

Councillor Chris Best Sydenham Newsletter

Spring 2011

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My aim is to build a stronger community in Sydenham as well as across the borough through developing:

- **healthy and caring communities**
- **safer and secure communities**
- **vibrant, active and inclusive communities.**

Since this isn't the place to go into any topic in too much depth please contact me if there is an issue you would like to pursue with the Council on cllr_chris.best@lewisham.gov.uk. Please have a look at my web site on www.lewisham.gov.uk/cllrchrishbest and also [my photos](#) for a range of images. You can text me on my mobile 07725 143020 or call me on my landline 020 8659 6445.

Sydenham Assembly

We had a very successful meeting on the 3 March focussing on housing and development in Sydenham. We received an update on the Council's financial position and the high street improvements including work on Station Approach.

We also launched the bids for the Sydenham Assembly Fund with a deadline to bid for the Fund by the 19 April. The Coordinating Group have met and are recommending that voting takes place on the nine bids set out below. There were 17 bids in all but some were ruled out as they did not meet the Assembly priorities or were very poor in content. The papers and minutes of the Assembly meetings are available online on the Sydenham Assembly web page.

The next Assembly meeting will take place on Saturday 11 June – 11am at the Naborhood Centre next to the Post Office in Sydenham Road. This is 14th meeting of the well established Sydenham Assembly. We will be voting on the £15,000 Assembly Fund following the top five priorities:

Priority 1 and 2 – More activities for young people and tackling anti social behaviour

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|--|--------|----------------|
| • Forest Hill School Kickz Music - | £4,000 | Sacha Leacock |
| • Kelvin Grove School Teambuilding Day | £895 | Nafisa Ballard |

Priority 3 – Vibrant high street including inclusive community

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|--|--------|------------------|
| • Sydenham Town Toilet scheme | £3,200 | Ilse Towler |
| • Sydenham Mosaic | £3,000 | Valerie Kelly |
| • Sydenham Music Outreach work | £1,600 | Robert Trory |
| • Eco-Computers – IT training | £3,157 | Darren Taylor |
| • Spontaneous Productions at the Dolphin | £1,000 | Jonathan Kaufman |

Priority 4 - Environmental improvements for a cleaner and greener Sydenham

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|---|---------------|---------------------|
| • Grow Mayow “Sow it, Grow it” | £2,500 | Iris Borgers |
| • Sydenham Town greening and Xmas lights | £2,000 | Barry Milton |

We will start with updates from the last meeting:

- **Station Approach and public conveniences**
- **Timetable for the start of high street improvement works**
- **Myplace Youth Centre**
- **Sydenham Library**
- **Kirkdale Community Learning Centre**

After the voting there will be time for open question and answers as well as information items including the Neighbourhood Community Safety Service. So please come along at 11am and hear the presentations and make your vote count.

Priority 5 is transport improvements and the work to Station Approach is due to start during August / September 2011. LOROL are transferring the lease and the benefits will include:

- a new square outside the station building
- central planters with trees
- paved in York stone as will the alleyway
- power socket – for market stall or events
- pavements narrowed for vehicle turning
- improved lighting
- plans to widen station door
- coffee shop with hatch onto platform
- platform lengthened to accommodate longer trains

All this means that the toilet will be removed, hence the bid for the community toilet scheme similar to one that operates in Richmond.

For more information about the bids and the priority plan please visit www.lewisham.gov.uk/LocalAssemblies/SydenhamAssembly.

Facebook – There is now a Sydenham Assembly Facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sydenham-Assembly/155426357840755>

Sydenham Library

Following on from the extensive consultation programme, formal expressions of interest and work with the local communities Lewisham Council is ready to grant leases for the former library premises in order to secure their continued community use. These are the buildings that housed Crofton Park Library, Grove Park Library, New Cross Library and Sydenham Library. The Council's plan is for each building to provide a community library for local people to use.

Organisations that were interested in taking on the management of one or more of four library buildings were invited to present their proposals at a public Community Interest Event, held in the Civic Suite, Catford. This event enabled local residents to view the proposals and comment on them. A representative from each organisation was present as well as key council officers to answer any questions that people had. I attended this event along with other Councillors and 86 people signed in at the event with 51 comment sheets received.

A number of bids were assessed and I presented the [recommendations to the Mayor and Cabinet meeting on 11 May](#). The Mayor agreed to the transfer of Crofton Park, Grove Park and Sydenham libraries to Eco Computer Systems by way of the granting of up to a 25 year term full repairing and insuring lease for each building. The Mayor agreed that officers should enter into more detailed discussions with relevant interested parties about New Cross library, noting that at present there was no organisation recommended to take on the building. Officers were also instructed to continue seeking to assign the Blackheath lease for the current building to another organisation, while looking at the proposals for a community library facility to be delivered from Age Exchange's building in Blackheath.

On Tuesday 31 May Community Libraries opened at Crofton Park, Grove Park and Sydenham libraries and Eco Computer Systems have indicated that they will keep the same days and hours as they are open currently, without closing for lunch.

Community library service FAQs are now available on [Lewisham's web site](#) with information available on the Community Libraries Operating Model.

This is result for Sydenham and I am sure many groups will come forward to use the space in the building.

Consultation on the proposed closure of CEL's Kirkdale Centre

Due to planned reductions in funding and the costs involved in running four adult education centres, CEL has proposed the closure of Kirkdale Adult Education Centre. It is one of the smaller of the centres and is currently underutilised due to a variety of reasons including lack of DDA compliance due to the building's limitations.

The consultation on the closure started on the 30th March as part of the Forest Hill Assembly Meeting. This was followed by a public meeting at the Naborhood Centre in Sydenham on April 7th. CEL staff and learners have been canvassed for their views and the consultation was on the Lewisham website until May 20th to allow comments to be left.

