

# Councillor Chris Best Sydenham Newsletter

Summer 2012

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**My aim is to build a stronger community in Sydenham as well as across the borough through developing:**

- **healthy and caring communities**
- **safer and secure communities**
- **vibrant, active and inclusive communities.**

**Since this isn't the place to go into any topic in too much depth please contact me if there is an issue you would like to pursue with the Council on [cllr\\_chris.best@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:cllr_chris.best@lewisham.gov.uk). Please have a look at my web site on [www.lewisham.gov.uk/cllrchrisset](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/cllrchrisset) and also [my photos](#) for a range of images. You can text me on my mobile 07725 143020 or call me on my landline 020 8659 6445.**

## Sydenham Assembly

The Sydenham Assembly Newsletter has been delivered to every door in the ward publicising the next meeting on **Saturday 11 September starting at 11am in the Grove Centre, 2 Jews Walk**. This is your opportunity to hear about the improvements and help shape the future of Sydenham. There are two main items – the first to hear from our young people and the new youth centre followed by our winning bid for a Portas pilot. There will be the usual information updates and an open question and answer session. Please come along, join in the discussion and add your voice to the future of Sydenham.

## Sydenham Assembly Fund 2012/13

We have had a fantastic response with bids for the fund for this year and there were 180 people voting at the last meeting. Set out below are the winning bids totalling £17,500.

- XLP Hazel Grove youth project - XLP £2,570
- Carers Lewisham young carers respite service - Carers Lewisham £2,000
- Hazel intergenerational project - Image Create Express £2,500
- Sydenham Arts Festival - Sydenham Arts £2,500
- Residential weekend to Kingswood House - Hillcrest / Wells PK Youth Club £1,570
- Switch It football life - Switch It £2,000
- Where is the library' - Sydenham Community Library / Friends of Library £1,450
- Access Sydenham - Voluntary Care Centre £2,000
- Healthy living after school club - Adamsrill Primary School £910

The bids that missed out on the voting included:

- Crime prevention and awareness days – Sydenham SNT - £2,019
- Smartening up the High Street – Sydenham Town Centre Steering Group - £1,500
- Hanging baskets/Christmas tree – Sydenham Town Centre Steering Group - £2,400
- Paint a smile – supervision – Sydenham and Forest Hill Youth Forum - £1,244

[www.lewisham.gov.uk/cllrchrisset](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/cllrchrisset)

If you want to get involved in the Sydenham Assembly we need more volunteers for Coordinating Group that meets in-between the quarterly meetings. The Group pick up issues for discussion, the Newsletter and future funding opportunities. We welcome people who have some time to give and we usually meet in the early evening.

The lead officer is Paul Gale on 020 83143387 or email [paul.gale@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:paul.gale@lewisham.gov.uk).  
[www.lewisham.gov.uk/localassemblies/sydenhamassembly](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/localassemblies/sydenhamassembly)

## Update on the local priorities

### Priority One - More activities for children and young people

#### Sydenham Well's Park TNG Youth and Community Centre

*"Young people need exciting places where they can just be themselves and safe places where they can access support and grasp opportunity. Places where we can offer positive challenges. Places that say 'you are important; we care.'"*

Sir Steve Redgrave, myplace Support Team Ambassador

With an expectation of the legacy from London 2012 this is a project with a real local legacy inspired by young people linking with the community from an impressive building with a strong name and brand.

Mansell are making good progress and have made up time because of the inclement weather. At this point in time we are still on target. The roof is on, and the majority of the Cross Laminated Timber works are complete. Mansell are fitting the insulation and plan to start the cladding in the next month or so. If anyone would like me to arrange a site visit please let me know.

The New Generation youth centre is a £3.5m MyPlace centre which should be complete and open in January 2013. The Steering Group of young people are developing the programme to attract young people and have been closely involved with the design and facilities. The centre will open seven days a week from 9.00am until 10.00pm a wide range of facilities. There are opportunities for the local community to get involved e.g. volunteering, joining the management committee and the use of the centre for other organisation - if you are interested please email [tnglewisham@lewisham.gov.uk](mailto:tnglewisham@lewisham.gov.uk). For more information please see the [web page](#).

### Priority Two – Improving community safety and tackling anti-social behaviour

#### Future of Sydenham Police Station

Lewisham Council has supported my motion to "reject any decision to close Sydenham police station and to support the views of residents to provide local policing from a local base."

