

# Councillor Chris Best Sydenham Newsletter

Late Autumn 2012

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- p 1 - Sydenham Assembly
- p 2 – LBBAC
- p 3 – SEE3 Portas pilot
- p 5 - Christmas
- p 5 - -Refuse arrangements
- p 6 – High street works
- p 7 – Lewisham Hospital
- p 9 - Links, events and meetings

**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/cllrchrishbest](http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/cllrchrishbest) 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 **Thursday 29 November starting at 7pm in the Sydenham Community Library**. This is your opportunity to hear about the improvements and help shape the future of Sydenham. At this Assembly meeting we will hear from Sydenham Community Library regarding their exciting plans for the future, as well as the Friends of Sydenham Library and Sydenham's own local radio station, Sydenham Community Radio.

The main speaker will be from Skanska who are currently replacing all the street lighting in the borough. Soon they will be in Sydenham and you will have the opportunity to speak to them, ask them about the lighting upgrade and find out how it may affect you.

The Assembly really is the best way to find out what is happening in Sydenham, by coming along to this meeting you can learn all the latest news from SEE3 about the Portas Pilot, hear how the Sydenham Road improvement works are progressing and much more, this really is a time of change for Sydenham and we want to make sure our community reap the full benefit.

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.

If you want to get involved in the Sydenham Assembly we need more volunteers for the coordinating Group that meets in-between the quarterly meetings. The Group picks up issues for discussion, the Newsletter and future funding opportunities. We welcome people who have some time to give as part of the community. 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)

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

## Update on the local priorities

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

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

At our last Sydenham Assembly we received an update on the progress of this project with a real local legacy inspired by young people linking with the community. Mansell are making good progress and still on target. The building is now taking shape and 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 February 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 One Two – Improving community safety and tackling anti-social behaviour

#### Lewisham Borough Business Against Crime (LBBAC)

I am pleased to be able to inform our local businesses that Lewisham Borough Business Against Crime (LBBAC) will soon be coming to Sydenham.

Working closely with the Crime Reduction Service and Lewisham Police LBBAC has had significant success in central Lewisham and Catford where there has been a large reduction in business crime. Now it is Sydenham's turn and over the next few months LBBAC will be focussing increasingly on Sydenham Road.

The infrastructure for the Business Crime Reduction partnership (BCRP) is now wholly in place and LBBAC is looking to slowly but positively persuade businesses in Sydenham to participate because of the benefits to their business.

One size does not fit all and LBBAC will work with members and partners to establish the best scheme for Sydenham, including negotiations on cost, promotions and offers.

The creation of a radiolink network with access to the CCTV Control Room and our Sydenham PCSOs is part of this, but not all. LBBAC is about encouraging our local business community to support itself by working cooperatively against common issues, such as shoplifting and anti social behaviour so as to create a safer environment' for business, staff and customers. It is also about raising awareness and providing businesses with the tools and support to help themselves. As part of this a scheme coordinator would work to offer advice, support and to help drive success.

### Future of Sydenham Police Station and Neighbourhood Policing Teams

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. There will be a new operating model for the future delivery of local policing in London - The Local Policing Model (LPM). **Neighbourhood Policing Teams** will be the visible face of local policing in London, building on the SNT model, they will be responsible for investigating some local crimes, and will be focussed on enforcement and reassurance activities.

### 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 – the recommended way to do this is dial 101.

### 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 and one retailer has withdrawn an application for late night off licences sales because of a breach.

### Priority Three – Vibrant high street

#### SEE3 update - [www.see3.co.uk](http://www.see3.co.uk)

Sydenham, Kirkdale and Forest Hill have won Portas Pilot Town status. This project is supported with £80k from the Mayor of London's Outer London Fund which is helping increase the vibrancy and growth of high street places across London. Lewisham Council is providing an additional £137k to help rejuvenate the area's high streets with new street markets, start-up opportunities for new businesses and creative exhibitions.

We have produced a SEE3 Christmas Guide - <http://www.see3.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/SEE3-Christmas-Events-List.pdf> - setting out what is on offer in Forest Hill, Kirkdale and Sydenham leading up to Christmas.

We are close to opening our community hub, **Jill**, at **27 Sydenham Road** and will be used to engage the community through exhibitions, the display and sale of local products and business workshops. A Hubs Coordinator and Artist in Residence are being appointed to manage activities in the hubs. The team are still looking for volunteers to run the hubs, and

for artisans and entrepreneurs to sell their goods. The Town Team Manager is being recruited and is primarily responsible for developing the Town Team and overseeing the SEE3 projects and will be based in the hub. We hope you will call into the hub to give your views on shopping habits and ambitions for the high street.

**Saturday 1 December is the Big Launch** - Jill will be launching with a showcase and sale of art and crafts by local artists and artisans lead by Bruce Harrison from the Sydenham Visual Arts Trail. Sweet treats provided by Man-Made Cakes who will be at the Sydenham Food Fair on the 16th December.

