

# LEEMANOR SOCIETY



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## Next Regular Meeting

**19:30 on Wednesday 9 March at the Community Centre, Leegate**

*Open to all residents in the area. Formalities end 9.00pm - refreshments afterwards (modest donations in kind always welcome at this location!)*

## Notes of our Meeting on 10th February 2016

**Present:** Ralph White (Chairman), David Plumer, David Ford, Charles Batchelor, Veronica Simmons, Frances Migniuolo, Gill Stoker, Patti Byford, Judy Cole and Sheila Peck (Secretary).

**Apologies:** Jim Mallory, Sylvia Ling, Leslee Dryland, Diana Stevenson, Rita Craft, Bridget Prentice, Dan Griffin, Sue Byford and Anita Whitfield.

### Matters arising from last Meeting

Planning Matters: New Tiger's Head:- Gill suggested that 'domestic' use for the Ground Floor could give a better appearance to the building and feels there is a need for care with commercial propositions e.g. MacDonalds, so residential use might be preferable. There was a general preference among those attending for commercial use - as long as it shows respect for the building itself - but domestic use would not be opposed.

### Emmanuel Pentecostal Church

The Council's objection to the proposal was appealed but the objection has been upheld so we await a new Application.

### Proposed new school adjacent to Miller's Meadow

The International Academy of Greenwich is proposing to build a new state-funded secondary school for pupils aged 11-18 in the Bowring Sports Ground. The school will offer an education based on the International Baccalaureate and focus on modern languages. The new Academy will be non-selective, and will open its doors to 125 'Year 7' students on a temporary basis in September 2016 at the King's Church, 21 Meadow Court Road. There were 2 public meetings and local residents (who have grave concerns over the proposal) have also had 2 meetings. We understand that the purchase of the necessary land has not yet been completed and no Planning Application has yet been submitted so we cannot make a formal observation. Because the Bowring Sports Ground is on a flood plain the proposed site for the school is a long narrow strip immediately south of the flood barrier and very close to the properties in Millers Meadow Close and Hamlea Close. The Society shares the concerns of local residents over light restriction to their properties and traffic congestion/pollution initially to both Meadow Court

Road and the Lee Green crossroads and then to Hamlea Close. We wonder why other sites have not been considered. We are aware that playing field sites near Weigall Road have been on the market for some time.

### **Neighbourhood Forum**

The proposed Lee Forum has now been approved by both Greenwich and Lewisham Councils. The Forum has a legal right to influence planning decisions within its designated area e.g. the proposed new school and the Leegate redevelopment. The method of operation is still being discussed/agreed but the current thought is to form sub-groups which will investigate specific applications to protect the areas which are important to the local community. To find out more go to their Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/leeneighbourhoodforum/>

### **CPZ**

At last the agreed changes are beginning to take effect. The signs in the new CPZ Areas have been erected but covered up and those in the existing zones are gradually being changed to reflect the new time controls. The changes take effect once the road markings are completed and the signs are uncovered. As requested the new signs are at a lower level so as to be more easily visible from vehicle - our main concern is that there is just too much clutter!

### **The Manor House and Library**

Ralph White (Lee Manor Society) and Paul Lowndes (Friends of Manor House Gardens) are co-conveners of the Local Assembly Working Party. With Peter Richardson (Users and Friends of Manor House Library) and Jim Mallory, they met with Aileen Buckton (Executive Director Community Services at Lewisham Council) and Liz Dart (Head of Cultural & Community Development Services) to discuss the fate of the Manor House. Our position is that the future of the House itself needs to be assured because without it, the survival of the Library (Community or otherwise) cannot be assured. Our notes from the meeting, and a pen sketch of the Manor House can be found on our web site headed 'The proposed Manor House Community Library' which you are invited to circulate to anyone you know who might have an interest in the future of the building and library.

### **Leegate**

Still no news, presumably because the Council are still waiting to hear from TfL with the results of their Traffic Control Survey at the crossroads; we assume the Survey can't be undertaken until the on-going improvement (?) works are completed. We are now also concerned that additional traffic, which is bound to be introduced by the proposed new school (see above), will need to be taken into account. The possibility of requesting a meeting with Lewisham Planning Department was discussed, particularly as we have still not heard from them in response to our letter pointing out our concern over their under calculation of the amount of public space currently available on the site.

### **Annual Events**

The following agreed:

AGM -Wednesday 18th May

Plant Mart - Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> May.

The Ice House will be open as usual on the first and third Sunday of each month from 3<sup>rd</sup> April to 4<sup>th</sup> September as well as for the Manor House Gardens Party, and Open House Weekend. A draft Rota for volunteers has been prepared and circulated for approval. Additional volunteers are always welcome so please do let us know if you like to help.

*We thank Charles for hosting the meeting.*