

WALTHAMSTOW and LEA BRIDGE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of a meeting held at South Grove Primary School
Ringwood Road, London, E17 8PW**

On Monday 20th July 2009 at 7.37pm

PRESENT:

Community Forum Chair
Jill Renshaw

Councillor Vice Chair
Cllr Angie Bean

Councillors:

Saima Mahmud
Eric Sizer
Afzal Akram
Peter Barnett

Mohammed Asghar
Midge Broadley
Asim Mahmood
Richard Sweden

Officers in Attendance:

Gareth Jones
Chris Warner
Claire Witney
Bettina Aruoture
Penny Allier
Zaeda Gul

Head of Enforcement Unit – LBWF
Street Lighting & Responsive Maintenance Manager - LBWF
Head, Community Engagement – LBWF
Community Council Manager – LBWF
Community Council Manager – LBWF
Committee Manager (Minutes) – LBWF

Also Present:

Sonia Jackson
PC Craig McCann

Representative, Ascham Homes
Lea Bridge Safer Neighbourhood Team

Residents Present:

In addition, there were approximately 64 residents present at the meeting.

PART 1 – COMMUNITY FORUM

Item		Action
1	WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS Jill Renshaw (Community Chair) and Cllr Bean (Councillor Chair) welcomed residents, officers, speakers and asked ward Councillors to present themselves.	
2	DECLARATION OF INTEREST There were no declarations of interest.	
3	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE Apologies were received from Cllr T Wheeler – hoping to arrive later but may not come at all. Also from Cllr R Sweden – will arrive late.	
4	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING This standing item is intended <u>only to confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the last meeting</u> and any matter arising will be discussed during the <i>Open Forum/Community Discussion</i> .	

The minutes of the meeting held on the 27th April 2009 were confirmed as accurate record and signed by the Chair with the following corrections noted:

A resident pointed out that item 5, page 6, query 2 of last minutes – Chair had requested that the resident pursues the matter personally which is followed up by an apology for the delay. It had been requested that any response is minuted. (Blue sheet discussion).

No further comments, all in agreement.

5 RESPONSE SHEET

The Community Council Manager, Bettina, provided a brief summary of the queries listed on the response sheets (blue sheets).

- 5.1 **Query 1 - Bus Route from Markhouse Rd to Walthamstow Central Station** – Cllr Broadley gave an update explaining that the Chair of Transport and Liasion did receive a letter from TFL and will pass details onto Bettina with regard to several proposed bus routes.
- 5.2 **Query 2 - Blocked Gulleys** – Chris Warner gave update. Stated Capworth St and Boundary Rd were having lots of work carried out. Cllr Akram asked about disruption at Leabridge Rd, Chris reassured this was not the case and confirmed works to drains had already been carried out.
- 5.3 **Query 3 - Links between Walthamstow Central and Queens Road Station** – Cllr Broadley gave an update informing the meeting that issues had occurred which had become subject of a court case. The Council had taken the developers to court and consequently the Council had won. The developers have time to appeal, but this is highly unlikely and it is hoped work will soon resume.
- 5.4 **Query 4** - Meeting happy with response.
- 5.5 **Query 5** – Meeting happy with response.
- 5.6 **Query 6** – Meeting happy with response.
- 5.7 **Query 7 – Lemna Road** – A resident stated that service with regard to road works i.e. fixing the speed humps and correcting the wrongly replaced lines, was still in a bad way at Lemna Road. Bettina advised work is in progress and will request an update for the next meeting.
- 5.8 **Query 8** – Meeting happy with response, however, Stan Britain raised an additional question concerning statistics with regards to the penalty charge notices, the numbers of vehicles moved on and the number of vehicles displaying blue badges. **Bettina to seek a response from appropriate officer.**

6 SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAMS (SNT) Markhouse Road and Lea Bridge Road Teams Update

- 6.1 Sergeant Craig McCann introduced himself and proceeded to advise on current priorities:
- Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) - Dispersal zone on Marlowe Road Estate
 - Theft from motor vehicles
 - Burglary offences from north west of ward

- 6.2 SNT have conducted leaflet drops and identified hotspots. Talked about dispersal zones, which gives SNT a lot more power to tackle ASB. People are initially given warnings, however, if they return, they can be arrested.

Have identified several individuals and one in particular, SNT are hoping to have banned from returning to the Borough.

