

LEEMANOR SOCIETY



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Next Regular Meeting

7.30pm on 12th March 2014

at: 94 Manor Lane, SE12 8LR

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

Notes of our Meeting on 12th February 2014

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Ralph White (Deputy Chairman), David Plumer, Elisabeth Caulfield, Veronica Simmonds, Rev. Richard Bainbridge, Anita Whitfield, Jenny Lowen, Sylvia Ling, Cllr. Jim Mallory and Sheila Peck (Secretary).

Apologies: Frances Migniuolo, David Ford, Rita Croft, Dan Griffin, Sue Byford, and Mahyar Tousi.

Leegate Update

Cllr. Jim Mallory reported that there is still a relative stalemate with St. Modwen who are insisting they cannot reduce the food store footprint or increase the extent of the open space in their redevelopment. However, St Modwen has advised that, in response to dialogue with the Working Group, they are now considering the potential demolition of all existing buildings on the site, including both Cantilever House and Leegate House and the provision of in excess of 150 new homes as against the 40 originally suggested. St. Modwen has appointed [Maccreanor Lavington](#) (highly regarded for their housing specialism and emphasis on creating sustainable communities) as a second firm of architects to work alongside Campbell Architects and are committed to progressing towards a planning application in the Autumn this year with a further public consultation in early summer.

Lewisham Council contact with Conservation Area Groups

Lewisham council has temporarily dropped its ill-advised plan to sever direct connection with local conservation societies and reduce their role in the planning process. It does however plan to review the position and consult again in late 2014/early 2015 in order to achieve budget savings. The council received 22 submissions from societies and residents, mostly opposed to the plans which would have made it more difficult for local people to influence planning decisions. Our Freedom of Information request revealed that the 25 annual “panel” meetings, where societies get to see planning applications in all of Lewisham’s conservation areas, cost the council £13,500 in 2013. This is a small expenditure when set against the value of the meetings to the council in obtaining informed commentary on developments in some of the boroughs most attractive and historically valuable neighbourhoods.

Street Tree Planting

Charles has confirmed that the missing tree at the entrance to Sainsbury's is the responsibility of TfL. Several of the trees require crown lifting because the branches are too low – a hazard for the partially sighted. Ralph pointed out that 3 of the lime trees near the south bound bus stop on Burnt Ash Road (also the responsibility of TfL) are badly infected and need to be treated or removed. If nothing is done, the infection will spread to the other trees. Ralph has taken photographs of the damage. Cllr. Mallory confirmed that he is already in contact with TfL over their failure to include Lewisham in the consultation regarding proposed changes in the traffic arrangements at the crossroads and he agreed to add the question of the tree maintenance/replacement to his in discussions. Cllr Mallory also asked that, if anyone becomes aware of tree damage due to the installation of the new Skanska lamps, they should let him know - he has already heard that 2 saplings have been damaged by the new lamps.

Trees in the City - 26th April 2014 at Lewisham and Southwark College, Lewisham Way, SE4 1UT

The Brockley Society (another Lewisham Conservation Group) has arranged a conference to promote awareness of the many threats to urban trees and to encourage interest in maintaining old ones and planting appropriate new ones whether in streets, parks or gardens. Attendance is free but is ticketed. For more information see

<http://brockleystreettrees.blogspot.co.uk/p/welcome.html>

Ice House Rota

We are now preparing the Duty Rota for this year and would welcome new volunteers. As usual we will open the Ice House from 3pm to 5pm on the first and third Sunday of each month and the first opening this year will be on 6th April.

Plant Mart

The 17th May has been confirmed for our Annual Plant Mart. Do please start thinking about donations (especially plants) which can be sold at our annual fund raising event.

Replacement of Parish Boundary Stone

Charles has photographed all the existing/remaining stones and has located Stone Masons he hopes will be able to create the replacement for Handen Road – subject to cost.

The Reverend Richard Bainbridge

The Rev. Richard Bainbridge advised us that he will be retiring on the 4th March and will be moving away from the area at the end of March. Richard will hold his last Service at The Church of the Good Shepherd on the 2nd March and everyone is welcome to attend. We wish him and his wife all the best in their retirement.

We thank Ralph and Julia for hosting the meeting