

# SOMERVILLE UNITED TRA

Minutes of meeting held on the 20th September 2022 at 7pm Barnes Wallis Community Centre

In attendance: Cllr Joan Millbank, Joy Burnett (Lewisham Tenants Fund), Clive Heppollette (Chair), Norma Rochester (Vice-Chair), Jasmine Barnett (Treasurer), Hannah Renton (Acting Secretary), MM (Block Rep for Swallow Close) + SB Residents (In total there were 15 attendees)

AGENDA ITEM		ACTION BY WHOM
1	<p><b><u>Welcome and apologies</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ashleigh Gordon (Housing Officer), Richard Ashworth (Caretaking Team Manager) and Neighborhood Police Team sent their apologies.</li> <li>- Apologies from Cllr Joan Millbank from her colleagues the councilors at Telegraph Hill ward.</li> <li>- Code of conduct was read out.</li> <li>- CH informed everyone that the website is up and running and gave out cards with the info. It belongs to everyone, whole community, so let CH know by email if anyone wants anything on there.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clive Heppollette (Chair)</b></p>
2	<p><b><u>Motorbikes and other vehicles</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Motor Bike and vehicles still <b>ongoing</b> and will need an update from Ashleigh Gordon at the next meeting.</li> <li>- Cllr Millbank asked if the city bikes are a problem as they are on the streets. Does not seem that there is an issue with this.</li> <li>- A resident raised Catalytic convertors are being stolen from cars.</li> <li>- Another resident has experienced a crime regarding their vehicle and asked if a camera can be put up on the road. SB responded that when the police were with us last month, they said that there needs to be an extensive number of complaints for a camera to be put up. Cllr Millbank said that estates have to be wired up to have cameras and it isn't down here. There is also a big cost implication as they have to be monitored. Then there are police cameras but they want to put them in the hotspots. Cllr Millbank reported that Cllr Sorba looked into the alley for us. Not enough incidents being reported so please do this more.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ashleigh Gordon (housing officer)</b></p>
3	<p><b><u>Waste - Fly tipping</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Still waiting to be informed where the block points are. CH will get them from Richard Ashworth (Caretaking Team Manager) and put them on the website.</li> <li>- All the rest of the fly-tipping was picked up this month but more stuff has now been dumped.</li> <li>- Van fly-tipping is "Capital" lives on Edmond Court. MM tried to go and talk to him. CH suggested himself and NR might be able to go.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clive Heppollette (Chair)</b> <b>Norma Rochester (Vice-Chair)</b></p>
4	<p><b><u>Waste - dustbins</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Bins have been emptied this week.</li> <li>- Foxes are getting into the bins and spreading rubbish around.</li> <li>- Was discussed whether the bins had or should have lids. Cllr Millbank reported that if they are in cupboards, they won't have lids but otherwise they should do. A resident reported that those in Wild Goose Drive have cupboards but they are really high so it's basically like they don't have lids and they are also very smelly.</li> <li>- The caretakers take the bins for Edmond Court out of the cupboard the night before refuse collection so that the cats and foxes get in that night. It was agreed that the bins should be take out the morning of.</li> </ul>	

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5	<p><b><u>Rodents and other pests</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pest control not returned for their second visit - CH will follow up (ongoing).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clive Heppollette (Chair)</b> <b>Norma Rochester (Vice-Chair)</b></p>
6	<p><b><u>Lighting</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CH and NR went on a walkabout with Ashleigh Gordon (Housing Officer) and Richard Ashworth (Caretaking Team Manager). They made a note of all the lights out on Swallow Close, in the football area and the garages. There is also one with no cover and it's hanging open which is dangerous.</li> <li>- Report of a woman using torch it's so dark outside her house.</li> <li>- On Wild Goose Drive there is a whole section where they are all gone.</li> <li>- Jamie (old caretaker) was around today and CH spoke to him. The lights are supposed to be checked and replaced with LEDS every day.</li> <li>- One resident said they have exchanged hundreds of emails about the lighting. It's been going on since 2019.</li> <li>- Apparently, the council are going to change the lights away from LEDS to become solar.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr Millbank, Clive Heppollette (Chair)</b></p>
7	<p><b><u>Parking</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eight vehicles have been taken away due to Lewisham homes and DVLA sending letters being sent out. There are a few others remaining that need to be sorted out.</li> <li>- Lewisham Council have brought in a new policy bringing in parking permits on estates. Ashleigh stated at the last meeting (30th August) has said she wants to put it forward and it has to be approved. Cllr Millbank confirmed that there is a policy in the council to introduce parking permits. But there will be a consultation with the residents.</li> <li>- MM talked to the elders at the Jehovah's Hall after it was suggested at a previous meeting but it has not worked. CH and NR will go and see the people at the church and inform Somerville adventure management.</li> <li>- CH said that there is a dumped vehicle that has been on the road for 15 years. Lewisham Homes need to look at the details and give someone notice to remove. Cllr Millbank said that if they aren't licensed, they won't take them away unless they are burned out. There is a process Lewisham Homes have to go through and then liaise with the council and it will be removed. CH will pass this on.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clive Heppollette (Chair)</b> <b>Norma Rochester (Vice-Chair)</b></p>
8	<p><b><u>Football Cage and adjacent alleyway</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- NR spoke to Somerville Adventure Playground and was informed that Lewisham Homes gave them permission to use the cage so when they do they put on their own padlock.</li> <li>- SB was speaking to one of the residents who lives in Edmond Court. He has been doing security for a long part of his life. He said one of the ways to deter crime from the football court is to lower the walls. If you lower to eye-sight it is much more visible and would discourage crime there.</li> <li>- CH said he spoke to Richard Ashworth (Caretaking Team Manager) about the alleyway and asked about blocking it off so it's not used at all. They could put some fencing across like they did on Wild Goose Drive. This might be the cheapest option. Attendees were asked for a show of hands on whether this was a good idea. This was 50/50 for and against. There are people who use it and some residents were concerned it will just create an isolated space for drug use.</li> <li>- Cllr Millbank said the development on this estate isn't going to happen for a long time. The football pen will stay as it is for the foreseeable future.</li> <li>- Another resident suggested a key fob system.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clive Heppollette (Chair)</b></p>

