

MINUTES OF THE LEYTONSTONE COMMUNITY COUNCIL (LCC)
MONDAY 24th July 2006 AT 7.30PM
EPICENTRE, WEST STREET, LONDON E11 4LJ

PRESENT:**Vice-Chair:**

Cllr Elizabeth Phillips

Councillors Present:

Jennifer Gray

Clyde Loakes

Marie Pye

Laura Sheppard

Keith Rayner

Terry Wheeler

Mohammad Asghar (Markhouse Ward)

Naz Sarkar - Cabinet Champion

Community Chair:

Ms Jane Brueseke

Community Vice-Chair:

Ms Christine Cliffe

Officers Present:

Penny Bond

Bill Nisbet

Ursula Gamble

Shirley Haynes

Penny Allier

Lyndsey Buchanan

Anthony Lane

Environmental Services

Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Community Council Lead Officer

Community Councils Officer

Community Councils Officer

Youth Consultation and Participation Officer

Committee Manager

Also Present:

Megan Reynolds

Waltham Forest Guardian

Metropolitan Police Service (MPS):

Insp. D Moorhead

Safer Neighbourhoods Team Officers

Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)

Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)

Residents Present:

There were approximately 45 residents at the meeting.

PART ONE – COMMUNITY FORUM

Item**Action****1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Community Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. She highlighted the planning consultation stand in the foyer for the information of residents.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Shameem Highfield (LCC Councillor Chair), PS Eddie Joseph (MPS) and Natalie Keefe (Waltham Forest PCT). Cllr Naz Sarkar (Cabinet Champion) apologised for being slightly late.

Cllr Liz Phillips was asked to deputise at the meeting in Cllr Highfield's absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

This standing item is intended only to confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the last meeting and any matters arising should be discussed during the *Matters Arising From the Minutes* item.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair, with the following amendment(s):

- On Page 7 the comment attributed to L Wortley should read “sites” not “lines” and he wished to clarify the comment as he had requested a bridge “down Marsh Lane”. The sites in question for the training academy were the old electric site at the end of Cathall Road near the bridge, the site next to the “3 Blackbirds” public house and the former Leyton Municipal Offices (or old Town Hall).

5. RESPONSE SHEET

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

Discussion on the response sheet is taken during the appropriate item *Matters Arising From the Minutes (Item 9)*.

The item was closed at this point.

6. LEYTON AND LEYTONSTONE STATIONS

Lee Almond (LA), Station Planner, from Transport for London gave a presentation on the future plans for Leyton and Leytonstone Stations and their impact on the local area.

He ran through details of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiative, including details of the establishment of the PPP and the timeline for works, and outlined what was and was not part of the PPP remit. Works and activities ongoing to date at Leyton and Leytonstone stations were discussed and current issues, such as crime, safety, CCTV and staffing issues, with regard to the two stations were highlighted. He went on to talk about other London Underground (LU) initiatives, such as Oyster and the “Step-Free Network”, before discussing issues of the impact the Olympics and planned new housing would have on the network. He noted in his concluding remarks the current trials on an environmentally friendly tube cooling system, which, if successful, could be rolled out on the entire network.

Contacts: TfL: www.tfl.gov.uk

LU: www.tfl.gov.uk/tube or on 0845 330 9880.

This was followed by a Question and Answer session which is summarised below:

N Russell made several points:

1. While the “Step-Free” initiative was to be welcomed, the network still needs to address other DDA-related issues such as visual and audio aids, induction loops and so forth.
2. There should be some way to optimise rail networks and scheduled maintenance works to ensure that unforeseen circumstances on other lines do not create difficulties for passengers, particularly on weekends when there seems to be more repairs programmed.

3. He requested that the forum follow through with proposals from some time ago to get a representative from the Gospel Oak to Barking line to attend the meeting to discuss issues relating to Leytonstone High Road station, such as the DDA issues mentioned above.

J Brueseke agreed and requested that a representative be invited to a future meeting.

CC Officer

Lee Almond (LA) noted that he would try and answer questions as they were taken, however, any issues that required further research he would take back with him for further response from the team. With regard to the announcements on stations he noted that it was a difficult situation to please everybody and that they had people who thought they were too loud. They had tried various voices and the research suggested that the one they had currently in operation was the least abrasive, clear and easily intelligible. Ticket Office personnel are given simple guidance on how they could cope with issues on engaging with disabled people, such as simple signs and writing the information. They are also reviewing the technical side and specifically their own Accessibility Research Group is dealing with issues such as induction loops. On the issue of planned repair works and the priorities and mitigating factors that necessitated the closure of lines, he needed to go back and get further information for the next meeting.

