

Perry Vale Assembly

Date	Thursday 2 October 2008
Venue	Forest Hill School, Dacres Road, London, SE23 2QL
Start time	7.40pm
Finish time	9.30pm
In attendance	Cllr Susan Wise (Chair), Cllr Alan Till, John O'Reilly (Local Assemblies Coordinator), Darien Goodwin (LBL), Kevin Hearn, Peter Harlock, Colin Matthews (Met), Janice Hearn, Andrea Wollrych (Met), Sophie Bell (Met), J Kincair, Joanne Bish (LBL), R Hak, Philip Moore (Met), Michael Abrahams, P Szlapak, G Cooper, R Ford, Dr WG Town, Maggie Clarke, T Jenkins, J Hollidge, P Jones, J Griffiths, J McDonald, Nick Brown (Met), Heidi Fromings, Mary Evans, Eddie Barrington (LBL), Gill Stephenson, Kathleen Cooper, Dr BK Gerwaf-Clark, H Terry, James Senior, Sonia Meggae, Jeff Kempster, A Senior, Alisa Brown, Bill Henderson, PS Jarrett, Dave Cody.
Apologies received	Cllr John Paschoud, Andrew McMurtie Dawn Norris, Ena Williams

1. Cllr Susan Wise introduced the meeting and the format for the evening before moving onto the first item

2. Perry Vale Transport issues (Darien Goodwin, Head of Transport, LB Lewisham)

Darien explained the Transport for London priorities in the context of Perry Vale. LB Lewisham were in regular contact with TFL representatives concerning traffic flows and proposed changes in the area. Local assemblies were an important channel of communication .

Forest Hill station is the responsibility of Network Rail and train operators. The East London Line extension is likely to significantly increase the usage of both the station and the underpass. There will be a maximum of 16 trains per hour when the East London line finally becomes operational. The Council is working closely with key stakeholders to ensure that the views of local residents is taken fully into consideration throughout the planning and implementation process.

The Council has put in place comprehensive accident reduction measures in the accident 'black-spot' area from Perry Rise to Perry Vale. They have also bid for finance from Transport for London with the aim of bringing about improvements in the immediate area. The fatal accident on Woolstone Road in July 2008 was noted. However, the accident ratio in Perry Vale compared favourably with both Lewisham and London in general; the relevant statistics are as follows: Perry Vale is 2.69 accidents per kilometre, 4.76 for Lewisham and 5.61 London wide.

A number of questions were put to Darien and the answers provided were as follows:

Q What is being done about street lighting and hazards on the footpath, particularly on Silverdale Road?

A The Council is planning to replace 14,000 street lights over a 5 year period, eventually to include Silverdale Road. This will be deemed appropriate and not excessive lighting. The total cost of this programme will be in the region of £25million.

Q The road at the back of the station is too narrow and dangerous to road users?

A The potential solution is to create a 20mph zone. Any proposed changes will be subject to public consultation and may not suit everyone. The Mayor of London is not keen on 20mph zones as this may restrict the flow of traffic. Further guidance will be issued shortly.

Q Why is there no zebra crossing on Mayow Park Road?

A There are obvious cost implications in the installation of zebra crossings estimated at £25,000 per crossing. It is important to weigh up the safety implications versus expenditure. Perry Vale is one of the safest parts of Lewisham (according to statistics).

Q What is happening with the Forest Hill station underpass?

A It is Network Rail's job to maintain the underpass. However, the police have an important role to play in regularly patrolling the area and reassuring the public.

Q Who is responsible for enforcing double yellow lines in Perry Vale?

A Better information technology systems are now being used to monitor double yellow lines throughout the borough. There are also cameras on bus lanes and more effective use of new powers.

3. Safer Neighbourhood Team Update (Sgt Philip Moore)

Sgt Philip Moore reported that the two ward priorities are as follows:

1. Street Robbery
2. Fear of Crime

At the last Perry Vale ward panel meeting it was decided to close the two priorities relating to Anti Social Behaviour at Shifford Path and Gaynesford Road and take on another for 'Fear of Crime' issue at the rear of Forest Hill station and surrounding roads. In addition the team were conducting dedicated patrols around Forest Hill school and the station. Local intelligence have shown these to be the busiest areas that attract the largest number of people.

The SNT have established a youth ward panel to run alongside the existing ward panel. They meet every two months to discuss the issues and concerns that effect them in Perry Vale. The SNT also attend groups at Rockbourne Road YC, Normanton Road Methodist Church and will be looking to organise a 5 a side football tournament at Forest Hill sports centre.

Sgt Moore explained that his team were conducting several street briefings across the ward to give people an opportunity to express their views in strictest confidence. They are aiming to visit every road in the ward but can fast track individual roads upon request. Officers can also give advice on home security including setting up neighbourhood watch schemes.

Questions to Sgt Moore were as follows:

Q There are sometimes problems getting in touch with the Safer Neighbourhood teams. What is the best time to call?

A The team works a variable shift pattern. The phone number for the team is 020 8 721 2480. An officer will get back to you within 24 hours if they are not able to respond immediately.

