

FEEDBACK ON PREVIOUS MEETING / MATTERS ARISING
WALTHAMSTOW WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL 6 JUNE 2005.

1) Speaking rights at Cabinet.

Mr Lord's issues concerning speaking rights at Cabinet was a wider matter and this would be discussed with Legal and Democratic Services to seek their views on the matter.

Response: Daniel Fenwick, Principal Corporate Lawyer, Legal and Democratic Services.

Any member of the Community Council may be nominated to represent it to speak at the Council's Cabinet or any other formal meeting.

Mr Lord is correct to identify that the CCs are (at least in part) established under section 18 of the LGA 2000. The Formal Committee of ward Councillors is an area committee within the meaning of the Act, whereas the Community Forum is a non-statutory body and together they form the Community Council. The LGA 2000 only limits the formal decision-making within the Community Council to the elected members on the "area committee". The most obvious example being each Council's budget.

This structure is in line with Government guidance on the LGA 2000, which states:

6. 12 Area committees or forums can take many forms and undertake a variety of roles. For example, they can be made up of councillors, representatives from other public, private and voluntary sector bodies in the area and members of the public or they can be made up of councillors only. Area committees or forums can be purely advisory and consultative bodies or they can have delegated functions and budgets.

There is no statutory restriction, however, on who may speak for the Community Council. Consequently, this is a decision for the Community Council itself and if appropriate this may be a non-Councillor. One caveat is that the Community Council must have the right to address the meeting at which they wish to have their views heard. There are specific rules for public speaking rights at full Council meetings and Cabinet are considering public access at the moment. Community Council's are advised to contact the relevant committee clerk if they wish to address a meeting for full details.

2) Coppermill Lane Lighting.

Response: Gina Harkell

At the last meeting when asked are the lamp columns up yet I said no. I was wrong to say this. I found out the next day the lamp columns had been installed when I cycled through. Cllr Blunt had agreed to the installation on

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17th May and the lamp columns were installed the following Monday 23rd May. Unfortunately, I was not told that they had been installed. Usually there is a much longer timespan between works being agreed and started so I assumed at the meeting that the lamp columns were still not in. However, although the lighting columns were in they were still not switched on. This is expected during the middle of August.

3) Seating at bus stops.

Cllr Meiszner was concerned about the height of seats in the control of the London Buses stating that they were too low and therefore dangerous. S Brickell noted that this issue had been raised elsewhere and was reported to London Buses. He hoped to report positive news by the next meeting.

Response: Phil Hayter Planning Manager (Premises) London Buses

We are aware of the problems with the seats at Walthamstow and do not dispute that some, but not all, are lower than they should be. This has arisen due to poor installation by the contractors in that they chose to install terrazzo tiles around the bases of the seating areas instead of casting it in situ. This led to the paving being laid to the wrong levels (higher than it should have been) to tie in with the terrazzo. We are currently looking at options for rectifying this problem.

4) Report on Adult and Community Learning in Walthamstow.

This report was requested by Philip Herlihy, Community Chair.

Response: Maureen Green, Head of ClaSS (Community Learning and Skills Service).

Background

CLaSS is the Council's direct provider of adult and community learning and work based learning for young people in Waltham Forest. The service is borough wide operating from CLaSS' Council owned buildings and also from a range of community venues, school and halls, which are rented, leased or used through partnership arrangements. The range of venues and the programme offered is reviewed regularly and changes made in response to national and local priorities. In 2004/5 there were over 20,000 enrolments and 13,000 learners. The 2004/5 brochure contained 1103 courses and in 2005/6 there are 1536. CLaSS draws down the majority of its funding from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) but is also supported by Waltham Forest Council. The Adult Learning Inspectorate (ALI) inspected CLaSS in May 2004 with a good report, although there were negative comments about the suitability of some of the accommodation.

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What is CLaSS running in Walthamstow from September 2005?

