

MINUTES OF WALTHAMSTOW WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2005  
STONEYDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL, PRETORIA AVENUE, LONDON E17

**PRESENT:**

**Community Chair:**

Philip Herlihy

**Community Vice Chair:**

Karen Bellamy

**Councillors:**

Councillor S Meiszner

Councillor L Ali

Councillor S Wright

**Officers in Attendance:**

Claire Witney

Chris Kiernan

Robin Tuddenham

Martina Gray

Maureen Green

Steve Brickell

Melissa Hoskins

Margery Peddie

David Coleman

John Calderon

Wendy Natale

Mark Yeadon

Shirley Haynes

Bettina Aruoture

Bill Nisbet

Anthony Lane

**Others in Attendance:**

David Coleman

Jenny Clarke

Steve Williams

PC Soave

PC Marriott

PCSO Claxton

PCSO Braithwaite

**Council Chair:**

Councillor R. Belam

**Council Vice Chair:**

Councillor N Matharoo

Councillor B Wheatley

Councillor P Dunphy

Councillor B Carey

Lead Officer for Walthamstow West Community Council  
(Community Councils Manager)

Executive Director, Lifelong Learning

Head of Community Safety

Group Manager – Waste Management

Head of Community Learning & Skills Service (CLaSS)

Regeneration Manager

Communications Team

Communications Team

Ascham Homes

Project Manager – Portfolio Management Services

WF Primary Care Trust (PCT)

Consultation Manager

Community Council Officer

Community Council Officer

Community Safety Representative

Committee Manager

Regenfirst

Guardian Newspaper

Chair, Police Community Consultative Group (PCCG)

Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)

Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)

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**Residents Present:**

There were approximately 53 residents present at the meeting.

**PART ONE**  
**COMMUNITY FORUM**

**Item**

**Action**

**1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced speakers and relevant officers for the proceedings. He took the opportunity to invite

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attendees to observe one minute's silence on the 61<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of D-Day.

**2.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / MEETING CONDUCT - GUIDELINES**

The Community Chair reminded residents of the guidelines that had been agreed at previous meetings. Cllrs Woolcott, Wilson and Blunt sent apologies for absence, as did Keith Weir, Head of Street Services.

**3.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

Agreed subject to the following amendments:

- K Lord noted that the Minute relating to Constitutional changes in Item 5.3 should have read: "K Lord expressed major concerns over proposed changes to the **Council's** constitution. He drew attention to the green sheet in the agenda (pps 28-31) where he highlighted an oral submission to the governance committee relating to the apparent restriction of public-speaking rights at **Cabinet**. His viewpoint was that residents have the right to make representations at all levels of democracy, including **Cabinet**. He contended that any person should be able to speak at **Cabinet** and that the report did not concur with guidance from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister." This also impacted on the Response Sheet.
- The header on page 2 onward should have read: "Monday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2005."

**5.0 RESPONSE SHEETS**

Claire Witney presented the blue feedback report included in the Agenda to the meeting.

She noted further on Point 6, which was referenced in the earlier part of the meeting, that it was being explored as an option for a representative from the Community Council to report to Cabinet as the six-monthly review had highlighted benefits of such a mechanism. Mr Lord expressed concern as to who this should be. He suggested that it could only be a Councillor, as a local person could not necessarily "represent" the views of the local people. Mr Lord's issues concerning speaking rights at Cabinet was a wider matter and this would be discussed with Legal and Democratic Services to seek their views.

C Witney

**6.0 BEAT SWEEP**

Council Departments involved in keeping streets safe and clean are working together in what we call "Beat Sweeps". This new way of working tackles crime, grime and anti-social behaviour in a particular street or area, and brings together police, housing officers, street wardens, trading standards and environmental health officers. A recent Beat Sweep in the High Street ward saw actions including reported crimes, graffiti removal, over 612 front gardens cleared and 29 vehicles removed. Robin Tuddenham, the Head of Community Safety, with the assistance of four of the sixty children from St Patricks School who took part on the day, presented photographs taken with cameras donated by Walthamstow West Community Council and discussed the success of the exercise. Future Beat Sweeps are planned in William Morris and Higham Hill

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wards for October and November this year.

