

**MINUTES OF THE LEYTONSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (LCC)**  
**MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> December 2006 AT 7.30PM**  
**EPICENTRE, WEST STREET, LONDON E11 4 LJ**

**Councillor Chair:**

Cllr Shameem Highfield

**Councillor Vice-Chair:**

Cllr Liz Phillips

**Councillors Present:**

Clyde Loakes  
Jennifer Gray  
Marie Pye  
Keith Rayner

Milton Martin  
Terry Wheeler  
Naz Sarkar - Cabinet Champion

**Community Chair:**

Ms Jane Brueseke

**Community Vice-Chair:**

Ms Christine Cliffe

**Officers Present:**

Ursula Gamble  
Bill Nisbet  
Michelle Bridge  
Felix Ndiweni  
Clair Witney  
Penny Allier  
Shirley Haynes  
Anthony Lane

Community Council Lead Officer  
Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator  
Street Wardens  
Street Wardens  
Head of Community Engagement  
Community Councils Officer  
Community Councils Officer  
Committee Manager

**Also Present:**

James Slater  
Anthony Ranzetta  
Sunny Martinez  
Frances Hollis  
Insp. Brian Duffy  
PS Colin Parker  
PS Lee Palmer  
Safer Neighbourhoods Team Officers  
Chris Bateson  
Jonathan Bunn

Waltham Forest PCT  
Whipps Cross University Hospital Trust  
Waltham Forest PCT  
Whipps Cross University Hospital Trust  
Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)  
MPS - Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT)  
MPS - Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT)  
Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)  
Age Concern (Waltham Forest)  
Waltham Forest Guardian

**Residents Present:**

There were approximately 60 residents at the meeting.

**PART ONE – COMMUNITY FORUM**

Item	Action
<b>1 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS</b>	
The Community Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced Members, Council Officers and representatives from partner groups present.	
She drew attention to the displays in the hall and also noted the compulsory recycling	

consultation and evaluation forms available for completion by residents.

She apologised for group session last time, citing feedback in the forms indicating that chairs were badly positioned and it was difficult to hear and noted that comments had been taken on board for the future.

## 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

No apologies were received.

## 3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 July 2006 were agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair with the following amendment noted:

- Page 9, Para. 5 – The comment raised actually related to a missing Neighbourhood Watch sign in his road (Montague Rd).

## 5 RESPONSE SHEET

Ursula Gamble summarised the blue response sheets included in the papers.

Noted the following response:

**B Nisbet** responded (Comment 2) that he had visited the road in question, had noted the missing sign and one other that was old and dilapidated. He was currently in the process of getting these replaced and this would be finalised in the next couple of weeks.

## 6 COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUDGET 2006/7

Ursula Gamble summarised the options included on the yellow sheet in the papers that had been costed to date for spending the £10,000 Community Council Budget 2006/7. She noted that the first six options (those that had been costed) totalled £9176, leaving £824 still to be distributed.

1. Care Free Kids - £360
2. News From Nowhere Club - £1,636
3. New Horizons Women's Group - £1,450
4. Woodhouse Road Neighbourhood Watch - £500
5. Cathall Road Youth Club - £3,980
6. Replace 10 trees - £1,250

Noted the following comments, discussion and responses where relevant:

**Cllr M Pye** noted that the money allocated to one Neighbourhood Watch (NW) scheme should be more fairly distributed to all the other local NW schemes as well. A couple had set up only this year and could really use the money. She suggested that a "pot" of funds should be set aside for use by NW schemes that applied for it.

**J Brueseke** noted that only one scheme had applied for the funding this year and that there was a suggestion that the remaining funds (£824) were to be earmarked to go toward the NW schemes.

**Cllr C Loakes** recommended that he follow up on the replacement of the trees,

rather than take it from the CC funds as maintenance costs had not been built into the figures and this would add to the costs. The Borough had spent some £40,000 last year on tree replacement. He offered to take the issue forward.

**Cllr C  
Loakes**

**J Brueseke** welcomed the offer, suggested the savings to be put into the NW fund and requested a show of support from the meeting (noted clear support). She offered the opportunity to all local NW schemes to apply for the £2074 on offer by contacting the CC team. She also noted that the WF Disability Resource Centre did not have enough time to present their proposal and therefore did not present an application for funding.

The item was closed at this point.

## **7 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAMS**

A standing item with reports on the activities of the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams (SNTs) in the Community Council area.