In Walthamstow there are courses planned for Chestnuts House, Harmony Hall, the Asian Centre, Whittingham School, Markhouse Centre, the Fashion Design Centre, Lloyd Park Centre, Chapel End Centre, City Learning Centre, Nubian Minds Bookshop, Priory Court Community Centre, William Morris Centre and the Disability Resource Centre. There are 566 courses at these venues in the new brochure, an increase on last year. More provision is added during the year to respond to new needs.

Acting, drama, singing, dance and keep fit courses are moving to Harmony Hall, where there will also be: computers for the terrified, E-Citizen, animation using MX flash, Excel, spreadsheets, web page design, back to work IT and business taster, family work out to music and guitar. Pattern cutting using CAD at the Fashion Design Centre in Sutherland Road offers industry standard equipment and high quality teaching to develop skills for work on your doorstep.

The Walthamstow offer also includes: Arabic, art, a range of GCSEs and A levels, counselling, creative writing, beauty and make up, European Computer Driving licence, English, maths, ESOL, accredited fashion courses, first aid at work, a wide range of computer courses, interpreting, massage, reflexology, crafts, parenting, and sewing.

Greenleaf Road

Greenleaf Road is not a Council owned building. It is leased. There are 6 general classrooms, 2 specialist classrooms and a hall. The hall and one classroom are on the ground floor. The remainder and the café are upstairs and there is no lift. The general classrooms are not big enough to enable computer access to aid learning.

Although many students have enjoyed their learning at Greenleaf Road over the years there are also those who have been prevented from joining courses because of the poor physical access. It is also not very near to public transport and there are no car parking facilities.

The decision to move

The plan to move CLaSS into the Queen's Road Education Centre site last year, amalgamating the Greenleaf Road and Chestnuts House provision did not go ahead as Education remained on the site. The prospectus for 2004/5 reflected the move with no classes there from January 2005.

The decision to move from Greenleaf Road is operational, and based on the following factors:

- Maintaining or increasing the level of classes in the Walthamstow

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- Access at Greenleaf Road is very poor and does not meet the requirements of the DDA. As a service CLaSS is expected to make reasonable adjustments and reviewing the location of provision is part of that process. It would not be good value for money to make the physical adjustments required to a building that the Council does not own.
- Partnership with Harmony Hall has led to the development of provision on that site, which is very near to Greenleaf Road. There are 2 good halls. A successful joint project over the last year has enabled the installation of computers and also at the Asian Centre in Walthamstow.
- Increased accommodation at Chestnuts House due to other site users withdrawing.
- More ground floor accommodation at Chestnuts House.
- Improved access to public transport and car parking facilities on site.
- The provision of an art room and dark room at Chestnuts House to maintain art and photography courses in Walthamstow.
- Ensuring that resources for the continued delivery of provision are maximised.
- The continued use of Harmony Hall to accommodate classes needing hall space.

Clearly these types of decisions are not easy. CLaSS is very committed to local provision and meeting the educational and skills needs of residents. Funding of adult learning is increasingly tied to national priorities, but we try hard to manage this balancing act. Outreach work and the views of learners are used to inform the service. CLaSS was praised by inspectors for its work to widen participation in learning.

Current learners are invited to speak to administrative staff if they have any problems in getting to new venues and we will do all we can to help. There is a book for recording these queries and issues. The teaching staff are also there to support learners. We will do all we can to ensure a smooth transfer. The best way of safeguarding your learning is to sign up for next year now!

5) Police Community Consultative Group.

K Lord voiced a formal objection to the Police Community Consultative Group Community Council Representative, stating that under the Local Government Act (2000) that the Community Council was an Area Committee and as such only Councillors could be called on to represent it. Members of the public could not be called on, in his opinion, to represent the views of all of the diverse sections of the four wards of the community.

Response: Daniel Fenwick, Principal Corporate Lawyer, Legal and Democratic Services.

It is correct that the statutory section of the Community Council is an

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"Area Committee" as defined by Section 18 LGA 2000 whilst the Community Forum is however non-statutory. The restrictions contained within Section 18 of the LGA 2000 simply place limits who can exercise the delegated powers given to the Community Council (e.g the budget).

