

MINUTES OF GREENWICH PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

Held on 15th June 2006 , at 31 Thomas Street, Woolwich,
SE16 6HU

Partners Present:

Cllr. Chris Roberts(CR)	Greenwich Council
Cllr. Peter Brooks (PB)	Greenwich Council
Cllr. Peter Kotz (PK)	Greenwich Council
Jonathan Louth (JL)	Jonathan Louth Architects
Jigs Chana (JCh)	Cameo Properties
Revd. Martyn Coe (MC)	Greenwich Community Network
Judy Smith(JS)	Greenwich Community Network
Peter Lowton (PL)	Metropolitan Police
Lorraine Murphy (LM)	Job Centre Plus
Steve Farrow (SF)	Job Centre Plus
Steve Nelson (SN)	Chamber of Commerce
Paul Russell (PR)	Chamber of Commerce

Advisors Present:

William Ekinu (WE)	GCRE
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Observers Present:

Greenwich Council:

Mary Ney (MN)	Chief Executive (LBG)
Harcourt Alleyne (HA)	Chief Executives (LBG)
Mike Hows (MH)	Strategic Planning (LBG)
Jill Crumpton (JC)	Greenwich Partnership
Alex Glyde (AG)	Greenwich Partnership

Speakers Present:

Patrick White(PW)	Head of Greenwich Olympics Unit for 2012 Games(LBG)
Katrina Delaney(KD)	Head of Communications (LBG)
Dave Jessop(DJ)	Strategic Planning (LBG)
Graham Verge (GV)	Chief Executives (LBG)
Patrick Elliot (PE)	Neighbourhood Renewal (LBG)

1a. Welcome & Introductions

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made around the table

1b. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Frances Dolan(LBG), Cllr. Angela Cornforth(LBG), Michael Chuter (PCT), Sadhu Biring (Business Sector), Suzanne Foe (Chamber of Commerce), Wendy Dibdin MBE (GAD), Rosa Goncalves (GCN) Kevin Bright (Chamber of Commerce) Tom McCormack (Hexagon Housing) Amanda O'Brien (PCT)

1c. Minutes of the meeting of 23rd March 2006

A correction was pointed out by JC on the location of the meeting, it should have read Novotel Greenwich rather than The Forum @ Greenwich.

PR also added that at the bottom of Pg8 it was not made clear the item was just for info and not agreement.

1d. Matters Arising

MN asked KD to discuss the community engagement events the Council is planning.

KD briefly ran through the events planned stating that the 4 management areas were looked at and they are aiming to have at least 2 events each year.

The dates of the events are:

Woolwich	1st July - Powis Street / Royal Arsenal
Carnival 365	8th July - Eltham Green School
Thamesmead	15th July - Birchmere Park
Charlton	12th August – Charlton Park
Eynsham Festival	2nd September - Abbey Wood ball park

Woolwich Barracks 22nd/23rd September – two day sportathon

KD stated that these events are part of the Council's review of how it can improve the way it works with local residents.

KD invited anyone with anything to add or anyone needing extra information on the events to e mail her.

2a) Residents Survey Benchmarking Presentation (Katrina Delaney)

KD from Communications gave a presentation on this year's residents survey.

This year's survey has been very positive. A number of focus groups were held with residents to identify key areas of concern.

- Crime came out as the top area of concern and had shot up to 50%. It was also pointed out that the field work for this was carried out last November which was just after the police officer had been killed and there was a lot of media attention.
- The overall image came out very positive and residents felt that staff were friendly and responsive. We were 20% above last year's figures on informing.
- There was a significant increase in almost every area

- Refuse figures saw a drop but for recycling Greenwich is top in London

- This year ease of access to services was added and there was also a young people's survey added and from the young people's survey Greenwich young people have a higher opinion of their borough than the rest of London.

KD added that focus groups are being organised to look at how to improve services for the coming year.

CR pointed out the 4 areas where there is improvement needed, specifically noting policing and parks.

Comments and questions were invited;

JL felt that the survey overall was very impressive and pointed out that looking objectively crime in Greenwich is less than other areas of London.

PL added that he felt the survey was very useful and could be compared to other surveys such as the British Crime Survey and other Met surveys relating to crime.