We have raised your concerns about the proposal to move the three SNTs (Sydenham, Forest Hill and Perry Vale) to Catford including the additional travelling time from Catford to Sydenham. I am awaiting a response from the police estates department as this is part of a review for the whole of London.

### City Safe in Sydenham

Kirkdale Bookshop was the first shop in Sydenham to sign up to City Safe but closely followed by Well Being and we hope more traders will come forward. This is a national scheme encouraging local businesses and organisations to offer their premises as A CitySafe Haven - a public place to seek refuge in a difficult situation. CitySafe Havens:

- Pledge to report 100% of crime
- Will offer the premises as a safe haven for any young person in danger
- Maintain a relationship with neighbours, police and the local community
- Encourage their staff to attend CitySafe training
- Refuse to sell alcohol, knives or other dangerous items to underage or drunk customers.

To find out more about CitySafe visit <http://www.citizensuk.org/campaigns/citysafe-campaign/> or speak to staff at Kirkdale Bookshop.

### Controlled Drinking Zone

Notice are displayed in Sydenham Road to remind people they are in a controlled alcohol zone. This Designated Public Place Order (DPPO), commonly known as a drinking control zone gives police discretionary powers to stop, confiscate and dispose of any alcohol from people within the boundaries of Lewisham borough. Unfortunately the street drinkers are still causing a problem to shoppers and residents on Sydenham Road and everyone is advised to let the SNT know of any incidents promptly so that follow up work can be undertaken.

### Responsible Retailers Agreement

As part of the Problem Solving Plan in Sydenham set up to tackle anti social behaviour, involving multi-agency partners, an agreement was drawn up and agreed by the Neighbourhood Community Safety Service (NCSS), Sydenham Safer Neighbourhoods Team (SNT), Lewisham Borough Business Against Crime (LBBAC), the Licensing Department and the Local Assemblies Team to help retailers in their awareness of rights as well as responsibilities in trading. Officers have visited all the off licences in Sydenham and traders have signed up to the Agreement. This is now being monitored.

### Priority Three – Vibrant high street

#### Portas pilot for Sydenham, Forest Hill and Kirkale

Sydenham, Kirkdale and Forest Hill have won Portas Pilot Town status and a share of up to £100,000 available regeneration funding following a second round of bids. In resubmitting our bid the Council included the match funding of £100,000 secured through Phase 2 of the Bell Green Section 106 agreement which allows for further retailing of the site.

The Sydenham, Kirkdale and Forest Hill Town Team is made up of a number of partners, which include: Sydenham Town Centre Steering Group, Sydenham Society, Forest Hill Society, Kirkdale Village Trader's Association, Forest Hill Trader's Association and Horniman Museum.. The bid was supported by Lewisham Council which will now take responsibility for managing the fund.

The winning bid comprised three main elements:

**Jack and Jill** - Two high street shops (one in Sydenham, the other in Forest Hill) will be renovated for creative community engagement via exhibitions, showcasing local products, business workshops, pop up events and use as a Town Team base. They will be used to engender a sense of place and gather details of people's current shopping habits and their ambitions for the High Street.

**The Shop Revolution** - A high impact project with lasting sustainable benefits, The Shop Revolution will introduce landlords and leaseholders to the concept of 'meanwhile' use – short term leases which keep the unit in use between tenants. Up to 12 vacant units will be refurbished and let to an eclectic mix of businesses and organisations on a pop up or trial basis giving new businesses the chance to test their business skills.

**Market Makers** - More than a market, this will build on the lessons from Forest Hill Food Fair and the pilot community car boot sale in Girton Road car park to rotate the offer of similar markets between the three areas and encourage greater use of the public and private space. Existing traders will be encouraged expand onto their shop forecourt whilst the new market spaces will provide the opportunity to test demand for their offering and develop their business plan which may lead to a long term lease as part of The Shop Revolution.

The Forest Hill, Kirkdale and Sydenham pilot was chosen over many others because we demonstrated a real vision for our high streets that has strong support from the local community as well as the involvement of a wide range of local partners. The Council is fully behind the pilot and I hope many more people will want to get involved, to think about exciting and innovative ways of rejuvenating our high street - including new street markets, start-up opportunities for new businesses and creative exhibitions. We held a successful launch event at the Horniman on the 23 August and the presentation will have a second showing at the Assembly – please come along to focus on the difference this will mean for Sydenham.

