

Sydenham Newsletter

SPRING 2008

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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 further cllr_chris.best@lewisham.gov.uk. Please have a look at my web site on 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

You are warmly invited to the first **Sydenham Assembly** meeting on Thursday 6 March starting at 7pm at the Naborhood Centre (44a Sydenham Road next to the Post Office). Refreshments will be provided before the meeting. The Sydenham Local Assembly is a new way of working in which you and others can decide how to improve your area. The Assembly is your chance to meet and discuss issues about Sydenham with other local people. The Assembly will build on the success of the Sydenham Community Regeneration Partnership (SCRIP). The Assembly is an open meeting taking place four times a year and we hope you will invite friends, neighbours and colleagues, who may live, work or learn in the Sydenham ward.

For more information about the Sydenham Local assembly please contact the Local Assembly Coordinator for Sydenham, Sam Dias on 020 8314 3386 or email sam.dias@lewisham.gov.uk. For more information on Local Assemblies visit www.lewisham.gov.uk/localassemblies

Sydenham Locality Fund 2007/8

The £10k Localities Fund for this year has been agreed for 15 new trees to be planted by Envirowork over the next month or so and they will be underplanted; replanting and maintenance and of the planters in Sydenham Road; restoration of the memorial on the corner of Kirkdale and Jews Walk and the balance of £1k for the "Keeping Shop" photographic exhibition by Ann Pownall.

Improvements to Sydenham Road

Transport for London (TfL) is funding the development of proposals to enhance Kirkdale and Sydenham Road from Cobbs Corner to Mayow Road. Draft designs are moving through the latter stages of development, and, subject to TfL agreeing the designs, Lewisham Council is planning to consult on the proposals during May (after the GLA elections on 1 May). An exhibition explaining the proposals is planned to be displayed in the window of the Naborhood Centre throughout May. The Centre will be open on Thursday 15 May from 5–8pm and Saturday 17 May 10am–2pm (no need to attend both) so that you can study the proposals in more detail and discuss with the designers and council officers.

Please come along to the public forum planned to be held at the Naborhood Centre on Saturday 17 May 2–4pm and repeated on Thursday 22 May 7–9pm. Leaflets explaining the proposals (including a questionnaire) will be distributed in and around this part of Kirkdale and Sydenham Road. Copies will also be available from Sydenham Library and the council website. Updates and other information regarding the consultation will be posted on the website nearer to May.

The proposals include improving the crossings at Newlands Park and Mayow Road as well as plans to enhance Cobbs Corner and the appearance of the high street. The consultation period will last for the whole of May. Final plans will then be considered by the Mayor and Cabinet before going to Transport for London with a request that it release the funds to build the proposals. Subject to Transport for London accepting the final proposals construction work is scheduled to start in January 2009.

Town Centre Manager working on refuse collections

Safe, clean streets are important to the character of a neighbourhood and Julie Sutch, our Town Centre Manager, has been working closely with environment team to clarify the collection times as well as targeting fly tipping and graffiti. Julie has been providing anti graffiti paint to retailers to help clean the shutters and Julie can be contacted on Julie.Sutch@lewisham.gov.uk. Julie is also arranging two clean up days on Tuesday 22 April on Sydenham Park Road to clean up the debris round the footbridge over the railway line and on Tuesday 10 June to work on the alleyway at the back of Somerfield between Girton and Tannsfeld Roads.

Community safety

A new service for street wardens in Sydenham started on Monday 3 December. Their role is to reduce the fear of crime as well as reducing crime and disorder. Working to improve community safety they act on anti social behaviour and help improve the physical environment.

Westwood Hill traffic safety scheme

In the past five years over 30 people have been injured in accidents on Westwood Hill, including at the junctions of Jews Walk and High Level Drive.

Speed cameras have already been introduced on Westwood Hill and anti-skid road surfacing, new traffic islands and colourful road markings will be installed to warn drivers to slow down. Right hand turn lanes will also be created. We discussed and agreed these measures at the last Sydenham Community Regeneration Partnership meeting in December so I hope these traffic safety measures reduce accidents.

Newlands Park consultation on new 24 hour bus stop clearways

The London Bus Priority Network is being developed jointly by the London Boroughs, London Buses and Transport for London to improve conditions for bus passengers on all main bus routes. Two new 24 hour bus stop clearways are proposed to give priority to buses and to prevent other vehicles from parking or loading at the bus stops. The section is on Newlands Park with waiting restrictions on the corner of Tannsfeld Road and Newlands Park as well as Tredown Road and Newlands Park to improve visibility at the junctions.

East London Line - good news for rail passengers from Sydenham

Over the last year the Forest Hill Society and the Sydenham Society have jointly campaigned to keep our current levels of services to and from London mainline stations after the introduction of the East London Line in 2010. The plan is that the total number of trains between 7am and 10am will remain at the current level of 18 trains, with only a slight adjustment to the present hourly spread of trains. All trains are planned to be 8 carriages long, whereas some are currently only 6 carriages long. This represents an overall increase in carriages serving Forest Hill and Sydenham during peak time.

