

MINUTES OF THE LEYTONSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (LCC)
MONDAY 18TH September 2006 AT 7.30PM
EPICENTRE, WEST STREET, LONDON E11 4 LJ

Councillor Chair:

Cllr Shameen Highfield

Councillor Vice-Chair:

Cllr Liz Phillips

Councillors Present:

Jennifer Gray

Marie Pye

Keith Rayner

Terry Wheeler

Naz Sarkar - Cabinet Champion

Community Chair:

Ms Jane Brueseke

Community Vice-Chair:

Ms Christine Cliffe

Officers Present:

Martin Esom

Ursula Gamble

Clair Witney

Penny Allier

Vedia Harris

Michael O'Brien

Hassett Auguste

Vala Valvan

Neil Murphy

Theresa O'Brien

Nancy Cunningham

Executive Director Environmental Services

Community Council Lead Officer

Head of Community Councils and Consultation

Community Councils Officer

LBWF – Anti-Social Behaviour Coordinator

LBWF – Street Wardens

Ascham Homes

LBWF - Street Services

Committee Manager

Community Councils Officer

Walthamstow Girls (Work Experience – Student)

Also Present:

Megan Reynolds

Waltham Forest Guardian

Metropolitan Police Service (MPS):

Supt. Tony Dawson

Sgt. Eddie Joseph

Sgt. Lee Palmer

Sgt. Colin Parker

Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)

MPS - Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT)

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Residents Present:

There were approximately 50 residents at the meeting.

PART ONE – COMMUNITY FORUM

Item

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Community Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced Council Officers and Members present. Superintendent Tony Dawson introduced himself as being the new MPS officer in overall charge of the safer neighbourhood. Councillor Sarkar also introduced himself and explained the concept of the Cabinet Champion.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE.

Apologies were received from Councillors Loakes, and Sheppard, Inspector Moorhead (Safer Neighbourhood Team), and Michelle Bridges – Street warden Manager

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.

5. RESPONSE SHEET

Ursula Gamble summarised the blue response sheets included in the papers. Discussion on the response sheet took place under item 10 of the Minutes.

6. HITCH FILM AND MEDIA CENTRE

A presentation was made by initially by Peter Bates (PB), Ahmed Hussain (AH), Martin O'Connor (MO) and Christine Davies (CD) on behalf of a collective of local film makers on their proposals to convert a local snooker hall into a small cinema, a resource centre for local media students, and a small café.

The building concerned is a former cinema, and it is proposed to restore some of its former architectural features in the conversion works.

It was explained that it was not proposed that Council funding be sought for the acquisition and conversion of the premises as lottery funding was to be applied for. However help was needed to fund a feasibility study for the project, and an application was to be submitted to the appropriate agency regarding this proposed acquisition and conversion.

Resident raised the following points:

- Has a robust financial plan for the development had been
-

prepared, as it would require substantial financial resources to run the proposed centre.

- Are there time limits on the proposals?
- Is there Arts Council support for this?

AH explained that a financial plan was in preparation, that the property was being offered for commercial letting, and that there was significant Arts Council support for this project.

Councillor Rayner explained that WF has not the capital to fund this project, and that external funding was necessary. He invited the group to meet further with Officers to explore the matter in greater depth.

The Chair thanked the collective for their presentation and wished them luck with the project.

The item was closed at this point.

7. COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUDGET 2006/7

The meeting broke into three groups to identify priorities for spending from this year's Community Council Budget. These priorities will be costed and brought back to next meeting for residents to vote on their preferences

8. REFRESHMENT BREAK

Attendees took the opportunity to continue their discussions on the budget while refreshments were taken.

9. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAMS

Colin Parker reported on the work of the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams (SNTs) in the Community Council area. It was noted that Officers were to be concentrating on reducing levels of street robbery, were trying to remove gangs of youths congregating on the streets, and on a growing number of thefts from ATM users.

Additionally there had been, and would continue to be, formal and informal visits to various faith group gatherings, following up on the recent arrests related to terrorism, in the borough.

Lee Palmer, the newly appointed Sergeant for Cathall ward introduced himself and invited members of the public to call him at any time to discuss issues in the neighbourhood.

The item was closed at this point.

10. 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.

The following is a summary of issues raised by the meeting in Open Forum:

The **Chair** opened this item by reporting on a recent resident-led community safety meeting on the Cathall/Langthorne Park area. The meeting had highlighted residents concerns at the gangs of youths congregating in the area as well as hearing from parents of youths in the area and allegations of police harassment. Additionally the Chair mentioned an incident she had witnessed at the recent Leytonstone Car free day.

Superintendent Dawson to look into the matter as he only had a limited number of officers on duty on that day and was not aware of any problems. With regard to groups of youths it was recognised that there are problems in the area and neighbourhood teams were working to address the problem.