There are a number of ways in which businesses and residents will be able to get involved including: joining the Town Team · opening a market stall · testing their business on the high street or promoting it with a pop-up shop · hosting a workshop · volunteering and learn new skills · offering empty shops for 'meanwhile use' · helping to shape the high streets in Sydenham, Kirkdale and Forest Hill.

### **Sydenham Town Centre web site**

The new web site– [www.sydenhamtowncentre.com](http://www.sydenhamtowncentre.com) – is growing as we are visiting more traders to sign up. The designer Penelope Else has been developing the site featuring news about local events, promotions, vacant units and even job vacancies. All businesses based in SE26 can have a free alphabetic listing, and for £20 per year businesses are part of the Sydenham Traders Association and have access to their own traders forum. There are silver and gold rates which include regular advertising. To find out more contact: [members@sydenhantowncentre.com](mailto:members@sydenhantowncentre.com).

### **Sydenham Traders meeting**

We had a good turnout for the Sydenham Traders meeting starting at 6pm on Tuesday 28 August. It was great to see traders from all parts of the high street as well as a variety of shops - from Kirkdale we had reps from Blue Mountain, the Credit Union, Kirkdale Bookshop and DIY Store; On the Hoof from Station Approach; from the core retail area Woodfall's Opticians, Well

Being, Fresh & Fruity, Billings, House of Curtains and Carpets, Co-op Funeral Care, White's Pet Shop from the estate agents Hunters and Manns and from the charity shops we welcomed the RSPCA. From the Mayow to Kent House stretch it was great to see Derek and Robert from Progas as well as O'Rourke Construction and from the traders opposite Home Park we were delighted to see Patricia from Ori-Nism, representing the hair and beauty sector. The high street ribbon needs to have key players in each quarter so that we can spread the word in each geographic area.

Joseph and Paul from Action for Community Development, talked about their reopening of the Computer Recycling shop at 18 Sydenham Road. I was pleased to see new businesses about the ideas for some of our vacant shops and others interested in the new market stall pitches including the support for a Farmers Market - initially on the third/fourth Sunday at the rear of Girton Road car park. The commercial agent letting the two units on the Greyhound site was also present and we were pleased that the Sydenham Society were on hand to promote the new shop front guide and provide advice about the do's and don'ts in the Conservation Areas that cover much of Sydenham Road and Kirkdale.

The contractors for the town works Riney & Co talked us through the plans (will be on website in due course). Phase 1 starts on the week commencing 17th September with the removal of the wonky roundabout on Cobbs Corner and the zebra crossing so that a high impact surface could be put down. All the carriageway works are planned to be completed in the first seven weeks - by early November when the contractor will wind down for a Christmas break. Work will start on Phase 2 from the 15th January with the paving and kerb works and finally Phase 3 for the resurfacing works. The contract is for 52 weeks and after the works to Mayow Road are completed there will be minor works from Mayow to Kent House. Questions were asked about the works to Station Approach, managing the closing of Queensthorpe Road, landscaping and the placement of trees as well as ensuring communication runs smoothly.

We then moved on with Louise Brooks talking through the Portas Pilot handout as we gave a highlighted version of the presentation we gave to the launch event. We focused on what traders could do and how they could be involved in making more of a difference to their high street. There will be support for traders in the marketing, visual impact of shop fronts and signage as well as social media. Pen Else talked briefly about the town website with her laptop showing the latest development, and then introduced the concept of crowdfunding.

Onto questions and answers and a general point was made about what could be done to prevent the anti social behaviour of the street drinkers as this was the downside of any physical improvements that take place. I replied that we will have new CCTV cameras to capture the behaviour as we are in a Controlled Drinking Zone plus work has been carried out by support agencies to help get the group off the street as well as the police taking enforcement action. I asked traders to get onto the SNT and give witness statements so that further legal action can take place such as an ASBO.

We touched on traders helping themselves - some have new shops front and a pleasing shop window while other need a good clean and smarten up, including the removal of many small shutter stickers. One of the projects is to paint shop shutters to improve the look of the high street when businesses close for the evening.