AGENDA ITEM		ACTION BY WHOM
9	<b><u>TRA Communications</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Twitter account has been set up which runs alongside the website.</li> <li>- JB has set up the WhatsApp group and it is available for everyone to join. Issues can be raised on there and one of us will pick it up and send on. The number and details were shared and JB helped a few residents join.</li> </ul>	
10	<b><u>New development playground - Wellington Close</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ongoing.</b></li> <li>- Was raised that we should speak to other residents as some may be happy about this and one said they were looking forward to it.</li> </ul>	
11	<b><u>Trees</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Ongoing.</b></li> <li>- A resident asked about who is responsible for the trees which are overhanging the garages and becoming a problem. Other residents raised that the tree all around Dennett's Road, Wild Goose and Edmond Court need cutting. CH is going to speak to the council.</li> </ul>	<b>Clive Heppollette (Chair)</b>
12	<b><u>Treasurers Report</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The bank account is open and the previous funds of £1353.36 have been transferred into the account. As we did not have our funds Barnes Wallis kindly helped us with the Jubilee Party so we are reimbursing them for the costs which amounted to £1181.13. This means we now have £172.23 in the account.</li> <li>- We can apply for funding for other events.</li> <li>- It was put to residents whether the 10th or 17th December would be better for a Christmas Party. Attendees voted unanimously for 10th December. JB shared some plans with the community to fundraise for the Christmas party.</li> <li>- Ideas were shared for the Christmas party. These were having a Christmas tree, games, snacks, face painting and gifts for the children. We can get out the giant Jenga and Connect 4. We could also do bingo and JB was thinking of doing a talent contest or a variety show.</li> <li>- Committee would love to have help with this. JB said we will have a list of things people can contribute to. Gift wrapping, presents for kids etc.</li> <li>- A resident from Swallow Close volunteered to be Father Christmas.</li> </ul>	<b>Jasmine Barnett (Treasure)</b>
13	<b><u>Major Works</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One resident raised that their kitchen has been in disarray for years. Wires hanging down, floors in total disrepair. Cllr Millbank explained that in 2009 as part of Decent Homes the whole Estate was offered new kitchens and bathrooms. Some residents reported that some were also offered new kitchens in 2015.</li> <li>- Another resident said they thinks builders may have claimed to have done her kitchen and it has not been done. She moved in in 2016 and does not know if there was a new kitchen put in. She said if there is corruption we should know.</li> <li>- The house opposite 41 (<i>Swallow Close?</i>) got redone but 41 haven't been contacted and not had any work done. Other residents said if you don't contact them, it never gets done. Cllr Millbank said there are two ways you can get a new kitchen. One is when there is an estate scheme when they will attempt to do all the properties. The last one was the decent homes program. The other reason it might happen is because the last one was destroyed by another tenant or if the last resident refused an update. This would only happen if there is something quite major.</li> <li>- MM said they have heard rumors that if your radiators are over 15 years old, they should be redone. The ones in this estate are over 21 years old. CH said he will find out about this. MM said especially with cost-of-living crisis we need more efficient ones, especially OAPs.</li> </ul>	<b>Clive Heppollette (Chair)</b>