Q I have noticed people driving whilst on their mobile phone. Is this something the Safer Neighbourhood team can respond too?

A This is within the remit of the Safer Neighbourhood team. However, an officer will be required to witness the incident first before taking formal action.

Q Can anything be done about fly tips in the area?

A If you are concerned about a fly tip you should contact the Safer Neighbourhood team who will investigate the nuisance.

4. Feedback from the first assembly (John O'Reilly)

John O'Reilly (Local Assemblies Coordinator) reported briefly the findings of the first assembly that took place at the Perry Rise Baptist Church in June. The positive things people identified about Perry Vale included parks and greenery (in particular Mayow Park), transport links, quiet residential area, good neighbours and access to shopping facilities.

The things people liked least about living in Perry Vale included traffic related problems, Forest Hill station underpass, car parking, overgrown tree and anti social behaviour from youths.

Following the assembly the Perry Vale coordinating met twice to evaluate the evidence chaired both times by Cllr Wise and supported by the local assemblies coordinator. The coordinating group is comprised of 12 local volunteers with a range of experience and expertise in a number of disciplines. The group recommended that the assembly consider three main themes as part of a wider workshop discussion. These themes are as follows:

1. **Traffic** including speeding, speed humps, parking and lack of pedestrian crossings
2. **Young Peoples** issues including lack of activities and anti social behaviour
3. **Environmental** issues including fly tipping, dog fouling and overhanging trees

5. Workshop 1 – Perry Vale priorities

Traffic - key findings

- a) Road behind Forest Hill Station
 - narrow, drop off will stop flow
 - dangerous to cross road
 - width- will buses fit
 - access to Westbourne Drive
- b) dangerous crossing outside Medical centre

- Perry Vale shops
- Near old fire station
- c) Bell Green
- volume of traffic is a major issue
- d) Frequent road works
- lack of coordination which causes jams
- e) Blind spots
- corner of Dacres Road and Perry Rise
(possibility of adding a mirror)

Young peoples issues - key findings

- a)lack of funding for youth provision
- b) no w/c in Mayow Park
- c) children's requirements have changed regarding what they expect as entertainment
- d) not enough facilities for everyone, not just youths
- e) not enough people to run the provision
- f) local authorities need to look at bringing in more youth workers
- g)schools should be used after normal closing times
- h) What is the cost of using Forest Hill school in the evenings and other educational establishments
- i) find out what young people actually want
- j) publicise youth facilities and others that are provided
- k) important to note that youths need a place to chill out and do their own thing

Environmental issues - key findings

No report provided at close of meeting
Lead officer to report back at next assembly

6. Workshop 2 – Localities fund suggestions

- Improvements to Mayow Park i.e toilets, shops, cafes
- Christmas lights on Perry Vale
- Computer classes for the elderly
- Garden area at the end of Vancouver Rd and Woolstone Rd
- Street party
- Football pitch in Mayow Park
- Break out area for youths in Mayow Park, keep park open until 12pm with late night patrols
- Electronic music classes costing £3k
- Provision for youths of all ages using Forest Hill School

7. Closing address and questions to Cllr Wise

Cllr Wise thanked Darien Goodwin and Sgt Philip Moore for their contribution to the meeting, also the work done by everyone in the workshops in identifying local priorities and items for the localities fund (2008/09). There were a number of questions from the floor to Cllr Wise as follows:

Q The Berkeley Homes Development appears to have been halted. What is the current position?

A Council officers recently met representatives of Berkeley Homes to discuss their Forest Hill central development. It is not true to say that the development has stalled. Berkeley homes confirmed to the Council that their board has suspended construction of their scheme pending the outcome of a recently submitted planning appeal. The appeal relates to a planning application which was refused by the planning committee back in June to provide 14 one bed units on the ground and first floors. This would increase the number of units in the scheme to 75, comprised of 42 one bed flats and 33 two bed units. Berkeley homes will review the position in the light of the appeal decision when known and market decisions at the time. The Council will hear the outcome of the appeal early in the new year.

Q What is being done to curb the persistent problem of dog fouling in Perry Vale?

A The Council has invested heavily in yellow stencil marks throughout Perry Vale and other parts of Lewisham. This is helping to resolve the problem in the worst affected areas. We are also consulting widely on dog control orders which have been introduced as part of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act. The introduction of the Dog Control Act will result in a fine of £75.00 which will enable the Council to deal with irresponsible dog owners more effectively. The proposed offences will attract an on- the- spot fine for failure to remove dog faeces amongst other things. The public consultation finishes on Friday 14th November and further information is available on the Council's web site and in the main council buildings.

Q What will happen about the road traffic issues raised at tonight's assembly?

A All three ward councillors regularly enquiries in their mail boxes concerning traffic-related problems. These are taken up directly with representatives from the Council and TFL. Darien Goodwin (Head of Transport, LB Lewisham) was invited by ward councillors to the assembly to respond directly to the concerns of the community. Many of these issues have financial implications but ward councillors will continue to raise these matters and report findings at future assembly meetings.

DATE OF NEXT ASSEMBLY

Thursday 29 January 2009, Forest Hill Methodist Church