

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



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Next Meeting
8pm on 14th November 2007 at
66 Effingham Road

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

Note of our Meeting on 10th October at 67 Effingham Road

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Ralph White, Steve Griffith, Fay Carney, Sylvia Ling, David Plumer, Jo Tildsley, Jean and Jason Dalrymple, Leslee Dryland, Sue Byford, Brian Robson (Lib Dem ward councilor) and Sheila Peck

Apologies: Richard Bainbridge, Andrea Breugelmanns, Jim Mallory, Paul Bentley, Sukie Picarda, May Clarke, Anita Whitfield and Jeremy Carden

News on Planning Applications

- **Hedgley Mews.** An application has been submitted for the demolition of the existing garages and workshops and the construction of 10 houses with bicycle and car parking spaces. These homes will be sunk 1-1.5 metres underground to maintain the roofline of the existing garages. We noted that when Northbrook School is rebuilt nearby it will be on stilts to avoid the possibility of the Quaggy flooding. We feel single-storey houses (bungalows) would be more appropriate. At present the plans look like over-development of this site.
- **17-19 Northbrook Road** (See March 2006 Newsletter) An application to build a rear extension (much reduced from the original unacceptable proposal) has now been made.
- **96 Manor Lane.** Construction of single storey building to the rear – under consideration by Amenity Societies Panel.
- **55, 75, 85 and 88 Effingham Road.** Replacement of wooden sash windows to front and rear with double-glazed versions of the same – we welcomed this.
- **94 Effingham Road.** Construction of single storey extension to rear with rear dormer window – under consideration.
- **Southbrook Road flats.** Jo Tildsley is orchestrating action by residents to improve the flats and their surroundings. They want the partly demolished front garden walls to be rebuilt.

Northbrook School

The Society will request a public meeting to enable local residents to put forward their views on the plans which were shown at the recent public exhibitions. Such a meeting would be arranged by the council's planning department.

We discussed at some length proposals by the school to use the all-weather games area and tennis courts in Manor House Gardens for lessons and during breaks. We agreed that while we understand the school's need for games space there should be a reasonable limit on school use to ensure that these public facilities remain available to local residents. It was also suggested that there should be some supervision of pupils during break periods. The Society is also concerned

about the general wear and tear the use will cause and feels that, if the facility is granted, the school should make a contribution to the cost of upkeep. We also felt that, in a part of London well provided with company and school playing fields, it should be possible to find facilities more appropriate for a school that is growing to 600 pupils, though this would probably have cost implications. Charles will write to the Acting Head Teacher. Ms Esther Holland, and to the Rev. Richard Bainbridge, a governor of the school, explaining our views. Richard had expressed concern at the tone of our last minutes.

We have been in touch with the School about recycling the plants in the garden area. Ms Holland, has kindly agreed that we may remove and replant them locally in places that would benefit from more greenery. If anyone would like to help we plan to meet at 1pm outside the school on Sunday 28th October. Anyone attending should please bring spades, forks, plastic bags, large plant pots and anything else which they feel may be of use.

Graffiti-busting

The Northbrook School plant removal will, this month, replace the usual graffiti-busting exercise. Brian Robson told the meeting that Lewisham Council has acquired a special coating which can be applied to metal shop shutters to ease the removal of graffiti and that they are considering offering it to shop owners in the Lee Green area. We welcome this.

Lee Green Design Brief/Locality Fund

We are maintaining our campaign to achieve improvements at Lee Green. We will be seeking the appointment of a shopping centre manager. At present Lee Green and Blackheath are the only shopping centres in Lewisham that do not have such a manager although Blackheath has the temporary use of one to ensure they can have their Christmas lights.

As part of our Lee Green campaign we have suggested to our Lib Dem councillors that part of the £10,000 Locality Fund might be spent on a history board or boards at the cross roads. We might be able to co-fund such a project. A similar board was recently installed in the historic graveyard at St Margaret's Church on Belmont Hill.

Other suggestions for the Locality Fund were a second table and benches in Manor House Gardens: a bench at the junction of Taunton Road and Wantage Road so shoppers could rest their legs; better street lighting in various parts of the area; and the restoration of the railway embankment on the slope up to Lee Station ticket office as a wild flower meadow by the removal of the sycamore trees. Contact our councillors if you have any other ideas.

Manor House Library

The plans have been approved by Lewisham Council and have now been referred, for final approval, to the Government Office for London which represents central government across the capital. We understand this process should take two-three months.

Manor Park

The Friends and Users of Staplehurst Road Shops have backed our campaign for improved access to the recently restored Manor Park. FUSS had previously discussed this issue and members were aware of the problems. They agreed to contact the Mayor again. Both we and FUSS are pressing for an entrance to be created from Longhurst Road – which would require a bridge to be built over the Quaggy – as soon as funds are available.

Conservation Area Appraisal

Lewisham Council has published details of the proposed extension of the Conservation Area and we will leaflet residents to encourage support. We are keen for Hedgley Street to be included.

Annual Social Evening – Reminder for your diary - Friday 7th December at Stark Gallery, 384-386 Lee High Road between 7.00pm and 9.30pm.

Many thanks to Jean and Jason for hosting the meeting