

Draft

**MINUTES OF WALTHAMSTOW WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL (WWCC)
MONDAY 7th NOVEMBER 2005
McENTEE SCHOOL, BILLET ROAD, LONDON E17**

PRESENT:

Community Chair:

Philip Herlihy

Councillor Chair

Bob Belam

Vice Chair:

Karen Bellamy

Councillor Vice Chair:

Councillor N Matharoo

Councillors:

Liaquat Ali
David Blunt
Robert Carey
Peter Dunphy

John Macklin
Sean Meiszner
Bob Wheatley
Peter Woollcott

Officers in Attendance:

Patricia Aiken
Penny Allier
Leah Gaston
Shirley Haynes
Brian Whiteley
Bob Williams
Claire Witney

Anti Social Behaviour Officer
Community Council Officer
Community Councils Committee Manager
Community Council Officer
Community Council Lead Officer
Environmental Services Representative
Community Councils Manager

Others in Attendance:

Matthew Nimmo
Police Inspector Nunn
Police Sergeant Denise Canderton
Police Sergeant Stefan Milkowski
Sarah See
Althea Bart
Dave Christy and Alfie Ford
S Cosgrove

Senior Consultant, Blackhorse Lane Presentation
MPS
MPS Safer Neighbourhoods Initiative
MPS Community Policing
WF Primary Care Trust (PCT)
BME Alliance
Scouts Association
Guardian Newspaper

Residents Present:

There were approximately 39 residents present at the meeting.

**PART ONE
COMMUNITY FORUM**

Item

1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced speakers and relevant officers for the proceedings.

He introduced new officers of the Metropolitan Police, Council Officers, including representatives of Environmental Services and PCT representatives.

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2.0	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / MEETING CONDUCT - GUIDELINES	
	<p>The Community Chair reminded residents of the guidelines that had been agreed at previous meetings. Councillor Gray (Cabinet Champion) sent her apologies for absence and Councillor Wheatley had advised that he would be slightly late.</p> <p>The Chair stressed that attendees to the meeting should state what their reasons were for being in attendance if they were not resident in the wards and that focus should be placed on issues rather than individuals.</p>	
2.1	ANNOUNCEMENTS	
	<p>The Chair announced that Cllr Jennifer Gray had been appointed as the new Cabinet Champion and followed this by saying there should be a delegate present at the meeting when a Cabinet Champion is not able to attend.</p>	
3.0	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
	<p>There were no declarations of interest.</p>	
4.0	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING	
	<p>The minutes of the last meeting were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair with no amendments, noting that there was an error in the page numbering.</p>	
5.0	RESPONSE SHEETS	
	<p>The Chair introduced Brian Whiteley, Community Council Lead Officer who presented the blue feedback report included in the Agenda to the meeting. He pointed out that Keith Weir was Head of Street Services and not Environmental Services, as mentioned in the action that was agreed in the response.</p> <p>There being no further discussion the item was closed at this point.</p>	
6.0	MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES / COMMUNITY DISCUSSION	
	<p>Cllr Belam reported that the Scrutiny Commission had set up a Councillor Working Group to review Customer Services to see how the public could be given a better service. He asked that queries on this to be sent to Scrutiny at the Town Hall. The contact is Phil Williams, tel: 020 8496 4208, email: Phil.Williams@walthamforest.gov.uk.</p>	
	<p>The Community Chair announced that the election of the chair and vice chair would be taking place and asked the meeting to complete and hand in the application forms by 8.00pm. He then advised the meeting that the Community Forum was now open and that any issues of concern could be raised at this point.</p>	
	<p>P Spiro wished to advise those concerned that his initial was P and not D as stated in the minutes. He also commented that there was again no Cabinet Champion in attendance although he noted that there was a Ward Member who was also a Cabinet Member. He expressed concern that there is no one who could represent the meeting when they want to raise an issue at Cabinet level. He wanted it on record that there were four consecutive meetings without a Cabinet Member and that the Council should do better in ensuring there was a Cabinet Champion in attendance.</p>	

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P Spiro enquired about what was happening with the cinema and stated that there should be information from the Council, not just that which appears in the Guardian.