Riney offered to provide a Christmas tree and some possible match-funding for crowd-fund projects. All in all, a very productive meeting with engagement from our local traders and people who want to make a difference to the high street.

## Sydenham Public Art

**Greyhound Public Art** - You may have seen the poster of the Greyhound Mural – a greyhound made of images of Sydenham. Lee Newham, Designed by Good People, is the winner of the public art competition and is asking for image to be submitted to him by the **8 October**. This is a community based artwork so I hope you will submit images yourself. It would be great to have images of the shops and business owners and workers in the wall as well as old photos with images of parks, people, places – anything Sydenham related.

**Sydenham Mosaic** – I am delighted that Valerie Kelly and her Mosaic Committee have now reached 90% of the target of £50,000 to put up this wonderful display of roundels on the renamed Sydenham Centre. The installation is planned for the Spring to chime in with the road improvements and this gives time for the final push to reach the target.

## Change of use application

### 242 and 254 Kirkdale SE26 4NL

The change of use to (Use Class A5) Hot Food Take Away at 242 and 254 Kirkdale SE26, together with the installation of an extract flue system to the rear has been refused.

This shop has been refused permission for an A5 takeaway at 242 Kirkdale for the following reason:

*The provision of an A5 take-away facility would result in an intensive form of use that would cause unacceptable loss of amenity to neighbouring residential occupiers in terms of additional noise and general disturbance, whilst generating increased on-street parking within the immediate locality, contrary to saved policies STC 9: Restaurants, A3 Uses and Take Away Hot Food Shops, [ENV.PRO 9](#) Potentially Polluting Uses, [ENV.PRO 11](#) Noise Generating Development, HSG 4 Residential Amenity and STC 1 The Shopping Hierarchy of the adopted Unitary Development Plan (2004) and Objective 10: Protect & Enhance Lewisham's Character, Spatial Policy 5: Areas of Stability and Managed Change, Policy 14: Sustainable Movement and Transport and Policy 15: High Quality Design for Lewisham in the adopted Core Strategy (2011).*

The other shop that has been refused A5 takeaway is 254 Kirkdale for the following reason:

*The change of use and associated ventilation equipment would not be acceptable as it would have a detrimental impact on the amenities of neighbouring properties in particular noise and air pollution contrary to policy STC 5 Major and District Centres Core Shopping Areas and STC 9 Restaurants, A3 Uses and Take Away Hot Food Shops of the adopted Unitary Development Plan, July 2004 and Spatial Policy 3: District Hubs and Policy 6: Retail hierarchy and location of retail development in the adopted Core Strategy, June 2011.*

At the moment both 242 and 246 have retail uses and I understand that the freeholders are not permitting a change of use from the existing class of A1.

## Change of shop front application

### 256 Kirkdale SE26 4NL

This application for the retention of the aluminium framed shopfront was rejected at the Planning Committee meeting on Thursday 1 December but the applicant has been successful in the appeal to the Planning Inspectorate with the view

*In this case, a replacement shop front in timber would not have been likely to have harmed the Conservation Area but equally the aluminium frames preserve the Area, and to a limited degree, enhance it. The use of aluminium and the design of the shopfront do not reduce the significance of the structure to the Conservation Area. Consequently, I conclude that the development does not harm the character or appearance of the Cobb's Corner Conservation Area and would not be contrary to policy 16 of the London Borough of Lewisham Core Strategy or to saved policy URB 8 of the Lewisham Unitary Development Plan (2004). As the planning application was a retrospective one and as I find all details relating to detail and finish acceptable, there is no need for me to attach any planning conditions to the grant of planning permission. Having taken into account all representations made, I allow the appeal.*

### **Premises licence under the Licensing Act 2003**

#### **313-315 Kirkdale London SE26 4QB**

An application has been submitted by Sainsbury's for the sale of alcohol off the premises from Monday – Sunday 06:00 – 24:00.

#### **Palace Wines, 3 Sydenham Road London SE26 5ET**

An application has been submitted for the sale of alcohol off the premises to 3am Monday – Sunday from the existing closing time of 23:00 Monday – Saturday. A change of hours on Sunday to an earlier opening time of 8am and extension from the current closing time of 22.30. I have objected to this change of hours as I don't want the off licences getting into a late night hours competition in a residential area.

