

DRAFT II

LEYTON & WHIPPS CROSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Leyton Sixth Form School,
Essex Road, London E10
on Monday 27th February 2006 at 7.30pm

PRESENT:

Chair:

Councillor B Sullivan

Vice Chair:

Councillor J Duran

Councillors:

L Ali

T Bhogal

K Dhillon

M F Qureshi

B Smith

Community Chair:

Steve Williams

Community Vice Chair:

Miranda Grell

Officers in Attendance:

Penny Allier

Nuzhat Anjum

Chris Dransfield

Leah Gaston

Vedia Hannan

Shirley Jensen

Pam Millington

Ian Poyton

Claire Witney

Community Councils Officer

Council Councils Lead Officer

Employment Development Manager

Community Councils Committee Manager

Anti Social Behaviour Coordinator

Community Councils Officer

Neighbourhood Team Manager

Environmental Services Representative

Community Councils Manager

Also Present:

Jenny Clarke

Wendy Natale

Mary Nuako

Alison Gunnell

Lucy Webster

Jon Clack

Paul Nunn

Alfie Ford

Waltham Forest Guardian

Waltham Forest Primary Care Trust

Ascham Homes, Head of Financial Services

London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games

Public Affairs Manager, London Development Agency

Met Police

Met Police

Scouts

Residents Present:

There were approximately 37 residents present at the meeting.

PART 1 - COMMUNITY FORUM

Item

Action

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

The Community Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr Loretta Hodges.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes were confirmed as an accurate record of the last meeting.

5. CONSTRUCTION SKILLS TRAINING

Chris Dransfield, Employment Development Manager gave a presentation outlining the provision of construction skills training for people within the Borough. He informed the meeting that he works within the Regeneration Team who look at the employment rate in the Borough and develop a strategy to tackle unemployment by ensuring that people, particularly the young, are given marketable skills to get them into the workforce. It was noted that overall, employment in Waltham Forest is running at 64% compared to 69% London wide, with pockets where over 20% of the population are claiming benefits.

The construction industry was seen as one of the vehicles to tackle unemployment, as it is a growth area that would realize approximately 45,000 new jobs in London by 2010 **without** taking into consideration the Olympics. The strategic location of the Borough was taken into account as it lies between two growth areas and is also a Host Borough for the Olympics. He outlined the main issues highlighted by the findings that have arisen and the next step, the main points of which are listed below:

Key Facts

- The construction output growth is currently 3.5%
- Site jobs - 159,000, total sector jobs - 225,000
- 2012 peak construction output - 7,500 jobs
- The Olympics is only one of 15 major construction projects in London and South East
- At its peak, labour in the Olympic Park will take up 3.7% of the output in Greater London

Equalities

- Construction has a poor image as a career path
- Black and Asian people make up only 1.7% of workforce
- Women make up 9.8% of workforce

Current Training Provision

- Majority of trainees access training outside the borough
- 70% failure rate for existing Modern Apprenticeship programme
- 4 providers: Waltham Forest College
STEP programme run by London & Quadrant
London Construction Training
Inner London training

The Study – Models of Delivery

- **Technical Skills Approach** – Mirrors Further Education National Vocation Qualification courses
- **Short-term employment focussed approach** – ‘fast track’ foundation level
- **Integrated model** – Best practice of both the above, however also includes On Site Assessment Training (OSAT), short specialist programmes and job brokerage

Management of the Training Programme

Six options were identified:

- Private Sector
- Council ownership
- Further Education College
- Public Private Partnership
- Independent Company
- Service level partnership agreement

Next Steps

- Establish a project steering group
- Liaise with public and private sector partners
- Review sites
- Identify funding
- Agree delivery structure
- **If the above is in place** – develop delivery timetable

In addition, it was recognized that construction firms in Waltham Forest as well as training programmes are relatively small, which limits the capacity in the Borough. A new electrical training centre has been opened in Blackhorse Lane plus OSAT (On site Assessment training) is used to help experienced workers get qualifications so that firms can get the qualified people they need.