Lee Almond (LU)

D Hecker was concerned that the lighting in the commuter entry tunnel at Leytonstone station was dingy and the tunnel was in a dirty state. He stated that the lighting should be of "daylight" quality. To date he had been given no replies as to who was responsible despite several approaches. He would like answers immediately. Secondly, he was concerned with the lack of security on platform 2 in a staff only section and requested that this be examined. He would explain the situation after the meeting.

LA noted the issues and said he would visit the station after the meeting and look at the lighting issue personally. He would find out who was responsible. He would also look into the other issue mentioned.

Lee Almond (LU)

L Wortley agreed that the current lighting in Leytonstone station was poor and gave the tunnel and the murals a "sinister" feel. He made these other points:

1. With regard to Leyton station, he was disappointed to see that the refurbishment had included painting over old cream and blue decorations. He had specifically met with the developer to discuss these issues and was assured that in this regard they would be sympathetic in their handling of such historic features, including such things as the old fashioned windows and the stairs. This sort of precedent did not engender trust within the community.
2. The "east side" gate at Leyton station had been closed for some time now and he felt that it should be re-opened for reasons of safety and access owing to the large number of commuters that use the stairs currently, particularly in rush hour.
3. Some years ago the station had an entrance at the other end, which was removed in the M11 link road development. This should now be reinstated and would provide an opportunity to add lifts and suitable disabled facilities.
4. Leytonstone station was not highlighted in the presentation as a key station for the Games, which was disappointing and he wished to point out that it has an extra platform which could prove valuable in times of problems with the Central Line.

LA noted the points and stated he would take them back to the manager responsible for the Olympic preparations. All issues and decisions relating to additional exits were matters for the Group Manager and this may take longer to get an answer back to the meeting, particularly on the Langthorne Road exit, however he would endeavour to do so.

**Lee Almond
(LU)**

Cllr M Pye noted the following points:

1. Travelling between Leyton and Leytonstone she was concerned that there was a large amount of graffiti (on bridges and on buildings like the electrical substation) that, despite requests, was not removed because it was not deemed offensive. It was an eyesore in her opinion and asked for a commitment to have it removed.
2. While she was pleased with the station refurbishments at Leytonstone, she was concerned that the café (on the communal area outside the exit on the Church Road side) had been given notice to move owing to the ongoing works. She did not wish to lose this facility and did not want it shifted for one day, noting that it was a very popular establishment and a good place for people to meet.

**Lee Almond
(LU)**

LA noted both points and offered to report back on each.

A **resident** noted the following at Leytonstone station:

1. The old clock on one of the platforms had not been included in the works and had not worked for some time. It would be good to see it repaired.
2. He asked whether the CCTV surveillance covered the Fairlop Rd / Grove Green Road side of the station as he had recently had his bicycle stolen. A light was also out on a post on this side of the station.
3. He asked whether the area outside the station on the other side was the property of LU and if so he would like to see trees and benches on the other side “mirroring” the ones already there. He noted also that in this area it would be useful to police the alcohol-free area more rigidly as there seems to be a lot of street drinking that goes on there and this spoils an otherwise pleasant communal space.

LA noted that CCTV coverage was the responsibility of the Group Manager and he would find out the coverage area and see whether the bus station area was included. If it was, then he would discuss how it could be improved.

**Lee Almond
(LU)**

Cllr C Loakes noted several points:

1. Agreeing with Mr Wortley, the opening of the side doors at Leyton station would improve access to the station and make it much more convenient.
2. The level of customer service at the station needs to be examined as it does not reflect well on TfL and customers expect the same level of service as they get at other stations. Officers do not deal with gate “jumpers” and are unhelpful even to people in distress.
3. At Leytonstone station people are often smoking near to the ticket hall, which is unpleasant and creates litter. It was an area regularly frequented by school children from nearby George Tomlinson and did not give them a good impression. He asked for cross-agency partnership working (e.g. British Transport Police, MPS and Street Wardens) to patrol the area and discourage this activity.
4. On the issue of the area outside the station, TfL controlled it and they have responsibility to clean it. Benches had been requested in

the past and this could also be followed up.

5. Some time ago a survey had been taken on opening the entrances at Leyton station. He requested that the Group Manager be asked where this survey had gone and requested the result of the consultation.

LA noted the points and offered to look into these and all the issues raised for his attention at the meeting.

**Lee Almond
(LU)**

The item was closed at this point.