A brief discussion followed, which is summarised below:

When asked, the **children** noted that they were in favour of more plants and green spaces in the area, however, they did not like litter, dogs fouling in public places and graffiti. They were pleased that there was a visible initiative to address these issues.

**K Bellamy** noted that despite the high and rising incidence of anti-social behaviour in her area of Higham Hill, they still had to pay for their street warden presence out of their Neighbourhood Renewal funding, while in other areas this was provided from Council resources.

**R Tuddenham** noted that the scheme had rolled out from the Leytonstone ward area and the former "super caretakers" of Higham Hill had become street wardens as a result. The situation would be clarified in the near future. He did note that Higham Hill is an anti-social behaviour issue area and as such was a priority for action.

**E Poulsen** was delighted to see the initiative and requested a cost/benefit analysis be publicised to assess the value with a view to perhaps supporting the initiative through the Community Councils.

**R Tuddenham** noted that the costs were not onerous overall and partner groups (for instance, the MPS and Transport for London) are very supportive with funding and allowances. Analysis is undertaken and costs are always a factor, as the Council is conscious at all times of the importance of this aspect.

**B Aarons** asked about the validity of littering fines as he had heard that they are not enforceable.

**M Gray** advised the 600 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) are issued annually. The recovery rate is currently 70%. While they cannot prosecute for non-payment, the Council can prosecute for the original offence of littering, though this has not as yet been tested. More Street Enforcers are currently being introduced and magistrates are being counselled on the need to treat the crimes with more severity.

**Cllr Wheatley** was concerned that not enough action was taken on the policing of all crime, not just the minor offences, particularly in his ward. He noted that insufficient police resources were often the cause.

**R Tuddenham** agreed that High Street was a higher-level risk area and added that it was the first to have Safer Neighbourhoods policing.

A **resident** noted that an important factor in improving the situation revolved around educating school children about the impact of anti-social behaviour.

**K Lord** noted that the originally planned use for the cameras was not for this purpose, but to assist local estates and areas with anti-social behaviour problems to provide evidence to support their cases. While he noted the benefit of this application, he requested that the remaining cameras be dedicated to the original purpose and that more money be diverted to this cause for the next year. He asked for feedback from the children on the full range of initiatives undertaken through the year in schools (e.g. flowerbeds).

A **resident** and teacher spoke on behalf of the children and noted that the children benefited greatly from the exercise and that the initiatives had been a wonderful success.

A **resident** noted that the proliferation of Estate Agent signs was illegal and the council should be prosecuting the offenders. He felt it gave the area a transient feel.

**R Tuddenham** noted that the Council was acting on this resident's complaint

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and focus will be drawn to it in the Beat Sweeps once Planning, Development and Control have looked at the enforcement aspect.

**P Spiro** (Friends of Lloyd Park) offered a vote of thanks for the support of the Community Council in the introduction of the climbing frame and other improvements in the park. He added that the group was now one year old and had 107 fully paid up members.

**P Herlihy** thanked R Tuddenham and the children for their presentation and drew the item to a close.

## 7.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / COMMUNITY FORUM

### 7.1 Matters Arising From The Minutes

Discussion on matters arising from the previous minutes was taken here and is summarised below:

**A Stannard** (Walthamstow Marsh Users Forum) was concerned that their group had not been properly consulted on the Coppermill Lane lighting issue and now it had gone ahead, according to the Response Sheets. He felt that the process of consultation under the Cabinet system was poor and made it hard to keep track.

**P Herlihy** noted that there was a display outside in the reception area this evening as part of the consultation process.

**G Harkell** stated that the decision reported in the Responses was taken on a majority basis. Some work had already been undertaken under pressure from funding deadlines. However, she understood that the lighting was not yet in place and that there could still be an opportunity for residents to comment on and influence the scheme.

*[Chairs Note: Subsequent to the meeting, G Harkell has advised that the works in question were in fact closer to completion than she had previously noted. Further details are included in the Response Sheet.]*

A **resident** was concerned at the disappearance of seating in the High Street area as this created difficulties for the disabled and older persons.