**PS C Parker** (Leytonstone ward SNT) noted that the commitment made at the last meeting by Supt. Dawson to get teams to full strength (1PS, 2 PCs and 3 PCSOs) should be delivered before Christmas. 18 new PCSOs had been recruited with the remit to concentrate on transport nodes and offer a more effective uniformed presence around these areas. In the south of the Borough the focus was on street robbery and anti-social behaviour (ASB) and he believed he spoke for all three wards in this endeavour.

**PS L Palmer** (Cathall ward SNT) noted that his team was working hard to make the ward a safer place for the community. His team was at full strength and the focus was on robbery and ASB.

**Insp B Duffy** introduced himself as the new Inspector for the ten wards in the south of the Borough. He was impressed with the dedication of his teams and noted the focus on robbery and ASB and the good results to date. He welcomed contact from residents and was looking forward to working with residents to make the area safer.

**J Brueseke** noted also the newly created Cathall Community Safety Group. It represented a positive partnership in the ward to work in partnership with Street Wardens, ward Councillors the SNT and residents against robbery and ASB.

## **8 OPEN FORUM / COMMUNITY DISCUSSION / MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

This standing item is an opportunity for residents to raise any new issues of local concern and follow up on any outstanding issues (Matters Arising) relating to the last meeting.

Noted the following comments, discussion and responses where relevant:

**P. Bertram** raised several points noting that this meeting had clashed with a WF Race Equality Council meeting being staged at the WF Town Hall this evening and asked why this was the case. She had not heard about this meeting except through a letter/leaflet and asked why the black community were not made aware of these Community Council meetings where people were being elected to important community posts. Finally, she stated that a tribunal had determined that EduAction had acted in a racially discriminatory way and she wished to know what the Council was doing about it with particular regard to the £400,000 EduAction allocation of the £350 million BNI fund.

**Cllr C Loakes** responded that Community Councils were well publicised throughout the Borough on notice boards, at libraries and also on the web. He noted that the Community Council meetings were set in May of each year. The Race Equality Council had access to these dates. With regard to the EduAction case, he noted that the case was ongoing and no result had yet been reached.

J Brueseke added that the Community Councils had also been working closely with the BME Alliance who were well aware of the activities of the CCs.

**N Tiratsoo** had been aware of a reduced presence of Street Wardens in the Cann Hall and Cathall wards (particularly around the Langthorne Park hotspot) and asked the reason.

**M Bridge** (Street Wardens) responded that currently the section was undergoing an Enforcement Review looking at the role of wardens and the possibility of increasing powers to enforce law rather than just maintain a presence. This should last until March and accounted for the shortfalls experienced at present owing to not being able to recruit during the process. They are currently two wardens short in Leytonstone but they were doing their best to respond to the circumstances and trying to cover all areas effectively. She added that further feedback on the situation should be forthcoming around the end of March 2007.

**F Ndiweni** (Street Wardens) added that recently they had engaged with local Environmental Services officers to tackle graffiti and other environmental issues. He concurred that the wardens were stretched in the three local wards, but were still a vital presence in the wards.

**S House** had issues surrounding the play zone in Cathall Road Leisure Centre. A drain had been burst for some 6 months and the Local Authority had done nothing about it. She noted that the zone was a critical resource for local parents and currently they had to make do with locating at the squash courts which were not fit for this purpose.

**Cllr N Sarkar** noted the comments and offered to get action and a response back for the next meeting.

**Cllr N Sarkar**

**S Burns** noted with regard to the Cathall Road Youth Club (CC spend item) that other groups in the community were also working with youth in the community, including other housing associations, and therefore felt it was unfair to offer all the allocation to this one when she felt that CBHA should fund it themselves. Other associations could set up such groups if they were allocated such funds.

**J Brueseke** noted that his was a good point and asked that the money be given on the condition that they work with other groups (such as the Cathall Community Safety Group which covers all of Cathall).

**CC Officer**

**L Wortley** noted three issues with regard to the Olympics. Firstly, he was pleased to note that the Construction Training Centre was to go ahead, which would mean that young people would be able to access the 30,000 forecasted jobs in the industry leading up to the games. He warned however, that they would need to get the work experience as well as part of their training beforehand. Secondly, while he supported the need for sports both before and after the games, he was concerned at the possible precedent being set (despite guarantees to return it to original condition after the games) by the concreting over parts of Hackney Marshes and the loss of Marsh Lane Fields (with areas being set aside as a Travellers site on the Hackney side of the marsh). His third point related to Health and Safety and transport. Leyton tube station now has only one exit whereas it used to have three (one each end and one at the side).

