

WALTHAMSTOW WEST COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting held at Lloyd Park Theatre, Winns Terrace, E17 5EH

On Monday 9th June 2008 at 7.15 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor Chair:

Patrick Smith

Councillor Vice Chair

Adam Gladstone

Councillors:

Bob Carey

James O'Rourke

Sean Meiszner

Peter Woolcott

John Macklin

Bob Wheatley

Liaquat Ali

Johar Khan

Cabinet Champion:

Afzal Akram

Community Chair:

Philip Herlihy

Community Vice-Chair:

Faisal Raja

Officers in Attendance:

Claire Witney

Head, Community Engagement

Bill Nisbet

Co-ordinator, Neighbourhood Watch Liaison

Andy Lyon

Operation Manger, Greenspace (Environment)

Michael Toyer

Manager, Service Planning & Research

Gordon Glenday

Head, Spatial Planning

J Andersen

Street Warden

Dawn Polis

Community Council Officer

Bettina Aruoture

Community Council Officer

Alessandra Awolowo

Committee Manager

Also Present:

Steve Farnham

Representative, Ascham Homes

David Cunningham

Representative, Hadley Homes (Banbury Park redevelopment)

Georgina Holden

Representative, Divine Ideas Architects (Banbury Park redevelopment)

Mhairi MacFarlane

Waltham Forest Guardian

PC K Marriott

Safer Neighbourhood Team, High Street

Residents Present:

There were approximately 50 residents present at the meeting.

Item

1 WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

The Community Chair Philip Herlihy (**PH**) welcomed everyone to the meeting. The Councillor Chair, Patrick Smith, presented ward Councillors, presenters and officers representing the Banbury Park redevelopment and the Sustainable Community Strategy.

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<p>2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE / MEETING CONDUCT – GUIDELINES Apologies were received from Cllr B. Belam and Cllr G. Reardon</p> <p>Cllr Smith added that Cllr Reardon (Cabinet Member for Leisure, Art & Culture) will be present at the next meeting to answer any queries regarding the William Morris Gallery/Lloyd Park bid for the £6.1 million Lottery Fund.</p> <p>PH gave a brief description on the aims of the Community Council meeting and presented guidelines for everyone to follow. For example, residents were asked to refer to issues without naming officers or political parties.</p>	
<p>3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST There were no 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>.</p> <p>The following corrections were noted:</p> <p>K Lord remarked that the quality of the minutes and response sheet was not satisfactory. There were various spelling and grammar mistakes. He wanted to make sure that minutes of all Community Council meetings were published in clear and correct English.</p> <p>Cllr Khan said that his apology for absence for the meeting on 28th January 2008 was not recorded.</p> <p>M Herringsworth pointed out that there was an error on the figures reported on Page 26.</p> <p>On this note PH read out a statement from the Head of Property Services, explaining the heading 'Other Agencies - £295,985.93': "The description 'Other Agencies' is somewhat misleading. It relates to individual compensation payments made for property interests acquired as part of the Compulsory Purchase Order. It would be inappropriate to detail the individual property interests acquired and the amount but should the legal department say that this information should be disclosed then I can provide you with it."</p> <p>Following a lengthy discussion, PH requested on behalf of Walthamstow West Community Council that accurate figures be presented and that a breakdown of the names of the business and the amount each received should be provided, as well as an explanation of why the information was withheld in the first place.</p>	
<p>5 FUNDING INCREASE 2008/08 PH asked residents at the meeting to discuss ways to spend the increased budget of £45,000 (£10,000 per ward plus £5,000 for the area).</p> <p>K Lord said that the Council wanted to rush through the spending decision</p>	Head of Property Services

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6 Item	<p>NEWS REPORT <u>Response to queries raised at the last meeting</u> Query 15 PH proposed a resolution (seconded by H O'Brien, Edward Road) to obtain a further response.</p> <p>Query 9 M Keegan (Pearl Road) wanted further clarification on how the cost of £250,000 has been estimated.</p>	DCallender G Harkell
	<p><u>News</u> Faisal Raja, Community Vice Chair, reported on news from the Community and other events of interest and importance to the area.</p>	
7	COMMUNITY FORUM	

