

# MINUTES OF THE LADYWELL ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 5 October 2023 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Councillors Bill Brown and Laura Cunningham

ALSO PRESENT: Ade Joseph (LBL) Spike VanderVliet-Firth (LBL), Rhoda Idoniboye (LBL) Sidra Hill-Reid (LBL), PC Andrew Dobson & PCSO Karen Quin (Met Police)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Liz Johnston-Franklin

## Record of Meeting

	Items	Actions
1	<b>Welcome, Introduction &amp; Format of meeting</b>	
	Cllr Laura Cunningham welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the agenda.	
2	<b>Police Safer Neighbourhood Updates</b>	
	<p>PC Andrew Dobson introduced himself and his colleagues present at the meeting and outlined the works the team has been doing over the last couple months as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There were no changes on reported crimes which were burglary, theft of motor vehicle, other theft, antisocial behaviour and violence offences.</li><li>• Cases of robbery are very low in Ladywell and is limited to phone snatching around the train station.</li><li>• On motor vehicle theft and burglary, the advice from the team is to take precautionary measures by installing burglar alarm or the ring doorbell in homes, use signal blocking car key pouch and car locking devices.</li><li>• Burglars are using different tactics to access homes and are sharing information with each other.</li><li>• The team have been working in collaboration with Rushey Green, Telegraph Hill, Brockley and Lewisham Central SNT to maximise resources in reducing crime. In these areas</li><li>• A new PC will be joining the team following the ward boundary extension into Lewisham Park, Courthill Road and the Fire Station on Lewisham High Street.</li></ul> <p><b>Issues in the wards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Drug users / drug dealing has been reported around the basketball pitch in Ladywell Fields. As a result, officers conduct regular patrol in this area</li><li>• Report received about a man sleeping rough in Hillyfields park remains a concern to both residents in the immediate vicinity. Officers have referred the individual to a homeless charity for</li></ul>	

	<p>assistance on more than one occasion. The charity has been in contact with the individual to offer support and help him on a pathway to securing housing, but he was not keen on moving.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Officers have also referred him to mental health services. Progress is very slow due to the nature of the problem, as the individual continues to decline every help offered to him.</li> <li>• Issue with drug dealing in Lewisham Park, opposite the hospital were highlighted. A multi-agency meeting is being organised with the relevant housing providers on the estates to consider measures to resolve the problem.</li> <li>• On the matter relating to the murder of a man on Malyon Road, a man has been charged and is due to appear at the Crown Court soon.</li> </ul> <p>A session of question and answer followed this presentation.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<b>A presentation on Lewisham Health &amp; Wellbeing Strategy</b>	
	<p>Dr Catherine Mbema, Director of Public Health at Lewisham Council introduced herself. Catherine explained the statutory role of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Every local authority is required by law to set up a Health and Wellbeing Forum, where representatives from political, clinical, GPs, other health professional and community leaders come together to discuss and agree measures for improving the health and wellbeing of their local population thereby reducing health inequality.</p> <p>The Health and Well-being board are responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• assessing the health and wellbeing needs of their population and publishing a Joint Strategic Needs assessment (JSNA) and a Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JLHWS). Each document sets out the vision and priorities for improving the health and wellbeing of the local population and how identified needs will be addressed.</li> <li>• developing a joint commissioning arrangement for the co-ordination of NHS and local authority commissioning, including Better Care Fund plans.</li> </ul> <p>Catherine provided an outline of the existing Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Strategy which the council has focused on over the last 10 years. Current breast cancer survival rate was shared with the meeting. This was cited as an example of a priority area where progress has been made. She explained that there was a drop in the uptake in breast cancer screening during the pandemic as many were not able to access the service. This has so far improved with an increased record in screening uptake.</p> <p><b>Strategy Development Timeline</b></p> <p>The Council is aiming to get the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy in place by February 2024. Prior to this, various workshops will take place with partners until the 6<sup>th</sup> of October following which feedback and draft areas of actions will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board for their approval.</p>	

