised about the wheelie bins storage in Clarendon Rise car park with high rise gate fitted around them. Are the gate still needed in this area?

A - John explained that there are plans to remove the gates and return the site back to its original use and this will be done over a period.

Q – Concerns raised about the council contractors spraying plants and trees adopted by residents to remove weed growth on pavements which damages the plants. Can a more environmentally friendly method be adopted?

	<p>A – John apologised for any upset this may have caused and is aware of some areas where the spray has been applied resulting in killing plants. He promised to work with residents in identifying such areas and will investigate adopting a more friendly method of treatment going forward.</p> <p>Q – Concerns raised about foxes rummaging through waste.</p> <p>A – There are plans in place to work with residents to reinstate the conditions of a scheme which is being rolled out to ensure all waste including food waste are kept in the bins with the lids kept shut. Letters will be sent out to residents as a reminder.</p> <p>A suggestion was also put forward about the Council working with the probation service to get young offenders to help clear litter and rubbish at various locations across the borough. John responding said this is something that the council has done in the past and will approach the relevant service to see if this could re-introduce.</p> <p>Q – Concerns was raised about the blocked pedestrian access in Clarendon Rise Car Park</p> <p>A – A visit will be arranged to the site to assess the issue and feedback will be provided before the next meeting.</p> <p>Q – Concerns was raised around litter and flytipping on land behind Lewisham Methodist Church</p> <p>A – Arrangements would be made with an officer from the Council’s Enforcement Service to inspect the area and identify the owner to get the rubbish cleared. Residents can also report flytipping by downloading the love my street app.</p> <p>Q – Concerns was raised about issues with constant flytipping in Alleyway behind blocks of Flats on Gilmore Road. Fridge etc.. constantly dumped at this location</p> <p>A – The Council charges for bulky items where this is booked with the Council. This might be attributed to this problem where people do not wish to pay to dispose of their rubbish. It is likely that the area in question is privately owned. However, as a one-off gesture, John will arrange for the area to be cleared.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Lewisham Gateway Development Phase 2</b>	
	The update on the Lewisham Gateway Phase 2 Development was presented by Patrick Dubeck, Lewisham Council’s	

Director of Inclusive Regeneration in the absence of representative from Get Living, the operator of the phaser 2 scheme.

Following a consultation process, the scheme is now referred to as Newton Place, named after Ernest Newton a locally renowned architect and former president of RIBA, who was a key figure in establishing the building in Lewisham. The new neighbourhood comprises of 649 new homes, including 106 affordable homes (which the Council secured from the development and will be added to the housing register for people to bid from), 119 Co-living studios, a new Empire Cinema, new public space, 17 retail units and new restaurants.

**Resident offer**

- It is expected that residents will live near a well connected hub with good transport links
- All properties will be managed directly by the operator, Get Living, with management and security team on site to support residents
- Fully furnished homes with shared amenities and co-working for residents of the co-living and rental homes
- A rolling programme of events and clubs to help connect and bring people together

**Retail, leisure and restaurant offer**

- Up to 9 screens of Empire Cinema
- Leasing of 17 units of commercial space approximately 55,000 square meters. Terms of lease has been agreed on 9 units with terms being finalised on 3 more.
- The leisure offer will include a gym, bouldering and indoor climbing frame
- The restaurant will offer 2 brand new quality coffee shops, a cocktail and pizza café / bar, an independent Caribbean / Eastern European breakfast café / restaurant and a national branded convenient food store.
- There is ongoing discussion with local hairdressers and barbers for the remaining units.

The development is now in its final stages of construction with final fixing and decorations taking place across the site.

A question and answer session followed this presentation.

Q1 – A concern was raised about the pressure that the new development will place on Lewisham Train Station which is already overcrowded.

A – The Bakerloo line extension remains a strong priority for

the Council and talks are ongoing with Transport for London (TFL) and Government to ensure the delivery of the scheme in the future, funding permitting. Ward Cllrs continues to advocate for the extension of the line into Lewisham as well which was said will ease some of the current pressures on transport needs for the area and boost local economy.

Q2 – Concerns was raised about the constraints to pedestrian access on the High Street opposite St Stephen’s Church. The hoarding has been extended forcing pedestrians to walk dangerously around the hoarding. Residents wants to know how long the pedestrian access will be blocked.

A – Cllrs will pass this question to Get Living to provide a response .

Q3 – A question was asked about whether the image of the green routes in slide 7 is going to be located on top of the blocks. Will this be open access to people living outside of the blocks?

A - Cllrs will get a response to this question from Get Living.

Q4 – Concerns was raised about the current condition of the bus stops at Lewisham Station, in particular bus stop D on the A20 road by Molesworth Street. The between the hoarding and road is so narrow which puts pedestrians’ safety at risk. Residents wants to know the timescale of when the hoarding will be removed.

A – Cllrs will get a response from Get Living.

Cllr Edison informed the meeting about the Public Transport Liaison Committee Meeting scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> of June taking place at the Civic Suite. Representatives from Transport for London and Bus Company will be present and residents are encouraged to attend to raise any questions they may have about transport with the reps.

