

MINUTES OF WALTHAMSTOW WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MONDAY 17th JANUARY 2005
STONEYDOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL, PRETORIA AVENUE, LONDON E17

PRESENT:

Community Chair:

Philip Herlihy

Community Vice Chair:

Karen Bellamy

Councillors:

Councillor D Blunt

Councillor S Meiszner

Councillor L Ali

Councillor S Wright

Councillor B Carey

Council Chair:

Councillor R. Belam

Council Vice Chair:

Councillor N Matharoo

Councillor B Wheatley

Councillor P Woollcott

Councillor P Dunphy

Councillor J Wilson

Councillor D Murray (visiting)

Officers in Attendance:

Joanna David

Lead Officer for Walthamstow West Community Council
(Head of Performance Management)

Michael Toyer

Service Planning & Research Manager

Keith Weir

Head of Street Services

Sarah See

Waltham Forest Primary Care Trust

Paul Binnie

Road Safety Manager

Dawn Young

Accident Prevention Officer

Graham Pratt

Ascham Homes

Phil Williams

Scrutiny Officer

Claire Witney

Community Councils Manager

Shirley Haynes

Community Council Officer

Gerald Gohler

Community Council Officer

Bill Nisbet

Community Safety Representative

Anthony Lane

Committee Manager

Others in Attendance:

Matthew Nimmo

Regenfirst

Jenny Clarke

Guardian Newspaper

Claire Hern

Chair, Stoneydown Residents Association

PS Stephen Calcott

Metropolitan Police Service

PC R Soave

Metropolitan Police Service

PC K Newitt

Metropolitan Police Service

PC K Marriot

Metropolitan Police Service

PCSO M Lees

Metropolitan Police Service

PCSO Y Amerat

Metropolitan Police Service

Residents Present:

There were approximately 66 residents present at the meeting.

PART ONE
COMMUNITY FORUM

Item

Action

1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

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The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introduced speakers and relevant officers for the proceedings. It was noted that a member of the press was present from the Waltham Forest Guardian.

2.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr J Macklin sent his apologies that he would be late for proceedings. There were no declarations of interest.

3.0 MEETING CONDUCT - GUIDELINES

The Community Chair reminded residents of the guidelines that had been agreed at previous meetings.

4.0 MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD 06/09/04

Agreed subject to the following amendment:

- Karen Bellamy, the Community Vice Chair was in attendance at the meeting of the 17th November 2004.

5.0 COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

5.1 Matters Arising From The Minutes

- For items relating to the Feedback sheet see section 5.2.

5.2 Feedback To Residents On Issues Raised At Last Meeting

Joanna David presented the blue feedback report included in the Agenda to the meeting.

Recruitment of Social Services Workers:

K Lord raised concerns surrounding Item 3 of the feedback sheet regarding the recruitment of social workers. He challenged that answer and requested a fuller response with details regarding the strategic level Project Board, including details of those on the Board, what are the remit, aims and objectives of that board? He was worried that the possible privatisation of care homes, closure of day-care centres and reductions in care at home services would seriously impact upon vulnerable elderly people in the community. He requested more information on plans for centres and possible cuts to the service and details of other options considered. He also requested that the Age Discrimination consultation document be given to all day-care centres.

Cllr Wheatley noted that the budget over the last 3 years for social services had increased and big improvements had been seen, however, this year had seen a £0.25 million decrease in the allocation for the elderly and disabled. He stated that budgets must be finalised by the end of March 2005, by which time questions on these issues could be better dealt with.

P Herlihy requested that Carol Wilson either attend or write a fuller response for the next meeting.

Empress Ave CCTV:

P Spiro requested again highlighted the Empress Ave CCTV camera issue and requested an update. He is concerned that the road does have severe problems with anti-social behaviour.

Cllr B Belam noted that the Walthamstow Stadium is prepared to contribute and officers will contact them to finalise details. The CCTV has been refurbished and will be back in place in the next few weeks. He advised that while a contribution will be made it will take more funds than this to improve the

P Williams

C Wilson

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area and make it safe.

Jo David confirmed by way of an update that the camera had been upgraded and will be back later this week.

Street Cleaning – Luton Rd:

Cllr Wheatley noted that from Item 1 on the street cleansing that Luton Rd had been cleaned and residents were satisfied with the results. He thanked K Weir and the street sweeping team.