	A session of question and answer followed this presentation.	
<b>4</b>	<b>Government Levelling Up Fund – Lewisham Town Centre Improvement</b>	
	<p>The updates on the Lewisham Town Centre Levelling-Up improvements were delivered by Spike VanderVliet-Firth, Rhoda Idoniboye and Sidra Hill-Reid from Lewisham Council. All the officers introduced themselves and delivered the updates as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- £19m was secured from the Government Levelling-Up fund with an additional £5m contribution by Lewisham Council to bring the total fund to £24m.</li> <li>- This fund would enable the delivery of 3 projects, the first being the refurbishment of Lewisham Library, second is the rejuvenating of Lewisham Market and the last will be see a significant capital investment in improving Lewisham High Street.</li> <li>- As part of the process, Lewisham Library temporary closure took place on 15 September. The plan is to renovate the building and create a flexible space for business and cultural activities with a high-quality library service.</li> <li>- In the interim, a click and collect service will operate from the Glassmill Leisure Centre. People can order books and return them to the site.</li> <li>- There is no change to the library home service. This service will continue as usual, delivering books to those vulnerable and housebound in the community.</li> <li>- The Archive and local history service has been moved to the first floor of Catford Library, from where people can access these services.</li> <li>- On completion, the library will re-open in 2026 as a library hub for the future.</li> <li>- Regarding the market, the plan is to transform Lewisham market into a space which attracts more visitor and where local business thrive.</li> <li>- Permanent pitches made of environmentally friendly canopies will be installed and the number of pitches will increase to accommodate additional traders.</li> <li>- There are plans to extend the current trading hours to accommodate evening economy, incorporating other events.</li> <li>- A programme of events with community partners including schools, family hubs, Lewisham Shopping Centre and Migration Museum, to ensure that the library presence remains in the area.</li> <li>- Residents can visit <b><a href="http://lewisham.gov.uk/libraries">lewisham.gov.uk/libraries</a></b> for more</li> </ul>	

information about other libraries across the borough and further updates on the refurbishment.

- Works on the 3 projects will be done at different phases. The quickest one will begin in January 2024 to upgrade road crossing for better pedestrian flow, instal better signage and way finding, and upgrading of street lighting etc. These works would be the first visible tangible part of the levelling up programme and would be completed by spring 2025.
- Improving connectivity across the town centre through pedestrian and cycling infrastructure is another aspect of the scheme, including:
  - upgrade of existing entry routes to the Town Centre with three new strategically sited mobility hubs to encourage cycling and electric vehicle use
  - improving the public realm by creating spill out zones for local businesses, opening up trading and eating out onto the pavements
  - providing more green infrastructure, with tree planting, planters and pocket green spaces.

#### **Timeline of project**

- Design and planning permission is ongoing
- The revamp of the High Street should begin in January 2024 and later for the market and library
- Public engagement sessions for the library are expected to start later this month and run until December. The Council has engaged a full time Communication and Engagement officer dedicated to this project
- Public engagement for the market and high street will remain ongoing throughout the project
- Buses will still be able to use the High Street throughout this improvement.

#### **Consultation plans**

- Officers are currently working on a full engagement plan which will include information sharing and engagement with all key stakeholders
- Further information can be viewed via the following website:

**[lewisham.gov.uk/LewishamTC](http://lewisham.gov.uk/LewishamTC)**

- Residents can also sign up to receive regular newsletter via email – by emailing **[lewisham.gov.uk/signup](mailto:lewisham.gov.uk/signup)** or by getting in touch with the project team at **[lewishamtc@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:lewishamtc@lewisham.gov.uk)**
- People can also access information via a dedicated social media