There were more people using this station these days and it was a battle to move on the stairs, particularly at peak hour and could potentially create a safety hazard, particularly for the disabled and the elderly. This situation needed to be taken in hand and quickly before accidents occurred.

**Cllr C Loakes** responded that he and Councillor Wheeler had been lobbying hard to get this situation rectified as it made total sense. In fact they had recently met with Peter Hendy (Commissioner – TfL) on the issue. He concurred that the Construction Academy had seen positive inroads with discussions and there should be a good outcome to report shortly. With regard to local sporting facilities he noted that WF needed to look at creative solutions to strengthen the local sporting facility and activity offering. There is the new SCORE Centre (Oliver Rd E10) and they were looking at other possible legacies from the games for the Borough. He supported the work of Leytonstone School, however, noted that only 4 secondary schools in the Borough offered a minimum 2 hours sport per week to pupils on the curriculum, which he felt needed to be improved.

**D Chavannes** was disappointed with the current quality and range of shops (99p stores, etc) and the general state (trade bins in street, gum on street, E11 “gum post” and litter) of Leytonstone Town Centre and asked about plans for regeneration. To be a flagship town centre they should try and encourage a better standard of store to the area. He added that a community is judged not only upon the standard of education, but also on the strength of the arts community. He cited the 491 Gallery in Grove Green Road, noting that the building in which they currently operated was derelict and they should be encouraged to operate a council-funded arts centre for the whole community. The Council needed to have a strategic plan for arts in Leytonstone Town Centre.

**J Brueseke** noted that this was an item directly addressed in the second part of the meeting with a presentation on the E11 BID.

**Cllr M Pye** noted that in fact quite a lot had been done recently to improve the E11 town centre with notice boards, a nature trail (St John’s Church), new railings and other environmental improvements being undertaken. She noted that the “gum post” had been removed, which she felt was an improvement. At the last meeting there had been a good presentation by Martin Esom (Executive Director, Environmental Services), which had outlined their ongoing activities in the area. They (she and Cllr Loakes with M Esom) had walked around the area to highlight potential areas for improvement, such as local flowerbeds and the trade waste bins on Church Lane, highlighted earlier. Some traders were actually being prosecuted regarding these bins on the street. She noted that the Council and community could only try and encourage the right sort of businesses to invest in the area and added that recently some quality cafes had established locally. She noted that her recent informal survey of shoppers to the area indicated that about two of three came from outside the area. She gave credit to Shah (Ahmed) and Fawaad (Shaikh) of the Leytonstone Business Forum and welcomed the new Community Focus booklet that had recently been published for Leytonstone and thanked the Business Forum for its production. She looked forward to hearing more of their activities in the second part of the meeting.

**D Chavannes** was unsure of who would come from outside to shop in Leytonstone as there was not a huge range of shops. He highlighted two nearby areas of Wanstead and Snaresbrook, which had a different “feel” and he

believed that Leytonstone deserved the same.

**Cllr M Pye** was surprised at the result herself, but these people had come to shop at the likes of Primark and Matalan, which were good for inexpensive clothes.

**E Dijeh** again highlighted the Neighbourhood Watch sign, which had been missing from Montague Rd since November 2005.

**B Nisbet** again noted that he was looking to have the issue addressed (along with another old sign) in the road in the next two weeks.

**J Brueseke** noted that the issue had not been resolved owing to the confusion surrounding details previously recorded. She suggested that B Nisbet and E Dijeh finalise the discussion after the meeting.

**E Macleod** noted that over the last 30 years (the time she had been in Leytonstone) all the large department stores had moved away with the result being that all that was left was smaller establishments. She felt that the area was deteriorating and this was upsetting from her point of view.

**S Ahmed** was surprised at the comments of some at the meeting. He praised the variety of shops in the area, particularly the specialist shops (such as the hobby shop) that attracted custom from far afield. He urged people to look around the town centre and see what was available. The Business Forum was trying hard to encourage the right quality of shop to the area and get things moving in the town centre and this would be highlighted in their presentation later in the evening.