However, representing the Community Council at any other forum is not a delegated power and so can be exercised by either an elected member or another member. This is a decision for each Community Council to make. However, they will of course need the right to speak at the meeting they wish to represent the Community Council. At the WF PCCG they have the right to speak.

6) BIP Funding – Academy.

A resident asked if these changes would affect BIP (Behaviour Improvement Project) funding.

Response: Chris Kiernan, Executive Director Lifelong Learning Services
BIP funding ceases in 2006 and so will not apply to the Academy. We are consulting with schools on behaviour support models that they might wish to buy after that date and of course the Academy would be able to buy into that as well.

7) Higham Hill Joint Service Centre.

Cllr B Belam requested that all Councillors be brought up to date on developments although mechanisms are in place, regrettably there still seem to be situations where some are left out of the loop.

Response: John Calderon Project Manager, Portfolio Management Services.

The Primary Care Trust (PCT) statement, made at the meeting was similar to that which I received from the lead PCT officer, Fran Stewart, earlier that week. The Council therefore expects the PCT to come forward with its proposals at some point this year. The timescales I was given were approximate and verbal but suggest that a planning application will go through before Xmas and financial close is expected March/April 2006. Building works would complete some time in 2007.

Portfolio Management will be looking at these proposals, when received and will consider all the options available for the site, consulting with relevant stakeholders, before making recommendations to Management Board. Depending on the recommendation adopted, Management Board will either endorse the current strategy for the Joint Service Centre, or prepare a report to Cabinet.

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Portfolio Management will prepare a briefing on the current development at 313 Billet Rd for all three local wards to be sent to Ward Councillors and will invite those Councillors to a presentation on the briefing. This briefing updating Councillors should be ready within the next 4 weeks.

8) Community Council Spend – Single Use Cameras Update.

Response: Shirley Haynes Community Council Officer.

The following paper was an agenda item at the Walthamstow West Community Council meeting on 17th January 2005 and was agreed by Councillors.

Update for members on the purchase of single use cameras

Introduction

This paper is to update members on the purchase of single use cameras, agreed by the Community Council on 6th September 2004. As the original project is no longer proceeding, issues relating to the administration and developing of the cameras have arisen.

Background

The police originally proposed purchase of single use cameras in March 2004, to distribute to residents in the area where there is a difficulty of gathering evidence of a crime. For processing the photos the police were investigating other funding sources. A decision to purchase 500 cameras was therefore agreed on 6th September. Subsequently the police declined to continue with the project, unable to commit to managing the administration. However the Community Council agreed to go ahead with the distribution of cameras to residents, not just for gathering evidence to report crime and community safety issues but also environmental matters.

Current Situation

There is currently no system for administering the cameras e.g. purpose/use of each camera, distribution of the cameras, invoicing system, distribution of processed photographs and reporting of outcomes/benefits. No financial provision has been made for the cost of developing the films. Whilst further Community Council resources could be used to fund processing the cost of this will depend upon the system of administration.

Proposals

As no system of administration exists in order to progress the use of the cameras projects that will take on board the full scope of responsibilities for their use need to be identified. So far there have been expressions of interest

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from Neighbourhood Watch, youth projects and Street Watchers in the area. Officers could investigate these further and distribute the cameras with the agreement of the Chairs. The projects would be asked to report back to the Community Council on the benefits and outcomes of the projects.

After investigation the Community Council Chairs agreed the distribution of cameras as follows:

100 cameras used by young people in conjunction with Community Safety 'Beat Sweep' in High Street ward reported back to 6.6.05 meeting.

30 cameras to a detached youth worker in Youth Services managing a project with young people in Higham Hill ward during the summer (July / Aug 05) will report back to a future meeting.

50 cameras to Worth Unlimited for youth work on the Priory Court Estate during the summer (July / Aug 05) will report back to a future meeting.

120 cameras to Environmental Services for distribution to StreetWatchers in the Community Council area will report back to a future meeting.

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