

WALTHAMSTOW WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Chapel End Junior School, Roberts Road, E17 4LS

On Monday 5th January 2009 at 7.30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Chair:

Patrick Smith

Councillors:

Bob Carey

James O'Rourke

Sean Meiszner

Peter Woolcott

Bob Belam

Bob Wheatley

John Macklin

Geraldine Reardon

Cabinet Champion:

Afzal Akram

Community Chair:

Philip Herlihy

Community Vice-Chair:

Faisal Raja

Officers in Attendance:

Claire Witney

Head, Community Engagement

Keith Hanshaw

Assistant Director, Public Realm

Nic Burton

Head, Greenspace (Environment)

Tony Banach

Local Area Manager

Chris Moran

Manager, Service Development

Simon Bartlett

Officer, Community Safety

Dawn Polis

Community Council Manager

Bettina Aruoture

Community Council Manager

Alessandra Awolowo

Committee Manager

Also Present:

Jan Taranczuk

Representative, Ascham Homes

Residents Present:

There were approximately 64 residents present at the meeting.

Item

- 1 WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS**
The Community Chair **Philip Herlihy (PH)** welcomed everyone to the meeting and urged residents to adhere to the guidelines established at the previous meetings. The Councillor Chair, **Patrick Smith**, presented ward Councillors, presenters and officers.
- 2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / MEETING CONDUCT – GUIDELINES**
Apologies were received from Cllrs L. Ali, A. Gladstone and J. Khan.

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<p>3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST The meeting did not receive any declarations of interest.</p>	
<p>4 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING This standing item is intended <u>only to confirm the accuracy of the Minutes of the last meeting</u> and any matter arising will be discussed during the <i>Open Forum/Community Discussion</i>. The following corrections were noted:</p> <p>Page 5: the list of Councillors present should have included Cllrs B. Belam and Cllr G. Reardon.</p> <p>Page 8: Cllr P Woolcott asked clarifications regarding the money allocated to the Mornington Trust by Highams Hill Trust.</p> <p>Page 15: It was pointed out that the maximum fine for fly-tipping is £5,000, not £50 as stated in the responses sheet.</p>	
<p>5 UPDATE ON WALTHAM FOREST'S STREETCARE CONTRACT Keith Hanshaw (KH), Assistant Director of Public Ream, gave a presentation on the development of Waltham Forest's Streetcare contract with Kier.</p> <p>KH explained that Kier took over the management of street cleaning from 2nd June 2008. Prior to this date performance of the in house service was poor and very expensive, with 170 operatives and the majority of the work carried out in the morning. Under Kier's management, there were now 142 street sweepers but the productivity was improving, and the new contractor was continually reviewing the way streets were managed. Kier's work was concentrated heavily on town centres and main roads. In addition, they extended the hours of operation and introduced clear-all crews to pick up fly tipping – the crews picked up 800 fly tips per month.</p> <p>KH said that contrary to popular belief according to WF Direct customer enquiries, the level of sweeping enquiries and service requests was the same as last year. Yet, the system still needed to be improved. According to the results of the BV199 auditing, which took place three times per year, the in house service achieved only 32% in 2007/08 whilst Kier achieved 23% in 2008/09: the target was between 20% and 10%. (Figures relate to streets needing attention when surveyed).</p> <p>The internal monitoring system for the in house service has not been effective and was based on the number of street sweepers rather than the outcome of the standard of street cleanliness. Instead, since June the internal monitoring became more robust, with 7 monitoring officers ensuring that Kier's service followed the Environmental Protection Act.</p> <p>Finally, KH illustrated the next steps which the Council and Kier would take in order to improve their service delivery. .</p>	