**C Cliffe** noted that the flowerbeds that had been planted by voluntary groups in the area near the station were not maintained and were a target for litter. She asked whether LBWF could send a council operative occasionally to tidy up and preserve the condition of the area generally.

**J Brueseke** noted that Councillor Loakes had indicated that he would action this point.

**P Vates** noted that the Town Centre was lucky to still have specialist shops such as the hobby shop and hoped that more small specialist shops would be encouraged. He agreed that the "gum post" and "gum target" were not successful ideas. He also noted that something should be done about the "wind tunnel effect" that appeared to cause the accumulation of leaves and rubbish between the Lloyds TSB Bank and the bus shelter.

**J Brueseke** asked that the comments on the "wind tunnel" be taken forward.

A **resident** (North Birkbeck Rd) was concerned at the noticeable increase in rubbish and even large household items (bedsteads, mattresses, washing machines) being left in the streets of the area.

**Cllr M Martin** responded that the south side of the Borough had seen this problem increase of late and he had been aware of the increase in incidences of this nature himself simply from observation. He noted that the area had increased the migratory type of demographic and as new tenants were installed the old items were discarded. Being new to the area, these tenants were unaware of the services offered locally to pick these items up. He added that he was looking to target these areas with letters through mailboxes to advise of the services. He also advised of two legal cases pending on Langthorne Road for fly tipping. He urged people to advise **Waltham Forest Direct (WFD – 8496 3000)** when noticing these items or alternatively come and see the Councillors at their regular surgeries.

**Cllr C  
Loakes**

**Street  
Services**

**J Brueseke** noted that the LBWF service was quick and effective at dealing with these issues.

**P Ashan** (noting that Whipps Cross was on the agenda for discussion later) wanted to offer support to the “Defend Whipps Cross” and the “Keep the NHS Public” campaigns. He noted that the unions were to hold protests around the issue in Walthamstow on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2006 at 12.30 pm. A steering group had been set up as part of the protest and they were to meet on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2006. In February next year they were also looking to organise a march in support of Whipps Cross and against the whole agenda of privatising the hospital system and he urged people to become involved.

A **resident** supported the call earlier for more provision for the arts in the area and asked what was being planned in the newly refurbished Leytonstone library, noting that in the past it had been a “powerhouse” for arts in the area.

**Cllr C Loakes** responded that there would still be provision in the new library, noting that groups such as the Leytonstone Play Reading group had met there before and would do so in the future (currently meeting at Harrow Green library). He noted that the refurbished library would be a driving force for arts and culture in the town centre.

The **resident** asked further about provision for performance, exhibition and education, noting that this was a constant feature of the old library. She added that Harrow Green also had facilities that were currently under-utilised.

**J Brueseke** noted that the 491 Gallery had established a relationship with the Leytonstone CC back when the meetings first started. They had been involved in the Leytonstone Car Free Day in the past.

**Cllr N Sarkar** noted that while the Council acknowledged the fact that perhaps the provision could have been improved in the past, it was important to be proactive now and harness the energy of residents (such as the previous speaker) interested in welfare of the arts community. He felt that the new library would be a fantastic addition to the area. The whole of the library would now be open for public use and it would provide a great resource for the arts locally.

A **resident** endorsed what had been said previously with regard to arts in the libraries hoping that the promised plans and ambitions for the centres would be realised. She was concerned however at the lack of space now being provided in libraries and other public buildings for the community to promote activities. She noted that most notice boards locally were filled with (laminated) posters promoting Council services and, in the case of Harrow Green library, a folder now replaced the notice board and the leaflet shelf had been removed. She noted that the community, local groups and organisations needed a highly visible place to put information in order to ensure that the residents remain posted on local issues, events and activities. Often websites were not sufficient to engage the whole community.

**K Hutchinson** asked for more flexibility (in charging for halls) in order to maximise the potential of local arts groups. She cited an example of a professional mime group, who had been using a hall previously for free and were looking to provide free shows for the community, being asked now to pay £60 per hour for the use of the same facility.

**Cllr N Sarkar** noted that the arts were now part of his portfolio (Leisure, Arts and Culture) and as such it was an important aspect of his remit to look at local provision of services. He noted that on a recent visit to Woodford Green library

he had seen how a vibrant, popular library should operate and how it should provide for the local community. That is the vision that he had for Leytonstone and Harrow Green and he again asked that the energy of interested people be harnessed to help make this vision a reality.