### **Priority four – Environmental improvements to provide a cleaner greener Sydenham**

#### **Funding secured for the Pavilion in Mayow**

Mayow Park Pavilion has been successful in securing £43,800 of National Lottery through Sport England's Places, People, Play legacy programme grant. This funding is matched by Lewisham's planning gain money for parks improvements to provide over £100k for the refurbishment and improvement. The Pavilion's renovation is an integral part of the ParkSport project to reintroduce cricket into the park.

On the first floor there will be changing rooms for cricket and football while the ground floor will have a cafe and public toilets with disabled access. The ground floor will also serve as a meeting space, community room and information point.

Tenders have already been carried out for the refurbishment of the Pavilion and Lewisham is currently working with the preferred bidder to remodel the plans to fit the budget. With the approval of the Friends of Mayow Park of the contractor the works should begin in September with a completion by January 2013.

Once works begin, an assessment of further investment for a fully operational café, and for expressions of interest will take place. The cafe area on the ground floor will have a basic fit-out and Lewisham will look to advertise for expressions of interest for a licence/lease to tie into the end of works time table. As with other sites Lewisham would look to the cafe operator to clean and stock the public toilets.

We hope to have the works completed by January and ideally have a cafe operator in place for April and the start of the new cricket season. The café's main objectives will be to provide locally sourced ingredients, be open throughout the year on a sound business model.

The official opening of Mayow Park square took place in June and there is now a regular fixtures list. Anyone wishing to find out more about cricket in the park and how to make pitch bookings should contact Glendale on 020 8318 3986.

### **Green Flags**

Once again Sydenham Wells Park and Mayow Park have received Green Flag awards with Grow Mayow awarded the Community Green Flag status.

### **Free Garden Waste service**

The free seasonal garden waste service is in Girton Road car park from 24 March until 25 November 2012 on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 9am to 12 noon. Garden waste includes flowers and plants, grass clippings, hedge trimmings, leaves, and twigs and branches up to four inches in diameter. Kitchen waste, vegetable peelings, soil, turf, stones and Japanese knotweed will not be accepted and no trade waste or trailers, vans or open back vehicles will be allowed.

## **Priority five - Transport improvements for Sydenham**

### **Sydenham high street improvement scheme**

After a long consultation period and discussion with transport partners the contract for the improvements to Sydenham Road and Station Approach has been let. Following the moratorium on any roadworks during the Olympics a September start date has been agreed and works are programmed to commence on site the week commencing the 17th September 2012 for 52 weeks. The main contractor appointed for this project is J B Riney & Co Ltd and the team gave an outline of the initial works and traffic management to the Sydenham Traders on Tuesday 28 August. At the meeting the programme charts of what is to take place when were available for specific queries to be addressed to the team. All this information will be available at the Assembly.

For further information on the £3.6 million improvements please see [Sydenham high street](#) Lewisham Council is currently working on a £310,000 renovation of Sydenham Station Approach which will greatly improve access to the station.

For more information about the current priorities and Action Plan please visit [www.lewisham.gov.uk/LocalAssemblies/SydenhamAssembly](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/LocalAssemblies/SydenhamAssembly).

Please see our Sydenham Assembly Facebook page

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sydenham-Assembly/155426357840755>

### **Lewisham Parking Review**

Lewisham Council is undertaking a review of its parking arrangements. This is necessary to meet the growth in the number of Lewisham motorists expected in the future. The evaluation will consider all aspects of parking including: residents, visitors and business parking; parking permits and parking payments. It will be crucial in finding out people's views to ensure parking in the borough is redesigned and fit for the challenges of the future.

The survey is available online at [www.lewisham.gov.uk/parking](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/parking) until **28 September**, and paper copies are also available in libraries, housing offices, AccessPoint and the Parking Shop with pre-paid envelopes. Anyone who uses the parking facilities in the borough can respond, whether you are a resident, business, visitor or an employee in the borough. It doesn't matter whether you live in a controlled parking zone or not or whether you have or use permits. All respondents that provide their contact details will be entered into a prize draw for a chance to win £250 worth of high street vouchers.

### Update on Planning

**Planning applications can be seen online using the ACOLNET web site – please then use the advanced search and the drop down for [Sydenham Ward page](#).**

### The Greyhound

Purelake withdrew their recent planning application that included change of use to two residential flats on the first floor and into the roof space. I objected to the loss of the community facility/dining area on the first floor. I was also concerned with provision of an external staircase on the wall where the new mural of the Greyhound will be plus the conservatory occupying the green landscaped space.