Pigeon-Feeding:

Cllr Meiszner noted that Item 5 indicated that there was no law regarding the feeding of birds, however, we have signs indicating that it is an offence and that people in other boroughs have been fined for just such an offence.

D Spiro noted that this borough as yet might not have passed a by-law to this effect.

It was agreed that **Alison Cockerill** prepares a fuller explanation and clarification of the borough position with regard to this activity.

A Cockerill

Neighbourhood Watch:

P Herlihy requested that attendees note the information regarding the setting up of Neighbourhood Watch Forums and invited residents to contact Bill Nisbet should they require further information.

Street Services:

Cllr Wheatley requested that Councillors be updated regularly on changes to street services, as he was unaware that there were six collections a year.

K Weir advised that there are 3 free collections and the mobile skip once a year. Collections were publicised via a number of channels including leafleting, the website and WFM.

Coppermill Lane Lighting:

G Whittingham again highlighted the situation in Coppermill Lane with poor lighting creating a hazard for pedestrians and cyclists. He requested that the WWCC put its full support behind the council in its endeavours to light the area better.

P Herlihy requested more information to come to the next meeting.

G Harkell

5.3 New Issues

The following new issues were raised by the meeting:

Northcote Rd / Moore Terrace Petition:

I Capes presented a petition on behalf of a 58 residents in this area. They are concerned about excessive speed and wrong-way driving in the area and the risks that this poses to local residents, particularly children and families. The petition requested that the council review the worsening traffic problems and implement adequate measures to reduce speed and prevent drivers from ignoring the one-way restriction. Mr Capes thanked Cllr S Wright for his assistance and also that of Mr J Greenhalgh.

The petition was accepted by the Community Chair on behalf of the WWCC to be forwarded to the London Borough of Waltham Forest. **P Herlihy** requested a response from council officers.

T Martin

Constitutional Changes:

K Lord expressed major concerns over proposed changes to the WWCC 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

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to the apparent restriction of public-speaking rights at Full Council. 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 Full Council and that the report did not concur with guidance from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

At this point, **P Herlihy** requested clarification on the issue to come from Legal Services and then conducted a vote as to whether to continue this discussion or move on to the next item. The overall majority voted to move on.

D Fenwick

Public Consultation:

D Spiro noted that the public is not kept up to date with the progress of issues that come for public consultation. He cited issues such as Gainsford Road and the Town Centre development where, once the initial consultation is held, sometimes months and years go by without any interim feedback from the Council. He added that the press should be kept informed of the progress of such issues and proposed sub-groups to be set up on a ward level to report back to the WWCC, for instance on issues such as the lower end of the High Street.

P Herlihy agreed that a lot needed to be done in the area of public consultation and suggested it be added to the list of possible agenda items for future meetings.

Palmerston Rd/Mansfield Rd/Somers Rd One Way System:

Cllr Wheatley noted that this area will have a one-way system however, it was important to understand that as with all consultation, the wishes of all must be addressed and in this case shops, restaurants and residents all had differing needs. It is not a dead issue and it is being addressed.

At this point the Community Discussion was closed.

6.0 ROAD SAFETY CONCERNS IN THE STONEYDOWN PARK AREA

Cllr S Wright introduced this item. There followed a short presentation from **Adrian Mee** for the local Residents Association highlighting local concerns relating to the area. There followed a presentation by way of response from **Paul Binnie** and **Dawn Young** from the Road Safety section on behalf of the council.

A brief discussion followed, which is summarised below:

A **resident** noted that the council should look to use the revenue from fines to fund traffic calming schemes.

Cllr Wheatley replied that the money raised from fines by law must go into a shared fund and cannot be specifically earmarked for such measures.

Cllr D Murray suggested the widening of paths in the Pretoria Rd area to slow cars and permit only one line of traffic, thereby reducing the danger to children and pedestrians from "rat-running".

K Bellamy suggested the placement of a speed camera in the area to discourage speeding motorists.

Cllr Blunt as Cabinet member for the Environment stated that he had direct involvement in such schemes. The so-called "forgotten triangle" was in fact in the process of having a new, improved scheme initiated that would be much better than the earlier one. He noted that in fact parking fine revenues can be used on traffic calming measures and this was indeed the case. He noted also

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that residents must be aware that these schemes do take time to put in place owing to the need for full consultation and to ensure rigorous planning. He suggested the possibility of a Community Council Action Tracker that could keep tabs on the progress of various schemes and measures in the area.

