

Draft

**MINUTES OF WALTHAMSTOW WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL (WWCC)
MONDAY 16th JANUARY 2006
WILLOWFIELD SCHOOL, CLIFTON AVENUE, LONDON E17 6HL**

PRESENT:

Community Chair:

Philip Herlihy

Councillor Chair

Bob Belam

Vice Chair:

Councillor Vice Chair:

Councillor N Matharoo

Councillors:

David Blunt

Robert Carey

John Macklin

Sean Meiszner

Bob Wheatley

Peter Woollcott

Also Present:

Diana Murray

Councillor Graham Smith

Councillor for Markhouse Ward

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health and Social Care

Officers in Attendance:

Patricia Aiken

Shirley Jensen

Bruce Clarke

Shirley Haynes

Brian Whiteley

Kris Malde

Peter Findlay

Sian Hasler

Anti Social Behaviour Officer

Community Council Officer

Community Councils Committee Manager

Community Council Officer

Community Council Lead Officer

Principal Scrutiny Manager

Town Centres Section Manager

Community Safety Unit (Police Officer)

Others in Attendance:

John Wood

Police Constable Soave

Police Constable Marriott

Police Community Support Officer Katkin

Althea Bart

Dave Christy and Alfie Ford

S Cosgrove

London Probation

Metropolitan Police Service

Metropolitan Police Service

MPS Community Policing

BME Alliance

Scouts Association

Guardian Newspaper

Residents Present:

There were approximately 48 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, as well as various students from

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Willowfield School who had volunteered to assist with the proceedings.

He noted the Community Council's Cabinet Champion, Councillor Jennie Gray, had sent her apologies for absence and Councillor Graham Smith, Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Health and Social Care, was in attendance as her alternate.

P Spiro said that after four consecutive meetings without such representation this was the first Walthamstow West Community Council meeting at which a Cabinet Champion, albeit an alternate, had attended.

Cllr Smith said he would feed this comment back to the Cabinet.

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / MEETING CONDUCT - GUIDELINES

The Community Chair reminded residents of the guidelines that had been agreed at previous meetings. Councillor Gray (Cabinet Champion) sent her apologies for absence, as did Councillors Wright, Ali and Wilson, and Councillor Macklin had advised he would be slightly late.

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. He also advised that in connection with item 8 on this evening's Agenda only residents of the four Wards covered by this Community Council were eligible to vote.

The Chair noted that a new Help Form was being used at the meeting, intended to make it easy for anyone to take part. Attendees could use the Form if they preferred not to speak themselves, have their question raised anonymously or required help with an issue after the day of the meeting.

4.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

K Lord advised two accuracy errors in the draft Minutes of the previous meeting:

Page 8 – currently 'The Council should consider the licensing of these kiosks' should read 'The Council's Licensing Committee should consider the licensing of these kiosks'.

Page 8 – currently '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' should read 'Whilst there is a barrier on the market side of the crossing, there is none on the Coppermill side from which the pedestrian involved in the fatal incident took a short cut, avoiding the crossing itself'.

5.0 RESPONSE SHEETS

The Chair introduced Brian Whiteley, Community Council Lead Officer who presented the blue feedback report included in the Agenda to the meeting.

There being no further discussion the item was closed at this point.

6.0 COMMUNITY FORUM / MATTERS ARISING

P Spiro wished to point out various issues relating to the Community Council budget for 2005/6:

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- The number of funding bids received has risen from 3 or 4 in 2004/5 to 11 in 2005/6.
- Some of the current bids involved spending funds on a few hours of labour; lobbying the Council would better facilitate these.
- Funds would be more usefully spent on long-term capital items.
- Many prices quoted seemed very excessive and he would like to see more concrete pricing proposals.
- Replacing two items of play equipment in Greenleaf Road under 7's playground is very much on the Council's priority list and it's this we should be pursuing.

P Herlihy expressed his surprise at the cost of some items within the bids.

Mr Stannard wished to raise a major safety issue concerning usage of the High Street by vehicular traffic on Mondays. Since the market had been stopped on Mondays pedestrians who usually associated the street with being a pedestrianised zone were in danger from allowed traffic, often proceeding at high speed. He would like to see all traffic banned from the High Street on Mondays.

