



**JMC Meeting Held**  
**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

**Website: [www.leasowecommunitycentre.co.uk](http://www.leasowecommunitycentre.co.uk)**

**Leasowe Play Youth & Community Association**

**Registered Charity Number 702959**

**Leasowe Community Centre, Twickenham Drive,  
Leasowe, Wirral. CH46 1PF**

**Tel: 0151-691-1595**

### **Present**

**Chair** Jane Davies, Paul Townley, Iris Coates, Ken Williams, Councillor Treena Johnson and Anita Leech, Sheila Henry, Tina Amis, Jenni Jones, Emma Hopwood, Danny Docherty, Mary Quigg, Lesley May

### **Apologies**

Ian Lewis, Councillor Ron Abbey, Ken Murphy, Michelle Gray & Pauline Murphy

### **Approval of Last Meeting's Minutes**

These had been circulated and agreed to be true record of the meeting with two corrections - Councillor Anita Leech had said 'she could produce petitions to the Council' not would present a petition' and Jane had been misquoted regarding setting reasonable room hire amounts.

### **Matters arising**

Nil

### **Correspondence**

IOSH course that Emma and Tina could attend

### **Invited Guests / Reports / Presentations**

**Russell Gate** was introduced to the Committee. He is the Community Support Officer and is the lead for the Head Lease owned by Your Housing

Russell had been given the leases of the Community Centre and Wirral Radio building and was giving them a close look as regards the responsibilities for those involved. It was important that people were aware of their responsibilities, e.g. boilers can be responsible for the spread of Legionnaires disease, and it is important to know what standards have to be maintained and who is responsible for making sure of compliance. In certain areas he was unsure about compliance as there was no evidence that standards had been kept up to date. Emma said that volunteers had been asking for a definitive answer for a long time as to what they were responsible for, as they wanted to protect themselves from the risk of litigation. Russell said that he and the Council can help.

The Community Centre and Wirral Radio share gas and electric meters and pipes. When the 7 Waves building had been constructed linking the two properties had saved money. Sheila had been sorting out the appropriation of the fuel costs between the Community Centre and Wirral Radio and was charging the appropriate amount to each building and said that she would record the calculation, as only she knew how it worked

In the Centre kitchen there was an ongoing problem with extraction and ventilation which meant people were working in excessive temperatures. An estimate for a replacement hood is about £7,000. Tina had bought a new vent. Mary said she had been trying to find out if a warranty claim could be made on the hood. Ideally a maintenance contract for the kitchen should be sourced. To refurbish the kitchen together with the blinds would be about £11,000.

Russell said that he was committed to helping the Centre and the best way forward was to identify the problem areas and then start to rectify them. It is important to show that we are aware of any problems and are working towards compliance. Mary thought the Community Centre should have its own maintenance budget.

The Council will be doing their Annual report in March and when that is being done Shelia will ask who is responsible for what area/s.

The Leasowe community have never really asked for anything even though there had been problems. E.g. Danny had been cutting the grass around the Addy and the Centre until the machine he used was been condemned. He was not allowed to use a newer machine, even if it was sourced. Anita said she would see if the Council could arrange to cut the grass area.

Mary said that Russell was dealing with 25 centres and is now bringing everything together; she will work with him in trying to arrange a budget.

Danny asked if Your Housing dealt with the Addy but was told no. Your Housing has the lease for the Community Centre and The Centre has the sub lease for the building

Sheila was asked what would happen if the funding for the Centre was withdrawn. She said that would mean the sub lease on the building would be returned to Your Housing.

Anita asked if compliance had slipped but Russell said it was hard to say as he could not find written evidence of standards being checked

As the JMC are managing the building it is important to have a Health and Safety report and a Compliance Report. Paul asked if this should be a separate Agenda item and Russell said he would provide the JMC with a regular Compliance Report

## **Financial Report**

Paul reported that the broadband has been installed and the centre now has Wi-Fi; Wirral radio had requested a loan due to cash flow problems and Paul had emailed Jane as Chair and Iris as Vice-Chair and it was agreed to loan them £5000 until some grants are paid into their account. £2,000 was paid across and on Monday 1st December the money was paid back by Wirral Radio as they had received money from one of their grants.

Now the Centre has broadband Paul had arranged a meeting with PEGS to discuss their use of the Great Escape room. They are still interested in using the room as discussed with the JMC previously. Account balances: ***available on request***

## **Reports:**

### **Senior Play-Leader**

The future of the Addy will be decided in December. There was a Cabinet on the 10<sup>th</sup> December and if the proposals went through it would then go to the Council on 15<sup>th</sup>. The support group, chaired by Paul Townley, was actively working to save the playground and other play-schemes under threat due to Council cuts. Out of 8,000 completed consultations 6,500 people strongly disagreed with the closure plans

The Addy had held a Halloween Party with a brilliant Lantern Parade and a very successful Bonfire Night. Emma commented on the superb organisation of the events. Paul was concerned by the Health and Safety risk with the transport of hot coffee and drinks in and out of the building, especially considering there were a lot of children attending. This year the Bonfire had been funded but it was unknown whether this would happen in the following year. The Christmas Party had been moved from 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> December due to the slow issue of tickets. The dinner was free to the children and Leasowe Community Homes provided selection boxes to be given as presents. The money raised from the Bonfire night pays for the Christmas Party. Emma suggested a donation box may raise some money but Danny said this had been tried, unsuccessfully, in previous years.