Planning officers are still in discussion on a more appropriate planning application to regularise the changes that have been made to the basement. As it stands there are still planning conditions to fulfil from the planning permission and Conservation Area Consent granted on the 24 May 2010 (ref. DC/09/72790) for 'partial demolition of The Greyhound Public House, 309-315 Kirkdale SE26 and full restoration to create a self-contained, restaurant / pub (Use Class A3/A4) unit in the centre of a new public square. Part of this consent for the landscaping with trees as well as the mural on the rear wall.

The 40 new social homes for Hexagon are now nearing completion and the two commercial units on the ground floor are at the shell stage – one of the commercial unit being Sainsbury's. These cannot be handed over until the planning conditions are fully met.

### 11 Westwood Hill SE26 6BQ

London and Quadrant are now marketing the shared ownership flats at Willow Lodge, 11 Westwood Hill SE26. Planning permission was granted for a change of use from Use Class C2 to residential (Use Class C3) and the construction of an additional storey to provide 7 one bedroom and 9 two bedroom self-contained flats. At the rear the demolition of the building has taken place and the construction of a part two/part three storey building to provide 3 two bedroom self-contained flats and 3 three bedroom houses for social housing in nearing completion. There is provision of 26 bicycle spaces and 10 car parking spaces with access from Westwood Hill and Sheenewood.

### 255-269 Sydenham Road, SE26 5EN

Amicus Horizon have been granted planning permission for the demolition of the existing buildings at 255-269 Sydenham Road SE26 and the construction of a part two/part three storey building incorporating balconies, to provide 1, one-bedroom, 12, two-bedroom and 1, three bedroom self-contained flats and 3, three bedroom houses together with the provision of bin stores and cycle storage. We are awaiting a start on site.

### 22a - 24 Sydenham Road

Conservation Area Consent was given and the demolition has taken place of the buildings on the site of 22A-24 Sydenham Road SE26. We are now waiting for the construction of a part one/part four storey building incorporating 475sqm ground floor commercial floor space (A1/A2) and upper floor residential accommodation comprising 9 units (8, two bedroom and 1, one bedroom self-contained flats) including associated amenity space and a meadow to the rear.

### 278 - 280, Kirkdale

Planning permission was granted in November 2007 for the demolition of the existing building at 278-280 Kirkdale SE26, and the construction of a five storey building with basement to provide a public house at ground and basement levels, together with 7 one bedroom self-contained flats with balconies above. This plot is now being marketed by [Kalmars](#) with offers invited

### Enforcement of the high street Conservation Area

The Thorpes Conservation Area covers the high street to Mayow Road (up to the Cake Store at 111 on the odds and to 28 on the evens and then from 46 to 72 ) and includes to the Cobbs Corner Conservation Area. Traders need to comply with [Lewisham's Shop Front Design Guide](#) and everyone needs to comply with ensuring that satellite dishes are out of sight on the roof and that wooden windows are replaced like for like.

A new guide for businesses in Sydenham has been produced by the Sydenham Society and Lewisham Council and sponsored by your Sydenham Local Assembly. Much of Sydenham Road and Kirkdale sits in two conservation areas Cobbs Corner or Sydenham Thorpes. The Shopfront Guide provides good examples of best practice regarding shopfront design and tells you what you can and cannot do in the conservation areas with information on signage, shutters, satellite dishes and much more. In the guide you will also find information about who to contact if you require any further guidance.

I am liaising with officers on other enforcement issues and talking to estate agents regarding their advertising boards to make sure they are all current. At the moment the enforcement officers are working on the priority of checking residential use in unauthorized spaces.

### Forest Hill Pools

Willmott Dixon have now handed over the site to Lewisham who in turn have handed over to Fusion for fit out. Facilities in the new building will include a 25-metre pool, a 16.7-metre learner pool, state of the art fitness gym, two studios, community room (for hire at £15 per hour) and a café. The new development will include facilities and access for those people with disabilities. We are planning to open the leisure centre in time for the school holidays. The official opening will be on Saturday 22 September when there will be free taster sessions and the launch of the Be active scheme.

