

**MINUTES OF WALTHAMSTOW WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL (WWCC)**  
**MONDAY 4<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006**  
**Chapel End Junior School Roberts Road, Walthamstow E17 4LS**

**PRESENT:**

**Community Chair:**  
Philip Herlihy

**Councillor Chair**  
Johar Khan

**Councillors:**

Bob Belam  
Robert Carey  
John Macklin  
James O'Rourke  
Patrick Smith  
Terry Wheeler (Cathall Ward)

Sean Meiszner  
Bob Wheatley  
Peter Woolcott  
Afzal Akram (Cabinet Champion)

**Officers in Attendance:**

Martin Esom  
Shirley Haynes  
David Knight  
Matthew Nimmo  
Nadia Fiori  
Brian Whiteley  
Claire Witney

Executive Director Environmental Services  
Community Council Officer  
Community Councils Committee Manager  
RegenFirst Limited

Community Council Lead Officer  
Head of Community Councils and Consultation

**Residents Present:**

There were approximately 50 residents present at the meeting.

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

**Item**

**1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting including Simon Wright who was attending the meeting for the first time in his new role as a Non-Executive Member of the Primary Care Trust.

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 or groups. He

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also advised that only residents of the Wards covered by this Community Council were eligible to vote.

The Chair reminded those present that the Help Forms were being used at the meeting. Attendees could use the Form if they preferred not to speak themselves and have their question raised anonymously or identify if they required help with an issue after the day of the meeting.

He requested that all speakers show consideration by using the microphones at all times to aid those with disability who required the use of the hearing loop.

**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 L. Ali and Councillor G. Reardon tendered their apologies for absence.

**4.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair with no amendments.

**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 COUNTER TERRORISM – COMMUNITY TOGETHER**

The meeting received a presentation from Borough Commander **Chief Superintendent Mark Benbow** and **Councillor Afzal Akram** Cabinet Member for Community Safety. Highlighting a number of key points in relation to the recent counter-terrorist operation and how it relates to Waltham Forest.

The main points are summarized below.

Members acknowledged that it is important that every effort is made to forge strong community links whilst wholeheartedly condemning all forms of extremism and violence. Waltham Forest is home to a considerable number of faith and ethnic groups. Those present recognised that most people living in the Borough enjoy the rich and varied community in their neighbourhoods. It was also accepted that residents should continue to work together so as to ensure that the recent events do not have an adverse impact on the lives of local residents.

It was noted that since the recent counter-terrorist operation the Council has been continuing its close work with representatives of the local mosques,

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community leaders and the police. The Council has also undertaken to keep residents informed of developments and continue to support those who are in greatest need.

The Council in conjunction with its partner agencies had established a Core Group comprising the Mayor; the Leader of the Council, Deputy Leader, Borough Commander, Cabinet Portfolio Member for Community Safety, the Heads of Corporate Communications and Community Safety. The Group had been meeting on a regular basis since early August initially every day but now meeting twice a week. From September 2006 to March 2007 the Council, Police and their partner agencies will be rolling out a series of measures as part of a strategy to reassure and engage with the community. It must be said that the response by local communities to the recent events has been both mature and measured. There has been no indication of divisions within and between the communities. Local schools will play an invaluable role in the months ahead. Staff have received briefings so as to respond correctly to any challenges that may arise as a result of these events. In addition, to this programme of activity effective mechanisms are now in place to ensure that communities are kept up to date on relevant news and events.

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

**7.0 COMMUNITY DISCUSSION / MATTERS ARISING**

**M. Spiro:** It is good to hear what is being done locally in the wake of the recent arrests to address the concerns of local communities. However, I would now like to look at the current situation with regard to the development of the Arcade Site and in particular who issued the statement published with the agenda papers for tonight's meeting.

**P. Herlihy:** Councillor Terry Wheeler on behalf of the Council issued the statement.

**M. Spiro:** Wanted to know if a report is going to be prepared that will outline the future options for this site. It seems that this is now the time to be developing a vision for the site and identifying those priorities necessary to deliver that vision. He would also like to see the community being actively engaged in this process and being kept up to speed on any relevant developments.

**K. Lord:** He expressed concern at the last meeting about the Arcade Site and the general lack of progress with the Town Centre redevelopment. The Chair asked for a breakdown on expenditure to date for the site and other issues raised. Mr. Lord felt that the response does not answer the specific question that I submitted. As I would like to know:

1. What was actually spent including who received the compensation mentioned in the response?
2. Who are the external advisers?

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3. If there is going to be an investigation on how the money was spent?
4. What will happen between now and November 2006?
5. Will there be a clear and transparent process with regard to the tendering of this site?