P Herlihy noted that signage stating a total ban on traffic in the High Street was displayed.

P Findlay commented there were plans for a comprehensive traffic control / pedestrianisation scheme and a bid for the required funding had been submitted to Transport for London. Only disabled vehicles would have access to the High Street after 10am. The enforcement of moving traffic offences is to pass from the Police to the Council.

L J Miller complained that hardly any residents in 63 to 95 and 6 to 106 Blackhorse Lane, Clifton Avenue, Tavistock Avenue and Blenheim Road received details of the proposed Blackhorse Lane regeneration scheme. He further noted that it was no good handing out details of the scheme to people accessing the Underground station, as few of them were local residents.

P Herlihy asked Mr Miller to complete a Help Form; he will ask for another delivery of information packs to be made (if at all possible).

Cllr Wheatley said he personally hand delivered packs throughout the area and that subsequently no one had contacted him concerning information contained therein.

A resident asked what levels of compensation were planned for individuals and businesses affected by the Blackhorse Lane regeneration scheme.

P Herlihy stated he would flag this as an issue to be followed up.

A resident noted that the owners of the Standard public house had not been given any details of the regeneration scheme, nor of the related recent meeting.

P Smith stressed the spend options for the Community Council's budget were very important. He noted that only £10,000 was available and spoke of the Government's shame that more funding had not been made available for this purpose. The current funding system was merely reducing the Council's own spend and this wasn't fair for local democracy.

P Herlihy confirmed that only £10,000 was available for 2005/6 and later in this meeting residents would be asked to vote on spending choices.

B Palmer raised the following issues:

- Residents of Clifton Avenue are suffering from Underground users

Peter Findlay

Matthew Nimmo

Matthew Nimmo

Steve

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parking their cars there during the day to avoid the Blackhorse Lane parking zone restrictions.

- Motorists continually turn left out of Blackhorse Lane into Forest Road, despite clear signage to the contrary. Related vehicles then frequently pass through the pedestrian crossing even though the crossing lights are at red, causing a very high potential for injuries to pedestrians.
- When will the future of Willowfield School finally be decided? Currently it is included in Option 1 of related consultation but seems a 'central plank' of the Building Schools for the Future and Private Finance Initiative schemes.

Tony
Martin

Simon
Newland

P Herlihy said he will seek information on these issues and requested Mr Palmer to complete a Help Form.

K Lord referred to the fatal accident on Coppermill Lane that he'd previously raised at the last meeting. He said the Council had responded by saying the pedestrian involved was at fault by walking into the road behind the driver's sight line in the vehicle involved. He believed there should be guardrails on the Coppermill side of the crossing, as the fitted sensors don't pick up persons off the crossing. He stated that reference in the Waltham Forest Streetscape Manual to providing guard railing only in specific locations such as school entrances was a cost saving exercise by the Council. No official response had yet been received from the Council to the 500 name petition handed in.

P Herlihy replied that two responses on this subject had already been received and that responses didn't always provide the desired answer. He stated that copies of the report presented to the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services could be obtained from the Community Council Officer.

Cllr Blunt stated a response had been made to the petition. He said that if the Coroner had felt that a lack of guardrails was a contributory factor in the death of the pedestrian she would have said so. The WF Streetscape Manual had been produced to set out general principles, one of which was to attempt to depopulate street furniture. He felt this matter should now rest.

The item was closed at this point.

7.0 WILLOWFIELD SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH PROJECT

P Herlihy introduced Andrew Musgrave of Worth Unlimited to talk about the project, the subject of which was Problems, Positives and Potential.

A Musgrave said that Willowfield School year 11 pupils had undertaken the project as part of the Asdan Bronze Youth Award scheme, a learning experience based on democracy in action. Some months previously the Walthamstow West Community Council had funded a number of disposable cameras for pupils to take pictures of the local area – some of the resultant photographs were on display at the meeting.