**S Brickell** advised that funding for seats in the Town Square and gardens is secured and that this and other seating in the High Street will be reinstated as a matter of priority.

**Cllr Meiszner** was concerned about the height of seats in the control of the London Buses stating that they were too low and therefore dangerous.

**S Brickell** noted that this issue had been raised elsewhere and was reported to London Buses. He hoped to report positive news by the next meeting.

**N Taafe** was concerned about the closure of the Greenleaf Road Adult Education Centre due in July that is being undertaken without due consultation with residents and by officers rather than by decision of Council or Cabinet.

**M Green** wished to reassure residents that the provision of adult education will continue at the same level and this was simply an issue of where it will be provided. Funding, with assistance from Waltham Forest, is drawn down primarily from the national Learning and Skills Council (LSC) so the Community Learning & Skills Service (CLaSS) must address national priorities as well as local needs. Greenleaf Rd is not a Council-owned building and it has accessibility issues under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). Originally this decision was to be taken last year with the planned relocation to Queens Road so it is not a new issue. The decisions as to venue are made within the service and they currently operate at some 40-50 within the Borough, with new centres opening and others closing all the time. This is an operational decision

**S Brickell**

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made within the service on the provision of adult education within the Borough. **K Lord** noted that the centre had been suitable for the disabled for over 20 years and that the cost to make it accessible would not be onerous. This decision effectively cut services for local people and moved it elsewhere less convenient. He was concerned that £75,000 had been allocated to train local councillors in political awareness and suggested that this money would be better spent on local adult education.

A **resident** noted that the centre was very “in-touch” with the local community and built self-esteem for many needy groups. In her opinion the costs to make the venue compliant would not be more than £50,000.

**B Blake** stated that it was disingenuous of the Council to say that as a result of the DDA that they had to make changes now. When the law was passed it gave a number of years to make any necessary alterations. He felt that more and more community resources were being taken away and the trend will create problems in the long term (e.g. youth). His partner had used the centre successfully in the past and would not travel any further for reasons of safety. The closure of local centres and moving to locations out of the area in fact, he suggested, had the effect of making the service less accessible. He suggested that the current owners might be amenable to contributing to the cost of the upgrade and questioned whether these decisions were taken whether or not the Community Council agreed or disagreed.

**Cllr B Wheatley** was concerned that he had learned of this decision from a resident phone call and a newspaper report and not through Council channels. This decision was completely out of his hands and that of the Members. He supported the centre 100% and this closure was an officer decision and not of the Councillors.

**Cllr S Wright** noted that CLaSS was an independent service and are free to take decisions they see fit for the needs of the service. Public buildings need to be accessible to all people and this decision did not reduce the number of classes, just where they were provided. He noted that it was a decision for the service and not Councillors.

A **resident** noted that the service should still consult with residents before taking such a decision.

Another **resident** noted that it was the responsibility of the landlord to provide a DDA compliant facility. He asked whether the Council could provide clarification on the implications of the DDA.

**S Brown** noted that as she lived in Elphinstone Rd, she would not attend the new facility as it was outside walking distance.

**M Green** noted support for adult learning in the Borough and repeated the commitment of CLaSS to continue to provide the same level of quality service. The new venues (e.g. Chestnuts House) will have better accessibility, transport links, facilities and car parking. There are still facilities nearby in this ward, such as Harmony Hall and the William Morris facility. She stated that the current owners of Greenleaf understood the access situation. On the topic of consultation she noted that CLaSS do have outreach officers who engage with students to develop a picture of the needs. In the last couple of years the number of outlets has actually increased dramatically and the service will strive to continue to improve into the future. She noted that the Prospectus was out now and copies had been provided on the tables. Classes would begin in September and services will still be added as they go along.

**P Herlihy** asked if a summary of proposals could be drafted for publication in the next meeting papers and for the web

**M Green**

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the next meeting papers and for the web.

**C Shingleton** asked why there had been no noticeable progress on the High Street development and of the timescale for start and completion.

**Cllr S Wright** replied that there was a lot going on, some projects not as fast as others, including the work on the façade of Walthamstow Central, Tower Mews and at the bus station. Designs are due back for the Arcade in Autumn and the reason for the delays had been highlighted at a previous meeting. The consultation on the cinema was ongoing and officers were here tonight for that purpose. The library is currently in the design phase and scheduled to commence at the end of the year.