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<p>Item Here are reported some of the questions and answers which followed the presentations.</p> <p>A resident pointed out that Cheshire close was never on a list for regular sweeping.</p> <p>KH replied that if roads were not swept regularly or residents were dissatisfied with the service, they should ring WF Direct and report the problem. Any service requests regarding fly tipping would be cleared by the following day. He also encouraged residents to contact ward Councillors.</p> <p>K Lord said that M Esom, Executive Director of Environment, stated that street sweepers would report any fly tipping to the Council. He asked if this was still happening.</p> <p>He also reported that his area was getting worse than before Kier took over the management of street cleaning.</p> <p>In addition, he reported that the emergency response cleaned only part of a street.</p> <p>KH replied that the system was still in place and there had been 400 fly tipping offences reported by street sweepers and other informants.</p> <p>He regarded supervision as the main difference between the two service providers. He believed that in house street sweepers were not supervised efficiently.</p> <p>Cllr Woolcott commended the work of the rapid response teams but would like to see more work done to stop fly-tippers. He believed that refuse lorries and recycling lorries were causing problems by leaving many debris as they went along.</p> <p>KH replied that Team was looking into effective ways to stop fly tipping. The team was also monitoring Verdant the recycling contractor to stop the issue of debris.</p> <p>D Allen (Lawrence Avenue) commented that the Council itself caused the in house service to be inefficient. He also reported to have witnessed many street cleaners leaving their bags at the side of the roads.</p> <p>A resident (Warner Road) believed that street cleaning had improved. However, she wanted action taken against dog fouling. She asked if there was a system of regular deep cleaning.</p> <p>M Keegan (Pearl Road) said the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Jewel Road was a regular fly tipping hotspot and could be very easily monitored. He added that the problem has gone for so long and would like action to be taken;b) Walthamstow West Community Council paid for various litter bins to be used, but these were never emptied by street sweepers;c) The area of Cleveland Park Avenue and the High Street was very dirty. He doubted that it was cleaned regularly has KH had reported;d) The system of reporting cases was not effective – he described it as a slow and painful exercise.	

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<p>KH replied: Collection of bags – the Team was working closely with Kier to have sweepers bags collected immediately. Dog fouling – he clarified that Kier’s staff should clean this also. He would like to introduce deep cleaning systems in particular areas, but it was still an issue under consideration. Jewel Road – the “Name & Shame” project, which was underway, would address the fly tipping issue. Computer system – he was not aware of the difficulties residents faced and said he would look into it and work with WF Direct to rectify the situation.</p> <p>Cllr Smith posed a question on behalf of M Hornmane. He asked if street sweepers could collect broken glass bottles or were they prevented to do so by Health & Safety regulations.</p> <p>KH replied that Kier’s staff had to follow Health & Safety, but picking up broken glass was part of their duties.</p>	
<p>6 NEWS REPORT <u>Response sheet:</u> Dawn Polis (DP), Community Council Manager, gave a brief summary of the responses provided to the queries raised at the Community Council meeting on 6th October 2008.</p> <p>Question 4: M Keegan asked how long it would take to have the name “Asianos” changed.</p> <p>Question 1: PH invited Cllr Reardon to respond to Query 1 and questions relating to culture and leisure in the Borough.</p> <p>N Caulfield stated that he started campaigning for the protection of Lloyd Park Theatre in 2007 together with his twin brother. They both attended the last Full Council meeting and have raised questions at this Community Council meeting which they believed were not answered. They then raised further questions (as follows):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- How much would the demolition of the Lloyd Park Theatre cost?- Who would fund this?- Clarification regarding the hire charges for renting the Theatre, which changed to £1,000 for a minimum of eight hours.- Clarification on the consultation process which the Council had carried out prior to taking the decision of demolishing the theatre.- Finally, they wanted clarification regarding Clive Morton’s position as Head of Cultural Services. They understand from hearsay that, as a former leader of the Council, it was illegal for Clive Morton to work as Head of Cultural Services. <p>Cllr Reardon replied that C Morton was leader of the Council for one year. Since that time, he had worked for another organisation. Before returning to LBWF where he worked as an officer in various departments before being appointed Head of Cultural Services. She added that the panel that appointed</p>	