	<p>handle @LewishamCouncil</p> <p>A question and answer session followed this presentation.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<b>Feedback from NCIL funded project</b>	
	<p><b>St Andrews Centre - Age 1 to 18 – Building Resilience and Support for children and young people towards a Brighter Future”</b></p> <p>This update was provided by Kimlee. She explained that there had been a delay in starting the project due to illness resulting in delays in purchasing the items needed to progress the project. The items were eventually purchased in March 2023.</p> <p>There are two aspects to this project which is aimed at providing support for children in the stay and play session aged 1 to 4 years and the other for the older children and young people aged 5 to 18 years, to give them the best start in life.</p> <p>Before the funding was secured, children attending the weekly Play &amp; Stay sessions were using old toys which needed replacing. Some of the funding secured from NCIL enabled the team to purchase items which encouraged creative play such as ethnically diverse dressing up clothes, water and sand play and interactive games appropriate for the younger age group.</p> <p>For the older children the computers purchased have helped a huge number of young people, many of whom do not have laptops or computers at home. They use the computers at the site to do their homework and play educational fun games. The facility is open to young people attending the youth club, daily after school club and half term and summer playschemes. The group still needs to purchase additional software and have taken advice from Lewisham Local about what they can buy. Members have asked for simple Coding software and there are plans to run short sessions on Coding. The purchase of new equipment meant that the group is now able to start using their Sensory room which had been out of action for over a year.</p> <p>Overall, the project has had an impact on the local community and it had attracted families to the Play &amp; Stay sessions and new members to the weekly youth club.</p> <p><b>Ladywell Women safety project</b></p> <p>Heather and Meena, from the Ladywell Women’s Group provided a brief background to the formation of the group. The group was formed in the wake of the Sarah Everard murder when they were made aware of some local incidents of harassment and potential violence against women and girls in Ladywell. Funding was secured from the ward NCIL to design a survey, publicity, hold public meetings for women and printing of the survey.</p> <p>Some of the project aims were listed as follows:</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish the nature and extent of street harassment and violence towards women and girls in Ladywell ward through a survey and meetings</li> <li>• Identify unsafe places for women and produce a report</li> <li>• Provide a contact point for women</li> </ul> <p>Use the results from the survey to work with the Met Police, Lewisham Council and others to improve women’s safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify facilities needed to work with and support boys and men in the future</li> </ul> <p>Progress made so far:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The group has held vigil for women and girls at the Jane Clouson memorial located in Ladywell cemetery</li> <li>• Four women’s night walks have taken place around Ladywell to identify unsafe places and a further two in the cemetery with a local historian</li> <li>• Two open meetings organised for local women – one with police contact</li> <li>• Members of the group have attended a meeting organised by the Met police locally to discuss its strategy for Violence Against Women and Girls</li> <li>• The group have liaised with a parallel project in Sydenham</li> </ul> <p>An online survey has gone live and circulated through local groups, businesses and local schools. The result from the survey will be written up and widely circulated early next year. There was an appeal for people to join the group mailing list and help spread the about this survey. The deadline for completing the survey is the 15<sup>th</sup> of December. The group can be contacted via email at <a href="mailto:ladywellwomensurvey@gmail.com">ladywellwomensurvey@gmail.com</a></p>	
<b>Lewisham 2030 Conversation – Help shape the future of your borough</b>		
	<p>Cllr Laura Cunningham informed the meeting that the Council is currently conducting a big conversation process to get people’s views on their hopes for Lewisham in 2030. Residents are being asked to give their feedback on what they would like Lewisham to be in 2030. The aim is to find out about people’s priorities, hopes, ambitions and aspirations for the future and how they can work with the council and its partners towards a better future for everyone in Lewisham. To do this, she asked attendees to respond to the following three key questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) What do people like about Lewisham now?</li> <li>2) What are their hopes for 2030? What a good future will look like</li> <li>3) What they think needs to change to make these hopes happen?</li> </ol> <p>Attendees were asked to write their responses to the 3 questions on the post it notes provided and past them on the flip chart paper</p>	

	<p>displayed around the room.</p> <p>People can also share their views via the online survey at: <a href="http://Lewisham.gov.uk/Lewisham2030">Lewisham.gov.uk/Lewisham2030</a> or by using the QR code provided at the meeting. The deadline for completing the survey is by 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2023.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Community updates and any other business</b>	
	<p><b>Brockley Society 50 years Celebration</b></p> <p>A member from the Brockley Society informed the meeting about a free one-day conference called Conservation, Legacy and Innovation. The event is to celebrate 50 years of the creation of the Brockley Conservation area. The conference theme includes examining the history and formation of the group, its achievements and exemplary projects, as well as discussion on current concerns and community involvement.</p> <p>The event will be held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October from 10am till 4pm at Lewisham College, Lewisham Way, London SE4 1UT. To book a place visit <a href="https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/brockley-society">https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/brockley-society</a> or scan the QR code on the leaflet given out at the meeting.</p> <p><b>Date of next Assembly meeting</b></p> <p>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2024, 7pm till 9pm at St Mary's Primary School, Lewisham High Street, London SE13.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<b>Declaration of interest</b>	
	<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>	