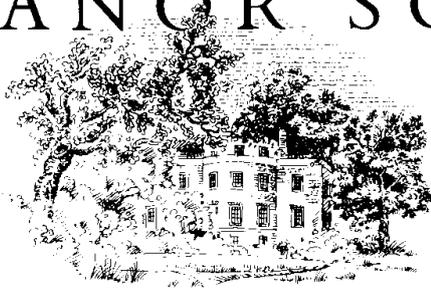


LEEMANOR SOCIETY



For further details on some of the topics below, visit <http://www.leemanorsociety.org>
Please consider changing to our email distribution – write to news@leemanorsociety.org

Next Meeting (*note earlier date*)

8pm on 6th May 2009 at

11 Wantage Road, SE12

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

Note of our meeting on 8 April at 105 Burnt Ash Road

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Steve Griffiths, Andrea Breugelmanns, Sue Byford, Sylvia Ling, May Clarke, Jeremy Carden, Faye Carney and David Plumer.

Apologies: Ralph White, Sheila Peck, Suki Picarda and Anita Whitfield.

Planning matters

20 Hedgley Street. A recent application to fit a UPVC front door to create a porch had been opposed by the Society. Such changes tend to reduce the character that led to the street's recent inclusion in the CA.

9 Manor Lane: There is a new application for an extension to this house.

54 Micheldever Road: Conversion of a loft with roof extension.

99 Taunton Rd: Rear extension. The Amenity Societies Panel had no objection.

Amenities Panel and larger applications

The forum of the various Lewisham conservation societies like ours (known as FOCAS) recently met Lewisham Borough Council at senior officer level. We wanted to discuss the way that the more important planning applications in conservation areas were being seen only by the council's Design Panel, and not by the Amenity Societies Panel (on which we are represented). This is despite the fact that the latter was set up to provide a local conservation area input. An example was last year's proposals for Northbrook School. The design panel comprised architects and did not necessarily include anyone with local knowledge or local connections. Organisations which do have such knowledge, with very relevant experience drawn from across the borough, are effectively excluded from the decision-making process, even though their conservation areas are directly affected by the proposed developments.

While conservation societies are of course free to comment on planning applications in the normal way, as members of the public, we feel this is no substitute for being involved, as we are with more minor applications. This clearly makes little sense. Charles reported that the council agreed at the meeting to consider our suggestion that the Amenity Societies Panel should see such applications in the normal way, in parallel with Design Panel, instead of being excluded. We do not believe this will add significantly to workloads or decision times, especially as major applications in conservation areas are not that frequent.

Lewisham Local Development Framework

We have submitted a response to the council's consultation exercise concerning the core strategy document (see March minutes). Our key points are that the strategy seems unbalanced in its emphasis on housing development. Regeneration is seen mainly in terms of more housing. There is too little about employment or other uses of land. The borough is already low on employment compared to other inner London boroughs, with a high proportion of commuters, and this draft strategy seems likely to exacerbate this trend. In addition, it has little regard to conservation or conservation areas.

Lee Green Heritage Panel

We have now had two quotes from specialist firms for making the display panel, which is to be installed at the Lee Green crossroads. We agreed to go ahead and place the order, with most of the cost being covered by a grant from the locality fund. Our warm thanks go to Jeremy Carden, one of our members, for the huge amount of work he has put into developing the design and content, and the technical specification. We hope to make an event of the eventual unveiling of the finished panel.

Ice House

The Ice House in Manor Park Gardens, which the Society helped restore and now manages, has resumed its regular Sundays opening (it is open on the first and third Sunday of every month, between 3 pm and 5pm). 12,500 visitors have seen inside since it opened to the public in 2000.

Controlled parking zone

We understand that the council has now decided to extend the CPZ to include Taunton Road, despite the calls for a thorough review of the council's approach, which is "one size fits all" and contrasts with many other boroughs' more finessed and flexible approaches to the detailed operation of their CPZs.

The Manor House and Library

Sue Byford reported that the refurbishment is well on the way to completion, and that a formal and actual opening is now planned for 5 May. Final landscaping work is now under way.

AGM – 14 May

Our annual general meeting will take place in the Manor House on 14 May at 7.30pm. As usual this will include a brief review of the year, a short report on the accounts, and an election of officers (all four of whom are standing for re-election, but please note that anyone can stand for any post – simply contact Charles in advance). Formal business will be followed by an illustrated talk about the refurbishment of the building, and possibly a tour. Please come along and enjoy the evening and this splendidly restored community building with us, including the usual nibbles and drinks.

Annual Plant Mart - 16 May

Our annual fundraiser will be held as usual in the front gardens of nos 2-6 Micheldever Road, starting at 2pm. There are plants for sale, cream teas, jams, bric-a-brac and other family attractions.

STOP PRESS: Please have a look in your gardens for any unwanted plants or shrubs that you can pot up for us. Please bring to 66 Effingham Road in advance, or just turn up at the event on the day, or we can collect. We would also welcome anything else saleable such as unwanted small household items (nothing that won't fit in a car-boot please!). There will be a cakes, jams and preserves stall, for which donations of home produce will be especially welcome. Further details and poster:

<http://www.leemanorsociety.org/PlantMart/PlantMart09/PlantMart09.pdf>

Many thanks to Charles for hosting the meeting.