7. REFRESHMENT BREAK

During the break, Waltham Forest Dolphins, a local disabled swimming club, were invited to demonstrate one of the new wheelchairs, which had been especially built for the group assisted by funding from the Leytonstone Community Council.

A representative from the group welcomed the contribution from the Community Council and thanked the community for its assistance.

8. SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAM

Feedback was given by Inspector Dave Moorhead assisted by PS Colin Parker on the work of the Safer Neighbourhoods Teams (SNTs) in the Community Council area.

Insp D Moorhead noted that the SNTs were now right across the borough and highlighted the colour booklets with contact details for all the teams, copies of which were available for residents at the venue on the night. He highlighted the “mobex” (mobile and landline) numbers, which were linked to the mobile numbers for the teams and made calls cheaper for residents. He highlighted the joint investment by the police and LBWF of £110,000 in a new CCTV surveillance van, which would be operational in the coming weeks.

PS Parker noted that each of the three SNT teams was now well established and were all working toward priorities in those wards in consultation with the community and through the local ward panels. He highlighted the three main priorities at this stage for each of the SNTs:

- Leytonstone – robbery, street drinking and youth disorder
- Cathall – burglary, robbery, dog fighting.
- Cann Hall – robbery, street drinking and prostitution.

The item was closed at this point.

Contact Details for the local SNT ward teams are:

- Leytonstone – PS Colin Parker – Ph: 020 8345 2522
- Cann Hall – PS Eddie Joseph – Ph: 020 8721 2036
- Cathall – To Be Advised – Ph: 020 8721 2767

9. 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.

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

N Tiratsoo thanked the PCT for the response (Comment 5) on the number of doctors in the area; however, this had not covered the full question. He wanted a breakdown of all health professionals of all types by

numbers in the two wards (Cann Hall and Cathall) with these compared to average figures for the Waltham Forest borough and the London metropolitan area, in a similar manner to that which the MPS employ to report their crime statistics. This was the fourth time he had raised this issue in 3 years and still had not received an adequate response. His feeling was that the poor health statistics for the area are directly linked to the average numbers of health professionals. He also noted the absence of the minutes of LSP meetings and the actual membership of the partnership on the Council website.

N Keefe
(WF PCT)

JB apologised for the PCT oversight and requested follow-up information, adding that this information was requested for Cann Hall and Cathall wards.

Cllr C Loakes responded that he was unaware that the minutes were not published on the site and thought that the membership was already listed on the site. He thought that possibly it could be in a difficult location to find on the site. He would investigate and highlight the link, plus look at getting it into a more prominent position on the site. He added that there was no secrecy about the information and the membership has been regularly published in several documents, including the Community Strategy.

Cllr C Loakes

A **resident** asked (on behalf of the Neighbourhood Watch covering Frith Road and Calderon Road) what the Council could do about the situation of increased crime, litter and fly-tipping in the area that he suspected resulted from the increasing number of two-storey residences being converted into multi-let properties. He felt that the renting tenants had little empathy with the area. The problem was increasing and this did not bode well for the coming Olympics.

Cllr T Wheeler assured the resident that the Council was well aware of the problem and meetings have already been held with Council Officers and the new Executive Director of Environmental Services to draw further attention to the issue. He highlighted new legislation regarding Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) which dealt with properties of more than 3 storeys, however, noted that the provisions could be extended to 2 storeys depending on the situation. He felt that the provisions did need to be extended and the situation need urgent attention. He agreed that the problems highlighted earlier were increasing and something did need to be done. The situation is being reviewed in partnership with the SNTs, Street Wardens and Council Officers.

S Burns had 2 issues:

1. She felt that she spoke for all the residents when she said that PS Bryan Howey would be sadly missed in the Cathall SNT.
2. She was concerned that the SNT had not been fully staffed since its inception and wished to know why this was the case, particularly now since the departure of PS Howey. She felt that this was inadequate coverage for the area.

Insp D Moorhead responded that a new PS had been appointed and should start in 4-5 weeks. He added that PS Howey had chosen to move on and the MPS is a big organisation that allows this sort of opportunity. He agreed that there had been serious staffing shortages to date, however, by Christmas he hoped that many of these issues would be resolved as there will be 12 more new PCs in the Borough. The correct procedures and protocols needed to be in place for recruitment and training, however he hoped that in six months all the teams would be up to strength. He would introduce the new sergeant at the next meeting. For the time being PS Colin Parker would be covering the two wards.

J Brueseke echoed the concern of the resident adding that Cathall was a small ward with disturbingly high crime statistics, including two major incidents in the last few months.