Regulations have been put in place so that planning applications that go through across the boroughs of Hackney, Newham and Waltham Forest, ensure that construction firms take on trainees as a condition of getting planning permission. There are a number of initiatives that are being developed including programmes to get 14 year olds into the construction sector as part of a work experience programme.

A question and answer session followed and the main points of discussion are summarised below:

Cllr Sullivan had questions relating to recommendations for sites, such as the Old Leyton School site; what was the recommendation; and when could a response be given.

C Dransfield: There is financial sensitivity around site identification so I am not able to say at present if there has been any decision.

L Wortley commented that young people needed to be encouraged into the building industry with the potential of high salaries. He continued that there was a need for an artisan’s centre at this end of the Borough, utilizing premises such as the Old Technical Institute in Adelaide Road, the old Town Hall, the old electrical centre in Cathall Road and wondered if any of them had been considered.

C Dransfield: The Town Hall may be fit for purpose for some things. There is a programme this side of the Borough, the STEP Programme that is being run by London & Quadrant Housing.

A Resident commented that the Leyton High Road site has everything and therefore suitable for housing the training centre.

6. OPEN FORUM / COMMUNITY DISCUSSION / RESPONSE SHEETS / BUDGET SPEND

Responses to Queries from 5th December meeting

Nazhut Anjum, Community Council Lead Officer gave a brief summary of items on the response sheet.

B Wilks: Is Tesco going to pay compensation for accidents that have occurred as a result of their changes to the entrance/exit on Capworth Street? There have been 14 injuries due to cars going the wrong way.

CC Team

London 2012 Olympics Update

Annabel Gunnell of the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) updated the meeting on developments and responded to questions that were raised at previous meetings. She informed the meeting that LOCOG and the Olympic Delivering Authority (ODA) are sharing offices in Canary Wharf.

She also went through the Olympic response sheet and went on to provide answers to questions that had not been answered in the Olympic response sheets.

Q4. Opening up the three lines - The decision to use East Marsh: Its temporary, all other options are considered and discussed parking. It will be restored after the games.

Transport: Lines are going to be open specifically for the games. Over in the wider area, TfL is looking at this.

Q25. Over £17 billion will be spent on transport. Examples of recent events such as Live Aid and the Notting Hill Carnival have shown that the capacity is there and that the LOCOG are confident that they will be able to transport people to and from the games.

Q21. Housing: No LDA development plans have been stopped to make way for the Olympic Games.

Q24. £17 million for burying power lines: It's actually £200 million. One question that still has to be answered on this is about landlords. Drawing on the experience of other big events in conjunction with best practice should help with this.

M Burns, Lee Valley Cycling Club expressed concern that this would be a detriment to the Velopark and wanted to know what assurances were there that what is promised would be delivered.

A Gunnell said that she would get back to him on the specifics of the Velopark. As for the Eastway Cycle Circuit letter, this question will be dealt with in the Allotment session.

A Gunnell

Cllr Qureshi: People from all cultures will be participating. Are there praying facilities for people of different faiths?

A Gunnell: One of the groups that feed into 2012 is a multi-faith group. This is something that was raised very early on. They are looking at

provision. An ideas and initiatives log is being created to compile concrete answers as they are obtained and we will then be able to pass these on.

L Wortley commented that most of the questions put to A Gunnell are for the LDA and their representatives should be here to answer. The North London Line is wrongly named; it should be Northwest London. The Notting Hill Carnival and Live Aid events were for only two days and stations were closed.

A Gunnell: East Marsh and the opening of the lines have been looked at.

L Wortley: The community have raised a number of suggestions that do not seem viable by the organisers of the games. There are many ways of engagement and this is only one forum.

A Gunnell: Explained that a programme of community engagement was being worked on, and also a programme of delivery needed to be planned.

R Johnson commented on the responses as follows:

Q6: The answer to this question was inadequate and asked for a fuller answer on things such as security and crime.

