



**GROVE PARK ASSEMBLY
MEETING
Monday 21 September 2009 7pm – 9pm
Territorial Army (TA) Centre
Napier House, Baring Road, London SE9**

Record of Meeting

1.0

Welcome, introduction and format for meeting

Helen Pink (local resident & assembly co-ordinating group member), welcomed attendees to the meeting and explained reason the meeting is being chaired by a local resident instead of one of the local Councillors. Helen explained that as a direct response to issues raised at previous Assembly around greater involvement of local people in delivering assembly meetings, Cllr Anderson has nominated a local resident to chair the meeting to ensure greater community involvement and ownership of the assembly process.

Helen introduced the meeting agenda explaining items that will be covered in the agenda as follows:

- Introduction and format for meeting
- Feedback on additional 2 projects proposals suggested at the last assembly meeting (Cleaner tidier Grove Park Station and More raised beds for the Grove Park Allotment)
- Update on one of the project agreed at the last assembly meeting (relocating public toilet located at the junction of Chinbrook Road with Baring Road)
- Co-ordinating group update report
- Projects proposed for Mayor's Fund (Chinbrook Meadows under 5s play area improvements, restoration of St Mildred's War Memorial, Burnt ask Pond environmental improvements)
- Break
- Projects proposed for Mayor's Fund *continued* (Improvements to Grove Park Nature Reserve and street-scape improvements to Baring Road and restoration of the Horse Trough on Harland Road)
- Voting on Mayor's Fund projects
- Community concerns and update

Updating assembly on the proposed project, cleaner tidier Grove Park Station – Helen explained that this project was further developed following the last assembly meeting and a walkabout with Lewisham Council head of Green scene was held on 10th September to identify areas requiring physical improvements. She reported that the areas of improvements which had been identified will be presented to assembly during the course of the meeting.

On the suggestion for more raised beds for Grove Park allotment proposal - Helen explained that this project had to be abandoned as the group involved with this were no longer interested in pursuing funding for the project.

In relation to the update on relocating the public toilet on junction of Chinbrook Road – Helen informed that the project was costed by the Council environmental section and the cost was too high to proceed with the project. Further explanation given was that planning permission will be required for relocation to take place and also that the contract of maintenance of the current toilet will require re-negotiation. As a result the £12,000 earmarked for this project has been put back into the remaining pot of Mayor's fund for Grove Park.

Co-ordinating Group Update Report – Helen invited Chris Borg to present an update on what members of assembly co-ordinating group have been doing since the last assembly meeting. Chris informed that the group had been actively involved in the planning of assembly meeting and agenda to ensure that they are responsive and relevant to local issues. The group have also been busy with developing ideas suggested at previous assembly meeting for the Mayor's Fund spend. Chris informed that members of the group went on a walkabout with the Council head of Green scene and Cllr Anderson on Thursday 10th September to establish and explore possible areas which could benefit from the remaining Mayor's Fund.

3.0

Presentation - Mayor's Fund Projects

Helen introduced the Mayor's Fund explaining that Grove Park assembly has been given £50,000 from the Mayor's Fund to spend on improvements to the local area, which meets the priorities set by assembly last year. She explained that assembly voted for 4 projects at the last meeting with a total of £24,500 which leaves £25,500 for the assembly to vote on.

Helen mentioned that 5 projects will be presenting their ideas to the assembly following which the assembly will be asked to vote if they would like to fund the projects. The following are the projects presented to the assembly:

a) Chinbrook Meadows under 5s play area improvements

Ann Slater presenting informed that the Friends of Chinbrook Meadows are seeking £11,000 from the remaining Mayor's Fund to carry out further improvements to the recently installed under 5s play area in Chinbrook Meadows to keep the areas secured and safe for

usage. Ann explained that the funding will provide exciting new activities for young children to play safely and create new opportunities for families and carers to meet socially, feel a sense of belonging and ownership of their local park.

b) Restoration of St Mildred's War memorial

Mark Ingleby presenting informed that the memorial was laid in honour of local men who fought in the 1st and 2nd World War. He explained that the war memorial located next to St Mildred's Church on the south circular, a gateway to Grove Park and an epitome of celebration and achievement of the past, is in need of cleaning and restoration. Mark informed that the church had raised this matter with local councillor and are willing to work in partnership with the assembly to bring the memorial back to its former glory. Mark asked that £1,500 be agreed by the assembly for the restoration work.

Chris Borg in support of the restoration mentioned that the assembly co-ordinating group had a discussion on the work required to restore the monument at their last meeting and agreed that fund be provided locally to restore the monument.

Q – John King questioned whether the funding requested will be enough to cover cost of restoration and wanted to know details of the church commitment to the project.

