

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



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Next Meeting
8pm on 3rd September 2008 at
11 Wantage Road SE12 8NA
Open to all residents in the area. Ends 9.30pm - nibbles afterwards

Note of our Meeting on 16th July at 66 Effingham Road

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Ralph White, Sylvia Ling, David Plumer, May Clarke, Linda Phipps, Steve Griffith, Faye Carney, Andrea Breugelmans, Suki Picarda, Anita Whitfield, Janice and Michael Goodwin, Michael Burbage, Richard Bainbridge, Jean Dalrymple, and Sheila Peck

Apologies: Pauline Hatfield, Sven Griesenbeck and Jeremy Carden.

Leegate

At the meeting which was mentioned in the last notes, St. Modwen, the owner, advised that they were considering redevelopment only of the east side of Leegate, including the area occupied by the square and Woolworths because of the worsening retail climate. They are in discussion with a food retailer who may be interested in acquiring premises in the new development. We made it clear that we do not want to lose the existing open area which is one of the few positive aspects of the present development. Lewisham Council has asked for an overall plan for the site and has given St. Modwen one month to define the site for inclusion in the Lewisham Development Plan.

Traffic Issues - 273 Bus Route, CPZ and white-lining in Manor Lane

Transport for London has now agreed to provide fixed bus stops at the Burnt Ash Road end of Southbrook Road only and have dropped plans for any other fixed stops in the road. The current 'hail and ride' system will not operate once these stops are installed.

Lewisham Council is proposing to extend some of the existing controlled parking zones in this part of the borough and to introduce new zones in Lee. Public consultations will be held in due course. This would involve the installation road humps or speed cushions in Hedgley Street (!), Brightfield Road and Lampmead Road which have recently been included within the Conservation Area. Speeding is not an obvious problem in these streets.

Charles has now written to the director of regeneration to reinforce our view that the white-lining in Manor Lane is unnecessary and damaging to the pavements and trees (see last month's notes) and to suggest a meeting to view the position on site. We have yet to receive a reply.

Southbrook Road Flats

Cllr Brian Robson has advised that council tenants can now bid for funds towards maintenance of their site/estates. A bid was recently submitted for funds to repair the front garden walls at the

Southbrook Road flats and Cllr Robson asked the society to support the residents' bid. We were only too happy to do this and the walls have now been repaired.

Expanded Dental Surgery, 54 Micheldever Road

Charles recently attended a meeting with Dr. Seema Sharma, the new owner, and local residents to talk about her plans for the business. Dr. Sharma confirmed that there were no plans to alter the exterior of either the building or create parking in the front garden area but she did say that they would like to make alterations to the rear to include a disabled toilet. Dr. Sanjay Sharma, a cardiologist, will hold clinics on two evenings each week from the premises. The present proposal is that there will be offices on the first floor of the building. We much appreciate Dr. Sharma's efforts to keep us informed of their proposals and would like to confirm that we have no objection to the proposed expansion of services to be provided: our concerns related to access and parking for patients/clients.

Northbrook School

Michael Burbage attended the meeting on behalf of the Northbrook Action Group (NAG) to bring us up to date with the group's action to co-ordinate residents' opposition and objections to the present plans. NAG was formed by local residents on 19th June to challenge the over-development of Northbrook School. It has about 60 active members with expressions of interest from another 50 people. The Group shares concerns raised by the society over many aspects of the proposed scheme. These include the size and scale of the building, its impact on the conservation area and local homes, the materials to be used, the use of Manor House Gardens for playground and sports facilities, traffic, parking, and a failure to meet government guidance for pupils' health and safety. You can add your support and find out more on NAG's website at <http://www.nag-lewisham.org.uk>. We are continuing with our own lobbying efforts. We believe a three-pronged approach (i.e. NAG and the Manor House Gardens Users' Group) will be most effective. Bridget Prentice's office had indicated she would attend our last meeting. In the event she was unable to come but she has taken up our case with the Lewisham planners and has stayed in touch by letter. The project developers have since proposed changes to the original design which we are considering.

Lee Green History Board

Jeremy has been in touch with the manufacturers about the production of the History Board which is to be financed largely through last year's Locality Fund allocation. At present we have a rough estimate of overall costs in the region of £2,500.

We are now looking for ideas for a new application for this year. Any suggestions?

Forthcoming events

Autumn party and Art Viewing at Stark Gallery

Friday, September 12 from 7.30pm. at Stark Gallery, 384-386 Lee High Road. A chance to meet your neighbours and hear about the Society's activities in a relaxed atmosphere.

Plant Mart, May 2009

An early reminder to be thinking about next year's event. It's never too soon to start preparing jams, pickles and chutneys etc. and to be thinking about the plants you may be able to donate for sale. We are keen to use local produce and invite anyone with surplus fruit from their garden to contact Andrea on 020 8852 2458 or Sylvia on 020 8318 5161.

Many thanks to Steve and Faye for hosting the meeting