A **resident** was concerned about the number of attacks (4) on the (Norman Road) over-bridge over the last 2½ years. In addition, it was noted that more should be done to promote and market the area, particularly in the run-up to the Olympics.

**Cllr C Loakes** responded that the SNT team have regularly noted the problem at this location (Norman Road) and they were continually looking at ways to make the area safer for people. He also noted that later in the evening Fawaad Shaikh would present details on the Business Improvement District (BID) and that the Leytonstone Business Forum, through this vehicle, would become instrumental in the marketing of the town centre and the encouraging of new investment to the area. He noted that while Leytonstone must be practical and not try to compete directly with larger centres (Stratford, Ilford, the West End) it did have a role to play and a niche market to fill. He noted that Leytonstone already had a very good offering for the arts and music scene. He added that the new library would indeed have provision for a gallery and arts space. He also noted major events such as the Leytonstone Festival and Car Free Day.

**J Brueseke** noted that PS Bryan Howey (formerly Cathall SNT) had wanted to have the (Norman Road) bridge closed.

**PS L Palmer** (SNT – Cathall ward) noted that there had been regular problems in this area and he had wanted cameras to be installed; however, the Highways Agency (responsible for the bridge maintenance) did not allow their installation. Despite this, he noted they have caught perpetrators in the area. He reported that hard work was ongoing in the Borough and recent figures were promising. Waltham Forest had improved from previously being 31<sup>st</sup> of 32 London Boroughs to now be 2<sup>nd</sup> of 32, showing an excellent reduction of 32% across the Borough.

**B Madican** (Waltham Forest Fair Trade Campaign Group) asked what the plans were to ensure Fair Trade product was dispensed in library food vending machines. He also requested more anti-litter promotional campaigns in the Borough, as certain areas were seeing an increase in litter (e.g. Ferndale Rd). He cited the example of the campaign in Islington where the Council distributed “yellow cards” to perpetrators (with a red card producing a fine). He noted that it was effective in reducing litter in the area. He added that the free phone number for “Clarence” 0800 232323 (the Councils clear-up service) was still active.

**J Brueseke** concluded the session by publicised a meeting of the Police Community Consultative Group (PCCG) taking place 7.30pm tomorrow (5/12/06) at the SCORE Centre (Oliver Rd, Leyton E10 5JY) which was open to the public.

The item was closed at this point.

## 9 ELECTION OF COMMUNITY CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Nominated candidates were introduced and any last minute nominations were requested before the meeting was asked to elect candidates to the posts of Community Council Chair and Vice Chair.

Results:

Item

Action

**Jane Brueseke** was returned as Community Council Chair unopposed.

**Nick Tiratsoo** was appointed as Community Council Vice Chair unopposed.

**Cllr C Loakes** wished to express the gratitude of the meeting for the contribution of Christine Cliffe as the outgoing Vice Chair for the Community Council.

The item and Community Forum were closed at this point.

### **PART TWO FORMAL COMMITTEE**

Councillor Shameen Highfield in the Chair

Item

Action

#### **1 WHIPPS CROSS HOSPITAL – FIT FOR THE FUTURE**

**James Slater (JS)**, Waltham Forest Primary Care Trust (PCT) presented. NHS Trusts and PCTs are working together on a programme of reconfiguration of health services and facilities in outer NE London. The review aims to look at improving the quality of local health services; providing more services in the community; getting the best out of new facilities and providing services within the budget.

He outlined 5 options:

- Option 1: Queen's Hospital as major acute hospital, Whipps Cross Hospital (WXH) and King George Hospital (KGH) remain as district general hospitals (DGHs), with Independent Sector Treatment Centre (ISTC) at King George Hospital;
- Option 2: Queen's Hospital as major acute hospital; One emergency-focused hospital (Whipps Cross) and one elective-focused hospital (King George);
- Option 3: Queen's Hospital as major acute hospital; One emergency-focused hospital (King George) and one elective-focused hospital (Whipps Cross);
- Option 4: Queen's Hospital as major acute hospital; Whipps Cross as DGH and King George as an ambulatory centre.
- Option 5: Queen's Hospital as major acute hospital; King George as DGH and Whipps Cross as an ambulatory centre.