At this point the item was closed.

## **8.0 POLICE COMMUNITY CONSULTATIVE GROUP (PCCG)**

Steve Williams, Chair of the PCCG, presented this item. The PCCG is a grass roots voice for a safer community and its meetings are open to the public. It is community-based and made up of local Councillors, representatives from local groups as well as the Police Borough Commander who attends with his senior officers. The group meets 5-7 times per year and meetings are held for about 2-3 hours at Walthamstow Town Hall commencing at 7.30pm.

Mr Williams invited residents to stand for the position of PCCG Representative to represent the Community Council at the meetings.

F Lovell and A Gladstone had nominated themselves for this position. There being no further nominations both briefly introduced themselves to the meeting.

The meeting then voted as follows:

F Lovell – 10 votes; A Gladstone – 13 votes

**Mr Adam Gladstone** was then duly elected the Walthamstow West Community Council representative to the PCCG.

The discussion on this item is summarised below:

**K Lord** voiced a formal objection to the Community Representative, stating that under the Local Government Act (2000) that the Community Council was an Area Committee and as such only Councillors could be called on to represent it. Members of the public could not be called on, in his opinion, to represent the views of all of the diverse sections of the four wards of the community.

**P Herlihy** requested that this be noted and a response to return from the Legal Department for the next meeting. He closed the item at this point.

**D Fenwick**

## **9.0 UPDATE ON AGREED COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPEND**

The meeting was asked to note the yellow sheet attached to the Agenda and the Chair summarised the progress on spending the Community Councils Budget.

He noted that the second round was due to start shortly and requested that residents utilise the yellow evaluation forms available in the hall to indicate ideas for the next round of spending.

He drew attention to the two new Shop Riders displayed in the hall that the Walthamstow West Community Council had funded and thanked Peri Stanley and Bernard Aarons for their attendance with the Riders.

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The Chair advised that should Residents Associations or other local residents groups in estates be interested in utilising the disposable camera allocation in the future then they should approach the Community Council directly for consideration at future meetings.

He noted the Friends Of Lloyd Park website for reference:

[www.friendsoflloydpark.org.uk](http://www.friendsoflloydpark.org.uk)

The discussion on this item is summarised below:

**Karen Bellamy** (Vice Chair) reiterated concerns on the use of the disposable camera allocation trusting that it would be used as originally intended in the future. She was also concerned that the lack of effective publicity for the initiatives had reduced the impact and availability to all and hoped that this would be improved in the new round.

**P Herlihy** noted that the allocation will be better managed this time as it was a learning process and the proposal for use in this way did come back to a later meeting. The cameras should be used for residents groups and this year the process will be better.

A **resident** expressed concern at what he saw as a waste of resources with regard to the supervised sports days, seeing it as unnecessary and something that could be better and more cheaply supervised by the community themselves.

**P Herlihy** noted again that this year had one of learning and all ideas for improvement would be very welcome and should be outlined on the evaluation sheet as he had mentioned earlier. He noted that Community Council could not decide that people would volunteer their time to the sports days.

**D Spiro** noted that the Cabinet Champion was not in attendance and the issues raised on the night on education and adult learning were of specific importance to him. He requested that the meeting join with him in expressing their disappointment.

**Cllr B Belam** noted that Cabinet Champions should attend all Community Council meetings and had made his feelings known on this matter previously. He also noted that the Cabinet Champion had still to be advised for the new civic year.

The Item was closed at this point.

## **PART TWO**

### **FORMAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE**

Councillor Bob Belam in the Chair.

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

In addition to those tendered earlier, apologies were noted from Councillor Macklin and Councillor Ali had needed to depart early.

#### **DECLARATION OF INTEREST**

None were received.

#### **1.0 UPDATE ON LOCAL SCHOOLS**

Chris Kiernan, Executive Director of Lifelong Learning, gave an update on the future of McEntee School as Walthamstow Academy and the consultation

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future of McEntee School as Walthamstow Academy and the consultation proposals put forward for Aveling Park and Warwick Schools.

