

Draft
DRAFT 3
LEYTON & WHIPPS CROSS (LAWC) COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of Leyton and Whipps Cross (LAWC) Community Council held at Leyton Sixth Form College, Essex Road, E10 on Monday September 26th 2005 at 7.30pm.

PRESENT:

Chair:

B Sullivan

Councillors:

T Bhogal

K Dhillon

M F Qureshi

B Smith

J Sullivan

Community Chair:

Steve Williams

Officers in Attendance:

Penny Allier

Emma Chaplin

Leah Gaston

Leroy Harley

Anthony Lane

Neil Murphy

Bill Nisbet

Garry Seal

Michael Toyer

Claire Witney

Community Councils Officer

Community Councils Officer

Community Councils Committee Manager

Social Inclusion Manager

Town Centre Regeneration Programmes

Scrutiny Committee Manager

Community Safety Team

Group Manager, Public Protection

Strategy and Social Inclusion Unit

Community Councils Manager

Also Present:

Alison Goodlad

Olga Kupcova

Jenny Clarke

WF Primary Care Trust (PCT)

WF Primary Care Trust (PCT)

Waltham Forest Guardian

Residents Present:

There were approximately 51 residents present at the meeting.

PART 1 - COMMUNITY FORUM

Item

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS & DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Community Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllrs Liaquat Ali, Jane Duran, Loretta Hodges and Chris Robbins. L Wortley also forwarded his apologies.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

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4. **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Cllr B Sullivan noted that Tony Lane, Town Centre Regeneration Team, was on hand this evening until 9:00pm to discuss how he could help the local business community through the Ripe4Business Project, which is looking to encourage start-up and retention of businesses in the local business area.

5. **CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS**

L Buchanan informed the meeting that the vice Chair, Sheila Bass had now moved out of the borough and asked if there was going to be an election for the vacant position.

S Williams replied that there was to be an election for the Community Chair at the next meeting. It had been decided to hold both elections at the same time, unless anyone had specific objections.

A Liddle asked who had made that decision and should it not have been made at this meeting.

S Williams replied that the decision was made in consultation with the Community Council Team and this would stand unless residents were particularly objecting.

6. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

R Johnson questioned what was going to be done about her comments in Item 7 relating to the Olympics and noted that not only was this not included in the minutes but in the responses on the blue sheets. She requested that this item be responded to.

Cllr B Sullivan stated that the minutes were an accurate record. However, he had hoped to get someone from the Olympic Committee (OC) to attend tonight's meeting to answer questions. However, there was no one available from the OC who could answer questions, so he felt that there was no point in having a discussion at this meeting. He added the OC are setting up their own panels and is hoping to get them to the next meeting on 5 December and stated that it is people like us who will see the effects and that it is important that we have the right voice. He asked residents to come along to the next meeting that is to be held at Norlington School.

R Johnson asked if answers could be placed in the response sheet.

Cllr B Sullivan responded that answers were needed from the Olympic Committee. Fill in the sheet with your questions and we will have an open debate.

A Liddle raised the following points on the minutes:

- He didn't say that an unfair number of tickets were being issued but that signage could lead to drivers being unaware why they had been ticketed.
- Relating to public toilets issue, his point was not about public toilets, it was about bus drivers leaving bottles of urine.

There was no response about waste bins.

7. **PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT – HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN WALTHAM FOREST**

Olga Kupcova (OK) of the Waltham Forest PCT gave a presentation which outlined health inequalities and their causes in the Leyton and Whipps Cross

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area. She showed how health was affected by socio-economic circumstances in this area with a high proportion of the people affected living in rented accommodation in Leyton Ward. She highlighted the decline in the life expectancy of children being born in these areas, as well as increases in the number of people with HIV/AIDS and summarised that Leyton has the highest rate of deprivation in Waltham Forest. She also highlighted smoking as one of the causes of ill health and that there were initiatives to get people to stop smoking.

The discussion is summarised as follows:

Cllr J Sullivan said she found this interesting and depressing and noted that two doctors' surgeries were closing in this area and relocating near to Leyton Orient. This was up to three miles walk for some people and people are having to go further to the doctor when they need treatment. There should have been consultation before these moves.

Alison Goodlad of the PCT responded that the premises were larger with more GPs and state of the art; the distance would be shorter for some and longer for some. It had been necessary to look at new sites and the facilities will be so much better.

Cllr J Sullivan said she understood about the facilities being better but was concerned that most of the people were elderly and had a long walk to the bus. She noted that the surgery was on the 4th floor and many people didn't like going into lifts. She was concerned that people have not been consulted on this and noted that Dr Kapour's surgery is closing in October and the Francis Road one in April 2006.

Paul Marlowe said that he is fully involved with HIV/AIDS work and the government should introduce better sex education for the young as the UK has a high pregnancy rate and asked the PCT to raise awareness about this issue. He also commented that the high pregnancy rate resulting from unprotected sex was taking large amounts of resources out of the NHS and this information should be promoted as strongly as possible.

OK summarised that the PCT was developing strategies with stakeholders and this report is merely showing statistics but the next report will show what has been done.