Please visit [www.lewisham.gov.uk/foresthillpools](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/foresthillpools) for a progress report on the development and the Fusion site for information on the opening - [http://www.fusion-lifestyle.com/centres/Forest\\_Hill\\_Pools/home](http://www.fusion-lifestyle.com/centres/Forest_Hill_Pools/home).

As part of the reopening of the pools I will be launching a new and improved leisure discount scheme called **Be Active**. It gives free or discounted access to leisure to residents on benefits,

disabled residents and residents over 60 years of age. It also provides opportunities for carers (paid or unpaid) to accompany disabled and frailer members of the scheme into activities like swimming free of charge. The scheme will also enable children in care (up to 21) to have free and discounted access.

### Louise House

Lewisham Council is inviting expressions of interest in Louise House, the Grade 2 listed building between Forest Hill library and the newly refurbished Forest Hill pools. A presentation was made by officers to local people in June about the opportunity for creative use of this space and building. More information is available on the Council's website - please go to <http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/regeneration/sydenham-forest-hill/louise-house/Pages/default.aspx>. Full details of the tender will be contained in a pack which will be issued in October 2012. It is important that any expressions of interest (EOI) are registered by **21<sup>st</sup> September 2012**. Any organisations or individuals interested in applying should contact [peter.sherlock@sherlockconsultancy.com](mailto:peter.sherlock@sherlockconsultancy.com)

### Links, events and up and coming meetings

#### Friends of Sydenham Community Library

Join the Friends at their meetings advertised in the Library

Friends of Mayow Park - <http://friendsofmayowpark.blogspot.com/>

Friends of Home Park - <http://homepark.wordpress.com/>

Edible Open Gardens day – Saturday 15 September

Grow Mayow - <http://growmayow.blogspot.com/>

St Christopher's Hospice - [www.stchristophers.org.uk](http://www.stchristophers.org.uk)

#### Music at St Christopher's

First Thursday of the month , 7.30-9.30pm, Dame Cicely Saunders Room, St Christopher's Hospice, 51-59 Lawrie Park Road SE26 6DZ

To reserve your tickets (which include wine and interval snacks) contact Debbie Calvert at [d.calvert@stchristophers.org.uk](mailto:d.calvert@stchristophers.org.uk) or call her on 8768 4747 (Mon-Fri, 10am-4pm).

Sydenham Arts Festival – [www.sydenhamartsfestival.com](http://www.sydenhamartsfestival.com)

Sydenham Assembly - [www.lewisham.gov.uk/LocalAssemblies/SydenhamAssembly](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/LocalAssemblies/SydenhamAssembly)

Sydenham Blues Club - [www.sydenhambluesclub.co.uk](http://www.sydenhambluesclub.co.uk)

Sydenham Blues Club is South London's premier Blues venue with live music every Friday and alternate Saturday's at the Golden Lion FREE ENTRY !! Live Music starts at 9.15pm

Sydenham Community Radio - <http://sydenhamradio.co.uk/>

Community car boot sale on second Sunday of the month – next one 9 September – 10am to 1pm Sellers £6 pitch and buyers 20p entrance

Sydenham Film Club - <http://www.sydenhamfilmclub.org/>  
7.30pm Thursday 25 October, Golden Lion – MARLEY

Sydenham and Forest Hill Youth Forum - <http://beta.sfhyouthforum.org.uk/>

Sydenham Garden – [www.sydenhamgarden.org.uk](http://www.sydenhamgarden.org.uk)  
Autumn Fair – Saturday 29 September 11am to 3pm

Sydenham International Music Festival – [www.sydenhammusic.org.uk](http://www.sydenhammusic.org.uk)

Sydenham Safer Neighbourhoods Team -  
<http://www.met.police.uk/teams/lewisham/sydenham/index.php>

Sydenham Society – [www.sydenhamsociety.com](http://www.sydenhamsociety.com)

Sydenham Town Forum – [www.sydenham.org.uk](http://www.sydenham.org.uk)

Please subscribe to the Arts Service [ebulletin](#) on the web site and the Be More eNewsletter for the range of events coming up over the next month.

Lewisham Life is now available in a monthly eNewsletter.

Surgery details: from 10.30 to 11.30 on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday at Sydenham Library,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday at the Naborhood Centre, 44a Sydenham Road (next to the Post Office)

Please email onto others and if you'd like to receive information this way please let me know of any changes to your email address