AGENDA ITEM		ACTION BY WHOM
14	<p><b><u>Disabled access</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cllr Millbank said that disabled access housing should all be on the ground floor. But obviously resident's circumstances can change.</li> <li>- The pavement has sunk down where Wellington Close meets Wild Goose Drive. Every time it rains there are people who can't get out of their house because the pavement has sunk below the level of the drain. This has been reported several times.</li> <li>- There is now very little access to Rutts Terrace and it is hell with a buggy. CH said he will look on this on walk around.</li> <li>- There's no step free access anywhere on the estate. There's even a step in the middle of a ramp.</li> <li>- A resident in Edmond Court requested ramp access so that the ambulance who comes regularly can have access. They have been waiting 6 years to be moved to a more suitable property. Cllr Millbank said they will speak to him after the meeting.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clive Heppolette (Chair),</b></p>
15	<p><b><u>Asbestos</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CH said that there was asbestos in the ceiling in the passage way of Edmond Court flats. He asked why this wasn't taken out when they took boilers out. People came round and put lights in drilling through it.</li> <li>- Cllr Millbank said we need to get the asbestos report for the estate and invite the officer responsible for asbestos to the next meeting so we can know what the situation is.</li> <li>- People need to know whether there is asbestos in their properties.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clive Heppolette (Chair) Cllr Millbank</b></p>
16	<p><b><u>Cllr Millbank update</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Despite frozen tariffs on fuel people are really going to notice the cost-of-living crisis. Lewisham Council are really trying to build up information on their website for advice. They are also trying to set up a hardship fund to help people particularly in need. Locally some of the community organizations e.g., New Cross Learning Centre are running warm banks - places you can go that are heated anyway. They will not all be on the same day so people can move around to different places. She suggested Errol Williams (Barnes Wallis Manager) might be able to do it at Barnes Wallis.</li> <li>- Councilor's surgeries have only just recently been allowed to open in person again. No appointment necessary. There will be a couple a month - one on the Honor Oak Estate and one at the Telegraph Hill Centre. She will bring a new flyer down next time.</li> <li>- The Telegraph Hill local assembly meeting will not be 31st October as the Police cannot attend. Will be Friday 28th October or Saturday Morning 29th October but this is only provisional and the time is not yet confirmed.</li> <li>- The Ward Panel will take place on Monday 7th November at 6pm at St Catharine's Church, Pepys Road.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Cllr Millbank</b></p>

AGENDA ITEM		ACTION BY WHOM
17	<p><b><u>Repairs and updates</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lewisham Homes is looking at converting the old bin store into bike storage. There was some concern about security. HR will ask about still being able to lock the gate so there is double security otherwise they will be quite vulnerable to theft.</li> <li>- To get the back gates on Dennett's Road for Wild Goose Drive houses redone we need to apply to Lewisham Council. Clive said we will follow this up as they are very bad and something needs to be done. These were pointed out to Richard Ashworth on his previous walk around.</li> <li>- NR and CH did a walk around - they will keep doing this a couple times a month with the housing officer or the caretaking manager. When they did so this month Richard Ashworth got on his phone straight away and starting ringing people. It seems we are now at the top of their list to get things sorted out. CH thinks they are starting to act.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clive Heppollette (Chair)</b>  <b>Norma Rochester (Vice-Chair)</b>  <b>Hannah Renton (Secretary)</b></p>
18	<p><b><u>AOB</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CH went to visit the resident who was having an issue with their gas. This is still ongoing but there are some concerns around safety so CH and NR will follow up as a matter of urgency.</li> <li>- An Edmond Court resident suggested we need to get together as a group to get a solicitor and get compensation because of the blue netting they put around the building for 3.5 years - blocking light, air, etc. into people's flats. It was a stressful time for a lot of people, personal things were damaged and properties were broken into. A case being put together for the injuries they've caused to people.</li> <li>- There was an incident and a fire at one of the flats in Edmond Court. Neighbour has been left traumatized and feeling unsafe. Was offered no refuge, support or concern by Lewisham Homes or the housing officer. Someone suggested we should get the fire brigade to do an assessment of the estate.</li> <li>- A number of residents reported that they have not had responses or support from the housing officer. Others said she is new and has taken on a big workload. Some residents didn't feel this was justification. It was suggested that we get a manager or someone higher up at Lewisham Homes who are able to answer questions. Cllr Millbank said Executive Directors have come to the TRAs in the past.</li> <li>- One resident is being harassed by a Neighbour. The issue is now being dealt with by Bexley Police. Their windows have been smashed, abusive words have been put through their letter box and their car was also damaged. Housing officer and Lewisham Homes have not been helpful and she is appalled by the way it has been handled. Others raised issues with the flat the harassment is coming from. Cllr Millbank said it's not appropriate to talk about it more widely in the meeting. But said the council is investigating this. If other people have other information, it's important for it to be reported.</li> <li>- It was proposed to have a table top sale in October. It was discussed whether it would be better to do it as donation table - people can donate the items and all the proceeds go to the TRA. Or rent tables for people to sell their own items. To be confirmed by all.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Clive Heppollette (Chair)</b>  <b>Norma Rochester (Vice-Chair)</b>  <b>Hannah Renton (Secretary)</b></p>

The meeting closed at 9.07pm.

**DATE OF NEXT MEETING 18TH October 7PM @ BARNES WALLACE.**