**P. Smith:** Constituents and the Civic Society have indicated that they would like to see a revival of the Conservation Area Advisory Panel to look at the issues in relation to planning consents and proposals that would be relevant to a site such as this one. In addition, any proposals relating to the future use of the Leyton Town Hall and Chingford Assembly Hall should include facilities that would meet the needs of young people.

**E. Poulsen:** There has already been extensive consultation on the development of this of this site. Residents want a new library; Post Office and stores that will form the basis of an evening economy.

**Councillor T. Wheeler:** Agreed with Mrs. Poulsen that there has already been extensive consultation on the development of this of this site. However, the Council needs to look at the High Street as a totality and agree a vision that all can sign up to including facilities that young people want. Therefore, he would like to hear resident's views on what they want to see in this development.

With regard Kevin Lord's comments regarding the information contained within the agenda papers for this meeting. The information presented is the expenditure to date. A lot of these costs relate to what has been incurred in keeping this site intact as with any developer. Also as the Council paid for the demolition costs and that expenditure this has already attracted money into the Town Centre including European Union funding. The compensation referred to in the report is that which was paid to the owners of premises or the landowners. The figures have been put before the meeting tonight in an open and honest way. What needs to happen now is for agreement to be reached on the vision for the site and it needs to be clear and direct the way forward. As to the actual tendering process this will be bound by European Union regulations.

**Resident:** Why have there been no questionnaires put out to enable us to make our views known on the matters before us tonight?

**P. Herlihy:** There are help forms available to allow attendees to raise questions on any matters before us tonight?

**Resident:** There has not been an adequate circulation of information on the proposals for the relocation of Willowfield School. Reference is also made to a letter circulated on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2006 who circulated it and who was it sent to? Reference is made to a deadline by when one should respond to these proposals but where are the details relating to these proposals?

**M. Nimmo:** The plans for the school are incorporated within the wider plans for the area as a whole and at this stage do not include specific details relating to

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the school. The plans are therefore intended at this stage to address general proposals on a range of issues that will impact on the area as a whole. However, once we have more detailed information on specific points then residents will be consulted. The letter of 11<sup>th</sup> August 2006 was sent out to those individuals who had already raised specific points and they received responses based upon their earlier comments.

**P. Herlihy:** If residents want to receive more information they should complete a help form and their details will be passed to Matthew Nimmo.

**Resident:** Who will be asked to agree the initial plans?

**M. Nimmo:** There will be a report to the Councils Cabinet recommending the adoption of these plans.

**Councillor T. Wheeler:** The plans are intended to bring Brown Field sites back into use. The report to the Cabinet is asking for agreement on the broad proposals. There will be as Matthew has indicated a full consultation at a later stage and Cabinet will subsequently be asked to agree more detailed proposals.

**Resident:** What is the timescale?

**M. Nimmo:** No timeline has been agreed at present but when we have an outline plan we will consult residents through various mechanisms including the Community Council and by writing to those who have contacted us about the development.

**Resident:** Concern has been raised about loss of green belt land including the impact on open views over the fields. What are the circumstances in which the Council will allow building on green belt land?

**M. Nimmo:** Primarily there will be significant benefits in terms of securing investment in the sports facilities and meeting the educational, leisure and other needs of the local community outweighing the loss of a small amount of green belt land. Although we will endeavour to minimise that loss.

**S. Grant:** I am saddened by the attitude of some residents here tonight regarding the relocation of Willowfield School. The students need a new school if they are going to be able to continue to develop and maintain their standards of education.

**Councillor B. Wheatley:** I would have like to have seen wider circulation of information with regard to the recent counter-terrorist operation in Waltham Forest, particularly to Councillors Notwithstanding that comment I would like to place on record my congratulations to the Council, Police and their partner for the way in which they dealt with this situation. My only other comment would be that I would have liked to have seen a more visible demonstration by the Muslim community against acts of terrorism.

**Councillor. A. Akram:** Speaking as a Muslim myself I think the Muslim

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community has acted in a very mature manor to date. They could have marched but this could have been hijacked by extreme elements of the community who don't really represent anyone. By staying quiet they have also sent a strong message by saying we don't disagree with the arrests and if those arrested are indeed guilty then they should be punished.

**Resident:** The community has been very proactive in making it clear that the stance of local residents is not one that would support the use of violence as a means of bringing about change. However, there is a need for faith groups to explain the true meaning of Islam and maybe there would be benefit in staging a Muslim awareness day?

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

**8.0 YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

The Chair advised the meeting that this item had been postponed to allow time for the above presentation by the Chief Borough Commander Chief Superintendent Mark Benbow and Councillor Afzal Akram.