A **resident** reported that she had been in Whipps Cross hospital to have a baby and does not trust the Health Service. She was afraid of catching an infection because of the general poor level of hygiene. She had witnessed that the covering on the examination beds was not changed.

OK responded that problems have been recognised and efforts were being made to rectify.

M Grell said that this was very thought provoking and depressing and asked what the PCT is doing to get this message into local schools. She stated that she is a school governor at George Mitchell School and that there should be a programme to work with children in schools.

Cllr Qureshi commented on the figures. He said he wanted to see something on the people's lifestyles as well as diet to show where they went wrong instead of just giving figures.

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<p>A resident having expressed horror at the level of diabetic amputations expressed concern at the length of time people have to wait for chiropodist appointments.</p> <p>OK said that Waltham Forest and others are trying to increase the number of health care practitioners with special clinics rather than people having to go to the hospital, such as the Hypertension Clinic which is being opened.</p> <p>S Williams thanked her for the presentation and asked that his concern that consultation on the closure of the two surgeries had not been brought to the Community Council be placed on record.</p>	
<p>8. <u>WALTHAM FOREST OBERVATORY</u></p>	
<p>M Toyer (MT) presented information on the new internet-based data collection system which has been made available for public use, showing how the system could be accessed and used.</p>	
<p>The discussion is summarised below:</p>	
<p>A resident noted that not everyone has access to the Internet.</p> <p>MT replied that the Council didn't have to make this information available pointing out that people could go to the library and that a lot of work was going into helping people to get access to this information.</p>	
<p>Paul Marlowe said that there are all sorts of people such as those who are deaf and blind and asked about making it available in Braille for them as not everyone has a computer.</p>	
<p>S Williams asked if this is coming under disability access.</p>	
<p>A resident raised a question about how a blind or otherwise disabled person would be able to access the site.</p>	
<p>S Williams stated that he would talk to the people in the relevant department and report back.</p>	<p>S Williams</p>
<p>A resident mentioned an article in the Observer relating to the general index of deprivation and asked whether data was available down to ward level.</p>	
<p>MT replied that this was available but not on ward level.</p>	
<p>A non-resident attendee commended the Borough, saying that this development was a step in the right direction.</p>	
<p>S Williams said that the Waltham Forest Blind Association would be approached to look at whether they can access it. He then thanked MT.</p>	<p>S Williams</p>
<p>The item was closed at this point.</p>	
<p>9. <u>OPEN FORUM / COMMUNITY DISCUSSION</u></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Youth Projects</u> – L Harley (LH) gave an update on the detached Youth Projects sponsored by the Community Council from last year's budget. He reported that the Youth Services of Waltham Forest had started working with young people in August and continued throughout the summer. The project was looking at ways to access external funding so that they could run long-term programmes. Young people on the streets had been consulted and they mainly ask for residential type courses such as a weekend away doing adventurous activities and computer usage. They were being helped to look for college spaces and encouraged to engage in meaningful activities. <p>A resident asked if there were any dealings with parents as this work should be two pronged.</p>	

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<p>LH replied that it was a three-pronged effort with parents, schools and residents.</p> <p>M Grell asked what forms of publicity had been used to attract youths to the project.</p> <p>LH replied that this was mainly a word of mouth exercise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Street Trees</u> – C Witney reported that the planting of street trees that was funded from this year's budget would commence in the winter months. Sites for trees had been identified in Forest Ward but locations were still undecided in the remaining two wards. S Williams advised that the Council should be contacted if trees were wanted and added that we still have a couple of months but don't want to leave it too late. <p>S Williams read a notice about a Transport Conference to be held at the Waltham Forest Town Hall on Saturday, 15 October 2005 from 10:30am to 4:00pm. The contact for this event is David Symonds.</p> <p>Residents raised issues of local concern. A summary of the discussion that followed is presented below:</p> <p>A resident questioned what the Council's policy was concerning trees in people's gardens and whether permission was needed to cut them down. She is concerned that they are being cut down in large numbers.</p> <p>S Williams replied that he would get clarification on it but if a tree is the subject of a tree protection order then permission was needed to prune or remove the tree.</p> <p>Daphne Titheridge asked why there had been no progress on the Construction Skills Centre.</p> <p>Ron Wallis complained that the Council had not consulted widely enough regarding the planning application for the development of the St Andrews Church Hall site.</p> <p>Cllr Qureshi responded that he had opposed the application and is planning to call a residents meeting within the next two weeks.</p> <p>A Faucett of Wesley Road expressed concern about noise and stated that she is fed up as she can't have any windows open because of rave parties and other activities and the Police apparently have no powers.</p> <p>T Goodtime commented that he lived in Whipps Cross and had reported problems in the log cabin area which is used as a late night car park where people play loud music and local residents can't sleep. Leyton Police station has been phoned but they have no powers and the Council Noise Team could not help.</p> <p>G Seal responded that the primary responsibility was with the Council Noise Team but he has only a limited out of hours resource and a written response would be sought from the Police.</p> <p>S Williams said he understood how upsetting this was and that he would approach the Borough Commander to try and see what the Police could do to help.</p> <p>A resident expressed concern about the condition of the pavement on the left hand side of Grange Park Road because of tree roots and asked that the Council look into it.</p> <p>Lesley Searle commented on the anti-social behaviour of a number of Asian boys including noise, car racing, foul language, bins being used as urinals.</p>	<p>S Williams</p> <p>Cllr Qureshi?</p> <p>Noise Team</p> <p>S Williams</p> <p>CC Team</p>