The programme is being undertaken in the context of London-wide review of health strategy. It was noted that the Urgent Care Centre, Maternity Services, Outpatients, Diagnostic facilities and Day surgery would stay at Whipps Cross Hospital. He stressed that at this point no decisions have yet been taken and will not be taken without extensive public involvement and consultation. Preferred option(s) will be reached as a result of public comment, benefits appraisal and scoring and will go out to formal consultation with the wide involvement of patients, the public and professionals. Part of the process will involve meeting with MPs, Councillors, Overview and Scrutiny, PPI forums, Community Councils, the Joint Partnership Forum, media and other stakeholder groups. Consultation likely to take place early in 2007. As consultation was only still at a preliminary stage, he would be returning in the new year with a more comprehensive presentation.

Further information is available at: [www.walthamforest-pct.nhs.uk](http://www.walthamforest-pct.nhs.uk)

Contact: Fitforthefuture@wf-pct.nhs.uk

Noted the following comments, discussion and responses where relevant:

A **resident** wished to see Whipps Cross remain a DGH noting that Homerton was in a location where it could not expand, whereas WXH potentially could be expanded. He added that there would be additional costs associated with the requirement for more ambulances and paramedics (and extra time) associated with transporting patients over longer distances.

**JS** noted that ambulance services were no longer the “scoop and run” style of old. For instance, with heart attacks and major head trauma, paramedics today stabilise the patient at the source and once confirmed by a specialist that this is the case; the patient is then transferred to a Centre of Excellence to be treated. This was what was happening now and the figures showed that it was a safer and more successful strategy. Journey times were a secondary issue it was found.

**AR** added that it was important that the ambulance got to the patient in 8 minutes in these cases to administer the necessary drugs and then move them on for emergency angioplasty. Evidence at Barts and also from Europe showed that this was saving lives. He shared the view with residents that all A&E centres should have this facility, though it was not the case in the UK.

A resident was concerned that there were insufficient ambulance numbers at the moment and the proof was in the fact that the police had to recently transport him to hospital.

**JS** noted that they were working with London Ambulance Service on modelling journey times and to establish requirements and if the need were identified they would find the funding to ensure that sufficient numbers were in place.

**Cllr M Pye** noted that statistics and models did not really highlight the individual needs of patients, highlighting a cystic-fibrosis sufferer who required treatment twice a week and needed facilities close by, as he could not travel long distances. She also noted the legal obligation of the consulting body to conduct an impact assessment around disability and race equality and as yet she had not been furnished with a copy despite requests.

**JS** noted that there were no plans to downsize outpatient services at WXH. He added that the Impact Assessments would be conducted prior to the formal consultation process.

A **resident** noted that under the current circumstances with local traffic congestion, he would feel a lot safer if he knew he was only going up the road to WXH. He added that the need to travel much greater distances would badly affect those who relied on public transport and usually those least able to afford it if they were stranded at 3am miles from home at the hospital with no transport.

**JS** noted these comments adding that the modelling and workshops had highlighted the difficulties with public transport in WF and the fact that more people in WF are reliant upon it.

**L Wortley** agreed that the traffic situation locally (Leyton and Leytonstone High Road) was poor, noting that the M11 link road works had removed one access bridge out of the centre without replacing it. He added another note on MRSA, highlighting the fact that rates were higher here than in other parts of Europe. He asked why a solution had not been found yet and what the service was doing to combat the spread of MRSA.

**JS** reiterated that the London Ambulance Service operational teams were

scrutinising the results of their studies and the NHS would rely on their experience and judgement on the issue.

**AR** noted that 3 of the 5 options retained A&E at WXH. He added that a non-financial assessment (including a traffic assessment) of the situation favoured the retention of the A&E at WXH. He agreed that the incidence of MRSA was much too high in the UK and it should be much lower. Hospitals had introduced much more rigorous cleaning procedures, noting that it can also be brought into hospitals, but added that work was ongoing to combat this threat to health and safety.

**L Wortley** emphasised that the traffic situation should be of paramount importance in the decision and should not be left to the judgement of “experts”.

A **resident** noted that the real reason for the consultation was that they wished to close WXH before improving it owing to the poorer star rating compared to Homerton Hospital, where no such decision was being discussed.

**AR** noted that patient care at WXH rated the same as at Homerton. Finances were weak. Fit for the Future was about sorting out the financial situation and looking at savings across the entire north east London area, where all trusts got a weak assessment. There was simply not enough to go around all the services, but rationalising meant that increases in revenues generated could go to other services. He added that WXH finances should be back in balance next year. He actually welcomed option 4, stating that it saw WXH serving a larger population and therefore generating more income to allow for improvements to physical amenities and services. The bottom line is that they needed to improve finances, but retain the appropriate range of services.

