

LEE MANOR SOCIETY



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Next Regular Meeting
7.30pm on 11th July 2012
at: 105 Burnt Ash Road , SE12

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

Notes of our Meeting on 20th June 2012 at 12 Micheldever Road

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Ralph White (Deputy Chairman), David Plumer, Sylvia Ling, Elizabeth Caulfield, Patti Byford, Anita Whitfield, Veronica Simmons, Ashok Goshe, Tony Branton, Bruce Allison, Faye Carney and Sheila Peck (Secretary)

Apologies: Steve Griffiths, Heidi Alexander, Suki Picarda, Frances Migniuolo and Lorraine Burton (Treasurer).

Leegate

Charles, with the help of Cllr Jim Mallory and Caroline Mayow for Lee Green Lives, has prepared a Position Paper summarizing local views on St. Modwen's development plans. In summary, this paper (now available on our website), focuses on the oversized supermarket, the loss of public spaces, the lack of housing, the prospect of traffic chaos on surrounding roads and the proposed retention (with new cladding) of the ugly corner office block and shops. Many of these concerns have featured in our regular submissions to the planners, councillors, our MP and St Modwen over the past five years though they have been ignored by St Modwen. St Modwen and council planning officers made presentations at the recent Local Assembly and we outlined our objections as contained in the Position Paper. The Position Paper was sent to both St. Modwen and the Council for consideration and a meeting is set for 26th June when the Group, St. Modwen and the Council will be able to discuss the proposals in more detail. We urge residents to look at the Paper on our website and to let us know their views.

Street Trees

Jean, Jason and Charles had a meeting with council tree officers and we are pleased to report that it has been agreed that, in future, unless they are in immediate danger of falling, no street trees will be removed without prior notice being given to the Society. The Head of the Trees Section of the Council told Charles that they have an arrangement with the Brockley Society whereby they meet on a quarterly basis to discuss how trees in their area should be dealt with and we have agreed that would be a good thing for us to do. We also suggested that while we were unwilling to contribute to general funds for street tree planting we be willing to support specific tree 'projects' where the Society could contribute to the cost. Two initial ideas are to

fill out existing planting in Manor Lane to create a continuous avenue of trees and to fill gaps and extend the existing avenue in Burnt Ash Road. The Council has created a digital street tree map recording the size and condition of all street trees. It is currently working on a programme for the replacement of trees which have been lost or removed and so we hope to see some new trees in our area in the near future. It has promised to plant two trees to fill the gap on the south side of Effingham Road. This will not happen until the winter planting season. A couple of members have, however, noticed that some places where trees have been removed have been completely covered with tarmac suggesting that no replacement was intended.

Plant Mart and AGM Report

We considered a written review of this year's Plant Mart which includes some ideas for future changes/improvements. Nevertheless, we are very pleased to report that, again, the event went very well and we were even lucky with the weather this year! We had our best ever donations, totalling £1,023.97 - not bad in 2 hours. Thank you to everyone for your generous support and especially to all those who contributed and helped out on the day and beforehand in preparation.

The AGM also went well and was very well attended. The only disappointment was that the kitchen facilities were not open and there was, therefore, a delay in setting up the refreshments! Charles has promised to investigate. We would like to thank Diana Rimel for her very interesting talk on the history of Lewisham and Lee.

Disabled Access to local Cafes and Public Houses

We have been approached recently by a local resident with a request for help/support in their efforts to obtain disabled access to local cafes and public houses. Our general thoughts are that, as such premises are generally privately owned, it would be difficult to enforce such changes but Charles agreed that he would raise the matter with Lewisham Planning at the next meeting he has with them.

Welcome Letter

Ralph confirmed, again, that the format of the letter is agreed and that the only thing delaying production is a clear plan of the Conservation Area as the one he has is rather grainy. Bruce Allison has agreed to help as he has access to the right technology for the job.

Manor Park Bridge Opening

We are to provide a table at the opening ceremony of the new bridge across the Quaggy in Manor Park on Saturday, June 23 to publicise the Society and its activities. We have been supportive of the bridge project since it was first mooted several years ago. It will open up a quiet corner of the park, improving the perception of safety and should increase use of the park which now has a café. We urge members to pay a visit.

We would like to thank Ralph and Ju for facilitating the meeting