

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



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Next Regular Meeting
7.30pm on 24th October 2012 – please note later in month than usual
at: 94 Manor Lane SE12 8LR
Open to all residents in the area. Formalities end 9.00pm - nibbles afterwards

Notes of our Meeting on 12th September 2012 at The Old Tiger's Head

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Ralph White (Vice-Chairman), David Plumer, Sylvia Ling, Elizabeth Caulfield, Patti Byford, Veronica Simmons, Frances Mignuolo, Bruce Allison, Faye Carney, Steve Griffith, Tony Branton, Jenny Lane, Gill Stoker, Jim Mallory and Sheila Peck (Secretary)

Apologies: Suki Picarda, Dan Griffin, Nathaniel Johnston (SNT), Andrea Breugelmanns, Pauline Hadfield, Cheryl Armitage, Theresa Webb and Lorraine Burton (Treasurer).

Boone's Chapel Annual Social Evening

We are hoping for a good attendance as we have made special efforts this year in advertising. As well as door-drops throughout the Conservation Area we have also advertised the event on our Notice Board at Lee Station and in the Leegate Community Centre. Charles has issued some specific invitations to local Councillors and others interested in Conservation Areas. We hope the new venue, Boone's Chapel, will also prove a draw.

Leegate

The meeting between the Leegate Redevelopment Working Group and St Modwen planned for September was postponed at St Modwen's request and is now due to take place at the end of October. In the meantime a group of Society members is to meet Lewisham's planners to reiterate and develop our arguments against the current proposals.

Street Trees

The tree department's survey of ground conditions – are cables and pipework present? – has been delayed but the tree officer will be in touch as soon as it has been completed. We have initially identified two areas in Manor Lane and Burnt Ash Road where the Society might contribute to a joint planting project.

Bench at the corner of Taunton Road and Wantage Road

We are concerned that the bench we installed is not being made use of - possibly because its location is obscured. We agreed that Ralph would contact the housing office to see if we could install some paving slabs immediately under the seat for foot rests and also one, or maybe two, flower tubs to draw attention to its presence.

Planning issues

Houses at Lee Green crossroads next to the New Tigers Head: The Blackheath Society contacted Charles to alert him to a Planning Application to add another two storeys to the old cottages next to the pub which are now the Post Office and Graham Webb hairdressers. The proposal is completely out of character with the existing properties and both the Society and Blackheath Society lodged objections and Greenwich council subsequently rejected the application.

Glenmore Row Advertising Board: At last the developer's advertising board has disappeared - although we don't know if it was an official removal as a result of our representations, or prompted by the residents, or the developer.

Satellite Dishes: As a result of our representations the Council has taken action against a number of satellite dishes in Hedgley Street. Unfortunately four of the dishes have been on site long enough to become lawful but six have been removed and a further four are under investigation. There has been no action yet on the Burnt Ash Road dishes and aerial but Charles will pursue and we will also look at Effingham Road.

66 Taunton Road: To the annoyance of surrounding residents, the property is now for sale with a 'development opportunity'. Local residents have complained to the council. The property is advertised as having six bedrooms and there are concerns as to how this is calculated. Demolition of the house on the street frontage is unthinkable in a conservation area while any substantive change to the back garden development would require a new planning application.

Controlled Parking Zone consultation

The council is carrying out a Lewisham-wide consultation of residents' views on parking including charges and the terms of controlled parking zones. We felt that – once again – the consultation period was too short for many residents and allowed little time for local groups such as us to discuss and respond. Closing date for consultation is September 28. We are pressing for two-hour mid-day controls on parking to deter commuters while leaving flexibility for local residents to go about their lives. We also support the Assembly parking sub-committee's views on the high level of charges.

Council action on Pub closures

Lewisham has lost 40% of its pubs over the last 10 years. Part of the reason is landlords' high charges for beer and rent which tenants are unable to sustain in view of reduced patronage. The council has become so concerned about the loss of an important social asset that it is drawing up a policy that will strengthen its arm in refusing closure and redevelopment.

We would like to thank the Manager of the Old Tiger's Head for facilitating the meeting