A resident said that he agreed with P Spiro and said that people should be allowed to speak at Cabinet or the Champion should be here so that they could have a voice.

P Herlihy said that he agreed with what was just said. He reported a communication from a resident (not present) on the subject who made the point that the Cabinet Champions are hard working with many meetings to attend and Cllr Robbins did not attend the last meeting due to a personal crisis.

K Lord said that he was at the first Community Council meeting two years ago and asked about the review of community councils coming up and would like to see the issue of people speaking at Cabinet and Cabinet Champion being reviewed.

A resident said that they were very impressed with the presentations by Council Officers but it was so long at the last meeting that there was no time left for people to have any input which is the primary purpose of the Community Council meeting. People should be able to make suggestions. Presentations should have a time limit so that the meeting could have the opportunity of speaking.

P Herlihy said that the last meeting was difficult because an officer had come with a long and detailed presentation at the last minute. Residents at the meeting were clearly interested in the subject, so, after a vote, the agenda was rearranged to accommodate the presentation. He had tried to make sure that the minutes reflected all of the outstanding questions so that written responses to be brought back to the meeting. If residents were not satisfied with those answers they could have another go at this meeting.

A resident expressed concern about an ongoing problem with residents between Cecil Road and Knebworth Avenue, including the state of the garages, fly tipping and asked who did they belong to.

P Herlihy asked Bob Williams to answer this. He said that a property search would be done, as they are all vacant.

Cllr Belam said that the garages are looked after by Ascham Homes and he would look into what can be done about them, and the possibility of their being knocked down.

D Martin commented on problems he experienced in trying to report several issues including vehicles that should be clamped and weren't, fly posting, and illegal sale of cigarettes. He phoned about street furniture in the Leyton Green area and it took seven weeks to be sorted out. He said that when he asked for a name on the phone as a reference he was told that names were not given out. He has phoned many times and no one gets back to him.

A resident complained that on phoning the Clarence number, people had been rude, was told there was a computer breakdown and had to make two visits to the Town Hall to try to sort things out. A small number of other residents had complaints about the length of time it took for the phone to be answered when calling.

P Herlihy asked if there was an Officer or Councillor as well as Police officers who could give answers to these issues. He felt that first names should be given and stated that he would check, through formal channels, whether

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names should be given out to callers. He then asked the meeting to do a straw poll on whether they experienced rudeness when phoning the Council. The result was that the majority did not experience rudeness.

A resident said that he was given a name but nothing was done about his query.

P Smith said he found staff helpful and friendly and has used the Clarence number many times and found it very prompt and if there are any residents finding problems with the service they should report it.

P Herlihy asked if there was a Council Officer present who could answer on the issues of fly-posting and selling cigarettes and then said that responses would be given at the next meeting.

A resident commented on the issue of names not being given out and suggested a vote on this.

P Herlily asked for a show of hands to see whether the meeting would like to have names given out if it is not already policy. Most of those in attendance voted in favour of having names given out. He stated that there should be a system where reference numbers were issued so that callers can be identified.

A resident said that they would like to see that the cinema does not compete with a multiplex. It should be a special interest cinema and draw people from all over the Borough.

K Lord referred to page 23 of the agenda papers regarding the issue he had raised about kiosks being erected in the Town Square without consultation and the response by S Brickell. He said that he had looked at the official council document that says up to 12:00am. The Council should consider the licensing of these kiosks. He commented that the decision is made by a cabinet member who was a portfolio holder and has nothing to do with licensing.

He further commented that there had been no response to the petition about the fatal accident on Coppermill Lane from the Council on the blue response sheet. Surely if 500 people signed a petition, then there is a perception that it is not safe even if it is in working order. Whilst there is a barrier on the market side of the crossing, there is none on the Coppermill side of the crossing and the woman was on the crossing when she was hit. With regard to lights themselves, there is no visual sign except at waist level and people can't see. He has a letter from the GLA saying this should be taken up with the local council rather than the GLA and would like a proper answer.