Q5 – A question was raised about whether there are plans for the provisions of a safe space for young people in the new development.

A – Cllrs will get a response to this question from Get Living.

Q6 – The question was asked about the timeline for the opening of the Cinema to the public?

A – Empire is looking to open the Cinemas during the February school half term break.

	<p>The chair thanked Patrick Dubeck for stepping in at the last minute to present the slides produced by Get Living to update residents on the progress made on the new Development.</p>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Feedback from Ward NCIL funded projects</b>	
	<p><b>Clarendon Rise and Gilmore Road Environmental Project</b> Denise and Nick from the Gilmore Road and Clarendon Rise Residents Association presented the progress they have made with the delivery of this project. The group successfully applied for the NCIL grant of around £18,000 to deliver environmental improvement to increase the green corridor between Gilmore Road, Clarendon Rise with Lee High Road. The project will deliver planting and raised beds making the area look greener and more natural. Current tarmac will be removed which will making planting easier. The group are working with Council Officers from Public Realm to deliver this project.</p> <p><b>Clarendon Rise Car Park Refurbishment</b> The project aims to improve the general outlook of the car park located on Clarendon Rise. The area currently looks unpleasant with a number of huge trees. Residents are subject to increase noise level from traffic, littering and constant antisocial behaviour. The funding secured from NCIL will be used to improve the general outlook of the car park firstly by replacing the height barrier by the entrance of the car park, planting of additional trees and bushes including wildflowers to increase biodiversity and filter out antisocial behaviour. Part of the project will also deliver painting of the railings around the car park. Although progress has been slow, the group have now met with officers from the Council to get the project going.</p>	
<b>8.</b>	<b>Cllr's update</b>	
	<p>Cllrs have been very proactive in getting quarterly partnership meeting going with all the stakeholders interested in the Town Centre improvements. Partners includes representatives from the Police, Licencing Team, Landsec and Get Living. The meeting was set up to keep on top of the Levelling Up fund which was presented at the last meeting. A further six month extension has been granted to the deadline specified for spending the fund. The fund will also attract extra scrutiny at various committee meeting to keep track on how it is spent. The Committee meetings are open to the public and residents were encouraged to attend and raise questions directly or through their councillors.</p> <p>Cllrs are pushing for the Council and Developers to produce a comprehensive night time economy strategy in relation to night</p>	

	<p>time licensing. On the other hand, newer residents, young professionals in the newer blocks are advocating for more night time economy to develop, so they can spend money locally in bars, restaurants etc.</p> <p>In terms of car parking issues, Cllrs recently conducted a joint walkabout with colleagues from Ladywell ward to look into issues raised around cross boundary antisocial behaviour resulting from overparking in Limes Grove Car Pak by congregation of a local faith establishment. An explanation was provided that the council operates free parking on Sundays to encourage people to go to the Town Centre to shop locally. Instead, Cllrs found the car park had been taken over by church congregation needing car parking space to attend church service. Cllrs are collecting evidence on this issue and will be passing them to the relevant section of the council to take further actions.</p> <p>Several residents have raised issues about the rough sleepers congregating outside Lewisham Library. Cllrs continues to work with the police, Landsec and Social Services to encourage their movement away from the library and seek help for the respective homeless individuals. Cllrs have noticed that some of them have now moved to the alcove in the Town Centre near Lewisham Youth Theatre. These individuals have now been offered temporary housing. Cllr will continue to monitor situation.</p> <p>The Coronation parties organised by residents of Mercier Grove and Orchard Garden Estate were acknowledged with special thanks offered to the event organisers.</p> <p>A new food Market will commence from August on the first Sunday of every month from 10am to 4pm on Cornmill Gardens (behind the Glassmill Leisure Centre).</p> <p>Cllrs have raised the issues about parcel theft and localised flooding affecting the blocks of flats around the DLR Station with the respective authorities.</p> <p>Cllrs took part in the inter-faith March at the weekend, launched following the murder of Lee Rigby.</p>	
<b>9.</b>	<b>Community update and any other business</b>	
	<p><b>Update from Lewisham Youth Theatre</b>  The current 18 months lease of the space currently occupied by the Theatre offered by Landsec ends at the of September. The Theatre has been offered an alternative space by</p>	

	<p>Lewisham Council. The Theatre will be moving into the Savile Centre located near Lewisham Hospital, opposite the Islamic Centre once negotiation has been finalised with the Council.</p> <p><b>Lewisham Mencap</b> A project that support people with learning disability and their family. Representatives from the project will be at the Shopping Centre between 11am and 2pm on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June to raise awareness of the services provided by the project.</p> <p><b>Date of next Assembly meeting</b> Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the Salvation Army from 7pm till 9pm.</p> <p>The chair thanked everyone in attendance and brought the meeting to a close.</p>	
<b>10</b>	<b>Declaration of interest</b>	
	There were no interest declared at this meeting.	