Q10: It is nice that alternative football pitches are being looked at, but what assurances do we have that the Marshes will be restored?

Q23: The cost of Olympics will not be shown separately on Council Tax bills. Could Councillors have answers about Council Tax bills?

Lucy Webster of the LDA:

East Marsh – the decision for the temporary coach drop off facility was not taken lightly; it is vital to delivering the games. This is legally binding and we are working with the relevant authorities in recognition that this is public access land.

Mitigation of adverse impact – A smaller number of residents and businesses are being relocated than at first anticipated. The LDA is making sure they get support and be re-housed in at least as good as they have already.

Security – What is being done to look out for arising problems: There will be provision made to identify these issues well in advance. A huge volume of work went into getting planning permission. There are a lot of regulations that they have to comply with.

Council Tax – This was referred to the GLA. Households will receive a leaflet explaining how the Mayor's precept is broken down.

S Williams: As far as we are aware, there may be some costs associated with highways but there is nothing on this.

Cllr J Duran: What is allowed to go on the Council Tax bill is dictated by government legislation, not by the Council. They issue a booklet showing what your money is spent on.

S Williams: It could be argued that the money that would be spent on construction should be spent on skills.

A resident commented that London wide, traffic congestion would decrease, whereas locally it would increase due to people trying to get to the games.

A resident commented on the fact that stations in the West End had to be closed because of congestion. How will local stations have the capacity to deal with the increased number of passengers?

L Webster: Transport will be well managed. There will be a whole new station at Stratford. Plus the Olympic Transport Authority will be working to make sure this sort of thing does not happen.

A resident asked about the sponsorship for the not so famous activities in the Olympics and noted that people have had to pull out because they did

not have the money to carry on.

A Gunnell: LOCOG training and funding for athletes is something that will happen whether or not the games are held in London. The Government generates the money that supports the training for athletes.

A resident: The Central and Jubilee lines are already at full to capacity; you cannot put more people on those trains.

A Gunnell: There is a Javelin Rail Link service from Kings Cross, which is a dedicated service that will have the capacity to help absorb the additional number of travellers.

M Grell asked how the Employment & Skills Task Force would work and who was chairing it.

A Gunnell: One of the planning strategies is that one of the conditions of getting planning permission is that companies should have training schemes in place.

S Williams: With regard to the written answers about mitigating the effects of the games, if residents are going to be involved in that, how can we meet legal requirements for parking. We should be getting an improvement on previous Olympics and reduce the number of people using cars. As for security, this is going to be a nightmare for the residents. Will this be allowing residents to continue with their lives? What is being done on producing a booklet rather than keep responding. Could you please take this away and get a written response?

- **London Development Agency (LDA) Briefing Paper**

Lucy Webster, Public Affairs Manager of the LDA read out a briefing paper to the meeting. This was with regard to the proposed application to transfer Hackney allotments to Marsh Lane Playing Fields / Lammas Lands. Residents were asked to write down questions, which would be forwarded to the LDA and replied to at the next meeting.

L Webster explained that the LDA is responsible for relocating the allotments including the Manor Allotments and Marshes. They have identified an alternative site on the current Marsh Lane Fields close to the existing allotments.

Key points of her presentation are summarised below:

- The temporary allotments will only take up a quarter of the available land
- There will be space for allotments after the games
- In principle, this site is desirable for moving the allotments to, pending confirmation of its suitability and getting planning permission
- The playing fields could be up graded and there will be consultation on tapping into the potential

R Johnson commented that the Marsh Lane site was not quite suitable for growing vegetables and that Lammas Land is common land with access rights. She felt that if the Olympics could override the rights then there was no confidence that restoration would be effected afterwards.

L Webster replied that it was being looked at to see if the allotments could be accommodated there and the site would not be used if it were found to be unsuitable.

A resident commented that it was not a good idea to dig up playing fields.

L Wortley suggested that to stop bad publicity, part of what was the Gas site adjacent to the Fields could be used as it already has barriers around it and therefore it would seem to have every advantage.

