



Lee Manor Society

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Next Meeting

8pm on 9th December 2009

at: 12 Micheldever Road SE12 8LX

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

Notes of our Meeting on 11th November at 11 Wantage Road

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Ralph White (Deputy Chairman), David Plumer, Sue Byford, Faye Carney, Steve Griffith (Treasurer), Jeremy Carden, Dan Griffin, Sven Griesenbeck, Elizabeth Caulfield, Jim Mallory, Andrea Breugelmanns, Bernard Hills, Anita Whitfield, and Sheila Peck (Secretary)

Apologies: Mary Petty, Sylvia Ling, and Pauline Hatfield

Northbrook School

The development has now reached the third storey and is becoming increasingly dominant at the crossroads. We objected to proposed modifications to the original design involving changes to the colour of the exterior render although not to the associated installation of louvres. We particularly objected to the inclusion of a large cross marked out in red glass on the school frontage but were told this aspect had already been approved. We called for a public meeting to discuss all these issues. Note added: The meeting, chaired by Cllr. Brian Robson, was held on 24th November at Ennersdale School. The Society attended the meeting. Our report on this meeting appears elsewhere:

http://www.leemanorsociety.org/Northbrook/Northbrook_Public_Meeting_Report.pdf

Leegate and Christmas Lights

Jim Mallory reported that, unfortunately, the proposed meeting with St. Modwen on Friday 13th November to discuss the future of Leegate had been postponed to 8th December. However, St. Modwen has agreed to allow Friends of Leegate to use one of the empty shops, subject to an appropriate agreement which is being investigated. During the day the shop will be used for community purposes and for 2-3 nights a week for youth group activities. You may also have noted that the appearance of the empty shops has been improved as suggested; the whitewashed glass fronts have disappeared and the interiors have been smartened up and this makes a welcome difference. As far as the crossroads are concerned, we will be seeing Christmas lights and a tree for the first time in many years.

Windows and Doors Survey

Charles has now collected the surveys which various members of the Society have completed. A couple are still outstanding, but in the meantime Charles will begin to collate the information.

Local Pubs - Listings and otherwise

The architectural survey prior to submission of the listing application is being organised and it is anticipated that the application will be submitted before Christmas.

We also discussed the Northbrook Pub which lies within the Conservation area and is locally listed. As we are considering the possibility of holding meetings other than in member's houses it was agreed that we would make enquiries about the cost of room hire as we would like to try and give some encouragement for the Pub to become a place for local meetings. Initial enquiries suggest this may not be easy to arrange because the upper floors are not available for hire.

Planning

Gas Pipes in Burnt Ash Road (see September Notes):

Charles has pursued this matter with Lewisham Council Planning Department which has carried out an inspection. Southern Gas will be required to make a retrospective Planning Application to which we expect to object.

Manor House Library:

Following discussions with Heidi Alexander, deputy mayor, Sue Byford reported that the disabled platform lifts in the library have been closed until Health and Safety Inspectors have made an inspection and produced a report. The parking facilities are being investigated and a trial of open parking is being run. It has been noted that the main gates of the Library have been open more frequently of late.

Graffiti and Planting

We have been largely successful in removing graffiti from our area and we were therefore able to spend most of our time this month planting bulbs, with a little extra time given to clearing accumulated rubbish from under bushes. We have planted on the green areas at the junctions of both Taunton Road and Effingham Road with Burnt Ash Road .

Fruit boxes

Members have in the past suggested that fruit produced from trees in residents' back gardens should be turned into jam for sale at the Plant Mart. Historically Lee was an area of orchards. This idea has not caught on. An alternative suggestion put to the meeting was for residents to put surplus fruit in boxes in their front gardens either for sale or free. Such boxes are common in country villages and farms though whether they would work in town is another matter. Residents might like to try this idea next summer/autumn.

Many thanks to Andrea and Bernard for hosting the meeting