



**Perry Vale Assembly
Wednesday 4 July 2012
7pm – 9pm
Forest Hill Methodist Church
Normanton Street, SE23 2DS**

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Welcome, introduction & format for the meeting

Councillor Susan Wise Chair of the Perry Vale Assembly welcomed everyone to the meeting. She then introduced Councillor John Paschoud and explained that Cllr Alan Till has another meeting but will be along later.

Cllr Wise told the assembly that unfortunately the Safer Neighbourhood Team have had to send their apologies, however, they have sent a written update which is on the information table

2. Feedback from previously funded groups

Teachsport – Ross Walker from Teachsport thanked the assembly for the £2,920 Assembly Fund awarded to Teachsport last year. Many of the young people have gained a nationally recognised qualification as part of the sports leaders programme including both level one and level two as well as a citizenship award. 18 people started the course and 15 completed it with 5 people getting their level 2, all of these will be working with us on our summer schemes.

Teachsport has also been awarded £320,00 to fund free sports in Lewisham Parks through the holiday season for 4 years, we are seeking more young people to volunteer, they must be aged 13 or over.

Q What are the volunteers in Mayow Park doing?

A Supporting our coaches for our Olympic taster event

Q What sports do you focus on?

A Olympics is big for us, as is Cricket, football less so, Cricket and Athletics create a really good spirit

Q Is it male focused?

A No, we have Netball, Handball, Softball and some dance

Q Do you cater for the disabled?

A Yes, all our staff are trained and we have wheelchair basketball

Cllr Wise – Can we see some of your young people at a future assembly?

A Yes of course

Lewisham Thunder Basketball Club – Ann Pittman from Lewisham Thunder thanked the assembly for the £8,800 Assembly Fund awarded to Lewisham

Thunder last year. She then stated that the club started 5 years ago with just 6 young people, there are now 60 taking part with community basketball at Forest Hill School every Tuesday and Saturday as well as wheelchair basketball at Perrymount School. Lewisham Thunder has teams for under 14s, 16s and 18s, there is also a girls team and a senior wheelchair team. The club has also had a player make the England under 18 squad and he went on to win the under 18 player of the year. Lewisham Thunder won the national under 18 championship and the youth games last year, it's success means that on a weekly basis more young people are turning up and joining the club, including many from Perrymount School.

Sydenham Garden – Cllr Wise told the assembly that unfortunately Kye Lockwood the Chief Executive from Sydenham Garden has not been able to make the meeting, however, they have sent an update detailing how they spent the £4,400 provided to them by the assembly and this on the information tables. Cllr Wise also stated that Sydenham Garden has now acquired an allotment site and their Christmas Fayre will be on Saturday November 24.

3. Update from Skanska – Paul Burman from Skanska told the assembly that the new PFI will see Skanska replacing 40,000 street lights in Lewisham and Croydon and maintaining them for 25 years. As part of this contract Skanska is required to comply with new regulations and the engineers will visit the relevant street several times before installation. The lighting on each street is individually designed to meet its own needs and on residential streets the columns are shorter and the lights dimmer than on main roads. All this work is closely monitored by the Local Authority and there are 3 different checks that are made before installation.

Q Are these PFIs the same ones as hospitals?

A I am not familiar with the exact details of what the hospitals are doing, but it is a similar model

Q How does this compare with funding previously?

A I can only answer on efficiency, the new lights are far more efficient with a lower maintenance cost and energy usage

Q What about the lighting between Pearfield Road and Mayow Road?

A Some of the alleyways are on our inventory

Cllr Wise – I have been checking the alleyways too to see if they have been done.

Q You have moved a lamppost from the road to up against my property, people can now climb this lamppost which is against my wall and get into my property, there is also an extension of light into my bedrooms and my garden is lit-up like a football pitch. I have been fobbed off by customer services and I was told that the Duty Manager would call me back, but he never did?

A I will chase this up, however, the position of the lights were agreed by the local authority as they have to be 0.8m back from the kerbway due to

regulations and the Disability Act, this means that columns must be at the rear of the footway

Q Will you be cutting back trees?

A Yes we must trim back within 1 metre of the lantern, any further and it must be done by the local authority

Q What is the timescale for finishing the work, lots of pitches have been dug up like on Shipman Road?

A Depends on what we have been given, some are not selected and we are reliant on organisations such as UK Power Networks to turn on the power and the water company

Q So what pressure are you putting on these companies?

A We have lots of meetings

Q I was mugged at the end of the alleyway on Shipman Road as Skanska had switched the lights off and removed the mirror, can you make it a policy that alleyway lighting is replaced the same day?

A We do rely on UK Power Networks and this can be a problem

Cllr Paschoud – In this case it was a lack of bulbs not power

Q I got mugged by 6 people with knives and that same weekend 4 other people were mugged with one staying in hospital for a month

A The mirror was removed because the column came out, we have to operate legally

Q (Cllr Paschoud) I had a meeting with Barbara Britten of the Disability Coalition, there are lots of issues regarding the barriers protecting the holes as no space is left for wheelchair users?