1.1 Walthamstow Academy

**C Kiernan** noted that the Council had agreed to proceed with the Academy “feasibility stage” and ran through the process for consultation and agreement for the project to go ahead drawing attention to the schedule of dates on the printed sheet. He briefly touched on the separate issue of the playing fields highlighting the positive developments for the enhancement of the current facilities.

The main points of the following discussion are summarised below:

A **resident** asked who was to manage the fields.

**C Kiernan** replied that these will be leased to United Learning (ULT), the sponsor, a subsidiary of the Church Schools Company (CSC), a charity set up by the Church of England. Charges will be in line with current Green Space rates.

**Cllr B Wheatley** was disappointed that this item was scheduled after parents had gone home and was concerned that the success of Academies in the past had been patchy. More information was needed for residents to gain a greater understanding of the issue.

**C Kiernan** agreed that there had been issues in the past, however ULT had a good record to date, albeit over a relatively short timescale (about a year and a half). He agreed that local control is an important issue, however, the Academy route will be best to secure funding and the risks will need to be assessed and minimised.

**F Lovell** noted that the school has been improving and people from outside now sent their children there from outside the area. She disagreed that the school had significant problems and had fought to save the school for some time. She was disappointed with the focus of consultation and realised now that the questions were simply a necessary part of the process for closure in her view.

**C Kiernan** agreed that there had been complaints about the consultation, however, this consultation had been led by ULT and was not part of the Council process. The school was described as a “school in challenging circumstances” not a “problem” or “failing” school. He had written to ULT regarding the complaints and will insist on a response before meeting with McEntee governors next Monday.

**A Gladstone**, a National Union of Teachers representative at another Academy, described the treatment of teachers there as appalling, which is one of the reasons he left. He queried the 300% improvement as misleading based on the percentages of 3% to 9% on overall figures. He also noted that it was not the Academy structure that was the main driver in changing results.

**C Kiernan** again noted that ULT have a decent reputation and national agreements with NUT and UNISON. He agreed that the Academy was not the full solution, but simply part of a necessary set of conditions to allow a “step-change” over the next 3-4 years. Not all sponsors are the same and we must ensure that systems are in place so that they work directly with us. While the Council could undertake to try and put these checks in place, there were no guarantees on the final outcome.

**Cllr S Meiszner** noted the need to do what was best for the community and, like the others, he was not convinced about the Academy and had spoken

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against it in the past. He was disappointed about the lack of response when he canvassed for local views and agreed that if it is to go ahead it must work with the community and be responsible to it. Once the full detail is released the community would be able to judge more effectively.

A **resident** asked if these changes would affect BIP (Behaviour Improvement Project) Money.

**C Kiernan** was unsure and would respond back to the next meeting, though he did not think so.

**C Kiernan**

1.2 Aveling Park and Warwick Boys Schools:

**C Kiernan** noted that the Government (DfES) had indicated that, due to declining numbers, it would support six rather than seven schools in the Borough. Warwick Boys and Aveling Park were the least popular in the Borough and most likely to be affected. Lifelong Learning has approached both bodies with a proposal to federate the governing bodies. If they are in agreement they will come back to the community for consultation and the Council will be led by consensus.

The main points of the following discussion are summarised below:

**F Lovell** questioned whether capacity would be under-utilised considering that McEntee would be at less than full capacity owing to the development for a few years, as would Willowfield, and the new housing proposed for the Blackhorse Lane and Higham Hill area would mean a large influx of new residents.

**C Kiernan** noted that over the last decade their predictions had been remarkably accurate and were based upon tested formulas including birthrates, net immigration rates and projected retention rates among other things, to arrive at a range. For safety the Council had taken the upper limit which provided the maximum margin for error.

**P Collins** asked where the site would be located.

**C Kiernan** replied that it would be at the Hawker-Siddeley site.

A **resident** asked what would happen to the Aveling Park site as he believed that it was under covenant. He also asked whether it would be the case that there would be a net inflow of people to the schools if they were to improve and whether this would affect the projections.