I have received a petition asking for the use of the workshops to be explored with Kelvin Grove school and will be presenting the consultation responses in a report to Mayor and Cabinet on 22 June.

Arts in Sydenham

There is a range of activities in Sydenham – many supported by the Council – and as we enter the Summer period I wanted to take this opportunity of listing the many ways residents can enjoy themselves:

- **Sydenham Arts Festival** runs from Friday 1 July to Sunday 17 July and includes some free activities such as the Incredible Sax Band, Balalaika, Film Shows in Home and Mayow Park, a Wind Orchestra for Bastille Day as well as lots of activities in Sydenham Road. The Sydenham Assembly voted £10,000 for the 2011 Festival which has been match funded by the Arts Council for the sum of £14,000. The programme is incredibly exciting with events for all ages - I hope all the events are full to capacity.

There will also be a **visual arts** trail for two weekends on the of 9/10 and 16/17 July in various venues throughout SE26 and SE23.

- **Sydenham International Music Festival** runs from 20 May to 26 June and as always has a star quality line up – Lewisham resident Willard White is part of this fantastic programme performing on Thursday 9 June. The Council's Arts Team contribute £16,000 to the Festival.
- **Sydenham Film Club** was standing room only for the launch at the Golden Lion on Thursday 12 May. "Funny Face" was so popular residents were turned away. Next up is "Monsoon Wedding" on the 16 July so book early to avoid disappointment. The Sydenham Assembly kick started this project with £4,500.
- **Sydenham Community Radio** should be broadcasting soon from Sydenham Library using the £5,000 voted on at the Sydenham Assembly in January.
- **Sing Out – Singology Sydenham** is rehearsing for a performance on the 18 July and There is also the St Christopher's Community Choir for anyone that wants to join in.
- **Open Air Theatre** in the garden of the Dolphin – The Importance of Being Earnest from the 18 to the 27 August.
- **Public art** encompasses many different types of artwork, from murals to sculpture and two pieces of art are currently being developed. A **Sydenham Mosaic** will be in the form of roundels on the white banding of the building known as the Naborhood Centre and with a change of name to The Sydenham Centre. There has also been a competition for a piece of public art on **The Greyhound**.

As well as these cultural activities there are also the opportunities to participate in craft at Sydenham Garden and develop gardening skills at Grow Mayow.

Update on Planning

Planning applications can be seen online using the **ACOLNET web site** – please then use the advanced search and the drop down for **[Sydenham Ward page](#)**.

Update on redevelopment

The **[report on housing and development](#)** was discussed at the last Assembly meeting on the 3 March and provides an update on development taking place in Sydenham.

The report also includes a list of the off licenses in Sydenham with the times for the sale of alcohol.

Licensing application for Kirkdale Convenience. 297 Kirkdale. SE26 4QD to vary a Premises Licence to permit the sale of alcohol for 24 hours a day from Monday – Sunday. The premises are currently licensed for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises Mon – Sat 0800 to 2300 Sun 1000 to 2230

Please see the [covering report](#), the details [of the report including the objections](#) from the Police and [my objections](#) presented for the meeting on Tuesday 7 June 2011.

Links, events and up and coming meetings

Lewisham People's Day 2011

Please make sure you are part of Lewisham People's Day on **Saturday 9 July from 12 noon to 8pm**. Lewisham's annual party in the park, one of the largest and longest running free festivals in south London is taking place in Mountsfield Park, Catford, SE6. It promises to be another fun filled day for everyone, with a great line up of music, art, sport, food and much more.

Friends of Mayow Park - <http://friendsofmayowpark.blogspot.com/>

Friends of Home Park - <http://homepark.wordpress.com/>

Grow Mayow - <http://growmayow.blogspot.com/>

Big Lunch Sunday 5 June – 12 noon to 3pm

You can read more and get inspiration from www.thebiglunch.com

You can put in your postcode to see the nearest lunch near to you

St Christopher's Hospice - www.stchristophers.org.uk

Concerts on the first Thursday of the month

Sydenham Arts Festival – www.sydenhamartsfestival.com

From Friday 1 to Sunday 17 July – please see the web site for the full programme – online booking starting on 1 June and Box office at Kirkdale Bookshop from 13 June

Sydenham Assembly - www.lewisham.gov.uk/LocalAssemblies/SydenhamAssembly

Sydenham Community Radio - <http://sydenhamradio.co.uk/>

Sydenham Film Club - <http://www.sydenhamfilmclub.org/>

Sydenham and Forest Hill Youth Forum - <http://beta.sfhyouthforum.org.uk/>

Sydenham Garden – www.sydenhamgarden.org.uk

Sydenham International Music Festival – www.sydenhammusic.org.uk

From 20 May to 26 June – see Sydenham International Music website for their full and exciting programme or pick up a promotional leaflet at Kirkdale Bookshop.

Sydenham Safer Neighbourhoods Team -
<http://www.met.police.uk/teams/lewisham/sydenham/index.php>

Sydenham Society – www.sydenhamsociety.com

Sydenham Town Forum – www.sydenham.org.uk

Please subscribe to the Arts Service [ebulletin](#) on the web site and the Be More enewsletter for the range of events coming up over the next month.

Lewisham Life is now available in a monthly eNewsletter.

Surgery details: from 10.30 to 11.30 on the 1st Saturday at Sydenham Library,
3rd Saturday at the Naborhood Centre, 44a Sydenham Road (next to the Post Office) and
4th Saturday at Hillcrest T.A. Club Room, High Level Drive, SE26

Please email onto others and if you'd like to receive information this way please let me know of any changes to your email address