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<p>him in his present position had members of all political parties represented on it. Therefore, such an accusation was slanderous and she was disappointed that there were people who manipulated these two young men. PH requested from the Chair that this should be clarified in a written response in time for the next meeting.</p>	
<p>Cllr Wheatley asked Cllr Reardon to confirm if the Council wanted to spend £130,000 to demolish the theatre. He added that the consultation regarding the state of the theatre was conducted outside the William Morris ward.</p>	
<p>Cllr Reardon replied that the Council would fund the cost of £138,000 for the demolition of the theatre. She explained that the present building was not of good quality. The borough would need a theatre which was accessible at all times. The present location of the theatre in Lloyd Park discouraged usage as visitors felt unsafe travelling through the park at night.</p>	
<p>PH asked if there were any plans for relocating the theatre.</p>	
<p>Cllr Reardon replied that the Council was looking into available options.</p>	
<p>Cllr Meiszner wanted clarification regarding the new rent. He also asked whether the current CPZ would be removed if the theatre was no longer in its location.</p>	
<p>Cllr Reardon said that she was not aware that the rent had changed as much. She added that rent could change according to the organisation that was renting the facility. Regarding the CPZ, she stated that past experience has proved that it was difficult to reverse a CPZ, but it was something the Council could look into.</p>	
<p>News:</p>	
<p>Arcade site. The Community Chair read a statement from Cllr T. Wheeler, Portfolio Holder Enterprise and Investment: “The aim of a mixed retail, leisure housing development with a design concept incorporating an interesting tall building and a cinema multiplex to help drive the reinvigoration of the Walthamstow Town Centre remain unchanged as previously publicised.</p>	
<p>The project is now proposed to be a leisure-led project because of ongoing difficulties securing retailers due to the economic circumstances. The new Council leisure facility is proposed to be a swimming pool facility. This will compensate for the current unavailability of suitable retailers. A hotel is also proposed to be incorporated to replace the originally planned private housing. The Council has acted to support the project because it recognises the wishes of residents to see the site developed and the cinema multiplex provided as soon as is practicable.</p>	
<p>The Council remains strongly committed to the scheme and sees considerable advantage in keeping the scheme on track to take advantage of the eventual economic upturn and the influence of developments at Stratford and the</p>	

Item Olympics.

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The press failed to report the other action we initiated at the December Cabinet which was to instruct officers to open negotiations with Sainsbury's with a view to them moving into South Grove as part of a mixed 'Retail, Housing and Business Premises' development. This the key to progressing the vision of the Princes Foundation Work.

The transfer of Sainsbury would enable the possibility of Selbourne Walk to expand across the Barking Line. They have expressed interest in this proposal. This would also allow the accommodation of the retailers originally in the frame for the Arcade when the economy picks up."

Cllr Wheatley commented that together with Cllr Woolcott, he was invited to a meeting with Cllr Wheeler. He was informed that nothing would be done on the site until 2010.

F Raja reported on other local news, including:

- "Local Safety Scheme" in the Billet Road area, funded by Transport for London;
- Renewal and restoration of Lloyd and Aveling Park;
- Higham Hill ward Walk;
- Orphan Site project;
- How the Council is helping the community during the current economic problems;
- "Music in the Village" (January 15th, 2009).

Cllr Woolcott invited residents to a planning meeting taking place on Tuesday 6th January 2009, regarding the Phase 3 Sutter L Road development of 85 flats.

7 SPEND 2008/09

The Councillor Chair informed residents of the issues relating to the play equipment in Millfield Avenue, and the access & exit to a park via Cheshire Close.

Millfield Avenue:

Higham Hill ward awarded £1,600 for the installation of play equipment for young children in Millfield Avenue. However, The National Play Association argued against the proposed Mark 1 project (i.e. a full scale playground), as a result Greenspace was not in position to release the matched-funding for the site.

Higham Hill ward Councillors have proposed to have a Mark 2 project of play equipments made of natural material.

Cheshire Close:

Nick Burton (NB), Head of Greenspace gave a presentation on the merits of the opening of the access to the park via Cheshire Close.