**C Kiernan** could not speculate, however, covenants can be overturned. On the numbers, he stated that it would simply be absorbed by the capacity, with the result being that fewer students from outside the borough would be admitted.

A **resident** enquired as to when this would go to Planning.

**Cllr B Carey** replied that the next Planning Committee was in early July.

A **resident** asked of the standards to which these new buildings would be designed as the design life affects the structure and fabric.

**C Kiernan** replied that the buildings are to DfES standard and the project was to build schools for this century, with a likely working life of up to 85 years. As yet the schools had not been designed and the process would very likely be some 9-10 months.

The item was closed at this point.

**2.0 HIGHAM HILL JOINT SERVICE CENTRE**

John Calderon, Project Manager, Portfolio Services, discussed the introduction of the Surestart Joint Service Centre at 313 Billet Road, which is aimed to bring together health, community, children and older persons services under the one roof. It will be a community landmark building open to the local community.

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The main points of the following discussion are summarised below:

**Cllr Wheatley** expressed concern at the number of changes to the original design and the fact that the other adjacent wards were not targeted under the proposals.

**J Calderon** agreed that this centre was specifically targeted at Higham Hill. Other wards would have their services delivered elsewhere under current plans that were under way.

He admitted that a number of changes had taken place, but this was necessary owing to changes in the situation none the least of which was the situation with the Primary Care Trust (PCT). Delays necessitated the Council have Phase 1 delivered by March 2006 and the examination of options and costs excluded demolition on a value for money basis. The PCT is still on board for Phase 2 and this should be completed by April 2007 if all goes according to plan. At this stage this is a telephone confirmation from the PCT representative.

**F Lovell** questioned the Community Centre aspect of the plan.

**J Calderon** replied that Phase 1 is Surestart and Phase 2 will contain the community aspect as it does depend on the involvement of the PCT. At this stage written confirmation has yet to be received. The extra space will be opened up for consultation on the community use once half the current staff are moved to their new accommodation at the Uplands Centre.

**F Lovell** contended that the changes and continued consultation was a waste of money and what the residents really wanted was a Community Centre.

**E Poulsen** was concerned about the lack of information on day-care, domestic fare and support. She also regretted the loss of most of the garden which was used by young and old alike.

**Cllr S Meiszner** agreed with the earlier speakers in that the changes had left a greatly reduced service centre and requested reassurance that a full range of services, particularly for older persons, will be available and a suitable garden will be available.

**J Calderon** replied that the kitchen is moving to Low Hall to accommodate the childrens centre and the morning day care centre was staying where it was. A Craft Room is also planned. The Courtyard Garden will change and while it will be smaller, the Millennium Garden will be reinstated to compensate, with changes to enhance accessibility and size. Phase 2 is dependent on the PCT and the Council is facilitating. The PCT at the last conversation were pleased to go ahead and details will go to the Stakeholder Conference once proposals are firm and on paper.

**Cllr S Wright** stated that Councillors should be well aware of all the information relating to major issues regarding developments in the wards and as such should not take the defence that they were not told, as the systems are in place to ensure that they are fully briefed.

**Cllr B Belam** agreed that a certain amount of information is available to Councillors, however, he also agreed with Cllr Wheatley that 3 wards were to be consulted on the proposals. As at 2pm today (6<sup>th</sup>) as far as he was aware the PCT was not involved. He requested clarification from J Calderon.

**W Natale** (PCT) stated that the development was still an important part of the current strategy, but it did slip owing to large developments in other areas.

**Cllr B Belam** requested that all Councillors be brought up to date on developments for the future as they stand and although mechanisms are in place, regrettably there still seem to be situations where they are left out of the loop.

**W Natale  
(PCT)**

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No further discussion was taken on this item.

**3.0 FORMAL COUNCIL BUSINESS**

There were no Formal decisions on matters arising from the Community Forum to be made at this meeting.

**4.0 DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The venue and date for the next meeting of the Walthamstow West Community Council was confirmed as **Chapel End Junior School, Roberts Rd, E17 4LS on Monday, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2005 starting at 7.30pm.**

Refreshments. Councillor and Police surgeries will be available from 7.15pm.

**The meeting finished at 10.05pm**

**Chair's Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_