A **resident** queried the validity of the statistics. He was witness to an accident in the past few days where the girl involved was stunned but not physically injured. It is the lives of children that were at stake and so measures should be taken now.

Cllr Meiszner noted that it is the duty of the council to ensure that all signs are legible and in good repair and they should look to rectify the situation in the area very quickly.

A **resident** asked whether there was a time limit on spending the £190,000.

D Young noted that road signs are in the process of being renewed and the zigzag lines will be repainted. She noted the concerns on parking and would speak to wardens to try and ensure more enforcement in the area.

P Binnie noted that TfL (Transport for London) have the final say on these schemes, however, for a scheme of this nature it would be unlikely to refuse.

A **Resident** in the Pretoria Rd area mentioned that they felt abandoned and were surprised that more serious accidents had not occurred in the area.

Another **resident** highlighted the blind spot apparent at the intersection of Pretoria Avenue and Mission Grove and recommended double-yellow lines for the corner.

P Herlihy requested that this item be tracked and **T Martin** to be invited to return to next meeting for an update on the progress.

T Martin

7.0 VOTING TO SPEND THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL BUDGET

The Chair summarised the options for spending the Community Councils Budget from the attached sheet and the meeting was asked to vote on the allocation of funds. The top three issues were to be considered.

The result of the vote was below:

1. Litterbins – 24%
2. Extra Policing – 18%
3. 4 Wheel Scooters – 14%

These items were taken forward to the Formal Committee for consideration.

The Community Forum was closed.

PART TWO

FORMAL COUNCIL COMMITTEE

Councillor Bob Belam in the Chair.

1.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor Macklin.

2.0 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None were received.

3.0 BLACKHORSE LANE: FULFILLING THE POTENTIAL

Matthew Nimmo from Regenfirst presented proposals to improve Blackhorse Lane and surrounding areas over the next 5-10 years.

The main points of the following discussion are summarised below:

Cllr Meiszner noted that this regeneration was long overdue, but questioned the good transport links stating that transport in Higham Hill ward and along Billet Rd were poor, particularly in rush hours owing to the congestion. He stated that transport was the key to benefit the Higham Hill area.

M Nimmo noted that he was careful to say that the good transport links were in fact relating to the tube and agreed that the Billet area did not have a good service. The two major issues here being the congestion and the frequency, which would both need to be addressed. He noted that the traffic on the Billet Rd was problematic, as not all of it was local and a good proportion was through traffic to the Billet Roundabout. To this end, they have consultants looking at proposals such as downgrading Billet Rd to a residential road and removing the industrial traffic. Billet Rd was a difficult issue as it also created a barrier to crossing to the reservoirs as was mentioned in the presentation.

Cllr Belam noted that the removal of the Tottenham sign at the Billet could alleviate some of the traffic volume.

A **resident** noted that the local Christian Life Mission created large problems in the area with traffic and parking, not only on Sundays, but also throughout the week. On New Years Eve traffic was parked up until 2 am. He asked what was to be done?

Cllr Belam noted that the church had been there for seven years and had planning permission to stay. Cars were meant to park on the industrial estate. He would get a response from **Mr Ian Ansell** of Planning.

Cllr Wheatley stated that in his consultation for his part of the Blackhorse Rd development, comments had been strongly in favour of maintaining the "Standard" venue. He wanted to know whether it would be taken down and if so would anything replace it?

M Nimmo stated that he had received mixed opinions on the "Standard", however, he was aware that it was the only "night economy" venue in the area. The council was responsible for setting the planning development agenda and from there it was up to the private sector to come up with proposals for the use. Whether these proposals will include such a venture is up to them. He said it would be disappointing if it were to close and that they would try their best to ensure that there was something there for the young.

K Lord noted that he felt that the residents had heard all this before with the Town Centre regeneration. He stated that the town centre scheme had been destroyed by this council and secret meetings which excluded public consultation. He wanted to ensure that the public was listened to with this development to ensure that not only private companies benefited and questioned the social use aspect of the plans. He asked of the future of the sports and recreational grounds at the back of Billet Lane.