A This is something that we have looked at and will continue to look at

Q I have looked at the British Standard and it is recommended, not mandatory. You are creating a chicane effect for anyone in a wheelchair

Q You should coordinate your efforts with the refuse collectors because on bin days it can be really bad?

A I will take this away

4. Neighbourhood Planning and the Localism Bill

Michael Abrahams and Penelope Jarrett provided the assembly with the following information:

Michael stated that he is Vice Chairman of the Forest Hill Society which has 400 members and operates local to here. Their aim is simply to make the area a better place to live. This includes planting, transport improvements and markets.

The Localism Act 2011 sets out new tools for giving people greater ownership over the plans and policies which affect their community:

- Neighbourhood Plans
- Neighbourhood Development Orders
- Community Right to Build Order

What sort of issues may be dealt with?

A vision (or visions) for the area

- Character assessment/guidelines
- High Streets and local parades
- Ideas for development sites
- Transport interchanges
- Community infrastructure (health, schools, community provision etc)

What are we doing?

The Forest Hill and Sydenham Societies are working together on neighbourhood planning for SE23 and SE26. We have held initial workshops, meetings with Council officers and are talking to the 4 Ward Assemblies in the area. We want to see community leadership in promoting good places, and planned improvements to these areas

What area may be covered?

Principally SE23 and SE26, including Forest Hill, Perry Vale, Honor Oak, Sydenham and Kirkdale.

Key discussion around Honor Oak/Crofton Park

What next?

Establish a steering group or neighbourhood forum.

Identify and agree a boundary and sub-areas.

Get groups working on key issues and areas.

Work with the Council on delivering change.

Work towards a neighbourhood plan or plans

Q Did the Government bring in this Act and do they expect you to do this?

A Yes and the Neighbourhood Plan is meant to be driven by local people
Cllr Paschoud – I have also investigated this and I am on the planning committee. They are quite open minded about this, there could be 3 or 4 wards of Lewisham with a local plan or the Local Assembly could act as one, different things can happen across the country.

Michael Abrahams then stated that he felt that the local assembly is a good engagement tool, but restricted to wards and boundaries, we want to cooperate with all groups.

Q Are you aware that part of Perry Vale is in SE6?

Q Does this dilute other funding or is it community led?

A At present there are no costs

Q Do you have any concerns?

A Yes lots, we have to look at the role of referendums and boundaries and planning

Q What about the big decisions, who has control over them?

A We can't override planning guidance, but we can look at our own

Q If the group splits or disagrees, who makes the decision and what about the vested interests of other groups?

A It will be a Neighbourhood Forum with a Neighbourhood Planning Document, this can go to a referendum to local people

5. Table work linked to the action plan

The assembly was asked to think about the 5 Perry Vale assembly priorities which are: Young People, Roads and Traffic, Activities for the whole Community, The Environment and Anti-social Behaviour and Crime. The idea of the exercise was to get people to think about the specific issues within the priority, the area where the issue is occurring and finally some solutions / ideas to help solve the problem. All this information was recorded on to work sheets that were collected at the end of the assembly.

6. Feedback from the table work

At the end of the exercise each table was asked to feedback to the rest of the assembly what issues they identified and what ideas that they had for resolving them. All this information has been recorded and will be linked into the Perry Vale action plan.

7. Launch of the Perry Vale Assembly Fund

Paul Gale told the assembly that there is £15,000 available to Perry Vale ward this year and the money must be spent on one or more of the Perry Vale assembly priorities. There will be a bid limit of around £2,000 and the deadline for submitting applications is Friday 14 September. We are particularly keen to see some new groups applying for money and we can provide support if needed.

8. Community Updates

Cllr Wise told the assembly about the following community events:

Forest Fest – Takes place at Forest Hill School on Saturday 7 July 12pm – 5pm

Sydenham Arts Festival runs from 1 – 15 July with lots of activities in the area including Mayow Park, there is a guide on the information table.

Lewisham Gardens – They are currently running a scheme asking people to give 2 hours to a community garden this summer, there are lots of participating gardens and there is more information on the table.

Hugh Dames told the assembly that unfortunately his idea for a barbecue in Mayow Park has been rejected due to the pavilion refurbishment.

Sydenham and Forest Hill Youth Forum (SFHYF) – Melissa Knight stated that SFHYF is a collective of professionals that meet regularly to discuss ways to improve services for young people. One of the things that they want to do is to ask local people to give a small donation of £2 per month or what they can. This money will form a pot of funding that will be spent on community projects that benefit all ages within the local area. They also want local residents to help decide on the funding and where the money gets spent. The website

catalogues what is happening for youth within the local area and people can add what their organisation is doing, there is a web tool to help people through the process. Email Melissa at mel@sfhyouthforum.org.uk for more details. The project is now in its fourth year and that £2 per month can really help.

9. Close

Councillor Wise thanked every one for coming to the assembly and stated that the next meeting will be on Saturday 27 October at the Rockbourne Centre from 12.30pm – 2.30pm

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 9.15pm. No declarations of interest were made at the meeting.