

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



www.hometown.aol.co.uk/leemanor

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OUR NEXT MEETING

8 pm Wednesday 12 October 2005

11 Wantage Road

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

Note of our 14 September 2005 meeting at 105 Burnt Ash Road

Present: Charles Batchelor, Steve Griffiths, Faye Carney, Sylvia Ling, David Plumer, Jeremy Carden, Andrea Breugelmanns, May Clarke, Sheila Peck **Apologies:** Ralph White.

New members needed

Charles outlined ideas for attracting more members, which would help us do a better job, pursuing more issues and tasks in the interest of local people and the area. For example the new Council planning policy documents needed careful study. We should try to raise our profile locally, for example with 2 extra newsletters a year to all local residents; a welcome leaflet for new residents; more posters and displays about the Society and what we do.

We agreed subscriptions or formal membership wouldn't help. Meeting in private homes was a good feature of our approach, and less off-putting than draughty church halls. So was a regular date. **Action:** officers to design leaflets and posters and circulate them. We will end future meetings by 9.30. We will normally meet on the 2nd Wednesday each month.

News on planning applications

- We will ask the Council what action is being taken about the inappropriate UPVC windows fitted at 43 Micheldever Road (note: the Council has since said these will be removed)
- A loft extension has been applied for at 95 Effingham Road.
- A two-storey extension to enable conversion of the house to flats has been applied for at 142 Manor Lane.
- Planning applications are shown on the Council website (though not the drawings)

(note : see <http://www4.lewisham.gov.uk/acolnet/lewis-xslpagesDC/acolnetcgi.exe> Choose "Lee Green" from the drop down menu of wards, and the latest applications are at the very bottom of the list. Comments on applications can be e-mailed to the council (or posted).

Manor House Library

A planning application and a listed buildings consent application for the Library project have been submitted by the Council (it is a grade II listed building, and English Heritage agreement is also required). Brief details are available on the Council website (see above). The plans seek to replace the existing non-original extensions on either side of the Manor House with new ones. This is to provide access for people with disabilities (including a lift), a creche/garden room, additional library floor space, and a training room, together with associated facilities and landscaping. We will take a close interest in the planning and architectural details. We will also look carefully at the organisation and use of the new facilities, when details become available, to ensure local needs are considered. **Action:** Charles and officers to study the applications and plans.

Planning Strategy

We have responded to the consultation paper about how the Council aimed to consult local communities and groups. (note: consultation papers are at <http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/CommunityAndLiving/>)

The Council are going to consult soon about their plans for Lewisham town centre (having recognised that the traffic scheme by the station was a failure on several levels). Additional shopping could have implications for redeveloping the privately owned Leegate Centre (no recent news on that). **Action:** Society may comment

Amenity issues

- A garden of the flats on the corner of Effingham Road and Manor Lane has lost its gate and is open to the street and being dumped in, and it also has an asbestos cement garage in poor state. **Action:** Steve to contact owner/occupiers.
- New pavement crossovers look as if they are now being done with grey monoblocks instead of Tarmac, to match the normal paving colour.
- Our local pavement survey is now complete and being sent to the Council. They hadn't been following their 2002 streetscape guide (now being revised). **Action:** Charles to submit survey findings to Council.
- Wantage Road appears to be used by a local car rental or retail firm to store cars, possibly illegally; and also as a parking area for construction lorries working on local projects. **Action:** Society members to monitor problems.

Graffiti

The Council website - www.lewisham.gov.uk - promises clean-up action if photographs of graffiti are sent to them by text message. However, no action has been taken on the graffiti examples Charles sent in a while ago. **Action:** Charles is taking this up with the Council.

We plan another foray to remove local graffiti ourselves, on 23rd October. **Action:** our graffiti-busters go out on the 4th Sunday each month (2.30 til 4-ish). Anyone is welcome to help (please ring Charles on 0208 852 1644).

The Ice House

We have put up the new display panels.

FUSS - Friends and Users of Staplehurst Shops

We have sent congratulations to Vanessa Harris and FUSS on their work on transforming the shopping parade outside Hither Green station. FUSS also won their category in the recent London in Bloom contest.

Church Art and Flower Festival

The Good Shepherd church held its Art and Flower Festival on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September, and we took part with a floral display by Faye, Sylvia and Andrea. We donated £50 towards their heating improvements.

Trees

Please send us your suggestions for new street trees. We will soon be putting ideas to the Council for more planting.

Secretary Needed

We are still looking for a replacement secretary. The main job is taking these notes each month, and getting copies to the street reps for delivery after editing and printing. If you are interested in helping with this or any of activities, please let Charles know or come along to a meeting.

Many thanks to Charles for his hospitality