A resident commented that land had been taken away during WWII and people still have not got it back. Plus there is a lot of dumping and this needs to be cleaned up and further dumping stopped.

S Williams asked about the timescales for the relocation of the allotments.

L Webster: Within the next few weeks.

S Williams advised that Councillors and Council Officers should not be contributing to any discussions on this issue, as it was a legal requirement that they cannot do so before the planning application.

M Burns questioned whether Romney Marsh was a suitable training area for Olympic champions as the area is polluted and asked for a copy of the air quality report. He also indicated that he thought that the application has not been registered.

L Webster stated that the application has been registered.

M Burns stated that Eastway cycle circuit is a 26-hectare site and Romney Marsh will not provide this. Potential champions will have nowhere to train.

S Williams suggested that a written question should be submitted and a written reply would be provided.

S Williams formally requested a 15-minute extension to the Community Discussion.

- **Update on Spend:**

- **Tree Planting**

- The programme is now completed and the newly planted trees are greatly appreciated by local residents.

- **Operation Payback**

- The meeting was asked for input for areas that needed work done and advised that forms in connection with this were included at the back of the agenda pack.

- Cllr Smith** said that the term Operation Payback is a national programme but in Waltham Forest it is called Welcome Back. He stated that the trend of criminalising children would continue if the emphasis were placed on punishment. They should be welcomed back into society.

- **Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative**

- PI Paul Nunn** updated residents on the Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative. He explained that the Safer Neighbourhoods programme had replaced Sector Policing. Safer Neighbourhood Teams have been formed so that residents could take ownership of community issues. This new initiative would help the Metropolitan Police Service work closely with the community.

- The MPS and the Mayor have brought forward the roll out of Safer Neighbourhoods across London by two years. All wards in Waltham Forest will have a team by 1st April 2006 which will consist of 1 sergeant, 1, police constable and 2 police community support officers.

- There have been launches of 13 Safer Neighbourhood Wards in Waltham Forest. The remaining seven will be launched on Monday

Waltham Forest. The remaining seven will be launched on Monday 3rd April 2006 at the Chingford Assembly Hall, starting at 7:00pm. Residents are invited and are asked to arrive no later than 7:15pm. The wards that are being launched are:

Chingford Green
Endlebury
Hatch Lane
Hale End and Highams Park
Chapel End
Higham Hill
Grove Green

It was noted that the Safer Neighbourhood officers would not be abstracted to undertake other duties and would be kept within the Borough. Residents who want to find out more information could access this at: www.met.police.uk then select the Safer Neighbourhoods link. Concerns about the local area could be addressed to Chief Inspector Steve Deehan, Head of Safer Neighbourhoods Team in Waltham Forest on 020 8345 3263.

B Wilks asked as crime has increased considerably from last year, what are the chances of getting additional officers in the Safer Neighbourhood Teams?

P Nunn: There is funding for community support officers, although this would not be fully available until the end of the year, as the undertaking is there from Central Government and the Mayor's office to fund this programme.

S Williams: There are 30 wards across London where the teams will be 10 instead of 6, the High Street and Leyton could benefit from having a larger team.

N Russell queried what arrangements were there for communication and engagement with focus groups and other communities.

P Nunn: Each sergeant will be trained to undertake a Safer Neighbourhoods group. A panel will be established to see what the residents' priorities are. The public will be canvassed and there will be consultation with partners such as the Council and community groups.

S Williams said that he had been informed that individual households and businesses would be invited to meetings to come up with priorities for the Safer Neighbourhood Teams to address. People will be asked to nominate someone to talk about issues of concern with Chief Inspector Deehan.

A resident asked what the Council was doing to improve the area around Leyton Midland Road.

S Williams said he would talk to Vedia Hannan, the Anti-social Behaviour Co-ordinator about this.

N Morris handed a letter to Cllr Sullivan requesting him to look into the matter of Lifelong Learning putting up fees by 200% to Leyton Cricket Club.