There had been a problem keeping the Addy open due to the lack of staffing. The staffing was stretched between the four centres resulting in the Addy being closed for 3 days and also making it impossible to plan ahead. Danny believed that 3 full time staff would be the ideal staff level at each centre. A few years ago there had been 4 staff members at the Addy but this had been reduced to 3 and was now down to 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> people.

## **Youth Report / Youth Society**

No report

## **Art Club**

Iris had welcomed new members to the Club meaning that she was now in a position to pay the full hire fee. The British Legion Club had displayed 20 of the Art Clubs World War One pictures in a long corridor at their Club. Some of the paintings had been sold, mainly due to the subject matter.

Mary asked if the pictures in their building could be rotated on a regular basis.

Iris had gratefully received £50 from the JMC, which had been invested in craft material for kids.

It was agreed that Jane liaise with Pauline from Wirral Radio about hanging some of the Art Work in the Entrance Corridor of the building.

## **Autumn Club**

The Club was doing very well with a lot of new people attending. Friday, Roast Dinner day, was very well attended. A successful Tea Dance had been held in November. Emma and Tina had various themed events planned for the following year, starting with Chinese New Year in January. Mary asked if funding could be obtained from Community Hubs and if local school children could become involved.

Paul had sourced a quote for a heat sealing machine so that meals could be provided for people who could not or were not ready to attend the Club at the Centre. Emma had received funding from Wirral's 'Bright Idea's scheme. Delivering meals to people was also a way to find out how people were living and if they needed additional support e.g. heating etc. Tina and Emma would be providing members of the Autumn Club with food they could buy and take home (e.g. soup and sandwiches) so that they would be assured of another meal that day. Mary offered to put a poster up in their flats advertising the Autumn Clubs services

Jane said it was important that the Club sourced funding for transporting the meals as the Minibus was too heavy on fuel, Mary said that the Tenants Association have donation buckets at their events and the money went to a nominated charity; she offered to see if this could provide some funding for fuel costs

## **Wirral Radio (7 Waves Community Radio)**

Pauline had not been able to attend the meeting

## **Men's Fit Club**

Ken reported that the numbers in the Club had been reduced down to 5 due to 2 members being on long term sick leave and 1 member resigning. The club did not meet in December. To try and gain new members Mary said she would leaflet their flats and Jenni would promote the Club at their weight management course.

## **Leasowe Development Trust**

Jenni reported they had been teaching and had received accreditation for between 25 to 30 people to their 'learn to listen and talk to people' training.

They were holding their Carol Concert on 17<sup>th</sup> December and were running a Christmas Grotto. The tickets for the Grotto were 50 pence and would be available on the door.

## **Leasowe Community Homes**

Mary thought a good idea for the future could be a Community Calendar showing pictures of local events e.g. November would have a picture of the Bonfire party and asked for photos and community reports. They were holding a Christmas Party and invited guests to come in their Christmas jumpers, proceeds would go to Save The Children. It was suggested that a Community Choir could be started; Jenni said some of their workers may be interested and she would ask Pauline to ask over the radio for people who would like to join. LCH were also helping people on welfare issues and Universal Credit. The library in the Millennium Centre would be reducing its opening hours due to council cuts.

## **Wirral Borough Council (Sheila Henry)**

Sheila said that David Armstrong, in charge of the Council's Asset Management department, would now be dealing with libraries. The Millennium Centre would be remaining with the Council and revising its room hire rates. Wirral Change was running workshops for people to help them with Universal Credit.

Funding of £165,000 had been received from the NHS for 3 allotments societies. A decision had been made to use this money for paths etc. The work had started and would be completed in March. Sheila asked the committee if they knew who had made the decision to use the money for work to the area instead of giving the money to the allotments for their own use but no one knew.

Due to the additional presentation by Russell the meeting was running late so the Chair asked if the Councillors reports be brief

## **Councillor's report**

Councillor Anita Leech & Councillor Treena Johnson

There were presents available for children who would not be receiving presents at Xmas and Anita asked if anyone knew of someone to give her the details of age and sex. She had written to local schools, St Chad's food bank and Home Start.

Due to a shortage of time Anita asked that if members had any issues that needed to be addressed that they contact her. She had sent information about various issues to Paul and he had distributed this information by email to members. There was a compendium of statistics on the website

## **Any other reports (updates)**

Nil

## **Any other business**

LCH have 40 Winter Warm packs that are free and been donated to the homeless and tenants on the estate

Following the meeting with Roy Sherriff and Jenni Jones, Emma Hopwood has still not had any feedback, given the nature and contents of the letter she had received, Emma felt that feedback to her was necessary. Paul Townley agreed to arrange to meet with Emma and go through the outcome of the meeting held.

## **Date of next meeting:**

**Thursday 29th January 2015 at 10.30am**