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<p>They do not realise they are making people's lives miserable. She has spoken to them and they say there are no toilets. She has raised this issue with the Police and got a negative response, she has given the Police the number plates of alleged perpetrators' vehicles and has been told to keep a diary.</p> <p>Cllr Qureshi asked if she could contact him direct on this and he may be able to involve elder members of the community to overcome this problem.</p> <p>D Reeves asked what was happening with the sensory garden at Whipps Cross.</p> <p>A resident replied that she works there and that it has been put on hold because the contractor has gone out of business.</p> <p>A Liddle raised the following points which he felt had not been fully addressed in the response sheet:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drivers will not leave their buses late at night because they fear mugging, hence the bottles of urine being left in the area. • Clearway Signs need to be made more obvious so that drivers are aware that they risk being ticketed in the area. • Cycles are misusing a pedestrian pathway in Whipps Cross Hospital and an accident is sure to arise as a result. • The weight limit in Coopers Lane is being ignored by drivers from a local haulage company and the road surface is being damaged because of this. • Flooding is occurring in Coopers Lane as the road drains need to be cleaned. <p>S Williams said he was told that the Council cleared drains once a year.</p> <p>Cllr B Sullivan said that the Council does not clear the drains at all. There is only a response when people contact them to say there is flooding. However, he advised the meeting that he would look into this what the current policy on drain clearing was.</p> <p>L Wortley commented that one of the Olympic chaps was supposed to be here but was not. He said that the Training Centre should be paid for by the Olympics as it all stops when the Olympics stop. There will be problems and we need to have a strong voice.</p> <p>S Williams stated that we needed to get clarification about the football pitches on the local marshes.</p> <p>R Johnson commented that she had been filling in questionnaires but did not get any responses.</p> <p>S Williams said he would get a report back on this.</p> <p>The item and Community Forum was closed at this point at 9:25.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">Cllr B Sullivan</p> <p style="text-align: right;">S Williams</p> <p style="text-align: right;">S Williams</p>

PART 2 - FORMAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Bob Sullivan in the Chair

Item	Action
<p>1. <u>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</u> Apologies for absence were noted as at the start of the meeting.</p>	
<p>2. <u>DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u> None were declared.</p>	

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THE LICENSING ACT 2003

Cllr B Sullivan introduced **Gary Seal (GS)**, Public Protection Group Manager who talked through the changes and local implications of the Council taking over the responsibility for issuing licenses to sell alcohol.

Cllr B Sullivan asked if there were any questions on this.

Cllr J Sullivan expressed concern that with supermarkets being allowed to have 24-hour licenses, the noise problem would not take place on their premises and the Police should be contacted.

A resident voiced his opinion that this was a mad law and the Government knows it and knows that it won't work.

A resident queried about government guidelines in the instances where licenses could be taken away.

GS replied that this decision would be based on evidence from the Police and people would have to log the evidence.

L Wortley asked if the Borough could promote social events during the early evening to encourage people to mix more sociably.

N Chubb said that he had looked at what the arrangements were for people making applications and found that one method was if the licensing authority ran a website to cover this. He also said that the current website is not up to date and the Council does not have up to date information on it as the information he found was dated February 2005.

Cllr B Sullivan suggested that this information could be added to the Observatory.

Cllr B Smith reported that he was proposing to put a bid in to increase the Noise Team by a further two Officers.

S Williams asked about the deadline by which night cafes would have to apply for licenses and the number that have not applied.

GS replied that it was 40 and that reminders that they have to apply had been sent out.

Cllr B Sullivan thanked GS for his presentation.

P Bailey

3. **THE FUTURE OF THE LEYTON LIBRARY**

Cllr B Sullivan updated the meeting on the Council's efforts in locating a feasible site for housing the Leyton Library. It had been suggested that the Leyton Mills development could be used for this. Unfortunately, the accommodation was not suitable and it would have required a lift to be installed. He ended by stressing the Council's dedication to having a service in Leyton that fulfils the needs of the Community and will therefore continue to seek appropriate alternatives and keep Members and Residents apprised of developments as they arise.

4. **OLYMPICS**

Cllr B Sullivan reported that there was still an immense amount of project planning and there was not much to report at this stage. He suggested waiting for a full report at the next meeting on 5th December.

5. **FORMAL COUNCIL BUSINESS**

There was no other formal business.

6. **VENUE AND DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

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The next meeting was noted as taking place on *December 5th 2005 at Norlington School for Boys, Norlington Road, Leyton E10*

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The meeting ended at 9:45pm

Chair's Signature _____ **Date** _____