K Bellamy wished it noted that they were soon to establish a Community Centre on Sutherland Rd and as it was the only one in Higham Hill wished it to remain there.

I Ansell

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A **resident** expressed concern that they had not received any documentation relating to the plans and knew of at least five others in the same situation. Another resident commented that better facilities needed to be provided for wheelchair users on buses, particularly for the 123 and 158.

A **resident** asked of the source for the funding, the actual cost for the scheme and the expected timescale, as they had waited 10 years for a local zebra crossing. He asked about a footpath beside Ferry Lane to link up with the excellent provisions at Tottenham Hale and also noted the North London line had not been mentioned in the presentation.

M Nimmo in dealing with several questions stated that the council was reliant on private money with a certain amount of public funding to pump-prime the sites and bring in the huge amounts of investment needed. This was not a regeneration project with a certain amount of money. The council sets the framework from which different streams of funding can be fed in. There is some initial funding from the ODPM (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister), which can be used for small capital works and Regenfirst is working with the LDA (London Development Agency) who have resources to buy sites. There is a whole range of possible funding sources. On the question of public use it was not part of the proposal to reduce public use and in fact the idea was to increase access to green space. With regard to the Community Centre, now was an ideal opportunity to review requirements for the area and the community in the long term and properly provide for those needs. With regard to the consultation, he regretted that some people did not receive the leaflets, however, he would query this with the distribution company and look to engage another for future mailings. He stated that 6,500 were distributed, which more than covered the entire area. The leaflets are also available at local libraries. He requested that the resident inform him of the roads in question. He had received some 200+ replies and had spoken to 100-150 others on their concerns and issues, which was a favourable sample. With regards to accessible transport he had been approached previously and also mentioned buggy access. With regard to timescales, this was a 5-10 year plan, which meant it was sometimes difficult to keep "eyes on the prize", however, the next 5-6 months were critical to get the plans in place to set the future for the area over the next 5-10 years. He apologised for not mentioning the North London Line, which was an important aspect of the plan and stated that the team was looking at making the entire Ferry Lane area much more welcoming.

Cllr Meiszner invited all residents to come along for the workshop and walking Area Audit on the 29th January to examine the area and look at what the community would like to see. All feedback would go toward the action plan and provide guidance for the future. It is a very interesting way to explore the area.

The item was closed at this point.

4.0 POSSIBLE CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION REGARDING COMMUNITY COUNCILS

No further discussion was taken on this item.

5.0 UPDATE ON THE PURCHASE OF SINGLE-USE CAMERAS

This item was discussed in Item 6.0 Formal Council Business.

6.0 FORMAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

6.1 UPDATE ON THE PURCHASE OF SINGLE-USE CAMERAS

Cllr Belam summarised a short briefing paper on additional costs and other implications identified for this project.

He proposed a scheme for film development where a £1 reply paid envelope be considered and it was agreed that the number under consideration to be purchased be reduced to 300.

6.2 COMMUNITY COUNCIL SPENDING

Cllr Belam outlined the three proposals agreed in Item 7 of the Community Forum and highlighted the problems with the extra policing as the MPS (Metropolitan Police Service) had indicated that they were unsure of the costs and the availability of extra resources. Two options for the bins were given, the freestanding bins at £200 each or the post-mounted at £100 each. He indicated problem areas such as schools and colleges as an ideal location.

Cllr Dunphy noted that while the extra policing was a good idea and all agreed, the police had indicated that they cannot promise to commit the additional resources, therefore of the other two items, he proposed if there were 16 of the £200 bins (£3200) and 2 shop riders (£2400) this would make up almost entirely the allocated amount of £5600.

Cllr Belam proposed 32 of the post-mounted bins for the £3200.

Cllr S Meiszner seconded the proposal.

The proposal was carried unanimously.

Cllr Woollcott stipulated that it was very important to ensure that these bins were emptied on a regular basis.

Cllr Belam indicated that he would liaise with K Weir on location and frequency of emptying.

K Weir

This item was closed at this point.

7.0 DATE AND VENUE OF THE NEXT MEETING & FUTURE MEETINGS

The venue and date for the next meeting of the Walthamstow West Community Council was confirmed as **Greenleaf Primary School, Greenleaf Rd, E17 6QW on Monday, 11 April 2005 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_____