



Lee Manor Society

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Next Meeting

8pm on 11th November 2009

at: 11 Wantage Road, Lee, SE12 8NA

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

Notes of our Meeting on 14th October in The Manor House

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Ralph White (Deputy Chairman), David Plumer, Sue Byford, Faye Carney, Jeremy Carden, Marek Polanski, Mil Moody, Hilary Hallam, Jim Mallory, Andrea Breugelmanns, Lewis Stuart (Safer Neighbourhood Team) and Sheila Peck (Secretary)

Apologies: Steve Griffiths, Suki Picarda, Sylvia Ling, Bridget Prentice, and Anita Whitfield

Lee Green Interpretation Panel

We all agreed that the Panel is giving pleasure to many local people who are regularly seen studying the details. However, Charles has written to the makers, A. J. Wells & Sons Ltd, expressing our concern over the weak reproduction of some of the photo images and the fact that, because they were incorrectly positioned, the base plates had to be buried rather than used to give extra support to the poles. To date, no acknowledgement or response has been received.

Leegate and Christmas Lights

Jim Mallory reported that the Council will soon be appointing a new Town Centre Manager to oversee 3 smaller areas in the Borough: Lee Green, Crofton Park and Ladywell. We therefore hope we will soon be able to make progress in establishing future proposals for Leegate. However, the current implication is that the Council will only meet the Friends of Leegate after a development plan has been established which would, of course, be too late for the Friends to have any involvement and Jim is therefore trying to get the Friends involved at an earlier date. In the meantime St. Modwen have agreed to facilitate markets on the open space and 'constructive' graffiti on panels. We would also like to see one of the empty shops used as a community facility (this being actively pursued) and the car park properly managed so that local residents, workers and visitors could feel it is a safe place to use. We are pleased to note that some empty shop fronts have been tidied up considerably.

This year will be the third in a row that we will not have Christmas Lights at Lee Green and this just adds to the general drab, run down appearance. We had thought the reason for this was that the required consent from TfL, to drill holes in the lamp standards, had not been obtained. However, after making persistent enquiries, Ralph has established that the consent was given some time ago. Ralph is pursuing his enquiries and Jim agreed to support him in his efforts to get the lights reinstated.

Lee Green Assembly and Locality Fund

Several members attended the recent Assembly meeting and confirmed it was well attended, probably over 100 people, including a group of teenagers. Once again the Assembly proved to be a very useful forum for discussing local matters including Leegate, CPZ/parking, Youth

Provision and Improving Environment. Proposals for the use of the Council's funds to improve the building in Manor Park were approved and the allocation of this year's Locality Fund was agreed. Successful projects were Lee CitySafe: £1,300, Primary Schools transition project - Manor Park; £2,385, Lee Green Youth Forum: £1,400, Lee Fairshare Timebank: £400, FUSS planting: £1,000, St. Winifred's Peace Corner: £1,000 and Jeremy's Manor House Gardens leaflet: £1,235. The remaining £1,220 is to be divided between Manor House Library Users and the Northbrook bench.

The Society's suggestions for a bench and tree-planting were unsuccessful.

Street Trees

Charles has submitted his annual request to the Council for new/replacement trees in the Conservation Area - two each in Southbrook, Effingham and Brightfield Roads and one each in Handen Road, Manor Lane and Lampmead Road. We intend to keep an eye on any new trees we receive as we have learnt that the Contractor should maintain new trees during the first two years following planting, something we have not previously noticed being undertaken.

Andrea drew our attention to the disease which has been attacking Horse Chestnut Trees for some years and asked us to do what we can to help them by reporting damage to Park Keepers and the Council. The disease is weakening the trees but they can be helped by aerating the surrounding earth and the power injection of nutrients into the root system.

Windows and Doors Survey

Not all of us have yet completed the survey as allocated and it was therefore agreed that we should discuss them in more detail at a later date. It was felt that the suggested survey may be rather too detailed but we agreed we should have some dated record available for future reference to support any request for compliance with the planning requirements. We have not yet decided whether the survey should be supported by photographs

Pub Listings

Charles has been pursuing our plans to request the 'listing' of both the Old and the New Tigers Head pubs. All the necessary documentation has been obtained and Charles is proposing to ask Charlie McKeith, the architect who occupies Boones Chapel, to give us a short brief on the history and importance of the two buildings. We hope to submit the application to English Heritage within the next month.

Planning - Northbrook School and Southbrook Road Bus Stops

The Society and local residents have received notification from the Council of an application to amend the approved windows and colour render of the new Northbrook School. We all agreed we would have no objection to the proposed louvered windows but strongly oppose the change of the design of the main window to include a large red cross and to the colour of the render. The plans already include two religious symbols on the building. We intend to write a firm letter of objection to the Council.

The residents of Southbrook Road understood that the proposed bus stops for the 273 service would be on either side of the road near the Northbrook Pub but the occupiers of 65-67 were recently surprised to see men starting to work on the installation of a stop outside that property. The work was halted and objections have been raised particularly in view of the requirements of a disabled occupant of one of the properties, who is unable use the bus service anyway. We understand that the original decision for 2 stops only was overruled by the Council without reference to residents. Unfortunately the Society does not feel able to assist in this instance as the decision has been made based on TfL's interpretation of the legal requirements outlined by the Disability Discrimination Act.