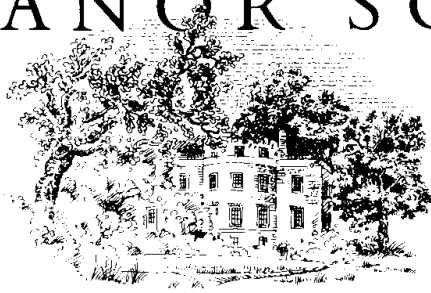


LEE MANOR SOCIETY



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

7.30pm on Wednesday, 13 April 2011

at: The Old Tiger's Head, Lee Green crossroads

Open to all residents in the area. Formalities end 9.00pm – Nibbles afterwards

Notes of our Meeting on 9 March at the Community Centre, Leegate

Present: Charles Batchelor (Chairman), Ralph White (Deputy Chairman), Steven Griffiths (Treasurer) (notes), Patty Byford, Paul Connolly, Sylvia Ling, Frances Migniuolo, Suki Picarda, David Plumer, Anita Whitfield.

Apologies: Heidi Alexander MP, Pauline Beck, Andrea Breugelmans, Sue Byford, Jeremy Carden, Faye Carney, Sheila Peck (Secretary), Jackie Percy, Bridget Prentice.

Solar panels etc

We have discovered that the national regulations which set out “permitted development” (i.e. development that does not need a specific planning application) have been amended to permit solar panels to be installed on the roofs of houses, subject to a vague condition about minimizing visual impact. Conservation areas have not been excluded from this relaxation. The laudable aim is to facilitate renewable energy improvements.

We have raised this matter with the Council’s planning and conservation departments. They have agreed it is a matter of some concern as regards the fundamental aim of conservation areas and are considering their response. It is not clear whether the Council could or would issue a new Article 4 direction for its conservation areas, which would limit the scope of the permission, and hence require planning applications to be submitted for new installations. They have done this for other forms of “permitted development”. We will continue to press for action.

Trinity School Plaques

Charles had now written as proposed, to the school bursar, to express our disappointment and concern at the placing of the two historic Northbrook School plaques that had been installed outside the new building in rather vulnerable locations. We await a reply.

Planning matters

The society has objected to Brindishe School’s application to build a single storey extension fronting on the Effingham Road. Whilst very sympathetic to the school’s need to restore floor space taken up by the ‘bulge’ class, this particular design would project well beyond the building line for the road and the adjoining Victorian houses.

This seemed to add to the undesirable precedent set by the school boiler room. There appeared to be land to the rear of the existing school buildings for additional floor space if required.

The Council's Amenity Societies panel considered a planning application for a food shop in the former bookmaker's shop unit, on the west side of Burnt Ash Road, by Lee Station. The panel supported us in opposing the fitting of UPVC windows to the front of the building.

Society's Welcome Letter

We discussed some ideas for using the new letter, and agreed to give an initial small supply to each local estate agent to give to new residents (they could print off additional copies from our website). Our newsletter distributors could also be given a supply to use when they become aware of new residents moving in.

Lee Green Assembly Meeting

We noted that recent meetings had seemed disorganised and procedural issues sometimes unclear. The latest meeting had voted in favour of aid to a local youth project, plus a new bench in Manor Park near the now-refurbished building. It was announced that the project to build a bridge and access at the north end of the park required an additional £10000, and the assembly agreed to contribute if no alternative sources could be found. Officers were urged to follow up alternatives, for instance the Environmental Agency, whose raised specification for the bridge had caused the budget hike in the first place.

AOB

On the **Lee Manor Community Garden**, we noted that a lease had now been given to the group by the council, and insurance obtained. The Society donated £200 to costs. Raised planters would be built shortly, and interested residents would then have the opportunity to plant vegetables, the proceeds from which, amongst other activities, would be used to pay future bills. The Garden is to the rear of 94 Burnt Ash Road, and regular work parties have started. Anyone interested to help should contact Karen Pollock or Ralph White (news@leemanorsociety.org) and they will add you to the contact list.

On the **Locality Fund**, we have not yet heard if our suggestions for a new bench on the green opposite the Edmund Halley pub, or an avenue of trees in Eltham Road and Burnt Ash Road, have been successful or not.

If anyone would like to be sure of getting one of **Sylvia's home-made cakes** at the forthcoming plant mart, they should place an order now (64 Effingham Rd).

Diary dates:

Plant Mart – Saturday 14 May at 2 - 6 Micheldever Road from 2 pm.

We are actively seeking gifts of garden plants and shrubs, jams, cakes, bric-a-brac and books as well as prizes for the Grand Raffle and the Bottle Tombola. Please contact Sylvia, Faye, Pam or Ralph on plantmart@leemanorsociety.org

AGM – Wednesday 18 May at 7.30 pm in the Baring room of The Manor House. Chris McGraw will give us a talk about local environmental issues.

Social Evening - Friday 9 September 7.30 pm Stark Gallery, Lee High Road

Ice House opens from 3 April from 3 – 5 pm on first and third Sundays of the month and from noon – 5 pm on **Open House** weekend 17 & 18 September.