R – Mark informed that the church have informed that the scout group at the church will be involved in the cleaning.

c) Burnt Ash Pond – environmental improvements

Nick Pond presenting informed assembly of pond opening times and mentioned that the site opening is dependent upon the goodwill of volunteers opening the site on a monthly basis. He mentioned that there are no proper signage to direct people to the site and funding is needed to carry out necessary improvements to attract and increase usage. The friends of Burnt Ash Pond are seeking £4,000 to carry out the necessary work to help the pond realise its potential as an essential educational tool for school trips and nature lesson for local school and general public.

Q- Will the money allow extension of pond opening hours to the public?

R – Nick responding mentioned that current situation is that the pond is opened by volunteers for 1 hour per month this may change with time.

Q – Will the Council provide additional funding in order to increase opening times?

R – Nick explained that it is not currently possible as the section responsible for the pond holds a small budget most of which is used to support educational visits.

d) Improvements to Grove Park Nature Reserve

Andrew McPherson a member of the Friends of Nature Reserve, presenting, mentioned that a recent improvement work at the site had increase the number of people visiting site. He informed that people visiting the site had commented on how it feels safer to walk the route since the improvement work. The group is seeking £4,000 to carry out further improvement work including tree replacement, rubbish clearing and fencing improvements.

e) Grove Park Central area improvement including shops by Harland Road and the restoration of the horse trough

Jackie Cook presenting drew attention of assembly to the current look of the areas mentioned above. She explained that Grove Park central area had been neglected for so long which has resulted in the area currently looking less attractive and uninviting. The project proposes cleaning of pavement areas around the station and brightening up the area with planters and other street scape improvements. She also mentioned that the improvement work will be extended to the South of the ward to include outside the rows of shops on Baring Road including the restoration of the horse trough on Harland Road. Attendees were asked to consider earmarking £5,000 from the Mayor's fund to enable this improvement take place.

4.0

Voting for Mayor's Fund projects and result

Paul Jackson explained voting process following which attendees were invited to take a vote on each of the project presented. He informed that all projects with 51% or more vote will go to Mayor and Cabinet for final approval. Following voting the result were as follows:

- Improvements to Chinbrook Meadows under 5s play area – for £11,000 received 90.2% vote and was approved by Assembly to go to Mayor and Cabinet for final approval.
- Restoration of St Mildred's War Memorial for £1,500 received 92.3% vote and was approved by assembly to go to Mayor and Cabinet for final approval.
- Environmental Improvement to Burnt Ash Pond – for £4,000 received 80.4% vote and was approved by assembly to go to Mayor and Cabinet for final approval.
- Grove Park Nature Reserve Improvement for £4,000 received 87.8% vote and was approved by assembly to go to Mayor and Cabinet for final approval.
- Improvement to Grove Park Central including shops by Harland Road and the restoration of the horse trough for £5,000 received 82.5% vote and was approved by assembly to go to Mayor and Cabinet for final approval.

Helen Pink summing up the voting process informed that all projects that have received a yes vote at the meeting will go before Mayor and Cabinet for final approval. She also mentioned that all the projects that have received funding from the Locality and Mayor's Fund will be invited to future assembly meeting to report back on how the projects they have delivered have benefited the area.

5.0 **Community concern and update**

Q – Clarification requested to clear rumour that the W.G Grace Community Centre is proposed for demolition. Concern raised that the centre is currently used by local groups whose activities could come to an end if the centre is demolished.

R – Cllr Anderson responding mentioned that no decision has been reached in regards to the future of the centre and assured attendees that proper feedback will be given by next assembly meeting. He also informed that London and Quadrant Housing Trust currently manages the centre.

Q – When will the traffic light signal improvement be completed?

R- Cllr Anderson explained that work are currently undertaken to improve access for buses leaving the bus station on Baring Road and pedestrian access. He mentioned that an end to the work is in sight and current delay had resulted from a pending order of material to complete the work. It is hoped that the work will be completed by end of November 09.

Volunteer Lewisham Centre – Kay Kelleher director of the centre explained the role that volunteers play in many voluntary projects across the borough. Kay explained that Volunteer Centre work in Lewisham to support people who want to volunteer linking them with organisations and projects requiring volunteers. She mentioned that some of the projects presented to assembly earlier at the meeting had highlighted volunteers which is at the heart of their projects.

Kay informed that linking volunteers with organisations or projects is beneficial to volunteers and organisations. Through this process volunteers gain new skills and build their confidence. Kay mentioned examples of an artwork exhibition scheme in New Cross developed by volunteers and invited attendees to speak to her at the end of the meeting if they require further information.

She also mentioned funding opportunities such as the Capital Foundation Grassroot fund where projects could apply for up to £5,000 for works to support their projects.

Local Listed buildings in Grove Park – John King mentioned the work he had been doing with a few local residents on identifying buildings that has significant importance to the Grove Park area. Some of the buildings identified included, St Augustine Church, St Mildred's Church. John explained that all the information collected will be passed to Lewisham conservation officer who will look into the

matter. John can be contacted through Grove Park Community Group.

Helen thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting.

Date of next Grove Park Assembly meeting – Saturday 27 February 2010, at the TA Centre, Baring Road, from 11am till 1pm.