PL informed the group that some crimes did go up in the last year, robbery and street theft went up 8%. There are 10 crime areas that we are measured against, criminal damage saw a decrease and since the 1st April crime has gone down by 7.2% so overall the Met are very optimistic.

JCh felt that people's perception of crime was very significant as the crime boards that are around are very visible and raise people's fear of crime.

PR raised the issue of commercial recycling. He stated that if we are serious about recycling then it should be free and businesses should not be charged for being environmentally friendly and asked if it was possible to make this service free.

CR finished by saying that as regards education a substantial amount has been invested in schools.

As far as league tables were concerned the Government will still take Maths and English as a requirement but will also include other specialist subjects, such as sports and arts so Greenwich should come out better in the tables in future.

CR stated that in relation to Social Services who rate fairly low on the survey, there is a users survey that can be sent out which will tell a more positive picture as it will focus more on the people who actually engage with the service.

2b) Olympics Debate (Patrick White)

Patrick White, Head of the Greenwich Unit for 2012 Olympics and Paralympics gave a presentation on the development of the Olympics in Britain.

- Olympic Delivery Authority – PW explained that this is the public body for ensuring delivery of the new permanent games venues, infrastructure and legacy facilities for London and the whole UK. There is no Plan B and it has to start on 27th July 2012. It is headed by David Higgins and Jack Lemley

- LOCOG – This is the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and is responsible for the preparation and staging of the 2012 games. It is headed by Sebastian Coe and Paul Deighton.
- Host Borough Unit – This unit was set up to promote the legacy of the 2012 games for the benefit of the 5 boroughs. Its main aim is to co-ordinate and plan activities across the 5 boroughs. Headed by Eryl Smith.

PW stated that the 5 borough unit is important as we have the most prestigious venues in Greenwich e.g. O2, Greenwich Park, The Woolwich Barracks. Greenwich will be in the spotlight.

PW explained that currently the Greenwich unit has a small team of 4 staff and there are no plans to develop a large unit as the games need to be owned by everyone and only in that way can the benefits be maximised.

Overarching themes in Greenwich mean that there is the potential to really turn things around and make opportunities for people and businesses. The themes are;

- Education & Young People
- Community Opportunities & Engagement
- Sports Physical Activities & Health
- Business Opportunities
- Host Venues/Events
- Arts & Culture
- Employment & Skills

PW then informed the group about the current activities of the Olympics Unit. There is a second stakeholders conference being held next week. There will also be an anniversary event taking place in July and details will be e mailed out once finalised.

PW said they had been looking at ways to get young people involved and have organised a Sportathon for 600 young people for this year as a trial and will be looking to make it a more global event for next year.

A best value review has also been developed to ensure that we consult widely and make the most of the games.

Questions were invited:

CR pointed out that the anniversary celebrations were going to be on 27th July as it was more appropriate as the 6th was too close to the 7/7 bombings.

JS asked if the number of sources and number of children were being limited as some may be upset at not being included in the Sportathon.

PW said that both had been limited as it was the first year it was being trialed so they had gone through schools rather than voluntary groups.

JS pointed out that through volunteering it would be a very good way of getting people involved with the Olympics.

PL said that he would be willing to offer any help that might be needed and he was very interested in the Sportathon. PW said he would send PL the details.

JCh asked what the Greenwich Unit is doing to ensure local businesses in Greenwich are made aware of opportunities.

PW said that ODA are just in the process of sending out a procurement strategy, once we have the details we will be sending out to all businesses in Greenwich that the Council has links with.

JCh asked if we could push for a quota in Greenwich. PW said that unfortunately we are not going to have any major building developments so this will be limiting but he will take it on board.

PR reminded everyone that the Chamber of Commerce is the first point of call in liaising with local businesses.

CR added that there are 17 themes overall and employment and skills is a priority. Health will hopefully be a legacy and will bring together the work done with Jamie Oliver. It is correct that there will not be any physical legacy as we have no building works but as we are holding 9 out of the 27 events, some sort of legacy is important and will be looked at.

JL raised that the use of our heritage buildings is itself a legacy, knowing and understanding our venues and attracting tourism will make them part of the legacy.