P Herlihy said this was a good point and would get an answer by the next meeting in January on the issue of alcohol licenses, who can use the Town Centre and for what purpose. He asked if there was anyone who objected to asking what the rules are. With regard to the fatality, he remarked that there does seem to be some concern, and suggested an answer could be put in the response sheet rather than an agenda item. He reported a view that barriers force people together at crossings in a way that may not be safe and noted that the signage may be inadequate. He would ask the Transport people to look at this and report back to us in view of what's happened.

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K Bellamy said she is concerned at the attendance figures. There were no leaflets on her road about this meeting. This is a pretty poor attendance so we need to look at marketing.

P Herlihy said that the officers work hard to promote these meetings, by advertising in bus shelters, and leafleting. Have not found something that works routinely. He asked if anyone had suggestions we would be very interested to hear about them.

Cllr Wheatley said he had approximately 200 to 300 leaflets and had delivered them to school in the local area.

P Herlihy thanked him for this.

A resident in Bramley Close said she had phoned on the Clarence number four times and got names each time. She contacted T. Finney of Greenspaces on 28 October about getting bulbs for the raised bed and she also phoned about getting a lamp fixed as it is now dark but they were not able to find the streetlight. She has offered to show them if they knocked on her door. She also wished to express her thanks for the Big Sweep operation in Higham Hill.

P Herlihy said that he was sure other residents will be pleased to have this reported in the minutes and asked the resident to give her details to Officers so that the street lamps can be addressed.

The item was closed at this point.

7.0 COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUDGET 2005 /06 - WORKSHOPS

Mrs Wilson said that when she was asked last year what to do with the Community Council Budget, she suggested benches in the Town Square and there was still no sign of them.

P Herlihy said this would be looked into.

P Herlihy asked the meeting to work in groups to identify their priorities and agree a shortlist of project themes for spending this year's Community Council budget. These would then be researched, costed by the Community Council Team and brought back to the next meeting for the final voting.

After the individual groups made their choices, the meeting was asked to vote for their top three topics and the overall results were as follows:

1. Youth (57 votes)
2. ASBO (40 votes)
3. Environment
4. Toddler Safety
5. Parks (39 votes)
6. Sport
7. Health
8. Women
9. Culture & Tradition (social & community rather than fine arts)

P Herlihy suggested that "parks" should be considered as "youth" but some residents replied that older people also used the parks. He stated that if residents had any further ideas within these three categories after this meeting these could be passed on to the Community Council Team who will incorporate them.

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	<p>P Herlihy thanked the meeting and brought this item to a close.</p>	
8.0	COMMUNITY CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR ELECTIONS	
	<p>B Whiteley reported that he had one nomination for the current chair and asked if there were other nominees. No one was put forward and the motion to re-elect the current chair was carried with no opposition.</p> <p>With no new nominations the current vice chair, Karen Bellamy was invited to stand. She was nominated and seconded. There were no oppositions and she was duly re-elected.</p> <p>Cllr Belam acknowledged P Herlihy and K Bellamy as chair and vice-chair, respectively and the welcomed them to their positions for the next 12 months.</p> <p>The item and Community Forum was called to a close following Item 8.0.</p>	

PART TWO

FORMAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Item		Action
1.0	BLACKHORSE LANE: FULFILLING THE POTENTIAL	
	<p>Cllr Belam introduced Matthew Nimmo of Regenfirst who gave a presentation on the next stages in the proposals to improve Blackhorse Lane and the surrounding area over the next 5 – 10 years, which is contained in the Borough's UDP. He reported that this was part of a corridor of investment reaching as far as the M11 and presented options that had been consulted on with people and architects. Under the proposals, warehouse areas would be re-designated as mixed-use, without changing the character of the area and new roads would be built to take heavy transport from the residential roads. A booklet containing the proposals is available, which will be distributed to local households within the next few days and there will also be an exhibition at the end of the month, which he encouraged the meeting to attend.</p> <p>The main points of the following discussion are summarised below:</p> <p>K Bellamy said that she had not seen these proposals before and they seemed like emotional blackmail, designed to get residents to vote for Option 3. There should be Section 106 money that should come to the community. She said that she is quite concerned at the lack of provision for general practitioners, police and health facilities to cope with the extra residents.</p> <p>M Nimmo replied that they had worked with a stakeholder group and said that there was Section 106 money that potentially could be derived from the developments. Residents would have to identify how to bring in this money and Option 3 would do this. The facilities will be looked at in the next stage after the option is decided.</p> <p>Cllr Meiszner said that Option 3 looked much more of an improvement of the area but he was concerned by the density of housing, particularly on and around St Andrews Road.</p> <p>M Nimmo replied that high density was being encouraged to house people near good transport links and reduce car usage. Developments have to be viable so they have to build a high number of homes in order to make more money, although we are trying to encourage them to build where we would like</p>	

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them.

