

LEEMANOR SOCIETY



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Next Regular Meeting

7.30pm on 18th February 2015 (one week later than usual)

at: Leegate Community Centre

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

Notes of our Meeting on 14th January 2015

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Ralph White (Deputy Chairman), Frances Mignuolo, David Plumer, Veronica Simmons, Sue Byford, Diana Stevenson, Patti Byford, Anita Whitfield, Suki Picarda, David Ford, Sylvia Ling, Tony Branton, Elisabeth Caulfield, Bruce Allison, Sarah McMichael and Sheila Peck (Secretary)

Apologies: Jenny Lowen, Rita Craft, Lorraine Burton, Jim Mallory, and the Revd Bridget Shepherd (the new Vicar).

The future of the Society in 2015 and beyond

Charles reminded us that he has now been Chairman of the Society for 25 years and said he feels it is time he should stand down to give the Society the opportunity for new thinking in the way it does its job of protecting the character of the local neighbourhood. Charles took over the chairmanship from John Voller, himself chairman for nine years to 1990. We discussed the possibility of creating Sub-Committees to deal with specific aspects of the Society's interests/concerns which would give members the opportunity to concentrate on their preferred subject. If this process is followed we could have full Committee meetings on a bi-monthly basis with Sub-Committees meeting in between. We hope to reach a decision before May as Charles intends to stand down at the AGM although he will continue to be a member of the Society and involved in its activities.

Leegate – an update on our Campaign

We are still awaiting the submission of a planning application from St. Modwen. The Assembly Working Group arranged to meet Heidi Alexander MP on 23rd January to discuss its concerns and update her on our actions and objections to the revised scheme. Heidi attended the early meetings between the Society, council officers and St Modwen representatives stretching back several years and has been supportive of our stance. At Charles' request Lewisham Council has agreed that, after the submission of a Planning Application they will arrange a Public Meeting rather than the Drop-in event they had originally suggested. At a Public Meeting people will be able to form a collective view of the proposals with remarks minuted. A Drop-in event, in contrast, usually allows only for individual discussions with representatives of the applicant with no generally agreed record of people's views. This been the format of St Modwen's consultation days and is, in our view, not a truly satisfactory form of consultation.

Parish Boundary Stone in Handen Road

The replacement Boundary Stone has now been installed outside No. 9 Handen Road. Despite several reminders, we were unable to get a response from the Council's contractors and so arranged for the Stonemason to complete the installation himself. It was in any event our preferred option for the Mason to complete the installation since this is his speciality. The Revd Bridget Shepherd, the new Vicar of the Church of the Good Shepherd, agreed to undertake the formal unveiling on 17th January.

Planning Matters

66 Taunton Road – There are problems with the approval of the cladding for the new house being built on the site behind the existing properties. Originally wood was proposed, then it was changed to render which the Council did not approve. The latest suggestion is Cotswold Stone which has also been rejected.

Tree Planting Programme

We are still waiting to receive details of planting dates but can confirm the following planting has been agreed with the Council:-

Brightfield Road – 2 Rowans; Lampmead Road – 2 Upright Hornbeams; Southbrook Road – 1 Snowy Mespilus (a blossom tree as cherries are out of favour); Manor Lane – 1 Norway Maple; 15-17 Woodyates Road – 1 Hibiscus; 86 Woodyates Road – 1 Whitebeam; Burnt Ash Road (running North to South), in front of 111 – Upright Hornbeam; in front of Fish and Chip Shop – 1 Paperbark Maple; in front of flats at Sycamore Court – 1 Sweetgum; in front of Morleys – 1 Sweetgum; near Jimmy Mizen bench – 1 Norway Maple.

The trees and work are financed by the Lee Green Assembly, Society funds and individual residents. Lewisham Council will plant 2 trees in Effingham Road from their budget.

AGM and Plant Mart

Charles confirmed that Manor House Library has been booked for the AGM on Wednesday 20th May and also that, on the assumption she will be re-elected, Heidi Alexander has agreed to talk to us at the AGM about her experiences as an MP. We propose holding the Plant Mart a few days earlier, on Saturday May 16 if the gardens are available – Ralph will enquire.

Any Other Business

Controlled parking zone – A resident of Burnt Ash Road has contacted us over concerns that the road is not covered by the proposed CPZ. This is likely to lead to increased parking on the road, even before the additional traffic generated by the second supermarket at Leegate. The reason this road has been excluded is that for a CPZ to be considered, there must be a positive response from at least 10% of residents but insufficient responded in this instance. The Society has urged the Highways Department to consider parking controls on the road either in the form of more yellow lines or, the resident's preference, inclusion in the CPZ.

We thank the Ju and Ralph for hosting the meeting