

# LEEMANOR SOCIETY



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## Next Regular Meeting

7.30pm on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2015

at: 12 Micheldever Road, London SE12 8LX

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

## Notes of our Meeting on 14th October 2015

**Present:** Ralph White (Chairman), David Plumer, David Ford, Charles Batchelor, Veronica Simmons, Frances Migniuolo Sue Byford, Chris Peters, Patti Byford, Diane Stevenson, Elisabeth Caulfield, Pippa Bampton and Sheila Peck (Secretary)

**Apologies:** Jim Mallory, Sylvia Ling, Anita Whitfield, Rita Craft, Lorraine Burton, Pauline Hatfield and SNT PC James Leyton.

### Leegate

On behalf of the Society Charles has submitted comments to the Council on the proposed amendments to St. Modwen's Planning Application for the re-development of the Leegate Centre. The main points are:-

1. We are still concerned about the lack of quality public space away from the highway, particularly in view of the Council's recent statement that they will continue to focus efforts on improving the accessibility and quality of public spaces including high streets.
2. We have asked for a clear explanation of the discussions between TfL and St. Modwen, and the conclusions reached, regarding the impact the development will have on traffic levels around the crossroads.
3. The Environment Statement provided by Deloitte Real Estate concludes that the development will facilitate the physical preservation of retail and heritage assets but we find it difficult to believe that a large superstore selling a wide range of produce could do that.
4. The lack of affordable housing is also of great concern. It was only after suggestions by the Society and others that housing was included in the revised proposals so, now that it is, it is difficult to understand how the inclusion of a reasonable amount of affordable housing would make the scheme unviable.

We understand that Heidi Alexander has been asked to support the views of the Local Assembly Working Party and the Society.

To date we have not been advised of the date for further consideration by Lewisham Council and therefore assume it will not be until at least November.

### Street Trees

Charles and David had a meeting with Glendale and Rick Farr (Lewisham Council) who apologized for the problems over the planting which were apparently caused by an inefficient

sub-contractor. The planting period for trees is November to March and so we are hoping that 2 more trees will soon be planted in Burnt Ash Road. We are still waiting to hear about the resident-funded planting in Effingham Road and the three trees promised by the Council. Sadly we missed the deadline for submitting an application for funding to the Local Assembly but will make sure that we are in time next year.

### **Lee Forum**

Both Lewisham and Greenwich Councils have completed their validation of the Lee Neighbourhood Forum Application and consultations will run from 8th October to 5pm on 20th November. Every household and business within the boundaries of the proposed area should receive a flyer from their relevant Council inviting views on the proposal. A plan of the area can be viewed on the Councils' websites. All views will be taken into account when deciding whether or not to create the Forum.

If the Forum is agreed it will create a Neighbourhood Plan to increase local people's say in what is built, protected and spent locally (community infrastructure levy), and will improve cross-Ward and Borough communication. Other options can be adopted and will depend on what is learnt during the consultation. The Neighbourhood Plan will not conflict with the Lewisham Borough Local Plan (also out for consultation) which deals with a borough-wide range of issues, and the functioning of Amenity Societies and Conservation legislation.

### **Manor House Library**

We discussed the Council's proposal to cut £1 million pounds from the annual libraries budget. The Council's preferred option to achieve this reduction is to remove staff from four libraries: Catford, Forest Hill, Torridon Road and our Manor House Library. A Consultation is available for completion and submission to the Council which we have already circulated by e-mail and which is also available in paper form from the Library. If you haven't yet completed and submitted it please do so as soon as possible! There have already been 4 public consultations and there is one more due which will take place at 7.30pm on 4th November in St. Dunstan's Jubilee Hall, Canadian Avenue, Catford, SE6 4SW.

### **Ice House**

We had our best ever Open House weekend with 686 visitors over the two days even though we were open for a shorter period of time. We sold 55 leaflets (total £27.50 and received £16.50 in donations. Over the year's opening period we had 1,782 visitors which is the second best ever. To date, since opening in 2000, we have had over 23,000 visitors to the Ice House.

### **Planning**

We have received an invitation from the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol to comment on the Appeal filed against the Council's refusal to grant permission for the construction of 2 houses on land adjacent to The Lord Northbrook Public House. Charles will lodge an objection.

An Appeal has also been lodged by Emmanuel Pentecostal Church against the refusal of their Planning Application and Charles will also lodge an objection in that case.

We have received another complaint about Europe Cars parking their vehicles in Effingham Road but, sadly, we can do nothing about it. However, the CPZ should end the problem

### **Finally:**

We are pleased to tell you that the Society was recently awarded a Certificate by Lewisham Council's Lee Green Assembly in recognition of our work of value to the local community. Thank you!

*We thank Lee Green Community Centre for facilitating the meeting.*