Cllr Sullivan said he would investigate this.

M Grell complained that there was a bad odour coming from the tip by Auckland Road. She also wondered why the traffic island in Leyton High Road opposite Leyton Town Hall near the corner of

Vedia Hannan

Chris Kiernan

Keith Weir /

Leyton High Road opposite Leyton Town Hall near the corner of Grove Green Road had been removed.

L Wortley asked whether the Old Leyton Town Hall was considered for the Olympic Authority to occupy rather than Canary Wharf.

L Webster replied that 20,000 sq ft of floor space was needed and Canary Wharf had that capacity.

A Gunnell added that LOCOG currently had 65 people and that number would double. Later on there will be 3,000 people working on the Games alone, which does not include the LDA.

PART TWO - FORMAL COMMITTEE

Councillor Bob Sullivan (Chair).

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr J Sullivan and Cllr Liaquat Ali who would be a little late.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL

Pam Millington, Neighbourhood Manager Team Leyton gave a presentation on Neighbourhood Management explaining the Borough's approach to its rollout and the impact it has had on Leyton to date. She also explained how funding will be allocated for 2006/07 to deprived areas, known as super output areas. The main points covered are:

- Leyton has been identified as an area of high deprivation and Team Leyton has been set up to address this by reversing the spiral of decline
- Allocation of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding will no longer be done via the ward forums
- Resources will be focussed on the major challenges in the deprived neighbourhoods such as health, educational achievement and worklessness
- New, creative and innovative ways of delivering services at the local level will be explored
- The Better Neighbourhoods Initiative represents a major change in the way Neighbourhood Renewal Funding will be used in Waltham Forest
- There are five neighbourhoods identified as experiencing multiple deprivation which will be the focus of the Better Neighbourhoods Initiative:-
 - o Cann Hall/Cathall Wards
 - o Markhouse/Lea Bridge Wards
 - o Higham Hill/Valley Wards
 - o Hoe Street/Wood Street Wards
 - o Leyton

The Team is looking for residents to get their input on priorities and become involved in the process.

Below is a summary of the discussion that ensued:

L Wortley: If we are a deprived area, it is because of lack of education and job training and how are things going for the development of the Artisan Training Centre? Does the Council agree with the deprived areas as identified by Central Government and have they missed any?

Jan Wickham

P Millington replied that she is not employed by Waltham Forest so was not sure if the Council agrees.

S Williams said that Officers would take this away and get a response.

M Grell informed the meeting that she is the Community Champion for jobs and would be taking action on this. She invited residents to an Action Partnership meeting to discuss how they could give their ideas, which was being held the next day at the Score Building.

P Millington: A work programme has been prepared on each of the five areas on intervention and ways to turn the situation around were being looked at. The views of residents were sought as it was recognised that they have ideas for solutions but were not listened to. She invited residents to contact her at the SCORE Complex on Oliver Road.

S Williams asked to what extent the service delivery would be tackling the deprivation in the five most deprived areas.

P Millington: Street cleaning is a particular priority for residents in the deprived areas as it does not happen as often as they would like is. They also will be able to report damage to the footway such as loose paving slabs. These are some of the simple things that can be done and lessons learned in Leyton will be transferred across to the other areas.

A resident asked to what extent would the Council be using lessons learned to cover Grove Green and Forest Wards.

Jan Wickham

S Williams: This is something that Community Councils could be looking at to get a response.

Note: G Williams asked for the heating to be left on for longer as the building was cold.

CC Team

4. AGENDA

Cllr Sullivan asked to meeting for any suggestions for the Agenda for the next meeting and thanked everyone for attending.

5. FORMAL COUNCIL BUSINESS AND ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no formal business for discussion.

6. NEXT MEETING

The meeting was asked to note that there are no more meetings of this Community Council this municipal year due to the forthcoming local elections. The next meeting will be scheduled and published after the annual Full Council meeting on 25 May 2006.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Chairs Signature _____

Date _____