

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



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Next Meeting

**8pm on Wednesday 12th March 2008 at
66 Effingham Road, London SE12**

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

Note of our Meeting on 13th February at 105 Burnt Ash Road

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Ralph White, Steve Griffiths, Faye Carney, Sylvia Ling, David Plumer, Jeremy Carden, May Clarke, Judy Hadfield, Anita Whitfield, Suki Picarda, Chris and Rena Hutchins and Sheila Peck (Secretary)

Apologies: Andrea Breugalmans, Paul Bentley, and Sven Griesenbeck.

Safer Neighbourhood Scheme

Police Community Support Officers Stephen Eaton and Danni-Leigh Page came to the meeting to update us on the Safer Neighbourhoods Scheme which has been operating in the area for some time. There are 6 police and PCSOs in the local team whose aim is to resolve problems such as anti-social behaviour, graffiti, noisy neighbourhoods and vandalism. Currently for a period of 12 weeks they will be able to call on a further 12 Police Officer to give assistance if necessary to resolve problems. The level and location of burglaries within the area is currently being analysed and we were advised that the levels of graffiti and anti-social behaviour have been reduced.

273 Bus Route - permanent bus stop plans

The 273 bus runs between Petts Wood and Lewisham Station via Southbrook Road. To date there have been no set bus stops within the Conservation Area but TfL are now proposing to introduce 4 formal stopping points in Southbrook Road which they suggest would be:- outside No 3; to the rear of The Northbrook Pub; outside No 34 and outside No 35, where there is also the option for a shelter. Several residents attended the meeting or have emailed us to express their opposition to the proposal. They consider it will result in an unacceptable increase in noise levels to nearby properties from both buses and passengers and the risk of litter and vandalism for those properties which are adjacent to the stops. In addition, the existing parking problems would be worsened both by the space required for the bus stops. Enquiries of local Estate Agents have also suggested that the placing of a bus stop outside a property would result in a down valuation of that property. We note that No. 35 is currently being altered by the Council to provide disabled access for the occupants which would suggest it would not be an appropriate location for a set bus stop. Bus stops would, however, reduce the likelihood of buses blocking the road and make disabled access easier. We are preparing a submission to TfL. We do, however, advise residents to register their individual objections on the TfL website:

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/corporate/projectsandschemes/networkandservices/busrouteconsultations/7379.aspx>

Lee Green history Board

The Council will be transferring the Grant of £1,800 to the Society before the end of the financial year. Jeremy, David and Charles are researching information to be included on the board which will probably be a picture story running from the Domesday Book to the present day. We are discussing the precise location with the Council and propose a freestanding board with full colour enamelling on the Leegate corner.

News on Pending Planning Applications

- **35 Southbrook Road:** (See last month's notes) Charles has twice e-mailed the Council about the apparent unauthorised removal of the front wall but has so far not received a response.
- **21 Wantage Road:** This is a 1970's end of terrace town house where there is a proposal to build a side extension with a flat roof. The society considers the design to be unattractive and inappropriate.

Manor House Library

There was a Meeting of the Project Board on Monday 11th February which advised that the renovation is proceeding satisfactorily. The east wing has already been demolished and it is anticipated that the renovation works will be completed by the end of December this year. Members of the Society have visited both Forest Hill and Downham Libraries to view the alterations/improvements which have recently been undertaken with a view to putting forward suggestions for the fitting out of our refurbished building. We are concerned at the limited book stock in these libraries. We believe a good choice of books is a basic requirement for any library. We understand it has now been decided that the children's section will remain in its original location.

Northbrook School

We have received confirmation from the School that they have asked the developers (Costain) to rescue the School Crest and Foundation Stone during the demolition works and that they are making enquiries about their re-installation in the structure of the new building.

Manor Park and Hither Green Triangle Nature Reserves

Steve, Ralph and Charles attended the meeting arranged by our local councilors to launch community groups to look after the park and the nature reserve. There were strong calls for the council and the police to take a closer interest in the park. Launch funding has been made available from the Locality Fund and two groups are being established by our local Councillors.

Society Timetable for the Year

We have provisionally agreed the following dates for our annual events:-

AGM – 8th May in The Church of the Good Shepherd

Plant Mart - 10th May. We have agreed that the Safer Neighbourhood Group may have a fundraising stall for the sale of fruit and vegetables.

Annual Social Evening - 12th September as usual at Stark Gallery.

Many thanks to Charles for hosting the meeting