A resident asked why the regular foot patrol in Cann Hall had been withdrawn as there had been a number of incidents in the area.

Sue Burns Complained that the team in Cathall was still not complete, and that the team needed to be enlarged in any case.

Paul Bates asked if Officers were expected to enforce seat belt regulations and laws relating to the use of mobile phones.

Robin Williams stated that he had attended the car free - day and felt the Police had acted pro – actively to prevent any trouble developing.

A resident raised the issue of the heavy handed approach of some officers toward children and youths in the area, and that some groups appeared to be being victimised. It would appear that the Police have stereo typed some sections of the local community and are unjustly persecuting them.

Councillor Sarkar suggested that the Police were operating in difficult circumstances and that any judgement on performance was difficult to gauge.

Superintendent Dawson addressed these points in turn.

- He asked the Officers present from the Team to ensure that they patrolled the area.
- It was necessary to have a strong team and he was therefore recruiting to make the Cathall team up to strength, new Officers should be in post by November,
- He could not enlarge the Cathall team,
- The victimisation of youths and stereotyping of residents in an area was wrong and he would deal with any Officer involved with this,
- Perceptions of a heavy handed approach can result from different perspectives of an incident, depending on when people arrived and what they saw, A mutual respect is needed, and this must be earned on both sides,

- He did expect Officers to enforce the seatbelt and mobile phone laws,
- He would welcome the extension of the radio shop link service to Leytonstone High Road.

Councillor Terry Wheeler stressed that the Police have a difficult time ahead as they attempt to rebuild trust with the local community, that this was being made more difficult by the fact that the team was still short of an Officer, and that the Police need to be sensitive in their approach to the local community.

Mr David Hecker reminded Superintendent Dawson of the existing telephone shop link facility in Leytonstone High Road. Additionally he was unhappy that some sections of the Police did not seem to have any respect for the work of the neighbourhood teams.

A resident suggested that the Police could visit local schools to build trust among younger children.

Mr Dawson responded that visits to schools were being undertaken, and that as part of the ongoing stop and search initiative training was being organised for Officers and a monitoring group was being established.

Mr Emmanuel asked what had become of his enquiry relating to the establishment of a neighbourhood watch in his area, as he had recently been a victim of crime. He said that he had raised this issue twice before but was not aware of any progress to date.

MPS

The Chair advised Mr Emmanuel that he would be contacted about this in the near future

Mr L Wortley reported that he had been informed that Leyton Station was to be closed for the duration of the 2012 Olympics, that LB Newham had made a bid to the Government for a licence to have a super Casino built in their borough, and that Transport for London were backing an application for a heliport to be built in this area.

The item was closed at this point.

PART TWO FORMAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Shameen Highfield in the Chair

1. LBWF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Martin Esom (ME) the Executive Director for Environmental Services gave a short presentation on the work of his Division generally and on specific issues relating to the Community Council area.

He explained that he had recently walked the local wards with Councillors and had identified a number of issues which were in need of rectification.

Mr L Wortley asked if ME was aware that:

1. Leyton Station was to be closed for the duration of the 2012 Olympics?
2. LB Newham had made a bid to the Government for a licence to have a super Casino built in their borough? and
3. Transport for London (Tfl) was backing an application for a heliport to be built in this area?

ME responded that while he knew about the Casino application the other 2 topics were new to him.

Mr Wortley cited this as another example of the poor communication between the Borough and the Olympic organising Committee and asked **ME** if he could try to improve this situation. **ME**

Ms Hutchinson asked for greater information on recycling to be made available, as confusion exists over what forms of plastic can be recycled.

A resident asked that the pigeon netting at Leytonstone High Road Station be replaced, as droppings are now becoming a health hazard there.

Councillor Pye Thanked **ME** for his presentation and welcomed the recent opportunity to walk around the ward, as it had been most useful.

Ms Brueseke highlighted litter problems at the recent car free day, although it was recognised that street cleaners had addressed this when it was raised. **ME**

ME undertook to ensure that the area would be properly cleansed for the event next year. **ME**

Councillor Phillips asked for information on who had responsibility for resolving the sewerage problems.

ME confirmed that this was a complicated matter and promised to submit a written answer for the next meeting. **ME**

A resident asked that the continual flooding of the Artesian Way underpass be investigated, and that the underpass itself be cleaned as a matter of urgency.

ME undertook to look into this.

The item was closed at this point.

2. **FORMAL COUNCIL BUSINESS**

Cllr Highfield noted that the suggestions for the budget spend would be considered by Officers and firm proposals presented to the next meeting for decision.

There was no further Formal Council Business.

3. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

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

Monday 4th December 2006

Monday 5th March 2007

Meetings commence at 7.30pm. Refreshments 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 9.30 pm

Chairs Signature _____

Date _____