The presentation was followed by questions and answers:

A **resident** pointed out that the park was a lawn area for the benefit of local

Item residents, opening it to a wider public would increase antisocial behaviour.

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A **resident** explained that a barrier sectioned the road and there was a history of youths causing anti-social behaviour. He believed that opening the gates would invite more troubles and opportunities for criminal activities.

A **resident** said he was disappointed that the presentation showed only part of the story. He believed that by stating that refusing to open the access to the park the area would not receive the £100,000 make over, was tantamount to holding residents to ransom.

A **resident** pointed out that the project did not take into consideration that senior citizens populated the area; there has been a history of people defecating in front of local houses. Opening the access would reduce safety and increase fear of crime.

A **resident** said that many local residents were in favour of opening the access to the park and provide a play area for children. She said that the natural surveillance would ensure safety. She added that the initial petition was not malicious.

The **Community Chair** asked Chapel End ward resident to vote in favour of the opening of the access via Cheshire Close:

41 residents voted against;

1 resident voted in favour;

2 residents abstained

Cllr Macklin assured that the Councillors would take into considerations the result of the vote as well as the concerns of other residents in the Chapel End area when ratifying the spending allocation. He was aware of the gang problem. However, some residents were concerned by the fact that the park was not in use. He agreed that present access should be improved without opening a new one.

All the Councillors of the Walthamstow West Community Council were asked to ratify the decisions in item 8.

8 COMMUNITY FORUM

A Stannard said he was disappointed that two Community Council meetings have been dedicated to the spend allocation. He suggested that projects should be looked into and thought through before the voting.

C Witney replied that the Team has done all it could to investigate all the projects that have been submitted this summer.

K Lord was disappointed that the Councillors used the time allocated to the Community Forum to make their decision on the spend allocation.

K Lord (Greenleaf Road) submitted the following question: "The Annual Health Authority Report was distributed door to door recently but there is no item on the agenda, representative or statement available at this Community Council

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<p>meeting. Why not? Why no one is available to reply to questions?</p> <p>The Annual report states that the Health Authority provides routine breast screening and cervical tests for women. However, why the Heath Authority does not provide routine screening on men for prostrate cancer: i.e. PSA screenings via blood testing, for example for men over 45/50 years old? Prostrate cancer is a big killer of men but I have seen very little about tests and symptoms which are easy to miss in either Health Authority or Council's material. What action has the a) the Heath Authority and b) the Council taken in the last two years to raise awareness about prostrate cancer, symptoms and treatments, and what action is planned in the next twelve months?"</p>	
<p>9 ELECTIONS – COMMUNITY CHAIR & VICE CHAIR Following their nomination, residents present at the Walthamstow West Community Council elected Philip Herlihy and Faisal Raja as, respectively, Chair and Vice Chair for the Council year 2008/09.</p> <p>K Lord commented that the sentence "Details such as membership of any political parties or groups can be included if you feel this is relevant to the position" on the Community Chair application form was misleading. He suggested that the policy should be changed. Candidates should have the duty to declare if they were members of political parties or voluntary groups.</p>	
<p>8 FORMAL COUNCIL BUSINESS Following the discussion by the formal committee the Councillors present at the meeting ratified the following decisions:</p> <p>Chapel End ward: £3,000 allocated to this project would be used to help reduce crime/fear of crime. The fund would be use in conjunction with possible investment in play by the Council, from the recently announced Playbuilder programme.</p> <p>Higham Hill ward: £1,600 allocate to this project would be ringfenced for natural play in Higham Hill Ward. Alternative sites (i.e. not Millfield Avenue) to be sought and a proposal put back to the Community Council.</p>	
<p>9 DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING The meeting is asked to note that the next Community council meeting will take place on: Monday 2nd March 2009, Coppermill Primary School, Edward Road, E17 6PB.</p>	

The meeting ended at 9.52 pm

Chairs Signature _____

Date _____