**11am-1pm** An appearance by Lisa Comfort of Kirsty's Homemade Home fame and author of Sew Over It. Lisa will be running a children's crafting workshop making Christmas decorations.

**1pm** Official opening of Jill at 1pm by Sir Steve Bullock, Lewisham Mayor, followed by a performance from local surrealist poet Ronnie McGrath.

A team lead by local marketer Louise Brooks was appointed in October to deliver **The Shop Revolution** initiative, a project which organises temporary shops (pop up shops) in empty units to stimulate long-term demand. The team have secured three shops to open on **Saturday 1st December** including **Unit 4, Station Approach**. Conquer Gear <http://www.conquergear.com> combine ethical fashion and art to create wearable clothing. Conquers' Wardrobe has been created for this one off event showcasing their latest range and a photography exhibition of Adults at Play taken at the Secret Garden. They will be hosting a series of events and activities until the **24th December** - mulled wine, music, food and wardrobes will be on offer for the opening.

Deborah Efemini was also appointed in October to launch the **SEE3 Markets** initiative. Deborah, who runs the Catford Broadway Monthly Market, is planning three markets in December: Saturday 1st December from 10am-5pm **Kirkdale Vintage & Retro Market at Kelvin Grove School** -

**10am-12.30pm** Alex Carter & Serge will be singing 30's and 50's music

**1.30pm-2.30pm** Lisa Comfort, author of Sew Over It will be signing books

**2.30pm-3.30pm** Children's crafting workshop with Lisa Comfort making Christmas decorations

**Forest Hill Festive Fair**, Forest Hill Pools Piazza, **Saturday 15th December** 10am-5pm

The Sydenham Festive Food and Gift Market will be popping up at Station Approach, Sydenham Train Station on **Sunday 16 December**. From **10am-4pm** the festive market will allow customers to sample top class street food, pick up festive treats from local producers and enjoy live music. This market will give savvy South Londoners an opportunity to connect with the prolific London street food scene and give local makers, food producers and small independent businesses the opportunity to present their wares. We are planning this to be as a permanent fixture from March 2013.

Space at the market is limited and the following stalls are in demand: local bakers, local breweries, and street food vendors. The cost to trade is £25 and stalls will be already set up – just turn up and sell.

For more information email [markets@see3.co.uk](mailto:markets@see3.co.uk)

## Christmas in Sydenham

We are pleased to announce that JB Riney will be paying for our Christmas Tree this year. The switch on event will take start **at 5.pm on Friday 7 December** outside the Post Office on Sydenham Road. We will be joined by celebrities and Jim Dowd MP.

This is followed by Sydenham **late night shopping until 9pm** – and a host of shops are joining in with special offers. Once again there will be carol singers starting at 5pm – the Sydenham Singers and a special Sydenham choir. At 6.30pm there will be the Harmony High Glee Club and other entertainment to provide some festive cheer in the high street..

There is going to be a **seasonal shop window display competition** to increase the eye appeal of Sydenham shops. This will start with Christmas 2012. The winner will be voted for by the people that visit the high street. Voting will take place online via [www.sydenhamtowncentre.com](http://www.sydenhamtowncentre.com) or through a ballot paper into a ballot box in the community hub, Jill, at 27 Sydenham Road.

The prize will be a plaque to display in the window that receives the most votes plus a bottle of bubbly to mark the success. The winner will be announced at the Sydenham Festive Food Market on Sunday 16 December.

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

### Refuse arrangements

I am currently in the process of reminding traders and residents that live along Sydenham Road of their responsibilities regarding disposal of waste. This is now becoming increasingly important as we start to see the improvements to the high street.

**Businesses** - All businesses are required by law to have all of the waste produced at their premises removed by a recognised trade waste carrier. Each business must properly contain it's waste whilst it is waiting to be collected. Please ensure that you have sufficient bin capacity to handle all of your waste, as any waste that is not properly contained will be considered as fly tipping. If you need to increase your bin capacity or collection frequency please contact your waste carrier.

Any business that has a contract with Lewisham Council's Commercial Waste Service must comply with the terms and conditions of their Commercial Waste Agreement. If you contain your waste in a Lewisham Commercial Waste Bin you must ensure that access to the bins free from obstruction and will be ready for collection at your agreed time and day.

If your business does not have space for a container and you must ensure that all of your waste is placed into Mauve Lewisham Commercial Waste Refuse Sacks. Sacks can be placed out on the public highway from Monday to Friday between 8am and 9am. If you need to order mauve refuse sacks please call the Commercial Waste Team on 0208 314 2176. Please note: Waste cannot be placed on the public highway after 9am on a weekday and cannot be placed outside at all on a Saturday or a Sunday.

**Domestic Waste** - Properties with Wheelie Bins - All you will need to do is ensure that your wheelie bins are accessible to our crews by 6am on the morning of your collection. If you need to place your bin out on to the public highway, please make sure that you return them to your property as soon as you possibly can after they have been emptied.

