

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



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OUR NEXT MEETING

There is no meeting in August

8pm on 12th September 2007 at

105 Burnt Ash Road SE12 8RA

Open to all residents in the area. Ends 9.30pm-nibbles afterwards

Note of our Meeting on 11th July at 66 Effingham Road

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Sylvia Ling, David Plumer, Andrea Breugelmanns, May Clarke, Sven Griesenbeck, Faye Carney, Steve Griffiths, Jeremy Carden, Sue Trytell, John Ratcliffe, Jacqueline Brewer, Anita Whitfield, Julie McRae and Sheila Peck

Apologies: Ralph White, Jim Mallory

Northbrook School

John Ratcliffe advised us that he will be retiring as Head of Northbrook School at the end of this school year and that a new head has already been appointed to succeed him. John is happy that the future for the new school is now secure and the planning process has begun. Initial plans/designs have been prepared (which John is very pleased with) and will be available for public viewing in the school from 1pm to 8pm on 20 August and at Ennersdale School from 7pm to 8.30pm on 18 September.

We expressed our concern over the potential disruption in the area during demolition and construction and John advised that the demolition would be screened in an effort to limit dust circulation but he was not aware of any specific proposals for parking by workers during the construction. However, as far as access for construction vehicles is concerned, he assured us that it is the aim that these will be afforded direct access along Taunton Road to Lee Road.

The Society offers its best wishes to John for his future and also thanks him for the help and the support he has given to the Society.

News on Planning Applications

- 15 Manor Lane – construction of hip to gable etc. (see last months Notes). The Panel strongly objected to the proposals which they considered would harm the character of the conservation area
- 106 Burnt Ash Road – remove one and reduce another sycamore at the rear – noted
- 39 Southbrook – fell conifer at the rear – noted
- 27 Handen Road – pollard 4 lime trees and fell a robinia at the rear. We are keen to preserve lime trees as special to the area and hope that the pollarding will maintain the trees' shape
- The problem with Danish origin lorry parking in Effingham Road has been taken up by the council.

Lee Green Crossroads Design Brief

The Brief (see web site to view) has been submitted to Lewisham Council and we have had a meeting with Heidi Alexander (Deputy Major and Lead for Regeneration) and John Miller (Head of Planning) to discuss the contents. Charles and Ralph have also met with our local MP, Bridget Prentice, who indicated her support and we discussed involving Sainsburys, St. Modwen and other stakeholders in the area to let them know our aims and what we are doing. Charles has sent copies of the Brief to the Blackheath Society, Neil Rhind and Richard Bainbridge, the vicar at The Church of the Good Shepherd. Our aim is to encourage mixed retail facilities in the area so that all parts of the community will be represented and we hope the Councils (which must include Greenwich) will pick up on our suggestions particularly in relation to the anticipated redevelopment of Leegate. We discussed the possibility of a 'Shopping Manager' for the site whose position could be funded by both the Council and the site owner and we have subsequently learned that an existing Town Centre Manager may be given an extended brief to include Lee Green. We also considered the possibility of all the local groups in the area getting together to promote the Brief with the Council. We would like the Council to create a positive framework of which developers will take note. We are concerned that the current draft Lewisham planning document, the Local Development Framework, is too vague and non-constructive. Councils are not keen on listing properties (such as The Old Tigers Head) as this can limit the use to which they can be put.

Manor House Library

At the public meeting on 25th June there were only 3 representations from the objectors but 8-9 people who spoke in favour of the plans. The overall view was positive. The plans will now go to the Government Office for London in September for approval (because the Council cannot approve its own plans) and a decision is expected roughly 2 months later. It is anticipated that, if plans are approved, work will commence next Spring. The Council is hoping to have a mobile library facility available during the closure of the building.

Conservation Area Review

The Council is working on a document that will define and describe the character of the Lee Manor Conservation Areas as part of a borough-wide initiative. It is also looking at the scope of the conservation area. Charles has walked around our Area with the consultant involved and suggested (i) we could remove Lee Station as it is now completely built up and does not have any natural connection to a Conservation Area and (ii) noted that the Society is keen to include the properties on the west side of Manor Lane as well as Hedgley Street and Brightfield Road. The Consultant responded favourably and was also keen to include the two parades of shops on the east side of Burnt Ash Road from the fish and chip shop south to Woodyates road, as well as the trees on the east side of Burnt Ash Road. He was also positive about including the north side of Taunton Road to Sainsbury's as well as possibly parts of Lampmead, Aislibie and Lenham Roads. Charles got a positive feeling from the walk-around and we hope we will be involved in the final decision.

Ice House

We are pleased to announce that, on Sunday July 1 we had our 10,000th visitor to the Ice House. We also had a very successful opening on the Manor House Gardens' Party in the Park Day with 290 visitors in 3 hours.

Many thanks to Faye and Steve for hosting the meeting