Local problems identified by participants and represented in the photographs included widespread graffiti, poor lighting in and scruffy appearance of various alleyways and pathways, poor facilities provided for users of Blackhorse Road station and not enough for local youth to do.

Positive elements identified in the neighbourhood were the amenities of Lloyd Park and the presence of Neighbourhood Police and Street Wardens.

Mr Musgrave thanked the pupils involved for their time and efforts devoted to the project and the Chair seconded this.

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P Herlihy thanked Mr Musgrave and brought this item to a close.

8.0 COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUDGET 2005/6

P Herlihy explained how the electronic voting system would work and confirmed that a total of eleven bids for funding had been received.

Cllr Blunt asked if a further bid for funding could be added to the list. The Chair replied that the item could be briefly explained and would then be put to the meeting for a vote on inclusion.

Cllr Murray proposed the bid for the sum of £3,100 to be spent on the provision of a slide at the existing multi-play unit in Coppermill Park. The Chair asked for a show of hands as to whether or not this bid should be added to the previously circulated list – the voting result was 14 for inclusion, 17 against – the bid was therefore not added to the list.

P Herlihy asked the champions for each of the eleven bids to briefly describe, within a maximum two-minute time slot, the proposed purpose and effect of the funding being sought.

P Herlihy ran through the voting process, in that the eleven bids had been divided into two groups to be the subject of two preliminary votes. Each participating resident would vote for their first three choices, in order of preference, and the least popular bid in each case would then be dropped leaving a total of nine bids to be included in the final vote. All the voting would be on a 'weighted' basis – three scores for a resident's first choice, two for the second and one for the third.

P Spiro said that some of the figures shown in the Cost column relating to bids were unrealistic and that to assist with the voting process it would be preferable to have a better idea of true costs.

P Herlihy replied that the issue of true costs would need to be left to Members' discretion.

K Lord noted there were issues within some of the bids that should really be addressed via the Police in Community Council meetings.

P Herlihy confirmed that at previous meetings policing issues had been raised within the Community Forum as an Agenda item and this could be repeated at future meetings if required. He also mentioned raising such issues at meetings of the Police Community Consultative Group, the next one being on 25th January.

Cllr Murray asked if residents, when voting, could attempt to ensure spending is distributed across all four Wards covered by the Community Council.

P Herlihy then started the voting process:

- First preliminary vote – least votes for Skate Park Repairs – item deleted
- Second preliminary vote – least votes for Police High Visibility Patrols – item deleted.

P Herlihy noted the time was now 9pm and under the agreed operating process a request should be made to the Chair of the Formal Committee for an extension of time in order to complete this Agenda item.

Cllr Belam agreed to the requested extension of the Community Forum.

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K Lord questioned if there should be increased funding for the 2006/7 Budget. **P Herlihy** asked those residents in attendance to vote on this matter, with the result being a unanimous yes. He also asked what the increased figure might be.

Cllr Wheatley suggested the figure of £100,000 as originally promised.

P Herlihy called for the final vote on the remaining nine bids for funding, again with residents voting for their top three choices in order of preference. The result of the voting was as follows:

1. Football pitches in Aveling Park: 53 votes
2. Continue schools environmental project: 44 votes
3. Mobile youth club: 35 votes
4. Basketball posts: 26 votes
4. Operation "Payback": 26 votes
5. 400m running track: 21 votes
6. Play equipment: 16 votes
7. Teen seating: 14 votes
8. Street crime warden patrols: 11 votes

The item and Community Forum was called to a close following Item 8.0.

PART TWO

FORMAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Item

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1.0 IMPROVING OUR APPROACH TO CONSULTATION

Cllr Belam introduced Mark Yeadon, LBWF Consultation Manager who gave a presentation entitled 'Public Consultation: Past, Present and Future'. Mark identified the importance of consultation, provided his definition of meaningful consultation and then described a range of methods and mechanisms available (this latter including the use of Community Councils). He stressed that any decision-making coming after a period of consultation should be justified, with all relevant reasons given. A survey held amongst those attending the round of Community Council meetings between April and May 2005 indicated that a large minority of respondents weren't satisfied with opportunities given them to influence decision-making and this led, together with Scrutiny Panel recommendations in 2004, to Mark's appointment as Consultation Manager. This new, central consultation function has led to a more coordinated approach using uniform standards. Mark described the five aims of effective consultation, which residents can judge the Council's consultation activity against, as well as noting the inclusion of such activity within the production of annual plans. He confirmed there would be continued publicity of consultation in the local media; implementation in the near future of Consultation Finder on the Council's website; and annual visits to each Community Council by way of public review. Mark concluded by requesting residents to advise him of both good and bad examples of local consultation in order to improve the service provided.