L Wortley again raised the issue of the Artisan Training Centre (Construction Academy) noting that both the Olympic groups and Mayor Ken Livingstone (he highlighted a letter in a recent local Guardian) have said that skills and training for the area were a priority in the lead up to the Games. He added that there should be a lot of funding available, but as yet the area has not seen any. It was the poorest area, with the highest rates of unemployment, closest to the Olympic site and action should be taken now so as not to miss out as it would be a great benefit to the area and would help to improve local employment rates, particularly for youth, while at the same time could help to reduce crime. He again highlighted the three sites in question (Cathall Road, near Leyton Midland Station and the old LMO).

Cllr Wheeler responded that there was currently a big effort underway and discussions were ongoing with both public and private sector bodies to reach a point of decision on the site. There were issues, such as that of ownership (Cathall Road site) to resolve, however, he reassured residents that it will be sorted out and the issue was a high priority.

K Hutchinson noted that last year she had brought up the issue of planting and maintenance at the garden boxes near the roundabout at the Harrington Rd end of Church Lane. These were planted, however, they need attention again and hoped that this time they could be planted with something hardier and more appropriate.

J Brueseke suggested that good work had been done in the past with the Hornbeam group, in partnership with volunteers and residents and perhaps this was a solution that could be investigated with regard to replanting with better alternatives.

CC Officer

A Greenfield noted these issues:

1. The dumping of household items in the streets. She wished to highlight the 3 free collections per year offered by the Council, however, noted that it did not cover household fixtures and fittings. The £21 charge she felt was expensive for this service.
2. Dustbins in the streets were filthy and created health hazards, particularly with children playing around them. She highlighted Leytonstone High Rd.
3. The proliferation of take-away restaurants on Leytonstone High Road should be addressed as she felt that some of these might be "dens" for criminal activity such as drug dealing and prostitution.

Cllr M Pye responded on the bin issue stating that she felt that the current position had improved greatly over the situation of 6 months ago with three times as many collections and regular street sweeping of the area. There have been issues, particularly in Church Lane with businesses not using the back of their premises to store bins, however, she had visited the area with the Head of Environmental Services and these businesses will now be prosecuted if they continue to use the road. She noted that people were stacking rubbish near the bins on the ground, which was not helpful. She also noted on the earlier issue raised regarding landlords, only interested in rent, changed tenants and simply piled the previous tenants rubbish in the front yard. She noted that currently two landlords have been taken to court about it and there would be more. On the issue of take-away restaurants, she noted that Councillors generally were not that happy with the current situation, however, once the establishment has been allowed

the Council had limited powers to change the use. She did note that now the Council have increased powers, which would aid in reducing the numbers that open up in the future.

P Bond added that street sweepers were in operation in the main business area of Leytonstone from 5am through to 8pm and they were investigating whether to increase the hours further to 11pm or 12 midnight to cover pub hours also. She highlighted the 3 free collections per year and the Beat Sweep, which did take household fixtures and fittings. She would ask to review the policy with regard to the free collections and what they can pick up and would report back.

P Bond

Cllr C Loakes noted that it was not widely known that take-away restaurants were now licensed under the same rules as those that apply to pubs. With the issue surrounding local pubs now being resolved, the focus can shift more to addressing this issue. Any premises failing to clean up or infringing upon their hours of operation can be dealt with now much more easily. He added that in the last two years the Council has turned down a number of applications for new take-away establishments.

N Russell asked (on the moving of the police station) whether it was possible to have a local ward presence in Cann Hall and Cathall for the SNT teams, perhaps in one of the local shop fronts.

Insp D Moorhead noted that the moving of the station was an emotive issue, however, for many reasons (including access) the building was not fit for purpose and would take a lot to make it so, therefore, the MPS will be relocating to Kirkdale House. He reassured residents that there would be a ward presence and it would be quite likely that the daily surgeries would be based in a local shop front or supermarket.

F Shaikh (representing the Leytonstone Business Forum) noted that there were a lot of issues under discussion this evening to do with Town Centre Management. One of his forum's major aims is to make the Town Centre a better and safer place for all and to improve the overall image of Leytonstone generally. With this in mind, one of the issues for the Town Centre was the viability of a Business Improvement District (BID), which would work to improve the area funded by a levy on business rates. There is also consultation regarding sustainable regeneration ongoing to ascertain demand for a retail led project in order to encourage larger businesses (e.g Argos and Subway) to establish themselves in the area. This would significantly add to the attractiveness of the area for future investment and quality of local shopping.