The services outlined above are dependent on the agreement of the Department for Transport and on their discussions with Transport for London and the train operators when the Franchises are renegotiated in 2009.

In summary:

- From 2010 Forest Hill, Sydenham, Honor Oak Park, Brockley, Penge West and Anerley will be connected to the Overground tube system
- New peak services to Crystal Palace allowing for interchange to Victoria
- Possible continuation of off-peak services to Victoria
- Journey times under 18 minutes to Canary Wharf
- Commuters working in the east of the City, travelling on a direct connection to Shoreditch, will benefit from cheaper tickets by avoiding zone 1
- Oyster readers on all stations on the line
- All services between London Bridge and Forest Hill/Sydenham will be stopping services, removing existing fast services
- No direct services to and from Charing Cross, from 2009

Sydenham Radio

The Sydenham Radio project is holding meetings to develop proposals. They have produced some surveys that they plan to use on the street to get people's opinions. The information will be vital for the feasibility study being prepared for Lewisham Council. The newly appointed committee is reporting back on recommendations for the type of legal identity they will pursue. The next meeting will be on **Saturday 8th March starting 1:00 p.m.** at The Here for Good Centre, 17 Sydenham Road, SE26 5EX.

Mayow Park Bowls Club

Mayow Park Bowls Club, with help from Lewisham Council, has recently secured £50,000 funding from The London Marathon Charitable Trust. The money will be used to build a new pavilion with changing facilities, meeting, socialising and storage space, and toilets with disabled access. The new pavilion will be situated next to the bowling green which will improve access to the green and facilities. The existing pavilion is quite a distance from the bowling green making it difficult for members who currently have to carry equipment across the park between the two sites and for them to use toilets and changing facilities. The Mayow Park Outdoor Bowls Club has been in existence for more than 60 years.

Community Assets – current position

Following the Quirk Review of Community Management and Ownership of Public Assets reported in May 2007 we are working with the Stronger Communities Board to establish an overarching framework that will enable the council to assess assets that have the potential to be transferred. This is intended to both maintain the momentum that has been generated by the Quirk Review, and a means of responding to the demand this has created within the borough in a way that is transparent and consistent.

Forest Hill Pools

Many of you will be aware of the Mayor's decision in February 2007 to refurbish Forest Hill Pools subject to further feasibility work. This work has now been undertaken and a report on the outcomes was agreed at Mayor and Cabinet on the 13 February. The pools are badly cracked and leaking so that there are inherent risks and difficulties with the refurbishment. The Mayor agreed to the demolition and clearance of the site including Louise House and engaging with representatives of the local community as well as users of the pool to develop the design and feasibility work. The proposal is to provide new housing on the pocket park next to the pool and replace the park with extensive landscaping from the library across the new frontage. By using the capital receipt from the housing we can ensure there is funding for a new 25m pool, a learner pool, fitness suite and community facilities. There is support for a new building that is complementary in architectural style to the library and officers will be working with local residents. Please see the full report on Lewisham's web site.

<http://www.lewisham.gov.uk/NR/rdoonlyres/7A7C40E3-CCE1-450E-93DD-6E27F6D8E75C/0/b62b28ab22cb4e1288582c691a46bc19Item5ForestHillPools13February2008.PDF>

Up and coming meetings and events

Wednesday 27 February	Mayor and Cabinet
Monday 3 March	Council
Wednesday 5 March	Mayor and Cabinet
Thursday 6 March	Sydenham Assembly
Wednesday 26 March	Council AGM
Tuesday 22 April	Clean up day Sydenham Park Road
Tuesday 10 June	Clean up day back of Somerfield

A picture of health public consultation event - Thursday 28 February drop in from 2pm to 8pm at the Lewisham Methodist Church Hall in Albion Way SE13

Forest Hill Library Literary Festival – Steve Grindlay, local historian 6.30 – 7.30pm Thursday 28 February at Forest Hill Library

Sydenham Radio Project - Saturday 8th March starting 1:00 p.m. at The Here for Good Centre, 17 Sydenham Road, SE26 5EX.

Mayow Park Bird Walk – 7am Saturday 29 March

**Sydenham Society – www.sydenhamsociety.com
AGM – 7.45 Tuesday 8 April**

**Sydenham Garden – www.sydenhamgarden.org.uk
Sydenham Garden Victorian Fair is being held on Saturday 10 May from 11am to 3pm at the Queenswood Road/Wynell Road Sydenham Garden site**

Sydenham Music Festival – Sunday 17 May to Sunday 15 June

Kent House Leisure Gardens Open Day - Sunday 18 May

**Surgery details: from 10.30 to 11.30 on the 1st Saturday at Sydenham Library,
3rd Saturday at the Naborhood Centre, 44a Sydenham Road (next to the Post Office)
and 4th Saturday at Hillcrest T.A. Club Room, High Level Drive, SE26**

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