

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



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Next Regular Meeting
7.30pm on 15th November 2017
at: The Community Centre, 3 Leegate

Open to all residents in the area. Formalities end 9.00pm – D.I.Y refreshments afterwards

Notes of our Meeting on 11th October 2017

Present Ralph White (Chair), David Plumer, David Ford, Judy Cole, Patti Byford, Chris Peters, Frances Migniuolo, Sue Byford, Stuart Reed, Christine and Mary Best, Vanessa Tinker and Sheila Peck (Secretary).

Apologies: Charles Batchelor, Veronica Simmons, Lorraine Burton, Sylvia Ling and Rita Craft.

New Recycling arrangements

The new system is supposedly now in operation although there was no scheduled Thursday 5 October collection on Micheldever Road until the Friday and some of the food waste was then put into the brown bins before removal! We are assured by Environmental Services that this was just due to teething problems.

Planning

A general note: It is open to anyone to comment on a Planning Application provided they give a ‘planning’ reason. Personal details must also be provided.

Ralph pointed out that, although Lee Manor Society is often quoted as a Consultee in Planning Applications in the area he is not receiving any notifications from Lewisham Planning and has so far been unable to find out what is the glitch. The re-organisation of the Planning Department means that the previous bi-weekly meetings with Conservation Area Groups no longer take place and there are now only 6 monthly meetings to discuss planning policies in the Borough. Ralph and Charles will discuss this with Peter Eversden of the London Forum. We have also questioned Lewisham Planning about what seem to be retrospective changes from permissions for timber frame double glazing to uPVC in the front elevations of properties formerly managed by Lewisham Council currently undergoing refurbishment. If you have made similar observations, please let us know.

We also note that more inappropriately sited satellite dishes seem to be appearing in the area by the day. Either we live in a Conservation Area or we don’t. The LMS spread sheet will be updated and shared with the Enforcement Office.

Ice House

We had another busy Open House weekend in September and, for the year overall, we had 1,568 visitors giving an average of 120 for each opening. Over the 17 years we have opened the Ice House to the public we have had around 26,650 visitors. We agreed to ask Dan to start preparation of the Rota for next year and that we need to arrange the printing of more information leaflets. We are also considering whether to introduce an 'Amphibian List' in view of the number of frogs and toads we rescue on each opening!

Local Assembly

Leegate: In view of the withdrawal of ASDA amended plans for the proposed redevelopment will be submitted next month. A meeting is being arranged with St. Modwyn with a view to discussing their revised proposals before they are submitted to the Council. **Note added:** It seems that 'because of Brexit' we are unlikely to see any significant progress before March 2018

Police Panel: The Panel, which used to meet 3 times each year to discuss local crime issues, has been disbanded and briefing are now to be confined to appearances at the local Assembly.

Trees: David Ford applied for £240 funding for a further 2 (or may be more) new trees in the area. Suggested varieties have already been submitted and possible sites are being chosen.

Manor House Library

Ralph reported back on the recent Manor House Advisory Panel meeting. The introduction of the Community Library model was initially a matter of concern, but things seem to be operating well thanks to the work of the General Manager, Simon Higgs. Rooms in the building have been rented out to several local organisations and the peripatetic book service provided by Lewisham Council seems to be working satisfactorily. The only problem at the moment is that the 'in and out' check machines are somewhat temperamental, but it is hoped that this will soon be resolved with a software upgrade.

More Volunteers are needed to keep the library service running. Anyone who can spare 3hrs. a week is asked to enquire at the library desk or visit .

AOB

Motor Bikers and cyclists: Judy raised the ever-increasing problem with motor bikers racing along the roads and cyclists on the pavement as well as young men riding on the rear wheel only of their cycles. We all agreed it is a problem which should be reported to and discussed with the Safer Neighbourhood Police.

Premises above Bet Fred: Chris Peters raised his concerns about the derelict and damaged state of repair of the premises. This has been the subject of a 38 Degrees petition which we have signed. Peter also suggested the possibility of rebuilding premises on the site which would be further back from the main road to reduce pollution for occupants – although most of us did not support his proposal!

Pentland House: The problems and disturbance being caused by the student occupants of the building are on-going and some action needs to be taken. The Council and the Safer Neighborhood Team are now involved.

Heritage Phone Box outside the library: David reported that the K2 Box is being refurbished and repainted but, disappointingly, that the letter boxes in the area are simply being painted over without any prior restoration.

We thank Leegate Community Centre for hosting the meeting.