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<p>Item J Harvey (Douglas Avenue) submitted the following question: "I am very worried that all the businesses are driven out of the Borough to make way for the houses and flats, making this a very poor borough."</p>	<p>Action</p>
<p>Cllr Wheatley replied that the Council recently agreed a report where it would make it more difficult for properties to be converted into 1/2 bedrooms flats in the hope this would encourage an increase of 3/4 bedrooms houses.</p>	<p>Planning</p>
<p>K Lord asked how many planning officers the Council has employed to enforce this law.</p>	
<p>Cllr Gladstone replied that there had been problems in the past but new officers had been recruited some time ago. The staff numbers would still be the same and they will be working under considerable pressure to enforce this new legislation.</p>	
<p>D Allen raised concerns that the Banbury Park and St Andrews redevelopments had led to the closure of local school and the two new big housing projects would put pressure on schools that still existed.</p>	
<p>Cllr Akram replied that he had been in discussions on this issue with relevant officers and he assured residents that all developers have been asked to contribute to the local infrastructure through s12 of the Housing Act.</p>	
<p>M Wasserman (Penrhyn Avenue) said: "I am concerned about the Council's suggestion of moving the Waltham Forest track to the Peter May sport field. I personally do not have any interest in sport, but when my daughter was younger she made good use of the track and for a while I accompanied her.</p>	
<p>I believe the Council has an obligation to provide such facilities for its citizens and if they move it to the Peter May site, which, as Councillor Belam says, is not on a main bus route. Not only it will be more difficult for youngsters to reach it from all parts of the Borough, but what will happen if the owners of the site decide they no longer wish to have it on the premises? It will then be another amenity taken away from us.</p>	
<p>Furthermore, is there a hidden agenda here? Does the Council really intend to dispose of the track to build houses on it? In the current climate, surely we should be maintaining any asset which can be used by the young people in the Borough. I often see television news reports of what other boroughs are doing to provide safe environments to nurture their talents and keep them off the streets. I believe Waltham Forest track should be improved and kept at its present location."</p>	
<p>Cllr Macklin replied that at this stage the Council was looking into various options for the next 5, 10, 20 years in order to upgrade sporting facilities in the Borough. The issue raised by the resident was one of the options currently being proposed as part of the wider exploration into how facilities should be provided in the future and there would be opportunities for residents to be involved in the consultation.</p>	

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<p>Cllr Smith added that there was a public meeting at Rushcroft School on 28th June 2008.</p> <p>P Spiro (Summers Road) raised the issue around the appointment of staff in the Council. He stated that although the Principal Corporate Lawyer replied that no further action could be taken via Community Councils on this case, he failed to answer the following questions: a) information on the Council accounts under the Freedom of Information Act where the salary in question was justified; b) who made the decision on the increased salary; c) who were the members of the panel which made the appointment.</p>	
<p>PH replied that as Chair, he was given guidance that no officer could contradict what the Principal Corporate Lawyer has stated in his response.</p>	
<p>Cllr Smith added that the answer has been determined by the highest officer in the Council and as far he was concerned, residents were able to raise the issue through outside bodies, the media and MPs.</p>	
<p>D Adolphe (Cazenove Road) said she was concerned about antisocial behaviour, in particular dog fouling in Avelyn Park and Cazenove Road – she pointed out that she has never seen anyone giving fines on the spot. She also raised the issues of cars being broken into.</p>	
<p>Andy Lyon (Environment) replied to the points made by the residents and asked anyone to contact WF Direct as these issues could occur at any time and the enforcement team needed information from residents to know when and where something happened in order to issue penalty notices or check if a particular area has become a hot spot.</p>	
<p>Cllr Gladstone added that residents should contact their Safer Neighbourhood Panel as issues such as these were raised too. In the past Lloyd Park was a hotspot and now the problem has shifted to other areas.</p>	
<p>PH also emphasised to residents to contact and report as much as possible to Safer Neighbourhood Teams.</p>	
<p>N Caulfield raised the issue surrounding the £6.1 million Lottery Fund to refurbish Lloyd Park and William Morris. He asked the following questions: a) why residents were not advised that the theatre would be demolished; b) if demolished, what would be the plan for a new one?</p>	
<p>A Stannard (Chair of Friends of William Morris and Lloyd Park) replied that the building was in disrepair, as the Council has allowed it to run down. When the proposal was made for the Lottery Fund, one of the problems the group encountered was the fact that there were too many buildings in the Park that needed to be managed. Finally, he stated that the decision to demolish the theatre was agreed earlier on in the process and that extensive engagement activity with residents had informed this.</p>	
<p>23 residents present voted in favour of refurbishing the present theatre rather than having it demolished and rebuilt in another location.</p>	

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<p>P Spiro replied that the Friends of William Morris and Lloyd Park were fighting to have a theatre in the centre of town.</p>	
<p>Cllr Wheatley asked the Chairs if this issue could be debated at the next meeting, as there were a number of residents who did not know anything on the issue.</p>	
<p>Cllr Smith emphasised that Cllr Reardon would be available to answer these issue at the next meeting.</p>	
<p>8 FORMAL COUNCIL BUSINESS There was no formal business for discussion.</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: 6th October 2008 at Walthamstow Academy, Billet Road E17 5DP</p>	

The meeting ended at 9.41 pm

Chairs Signature _____

Date _____