If you live in a flat that is above a shop and you have Lewisham wheelie bins then please just ensure that your bins are able to be collected by us from 6am on the day of your collection.

Whether you live in a flat that is on a large estate, small block or new development please make sure that your communal bin areas are free from obstruction on collection day so that your bins can be speedily emptied.

Properties without Wheelie Bins i.e. Flats above Shops - If you live in a flat above a shop and you do not have access to Lewisham wheelie bins then you will need to ensure that all of your refuse is placed in Orange Lewisham Refuse Sacks. Sacks can be placed out on the public highway from Monday to Friday between 8am and 9am. If you need to order orange refuse sacks please call 0208 314 7171. Please note: Waste cannot be placed on the public highway after 9am on a weekday and cannot be placed outside at all on a Saturday or a Sunday.

### **Free Garden Waste service**

The free seasonal garden waste service was in Girton Road car park from 24 March until 25 November 2012 on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 9am to 12 noon. This was a great way to recycle garden waste including flowers and plants, grass clippings, hedge trimmings, leaves, and twigs and branches up to four inches in diameter. There is a budget saving proposal to terminate this next year.

## **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 started on site on 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. We are delighted that JB Riney are now using 24a Sydenham Road as their site office. This means that there is a clear and accessible means in place for you to have dialogue with the contractor. This is something that we have pushed hard for and should really benefit both residents and businesses affected by the works.

Regular updates are put up on Lewisham's web site – please click on the link

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/regeneration/sydenham-forest-hill/sydenham-high-street/Pages/Contractor%27s-progress-report.aspx>

On the work front progress has made on Cobbs Corner, the new access road into Chrisnic Court, Kirkdale has been completed (excavated, based and paved within 3 days - achieved with the co-operation of the local residents who made alternative parking arrangements for the duration of construction). There have been the removal of a substantial number of works barriers from Sydenham Road to coincide with the beginning of the Christmas Moratorium, and Riney have suspended the installation of ducting infrastructure, street lighting, traffic signals and CCTV along Sydenham Road until after the Moratorium which lasts from 5 November until

13 January 2013. During this period paving and kerbing works will be progressing in the Kirkdale and Venner Road sections of the project as well as Queensthorpe Road..

All enquiries about the site works should be addressed to JB Riney's Contracts Manager, Jim Stacy on 07940 951636 or Steve Clark on 07720 092485. Alternatively, you can e-mail Jim at [jim.stacy@jbriney.co.uk](mailto:jim.stacy@jbriney.co.uk) or Steve at [steve.clarke@jbriney.co.uk](mailto:steve.clarke@jbriney.co.uk).

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 Hospital Public Consultation meeting

The Assembly Coordinating Group, working with members of the Sydenham Society, has organised a public consultation with the Government's 'Special Administrator'. The Trust Special Administrator has been called in by the Government to take charge of the heavily indebted South London Health Trust and has drawn up plans that would radically change Lewisham Hospital.

[The plan](#) would see the accident and emergency unit at Lewisham Hospital downgraded to an urgent care centre, and could also see the closure of the maternity unit and the sale of much of the current hospital site. Instead the hospital would concentrate on routine, non-complex operations such as hip and knee replacements and other general services.

The final report will be presented on 7 January 2013 to the Secretary of State for Health who will make a decision by early February 2013. Many of us have made it clear that we are opposed to these draft recommendations. Mayor of Lewisham, Sir Steve Bullock, is one of thousands of people to have signed a [petition](#) started by Lewisham East MP, Heidi Alexander.

The Council will be submitting a response to the consultation, stating its objections to the Special Administrator's draft report. A public consultation around these proposals is taking place and runs until Thursday 13 December. These are very important proposals for Lewisham's health services and I would urge everyone to respond to the consultation and express their own views.

Official public consultation meetings with the Special Administrator are taking place and the next meeting is on the evening of Tuesday 4 December at the Calabash Centre. We have organized a local meeting in Sydenham where Dr Jane Fryer, Chief Medical Advisor to the Trust Special Administrator, will present the draft recommendations. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting starting at **7.30 pm on Thursday 6 December** in Sydenham School, Dartmouth Road.

## 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 have submitted a new planning application that is more appropriate and regularises 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 have been handed over the residents are now living in quality new homes. 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

### **St Clements Heights**

An outline planning application has been granted (on the third attempt) and we are now looking forward to further consultation on the detail of the scheme.

### **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 shop front 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. The good news is that Property World and Acorn have agreed a moratorium in the high street and have removed all their residential boards above the shops. At the moment the enforcement officers are working on the priority of checking residential use in unauthorized spaces.

### **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/>**

**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/>

Sydenham Film Club - <http://www.sydenhamfilmclub.org/>

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

Sydenham Garden – [www.sydenhamgarden.org.uk](http://www.sydenhamgarden.org.uk)

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