

Minutes of Lee Manor Society meeting, 13th February 2025

PRESENT: Charles Batchelor, Barbara Bird (notes), Grace Blyth, Simon Bucks, Rita Craft, David Dannreuther, David Ford, Mike Haste (chair), Frances Migniuolo, David Plumer, Karen Pratt

1. Apologies Helen Carr, Mary Donovan, Silvia Ling

2. Minutes of meeting held on 13th November 2025 Approved.

3. Financial report Simon gave an update on recent outgoings and income, and after further expected payments our balance will be approximately £5000. We have had some one-off costs in the past year, including the new website and the station noticeboard. Our main fund-raising activities take place in the summer – the Plant Mart and donations received at the Ice House. Other possibilities were mentioned, for example an additional event in the early autumn, applying for grants, and finding a volunteer to take on fund-raising.

4. Plant Mart and Garden Party 2025 update Karen presented a brief update of plans so far. It will take place on 17th May in adjacent front gardens in Micheldever Road. Volunteers are needed for all types of task, including joining the planning committee. Karen will provide a list which will be advertised on the website, WhatsApp groups etc. Volunteers should contact Karen. We need to publicise the availability of the card reader and parking, and volunteers will have name badges. Thoughts about purchase of a second card reader were put forward.

5. Ideas on the future of Lee Green and its surroundings

Charles raised the issue of the public space situation resulting from the Leegate redevelopment and future plans for redeveloping the Sainsbury site. He suggested the Society should put forward suggestions ahead of the Council deliberations.

Simon argued for promoting the Society as a prominent local organisation and a force to be reckoned with, a lobby group, and, in the absence of the discontinued Local Assemblies, holding meetings with information about local issues. In this connection Charles suggested inviting the Sustainable Streets group to a meeting.

David F took up the future of the telephone box outside the Manor House. Alternative uses have been found for telephone boxes elsewhere.

This led to the idea raised previously (in connection with local history) of providing plaques and a history trail. David P referred to an existing local history plan available in the library.

Frances took up the miserable state of many of the planters marking the blocked roads, suggesting that local people could be encouraged to look after them. As a contract exists requiring their maintenance, this needs to be checked.

6. Trees: Street tree walk, Southbrook Road trees, tree in memory of Ralph White

Charles and David F agreed that there will be a Spring Tree Walk on Saturday 31st May, including the trees in Manor House Gardens.

Charles is working with Libby on the Southbrook Road trees. 14-15 trees are in the pipeline. The cost per tree has reduced; through the 'Big Give' arrangement it is £425 at present.

Charles is in contact with Glendale about the most suitable site for the memorial tree in Manor House Gardens. It will be a common alder, and will have a plaque. *(Post meeting note – a suggested position has been put forward for discussion).*

7. Planning update Mike provided details of currently relevant planning applications and decisions - see separate document. David F mentioned that there appears to be an increasing number of HMOs (houses of multiple occupancy) being developed in the area, which can put extra pressure on services such as waste disposal, while we appreciate that additional housing is needed.

8. Updates on London Forum and Lewisham Amenity Society registration

London Forum updates are issued monthly. One current topic is the general increase in the number of very high blocks built for housing.

Our registration as a Lewisham Amenity Society, now established, has the benefit of requiring a more thorough consideration of our objections to planning applications, as they will be automatically referred to a 'Chair's Review' of the Lewisham Planning Committees.

Proposed modifications to the Lewisham Local Plan can be commented on up to 26th March.

9. Ice House opening dates Proposed dates put forward for 2025 - Charles will pass these on to Dan Griffin for allocating volunteers. Possible additional Sunday's may be considered.

10. Lee Assembly feedback including NCIL grant Regarding the NCIL grant, we will know the decision in March, but it appears to be going ahead.

11. Leegate update The Section 106 Agreement is now agreed and has been reviewed on LMS's website. Some 'vacancy issues' still remain on site apparently holding up start of demolition.

12. Update from January 2025 SELCE meeting There will be a SELCE workshop on 15th March in Greenwich.

13. AOB

- Dealing with antisocial behaviour in Manor House Gardens, such as very loud music, is proving problematic, partly because of uncertainty about who has enforcement powers.
- Simon raised the lack of adequate communication from the Council, for example concerning the rejection of the proposal about fortnightly green bin collections.
- It was suggested the Society should pass on information about local Police and local residents meetings, as attendance has been low.

Our next meetings are expected to be on 13th March and 10th April 2025 7.30-9.30pm, both at St Peter's Church Hall, junction of A20 Eltham Road and Weigall Road, London SE12 8HQ. Please check LMS website for confirmation prior to attendance.