SNT give assistance to victims of crime, identify vulnerable premises and give crime prevention advice on how to make it safe. SNT are currently working with WF to get stickers made to hand out to residents.

SNT are engaged in working with WF with regards to dog fouling.

Sgt McCann advised that there are approximately 10/11,000 homes across his ward and he and his team are proposing to knock on every single door, to introduce themselves and give out crime prevention advice.

He talked about CCTV and its benefits within his ward, which is manned by a centre in Enfield.

Advised the SNT are committed to answer all calls within 24hrs, however this may not necessarily be from within his team but from another team who may be on duty.

Sgt McCann advised that 80% of SNT time will be on the streets, policing dispersals.

Advised he and his team work closely with colleagues from the Hoe Street SNT where they have consistent problem with street drinkers. Advised that due to ASB on St Stephens Close, successful funding has been found to get new security gates.

- 6.3 A resident raised a question with regards to a raid carried out on cannabis factory at an address on Barratt Road, approximately one month ago; however, no information has been given out.

Sgt McCann to look into this and provide update at next meeting.

Sgt McCann proceeded to explain the hallmarks of a cannabis factory in detail and urged people not to hesitate in calling SNT if they come across anything suspicious.

- 6.4 A resident, Lynn Hamer from Bakers Arms Avenue was concerned with regard to ASB within Thomas Gamuel park and asked how rowdy would

kids have to be before they get dispersed. Sgt McCann advised that dispersal is specifically targeted for youths causing ASB, once they are dispersed the good kids will be able to utilise the park. He advised that he carried out surveys with kids in other areas and has worked with Ascham Homes, and a Centre has been opened for kids to utilise which will keep them off the streets.

Action

Sgt McCann advised that the Soul Project in Wood Street was looking to roll out a programme for older kids this summer and will take Lynn's details and pass to colleagues to contact her.

7 UPDATE ON THE ENFORCEMENT UNIT

7.1 Gareth Jones carried out a presentation, updating changes in the Enforcement Unit, its remit and its recent successes. He went through key achievements for 2008. Urged people to phone WF Direct if they see fly tipping. Advised that all the people who have been fined will be named and shamed and their details will be on the website.

7.2 Query 1 - A resident stated that he was concerned with regards to Planning Enforcement as when he wrote to the Council with regards to a building being turned into 2 flats, he did not get a response from Planning and now one of the flats has been let. Gareth advised due to only having 5 officers within the team they have to prioritise visits according to the nature of the complaint, i.e. they can only deal with emergency cases (life / death) at the moment.

7.3 Query 2 – A resident complained about the recycling and bin men not tidying up after themselves and questioned if they would be fined also. Gareth advised that there is a system in place where an inspection of their performance is taken place via their own management and tied in with WF officers and when this occurs the recycling / bin men are financially penalised.

7.4 Query 3 – A resident from Wellington Road asked Gareth what action he has taken with regard to a neighbouring shop she has complained about. Gareth advised he has done many visits but is not in a position to prosecute yet. **If she has any new evidence he is happy to take that at the end of the meeting.**

7.5 A resident felt very strongly with regards to ASB and crime going on within the Borough and does not feel that CCTV works, nor feels that the Police and Enforcement officers are doing a good job.

7.6 Another resident who is currently a visitor in the Borough stated that streets are filthy and have been for weeks and should have something done. Chair had to remind people that this is a question time not a statement time, and urged people to use their relevant Councillor surgeries rather than direct their statements at this meeting as it is not the forum for it.

7.7 Another resident of Ferndale Avenue stated he was concerned with regards to multiple occupation within a house in his street. He stated that a standard 3 bed-roomed property had 12 people living in it. Gareth advised

that this was not his remit but Housing Standards do have an officer who will look into this. He urged people to report problems of this nature to WF Direct.

Action

7.8 A resident of Markhouse Road stated that within a certain area fly-tippers were consistently coming back and dumping rubbish. He asked Gareth if CCTV could be fitted there which would deter this from happening. Gareth stated he was aware of the site mentioned and officers had often visited and will continue to, but it is not appropriate for CCTV camera's due to it location. Reminded people who report such complaints will be rewarded.

8 2009/10 BUDGET SPEND – WORKSHOPS AND FEEDBACK

8.1 The Community Council Manager – Bettina provided a brief presentation about the funding process which was followed by Ward-based workshops in which residents and Ward Councillors discussed and identified spend initiatives. Councillors from each table provided feedback at the end of the workshop discussions, as per following:-

8.2 Lea Bridge Ward –

- Cllr Akram advised that suggestions with regards to providing railings to deter ASB at the Bakers Arms Houses.
- Looking at a lack of youth provisions – Fund a Youth bus.
- Create a “Friendship Garden”.
- Hold a cultural event.
- Counselling service for young people who have drink and drugs problems.