The main points of the following discussion are summarised below:

K Lord said the presentation was essentially talking about the corporate consultation structure, not about matters raised by residents that quickly became 'done deals'. In the case of the sale of Council properties certain information was deemed to be confidential so residents were unable to join the

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consultation process.

M Yeadon replied that there was a danger of consultation overload – not everything is ‘up for grabs’. However transparent decision-making was desirable with underlying reasons needed to be given.

P Herlihy added that commercial sensitivity produced situations of confidentiality. He noted there had been examples of this Community Council being told that consultation was still possible whereas relevant decisions had in fact already been implemented. The Council needed to provide focussed and timely information to those who need it.

M Yeadon agreed with this, suggesting that such information might be best provided via the Internet and the Council’s website.

P C Smith agreed with the need for transparency in the Council’s activities and asked if the residents of Carr Road had been consulted when they protested over the cutting down of trees.

M Yeadon said he could not comment immediately on that specific issue, although he would seek to provide a response to Mr Smith, but agreed that consultation needed to be from the bottom up as well as from the top down.

Cllr Murray said there had been very efficient consultation in her Ward concerning the site of a mobile telephone mast. She agreed the Council must give back the results of all consultation as well as details of further action to be taken – feedback was essential.

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

M Yeadon

M Yeadon

2.0 FORMAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

Cllr Belam requested comments from Councillors as to how the Community Council spend voting decisions should be ratified.

Cllr Meiszner suggested that the top three bids should be proceeded with immediately, then see if any funds can be found for any of the other bids.

Cllr Wheatley spoke of the need to consider the smaller cost bids.

Cllr Blunt proposed taking the top bids up to say a total spend of £15,000 (based on cost levels already supplied) then obtaining more definitive costs and trying to implement as many as possible of the top bids in order of choice.

Cllr Belam noted that the top five bids chosen via the voting process came to a total of £15,700 based on cost levels already supplied.

Cllr Wheatley seconded this proposal.

Cllr Macklin proposed going with residents in terms of priorities by selecting the top three bids with any available funding still remaining being allocated to Operation Payback.

Cllr Wheatley seconded this proposal.

Cllr Belam invited those Councillors present to vote on the first proposal from **Cllr Blunt** – football pitches £700, schools environmental project £2,000, mobile youth club £5,000, basketball posts £3,000, any remaining funds to Operation Payback - carried unanimously.

K Lord raised an issue concerning a paper included on the Agenda of a Members Support Committee meeting to be held on 28th February 2005. The paper, entitled ‘Civic Leadership – a development plan’ and produced by Paul Wheeler, Director, Political Skills Forum, covered Council spending for member development in the Borough by way of a comprehensive programme to the

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new and current councillors serving after the London wide elections in May 2006. One of the paper's recommendations, for Phase 3 of the programme, contained the following sentence: 'There will also be an opportunity to work with Party Groups to offer appropriate support to candidates or potential candidates in the 2006 elections which can supplement whatever preparations the parties make for their candidates'. K Lord didn't believe it was right for Council funds to be used to supplement Party Group spending on prospective candidates.

Cllr Belam replied that any such recommendations, coming from a Committee, would need to be approved by the full Council. He also said that no candidates for the May 2006 election were being supported in this way. He then asked Cllr Carey, a member of the Members Support Committee, to comment.

Cllr Carey confirmed that the Committee had discussed training for potential councillors as to their duties after being elected but at no time had any political element entered the debate.

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 will be published after the annual Full Council meeting on 25th May 2006.

The meeting ended at 9.55pm

Chair's Signature _____

Date _____