

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



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Next Meeting
8pm on 8th April 2009 at
105 Burnt Ash Road, SE12

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

Notes of our Meeting on 11th March at 66 Effingham Road SE12

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Ralph White, Anita Whitfield, Sylvia Ling, David Plumer, Steve Griffiths, May Clarke, Jeremy Carden, Suki Picarda, Sue Byford, Faye Carney, Jim Mallory and Sheila Peck (Secretary)

Apologies: Andrea Breugelmanns, Rev. Richard Bainbridge and Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Lee Green Assembly – 17 February

Further to last month's Notes, we are pleased to report that the proposal for a 'Friends of Leegate' group received full support from those who attended the Assembly although no decision was made about what it will do. Ralph has volunteered to be on the relevant committee as our representative. There was also agreement to pursue all the other priorities i.e. youth provision, controlled parking zone (CPZ) appraisal (see below) and environment matters. In the case of youth provision a questionnaire had been prepared which has now been distributed to young people for completion. Environmental matters were principally focused on Manor Park. See Notes from the meeting at

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/CouncilAndDemocracy/ElectedRepresentatives/Councillors/LocalAssemblies/LeeGreenAssembly/>

Ralph commented on the fact that there was a hefty bundle of reading matter presented to assembly attendees which contained details of matters to be discussed. It was virtually impossible for anyone to read and digest in time to discuss. Jim Mallory pointed out that the Councillors are aware of this problem and are considering ways to overcome it in the future. It was also pointed out that there was no 'free time' in the meeting for attendees to put questions to the Councillors nor was there an 'any other business' space to allow attendees to put forward additional questions or suggestions.

Lewisham Local Development Framework

As a result of the Government's and the Mayor of London's plans to deliver hundreds of thousands of new homes, every Council in England has been required to prepare a 'Core Strategy' - a document which features detailed policies on where and how development should take place over the next 15 years. Two main options are now being considered for the scale of the redevelopment and the preferred location for the homes and the jobs needed to fulfil the Government's plans.

Option 1, called Borough-wide Regeneration and Growth, calls for the provision of 21,650 homes, 40 per cent more than the London Plan Target, and Option 2, Moderate Regeneration and Growth, for 14,550. The Focas group of Lewisham conservation societies, including us, feels that both options are too much influenced by the Council's desire to provide additional housing and query whether housing can be a motor for growth. Lewisham is already a low

employment borough, “exporting” a large number of residents every day to work elsewhere. If you would like to comment on the Core Strategy (consultation open until 3 April) you can view it at local libraries or visit <http://consult.lewisham.gov.uk/portal>

Planning Matters

27 Southbrook Road: with reference to last month’s notes where we noted that the Tree Officer had been asked to intervene in the attempted removal of an oak tree from the rear garden and a proposal for remedial work has now been put forward.

15 Manor Lane: construction of single storey glazed extension to the rear to provide additional living accommodation. - We would have no objection.

Last Panel Meeting -

36 Handen Road: construction of a part one and part two storey extension to rear. - The Panel objected to the first storey extension but not to the proposed ground floor addition.

3 Manor Lane: replacement of the existing wooden slatted fence with steel railings and gates to the front boundary and the replacement of the existing concrete drive and crazy paved front garden with beach pebbles on a permeable membrane with occasional cut-outs for flower beds. - The Panel had no objection as they considered it would constitute an improvement to the Conservation Area.

Lee Green Heritage Panel

Charles, Jeremy and Councillor Paul Bentley met two representatives of Transport for London to discuss the site of the panel. They approved our favoured location for the Panel which is at the junction of Burnt Ash Road and Eltham Road, on the corner, in front of the seating near Leegate House. We have decided on a vitreous enamel surface for the Panel as it will be very hard wearing and are now in the process of obtaining quotes from suppliers. It has not yet been decided whether the actual installation will be undertaken by TfL contractors or our own. The only worry now is that, as the Panel will be on TfL land, after three years its ownership will pass to TfL which gives us some concern about future maintenance and repair.

Controlled Parking Zone Plans

The council is proposing to extend the Controlled Parking Zone to include Taunton Road after a consultation period of only 3 weeks compared with much longer previous consultations. Whilst very attractive at first sight, residents should be in no doubt as to the considerable loss of convenience and amenity that their occasional visitors will have to endure. There has been a suggestion that teachers from the new Northbrook School will be required to park in the Leegate Car Park. The remorseless extension of the Zone does not seem to take any account of the proposal which was agreed at the Assembly Meeting for a thorough review of the entire area and system of operation (see earlier reference)..

Ice House

The Supervision Rota was approved, subject to any last minute amendments being necessary which will be arranged between the relevant helpers. We all agreed that no visitor will be allowed into the Ice House unless one of our representatives is present. We also discussed suggestions for modes of contact in case of emergency.

Welcome Pack

Charles circulated a revised draft ‘welcome’ note for consideration. We also discussed how people become aware they are moving into a Conservation Area. It was suggested that, when the ‘Pack’ is produced, a supply be made available to local estate agents who could pass it to buyers with their new house keys.

Many thanks to Faye and Steve for hosting the meeting