8.3 Hoe Street Ward –

- Cllr S. Mahmud advised with regards to having a diversity activity at the Drive, Prospect Hill. On the green space have a “Local Food Growing Project”.
- Churchill area – NET Council
- Cycle racks in the Village.
- Cllr Sizer suggested Tree pruning at St Mary’s Church and Vinegar Alley. Suggested problems of ASB would be tackled with £4k worth of resources.

8.4 Wood Street Ward –

- Cllr Barnett stated that his table wanted to tackle issues around too many chicken shops around school areas.
- Have discussions around litter.
- Concerned about lack of youth provision.
- No provision for under 16years scheme to improve facilities, i.e. new baseball court and would like to facilitate this.
- Cllr Bean stated that they wanted perennials and grass planted at Wood Street Square.

8.5 Markhouse Ward –

- Cllr Broadley stated that they were very concerned with regard to the many alleyways in Markhouse Ward. Money should be spent to provide extra lighting and have mirrors installed to deter ASB.

- At Brighten Road - junction of South Grove, the area should be planted out.
- Youth provision – Play equipment for 8yr plus – all weather
- Planting flowers and shrubs in neglected areas.

Councillors will take ideas away, to record and submit residents' suggestions.

9 OPEN FORUM / COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

9.1 The Chair asked residents if they wanted to spend 10 minutes to bring issues to the attention of the Community Council, otherwise people can visit their Councillors at their surgeries.

9.2 Mr Wilding of Turner Road sent in a letter to be read out with regards to trees being decreased, which he is against, and not being replaced, thus leaving empty gaps. Many of the people at the meeting agreed.

A discussion took place with regards to how trees, specifically the young ones are fed and watered.

One resident advised how a group of residents in his area sponsored 3 trees on his road as it was the only way to get new trees, and advised people to club together with their neighbours.

9.3 A resident in Gravel Road stated he reported a neighbour's tree overhanging and leaning into his garden which looks dangerous and asked someone from the council to look at it. When the officer came along he would not commit himself either way.

Community Council to ask Nick Barton or other appropriate officer to come along to next meeting to talk about tree management.

9.4 Cllr Afzal did say that the Council had tried with signage to limit access by lorries in Lea Bridge Rd / Overton Rd, however an elderly resident brought in photographs to show the signage is not working because the sat-nav within peoples vehicles is still telling them to go down there. They are asking for urgent consideration to narrowing the road because these lorries are causing disruption and damage.

Would like council officers to look at the width of the road to stop lorries entering residential roads and getting stuck because they have no-where else to go as their sat-nav tells them to go down that road. An elderly resident brought in photographs he had taken on several occasions to show Chair and requested that something is done urgently.

9.5 A resident of Hoe St stated that she has noticed how the Arcade is looking very good; however, the EMD looks appalling from outside and feels the Church should be prosecuted. **She asked Gareth to speak to Planning Officers about it.**

9.6 Another resident wanted to thank the Council for traffic calming measures

put in place in the Hoe Street area.

Action

9.7 A resident wanted to know why the Union flag was not up at the Town Hall twice this week. **Will email Bettina which days.**

9.8 A resident asked why another chicken shop has been allowed to open on Markhouse Rd, with increased quantities of litter near schools, and encouraging unhealthy food to kids. Cllr Akram stated that a policy is in place to stop new licenses being issued for fast food outlets to be opened, however the council does not have power to stop a change of hands taking place where a use has already been established prior to new rules coming into force. Cllr Akram reassured the resident that the Council will however be able to tackle the litter problem.

9.9 Resident – Sylvia Sullivan stated there is a waiting list for people wanting to learn English. **Wants to know why and what is being done.**

10 FORMAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

10.1 Cllr Bean stated that the Markhouse Ward is in a position to carry over unused funding from the previous year (£880.00), and asked all Councillors to vote to show support. **Unanimous show of hands in favour.**

10.2 Jill reminded everyone to complete their evaluation sheets.

Meeting ended: 9.40pm

12 NEXT MEETING

13/11/2009 at Henry Maynard School.

Chairs Signature _____

Date _____