**C Cliffe** was concerned about the future of the eye centre at WXH and what would happen in the case of an emergency (e.g. torn retina) at 10 pm when the centre closes at 5pm.

**AR** noted that Ophthalmology stays at WXH under all options. With regards to the out-of-hours care, there would be a problem if the A&E moves off site, as the patient would need to get assistance elsewhere. 3 of the options keep A&E at WXH, with one proposal going further to move the A&E closer to the ophthalmic service.

**P Vates** asked whether accurate projections of growth in traffic and population had been considered in modelling the added strain predicted on the service. He added that the healthcare service should stay the same and management reduced, as it seemed to be where the money was going.

**JS** noted that management costs had decreased proportionately in the health service over recent years from 4% to 3%. He added that they had committed to reducing management overheads by some 15%. Many managers are also experienced nurses also involved in service planning and it was a logical path of career progression. He noted also that they had used projections based on GLA figures, which had been updated to reflect the expected impact of the Olympics. They were careful to ensure that they were to build in a margin for error as planning was always an imprecise science.

A **resident** was concerned that the community was not being told what services were no longer going to be provided from the range already on offer. She added that WXH was in danger of losing the expertise that was currently in the hospital. She also noted that WXH was an important and large employer in the area and any reduction in job numbers would impact directly on the area. She asked also

whether the number of options was to be reduced in the final consultation.

**Cllr C Loakes** paid tribute to the staff at WXH who, despite these difficult times and uncertainty about their futures, still maintained an excellent service. He was concerned that the language of the discussion was not sufficiently simple for the layperson and called for the debate to be put in terms that all could easily understand. He added that in order for proper health care in the community to continue WXH needed to remain a DGH and the services improved and modernised accordingly.

**Cllr S Highfield** asked from where the money for the in-house artist was paid.

**JS** noted the point on simplifying the discussion. He added that the PCT supported the need for hospital provision in WF; however, also they also feel the need for a review and to change and modernise. He asked for support in their endeavours to modernise, much as they had supported the drive to modernise social care in the community. The formal consultation will take the form of less than five, but more than one option, but they must be affordable options. His position in the central project team meant that he must be objective in his presentation of the options.

**AR** added that he and his board supported any option that sees WXH as a DGH. He welcomed Fit for the Future as it looks at ways to bring more income into the trust. He needed a surplus in revenue to allow investment in capital improvements and they needed to plan to be bigger in order to achieve that objective. He supported option 4 and he has attended the meeting to try and get that option through the process.

The item was closed at this point.

## 2 LEYTONSTONE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT (BID)

Auden Powell (LBWF - Regeneration Development Team) and Fawaad Shaikh (Leytonstone Business Forum) discussed proposals for a Business Improvement District (BID), which would work to improve the area funded by a 1% investment on business rates. A BID is a mechanism by which local businesses can be empowered to take over part of the management of a business district and finance locally determined priorities. The aim is to make the Town Centre a better and safer place, improve quality of local shopping and the overall image of Leytonstone generally, while also significantly adding to the attractiveness of the area for future investment. It also promotes better partnerships between the local community, public and private sectors.

For more information, please contact:

Auden.powell@walthamforest.gov.uk or fawaad@lsbf.info

**Cllr S Highfield** apologised for the lack of available time for questions and invited Mr Powell and Mr Shaikh to return with an update on this topic for the next meeting, but earlier in the agenda to ensure sufficient time.

**CC  
Officer**

The item was closed at this point.

## 3 FORMAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

**Cllr S Highfield** requested Councillors present to vote on accepting the proposals for the spend in the light of the forgoing discussion in the earlier part of the meeting.

Item Action

A clear majority of those Councillors present voted in support of the amended options.

There was no further Formal Council Business.

**4 FUTURE MEETINGS**

The meeting was asked to note that the dates for the next meeting of the Leytonstone Community Council:

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

Meetings commence at 7.30pm. Refreshments are available from 7.15pm. Unless otherwise stated, all meetings of the Leytonstone Community Council are to be held at the Epicentre, 41 West Street, London E11 4LJ.

The Formal Committee was closed at this point.

The Meeting closed at 10.00 pm

**Chairs Signature**\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**\_\_\_\_\_