D Hecker noted that NRF assistance had ceased for the two wards (Cann Hall and Cathall) on the 31/4/06. Super Output Areas drove the new funding and they were already one-third of a year through the first year. As yet, residents were not aware of a contact name and how they would have an input into the process and felt they had a right to know.

**Helen Bridle
(Better
N'bourhds
Initiative)**

A **resident** asked about drain-cleaning, noting that it used to be once a year and there was a danger of further instances of the recent flooding if something was not done.

P Bond advised that there was currently a programme in place, starting in Leyton to go along each road and clean out the drains and gullies.

A **resident** (Harold Road) noted that in her road one drain was filled with silt and another blocked with concrete.

Cllr C Loakes requested that the Council look at drawing up a list of those roads prone to flooding with a view to further action. He noted in some instances it could well be that clean drains still would not have prevented the recent events and issues such as this should be addressed with a

longer term solution.

J Brueseke noted that Thames Water also have responsibilities in this area and requested that a representative be asked to attend a future meeting.

S Hare suggested to Penny Bond to check that the sweepers to empty the 24 bins allocated to her Neighbourhood Watch area (Woodhouse Road), as she suspected that on weekends they did not empty the bins and do not collect the bags. This creates problems with urban foxes spreading garbage all over the streets.

A **resident** raised a number of issues:

1. Leytonstone "Square" clock (on the corner of Church and Kirkdale Roads) needed repairing.
2. Benches in Lemna Rd had been removed and had not been replaced despite promises to do so.
3. One of the trees planted outside the station had died so should be replaced.
4. The bus stop shelter area on the Grove Green Road side of the station was in a lamentable state and needed replacement or repair.
5. Some sort of indication or sign should be placed at the bin outside the station to indicate that recycling bins are directly adjacent as people still drop recyclable waste in the ordinary refuse bin despite the fact that the recycling bins are yards away.
6. The transparent partition (glass or plastic) on the footbridge across the motorway had been cleaned with a harsh abrasive, which had made the partition unsightly and should be replaced.
7. A planning application had been made to put a coffee kiosk on the Grove Green Road side of the station in the bus stop area. He had already highlighted the condition of the area earlier in the meeting and felt that it would benefit from some improvement (e.g. Kiosk, benches, fountain, improved lighting).

Cllr M Pye replied on the kiosk issue that the planning application had been withdrawn and would be resubmitted at a later date. The process had been taking some time and there was some controversy over the details as they had been submitted.

The item and the Community Forum were closed at this point.

P Bond

CC Team

P Bond

R Presswell

C Hendon

N Burton

T Martin

Sue Goff

A Campbell

K Herring

PART TWO - FORMAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Shameem Highfield in the Chair.

1. OLYMPIC / STRATFORD CITY EVENT

Jane Brueseke gave a summary of the Olympic / Stratford City event held at the Epicentre on 3rd June 2006.

Attendees included representatives from LOCOG (London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games), LBWF, East London Business Alliance and the Lea Valley Partnership. She noted that the event had focussed on the Olympics, as the Stratford City Development representative had been unable to attend. Summarising from the white sheets provided with the papers for the meeting, she noted that there was a series of presentations from attendees followed by a Q&A session and finally workshops from which were drawn suggestions and possible issues.

She concluded by saying that the success of the event with attendance of over 70 residents had encouraged the group to look at continuing with further meetings to be scheduled next year through the Community Council.

The discussion that followed is summarised below:

L Wortley wished it noted for the information of residents that there was a model of the Olympic site currently on display on the first floor of the Stratford Library.

Cllr Phillips thanked Jane for her presentation.

The item was closed at this point.

1. LANGTHORNE YOUTHFEST EVENT

Susan Burns presented feedback on the Langthorne YouthFest 2006 held in Langthorne Park on 15th July 2006. The event was designed to give the youth of Cathall ward an opportunity to see what careers, further education and leisure activities are available to them. Several local partner groups were involved in organizing the day, which was deemed a huge success with over 200 attendees enjoying the activities provided.

She concluded by inviting everyone from the area to be involved in organising the next event.

Cllr Phillips thanked Susan for her presentation.

The item was closed at this point.

3. FORMAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

Cllr Phillips noted that the decision on the Leytonstone Community Council spend would be taken at a future meeting.

This was agreed by the meeting.

There was no further Formal Council Business.

4. FUTURE MEETINGS

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

Monday 18th September 2006

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 9.25 pm

Chairs Signature _____

Date _____