**Councillor Wheatley:** I am concerned that the report on the planned youth activities for this Community Council area has been postponed. It is a critical topic that needs to be considered by this Community Council.

**Philip Herlihy:** This item has been postponed and only after careful consideration and with great reluctance.

**9.0 COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPEND 2006/2007**

Residents were invited to discuss possible options for the spending of the £10,000 Community Council budget 2006/7 in ward workshops.

The main points raised in this session are summarised below:

**Options for spend**

1. Stop Litter – Signs, campaigns
2. Continue Schools Environmental Project
3. Five a side football pitches – Aveling Park
4. Improve Street Lighting
5. Grant to WF Disability Resource Centre
6. Stoneydown Park – Children's Changing Area
7. Notice boards at Blackhorse Road Tube
8. Alleyway Millfield Road, clear rubbish, erect security fences possible Wildlife area.
9. Land between Millfield Avenue/Shaw Square. A triangle piece of land, which is completely unkempt. Once this is cleared it could be made into a useful community space.

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10. Cheney Row grass cutting goal posts
11. More benches in the Town Centre
12. Sports facilities for young people possible tie up with Wadam Lodge
13. Traffic Calming Brookscroft Road near school
14. Basketball posts in Priory Court
15. Lids for re-cycling boxes
16. promote two-way cycling down one way streets
17. Extra Warden patrols in Lloyds Park
18. Cultural shows in Lloyds Park
19. Community council to link up with School Councils
20. Lloyds Park – Hills make child friendly areas for fun and enjoyment
21. Coppermill Lane Park, climbing equipment, football goal posts.

**P. Herlihy:** Thank you for all those contributions together with those identified on the response sheets. These ideas will be researched and costed for you to make a decision at a future meeting. In addition, if any Member has other ideas can they contact the Committee Councils Team before the 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2006.

The Community Forum was closed at this point.

**PART TWO**  
**FORMAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE**

**9.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

The new Executive Director of Environmental Services, Martin Esom, made a presentation to the meeting highlighting his priorities and vision for improving the environment of the borough with particular reference to the Walthamstow West area. Residents and Councillors also had the opportunity in Ward workshops to identify environmental issues in their own ward areas from which an action plan will be formulated.

The main points raised in the Question and Answer session is summarised below:

**K. Lord:** Building Services was overspent by £2.2 million in the last financial year and have been allocated an extra overspend on forecasts for this year of some £700,000. Why has such an enormous overspend been forecast.

**M. Esom:** The predicted overspend for Building Consultancy was in the region of £500k in the last financial year and not the as £2.2 million stated. The

reason for this expenditure was a result of external service users changing their procurement of such services. However, I am happy to talk about this issue in more detail with Mr. Lord after the meeting.

**Resident:** Why is it that washing machines and bicycles collected during Beat Sweeps are crushed as opposed to re-cycling them?

**M. Esom:** The items are crushed on Beat Sweeps for speed. However I accept that it is better to re-cycle such items. In fact a pilot project is to be introduced to increase re-cycling of such items.

**Councillor P. Woolcott:** The Beat Sweep that I participated in had three vehicles to take away general waste; white goods and garden waste. However, I think that we need to review how we collect glass; plastic; cardboard and household waste. We also should make better use of our own grass cuttings for composting.

**M. Esom:** Agreed with these comments and said that it is intended to change this under the new contract.

**Councillor S. Meiszner:** We need to do more on educating residents about re-cycling and why it is important. There should be re-cycling bins outside railway stations and bus terminals for newspapers.

**M. Esom:** We are currently looking at that and better education of our residents is important in driving forward such a programme.

**E. Poulsen:** The white road markings need to be kept white so that pedestrians can avoid tripping over items such as "road humps".

**M. Esom:** Those comments will be passed back to our Street Inspectors.

**Councillor B. Wheatley:** Those responsible for the cleanliness in the high street and local parks need to keep on top of the accumulation of rubbish and other waste.

**Resident:** The Council needs to ensure that the highways are safe for our cyclists.

**Councillor. J. Khan:** I think that it would be very useful if Martin could bring an Action Plan that addresses residents concerns to a future meeting.

The item was closed at this point.

## **11.0 FORMAL COUNCIL BUSINESS**

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.

## **12.0 DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The meeting was asked to note that the date dates and venues for the future meetings:

- 20 November 2006 at Lloyds Park Theatre, Lloyds Park, E17

- 5 February 2007 at Hillyfield Primary School, Higham Hill Road, E17  
All meetings start at 7.30pm.

**The meeting ended at 9.40pm**

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

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