2c) Roll Out of Safer Neighbourhoods Scheme (Peter Lowton)

Peter Lowton The Borough Commander gave a presentation surrounding the roll out of the Safer Neighbourhood teams.

A Vision for Greenwich-

- Driving down crime and disorder and anti –social behaviour
- Delivering reassurance and providing public confidence in the services of the Police and their partners.
- SNT's will tackle root cause of crime not just the symptoms
- They will be a visible, accessible, familiar service and will uphold the law in Greenwich's 18 neighbourhoods
- 18 teams, 17 funded through normal means, 1 externally funded (Ferrier estate)

PL explained that in the past policing was not aligned with the needs and concerns of local residents. Visibility is the key driver for reassurance and policing for people's needs.

- PCSO's – there are currently 55 and they offer a very reassuring presence for residents and people who work in the borough and they help fill the gap. They are a pro-active force.
- Effective community engagement – looking at neighbourhood panels, community groups, street briefings, surgeries and contact points
- Active citizenship – volunteers, special constables, shop watch, Borough Beat, Met Police Cadets

PL stated that it is not just about crime reduction but challenging the way people treat crime and risk of being a victim of crime.

Questions were invited;

JS asked what hours the SNT's will be working. PL said that most teams are very flexible on their working hours.

SN pointed out to the group that there is a programme where a speaker goes into schools to talk to young people about life in jail. He is a reformed criminal and aims to educate young people on the drawbacks of getting involved in a life of crime and this may be very helpful for the police to look at.

JCh pointed out that businesses are also victims of crime and asked if SNT's would have any advice on security. PL said that they would advise on security companies and costs etc.

JL raised the issue of adult fear of the young and that it was difficult to aid the police with the 15-21 group as they are very intimidating. PL felt that it is the main responsibility of the parents/guardians of this age group and we can aid by encouraging them to do something positive with their lives and help them realise that they can make a difference. He said that he can police the problem but cant make it go away.

CR added that we are coming out of a 20 year philosophy of saying we must drive down costs by removing guards off trains and bus conductors, therefore we have removed all the authority figures that are there to discourage. There is no reinforcement and society is beginning to realise that removing them was an error.

2d) Crossrail (Dave Jessop)

Dave Jessop gave an update on the position with Crossrail and a possible station at Woolwich.

The government was petitioned and it was backed up by a report of what Woolwich would mean to cross rail and the benefits it would bring. The cost ratio for Woolwich came out better.

We are hoping for a strong recommendation for a station at Woolwich and the feedback so far is that it has been well received.

Crossrail is currently in a state of turmoil and are looking at the possibility of cash injections. There was recently a ministerial announcement about a change in location of the depot and the depot shift is good news for Woolwich.

Questions invited:

JL asked if we didn't get it this time is the opportunity lost. DJ stated it was not, there would be another opportunity.

3a) Neighbourhood Renewal Update (Patrick Elliot)

PE said that the final report was considered at the last meeting of NR SC

3b) LAA Progress (Graham Verge)

LAA has now been in place for 1 year and has just had a review. The review has outlined the next steps needed to support some of the new priorities and change we need to bring about.

Overall the review has been very positive

4) AOB

JS asked about membership of the Partnership.

CR said that a paper will be sent out shortly for consultation. JS said that the Community should have a place on the 4 delivery partnerships as if we don't link up then we will have different groups of people deciding where to spend money and they don't always agree.

JCh brought to the groups attention Ken Livingstones Asian Business Conference that took place recently. 2007 is the year of India. Asian businesses contribute £60 billion into the London business economy. Greenwich must position itself as a gateway for Asian business.

CR stated that we are part of Gateway to London and the Chief Executive may want to come along to the next board meeting.

(Action JC)

5. Dates of future meetings 2006

The dates of Greenwich Partnership Sector Chairs were noted:

**Greenwich Partnership Sector Chairs Group at 8.30a.m.
In Committee Room A, Town Hall**

Fri 1st September 2006

Fri 10th November 2006

The Greenwich Partnership Board Meeting dates were noted:

Greenwich Partnership Board Meetings at 6.00p.m.

Thursday 21st September 2006 venue t.b.c.

Thursday 7th December 2006 venue t.b.c.

6. Close

The Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed at 2:10pm.