Cllr Meiszner said some are a long way from transport such as the Billet hubs and leave a negative impact on the area.

P Walker commented that Willowfield School is being moved and this is not shown anywhere in Option 1.

M Nimmo said that this is in the UDP but there is not a designated site as yet.

Cllr Wheatley agreed with K Bellamy stating that 2,500 people would be brought into the area with no facilities provided and we have to be realistic and honest.

M Nimmo replied that there are a lot of things that are not contained in the information provided as it is not possible to cover everything and again invited residents to the exhibition.

Cllr Belam asked for details of where and when the exhibition would be taking place.

P Smith said that developers will do as little as they have to. If they have to do all these things we have to go for Option 3 but there is no guarantee. We can't yet guarantee that we will have the extra facilities, community facilities and statutory services.

A Liddle expressed concern about building tower blocks and saying that we had to stop allowing this infill development. He questioned the feasibility of squeezing more people into an area that is already dense, saying that there would be more anti-social behaviour if we were to start building high. He also asked about plans for the station car park.

M Nimmo said that the exhibition taking place from 29th November to 1st December 2005 at Uplands House, Blackhorse Lane. He and a colleague from Regenfirst will be there. He said that they are anti infill development but that is not a solution trading a whole new centre with a square. People say there is nowhere to go. There is a large area of green space which can they cannot get to. High density supports shops and other things but only by getting the social mix right. Lessons are still being learned about high-density schemes.

A Resident queried plans for the site of the church in Hooker Road saying that there was congestion due to a large number of attendees to the church and the road being narrow with double S bends. He added that his children were not able to visit him, as there is nowhere to park.

M Nimmo said that the church would be redeveloped. In Option 2 the plan is to put in a new road and improve industrial traffic, turning this into a through road, making it more pedestrian friendly.

Cllr Belam requested that the Planning Department be asked to give a resident an answer on why there is no mention of The Standard in the regeneration plans.

M Nimmo replied that the Standard music venue depends on what the developers want to do. It is not up to us. The developers could be asked to re-provide the venue somewhere within the vicinity as it was mentioned by some people as being important to the area. Because there is some support for it we will try to get it included in the new development. We will get peoples' views on this and we will write back to them.

Cllr Wheatley asked whether Regenfirst would let the Councillors know as well.

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M Nimmo replied that that they would do a forum for Councillors.

Cllr Belam said that it is people that live out of the area who want to visit the Standard.

P Smith by 2030 4% of people will be over 60 and in his opinion. For sustainable redevelopment the age of people who will be inhabiting these developments needs to be taken into account as there must be mobility access for older residents.

As to the area around the Muslim cemetery, he queried whether there is to be some sort of balance, as it is not going to be the older people that are going to go there every day. In terms of anti-social behaviour there are not enough police officers in the area to deliver effective policing. Whilst we do not want to build a new utopia regeneration, it has got to be safe and secure.

M Nimmo agreed with that and will look at designs to ensure that they are designing out crime. Higham Hill is next on the list to be a Safer Neighbourhood and young people will be involved.

Cllr Belam thanked M Nimmo for his presentation and the item was closed at this point.

2.0 FORMAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

Cllr Belam asked those present to fill in the yellow evaluation forms and hand them to a Council Officer.

There being no further formal decisions required on matters arising from the Community Forum or any further discussion, the item was drawn to a close.

3.0 DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING

The venue and date for the next meeting of the Walthamstow West Community Council was confirmed as **Willowfield School, Clifton Road, E17 on Monday, 16th January 2006 starting at 7.30pm.**

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

The meeting finished at 9.50pm

Chair's Signature_____

Date_____