

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



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Next Regular Meeting
7.30pm on 13th November 2013
at: 103 Taunton Road, London SE12 8PA
Open to all residents in the area. Formalities end 9.00pm - refreshments afterwards

Notes of our Meeting on 9th October 2013

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), David Plumer, Sylvia Ling, Elisabeth Caulfield, Barbara Polanski, Veronica Simmonds, Chris Peters, Ashok Goshe, Geoffrey Kirk, Frances Migniuolo, Anita Whitfield, Oliver Crispin, Faye Carney, Steve Griffiths and Sheila Peck (Secretary)

Apologies: Jenny Lowen, Ralph White, Sue Byford and Lorraine Burton.

Lewisham Council's cuts in the Planning Budget

The council is consulting on cuts to its planning budget in response to a reduction in central government funding. The cuts involve ending the fortnightly “panel” meetings at which conservation societies get to see and discuss applications in all Lewisham’s conservation areas. This would be replaced by online messages. The council also wants to remove societies’ right to call a public meeting on contentious proposals and to hand over management of these meetings to developers. It is also seeking to discontinue letters to residents warning them of neighbours’ planning applications and replace them with notices attached to nearby lampposts. We have objected strongly to these proposals – as have all the other conservation societies in the borough. We believe savings can be achieved elsewhere and that dismantling the apparatus of consultation with societies is an odd – verging on the vindictive – response to the council’s budget pressures. Looking at planning applications online is difficult and conservation areas without active societies will get no consideration at all. We reject these proposals as ill-considered, naïve and damaging to the character of our neighbourhoods. We managed to get a story and picture in the [News Shopper](#) explaining our thoughts. We urge readers of this newsletter to join our objections. Emails to the [Society’s address](#) will be forwarded to our ward councillors.

Open House Weekend Report

We had our second best ever attendance this year - 511 people over the two days. Our annual numbers (1,794) were the best ever since the Ice House has been open to the public. Over the entire 13 years we have opened the Ice House to the public we have had had 19,580 visitors.

Review of Annual Social Evening

Although overall attendance was less than last year (possibly due to other local events which were held on the same night), the event went well and we were pleased to welcome several local dignitaries including our MP Heidi Alexander, councilors Sven Griesenbeck and Jim Mallory, as well as local historians Neil Rhind and Diana Rimel. We will be reviewing the format of this event and how we publicise it for next year. We would like to give our particular thanks to Elisabeth, Patti and Jenny for taking care of the refreshments and to Charlie McKeith for allowing us to use the Boone's Chapel again.

Leegate

There is no further news at the moment although a meeting between the Assembly Leegate working group, on which we sit, ASDA and St. Modwen has been arranged for Wednesday 10th October and so we hope to be able to give more information next month. This will be the first time that we have met ASDA face to face.

Lee Manor Primary School

The date for an Appeal against the refusal of our application has passed. Our original application for listing was rejected because English Heritage did not consider the building to be of sufficient 'special interest'. However, we consider the building is of merit because it is a single-storey structure rather than the three to four storey buildings which were normal at that time, and for its fine detailing. Two other school buildings in the Borough have been listed by English Heritage although Lewisham Council did appeal against one of those listings. We have not given up but we do need new information in support of the school's historical or architectural merit in order to submit a new application.

Projects for future Local Assembly Funding

In an effort to be prepared for next year's Assembly Funding bid, we re-considered the suggestions we had received this year which included a clock for the café in Manor House Gardens, a new pump in the lake (**Note added:** this has now been arranged by Glendale), new information boards inside the Ice House, the extension of the avenue of trees in Burnt Ash Road as far as Upwood Road, replacement of the Handen Road Parish Boundary Stone, and the planting of bushes/plants to encourage butterflies. The park proposals were, we felt, a matter primarily for the Friends' group. We need to reach a decision in sufficient time to allow us to prepare a detailed project and financial statement for submission to the Assembly.

Planning Matters

92 Brightfield Road: Planning Permission for the loft extension has been granted.

Faye and Steve

A presentation was made to Faye and Steve to thank them for their long service to the Society over many years. We wish them all the best in their new home

We would like to thank Frances for hosting the meeting