

BROCKLEY



SOCIETY

News sheet No. 56, March 1990

Delivered free to 3,000 households
in the Brockley Conservation Area

Brockley Nursery

The Brockley Nursery, now no longer used as a garden centre but as a temporary parking site by the council, is "up for grabs" and it looks as if the designated public open space will be transformed into a "social" housing site behind houses in Malpas, Vulcan and Upper Brockley Roads.

It may even stretch into gardens that are compulsorily purchased and is bound to bring more rubble, traffic and people to an already densely populated area.

So what can be done about it? Well, first of all the site's designated usage will

have to be changed if a developer wants to build on it, so that gives us enough time to have our say in what it should be changed to.

Do you know Luxmore Gardens which is behind the houses in Rokeby and Malpas Roads? Perhaps you would like a similar scheme on the Brockley Nursery site with low-rise housing and a play area and park?

The possibilities are endless. We have come up with: high density social housing; a private nature or woodland park; a private garden centre; medium

density private housing; small offices and workshops; a mixed-use site with housing, flats, offices and workshops. Whatever happens, one thing is almost guaranteed. The usage of the site will change. That is why we want our say.

There will be a public meeting soon with the Council to discuss the options, by then the issue will have become a bit of a political "hot potato" as the Local Government elections are coming up. So we will ask all prospective Council candidates to come along to the meeting so that we can put across our views.

This is not just an issue for people living in the immediate Brockley Nursery area. The development will affect all local people as it will bring construction lorries into Brockley and even more cars.

So come along to tell the Council what you think.



Watch this space for new developments

BR Strikes Back

Look out Brockley! Having failed to raise enough money to dig a tunnel under South East London, BR may have to decide to return to the old route for the Channel Tunnel link.

Cut-and-over tunnels and open surface track through Brockley and high speed trains running at 120mph is what may be in store for us. Above ground, the route goes via Drakefell, Road Cranfield Road (destroying houses all the way), then under Breakspears, Tressillian and Tyrwhitt Roads but as it is cut-and-over it will destroy most of the area by direct

demolition or loss of amenities (peace and quiet).

However, all is not lost if BR face similar opposition as they did last time. The chances are that they will have to build the link from Stratford.

Sources in the construction industry say that BR are already looking at Stratford as a back-up. So let's make it known that they are not welcome here.

Watch this space for further news. BR should make an announcement sometime in February.

Remember that the more noise we make, the more effect it will have.

Boot Sale

Our first Boot Sale was such a success that we had many enquiries about another. The Brockley Society funds benefitted by £300, so we have booked the site three times a year: March 25th, May 20th and November 4th.

Next Boot Sale

in SELTEC car park
Sunday, March 25th
9.00am to 2.00pm
Refreshments available

Cars £5 booked, £ on the day
Vans £7 booked, £ on the day

Send cheques, made payable to Brockley Society, along with your car registration number to; The Secretary, Flat 2, 106 Breakspears Road.

Can you help in marshalling cars from 8.00am till 10.00am (and get the best of the bargains!) or help clear up afterwards, 1.00pm till 3.00pm? All offers welcomed, please phone 692 6977.

Summer Fayre

In 1989 the Summer Fayre was a successful as ever but was more than ever extremely hard work for the few organisers. Although we had many offers of help prior to the date, unfortunately on the day many were unable to attend. This year I am asking you early to put a note in your diary both of the date and of the telephone numbers which you can ring to offer your help. We always need helpers on the day both to run stalls and to help with organisation in the morning and clearing up in the afternoon. We desperately need donations of prizes for the "tombola", "raffle", and other games. Also I am sure that there are some ladies and gentlemen out there who would bake us some cakes to sell on our cake stall.

This year I am looking for a Master of Ceremonies, someone with access to an outdoor PA system and who would make announcements to the public and generally keep things going.

Before the date of the Fayre is when all the hard work is done and for this we also need you letter writing, collecting prizes and bric-a-brac, selling programmes and generally helping to organise. It all needs to be achieved and we are only just over three months away.

Whatever time, or indeed items for donation, any of you have to spare we will gratefully accept. Remember the Fayre is organised for your enjoyment as well as to raise funds both for charity and BrocSoc.

Don't forget the date; Saturday 23rd of June 1990. Don't forget the phone numbers; 691 9724 and 692 6977 and 692 2289.

Lewisham Conservers

Lewisham Conservers are affiliated to the London Wildlife Trust and we are volunteers of all ages who spend a few Sundays every year to maintain the wildlife value of sites throughout the Borough. New volunteers are welcome in suitable working clothes and shoes, and with some lunch.

Residents of Brockley have an excellent site at **New Cross Gate cuttings**, entrance on Vesta Road near the railway bridge. We will be at **Devonshire Road Nature Reserve**, at the junction with Tyson Road on **Sunday the 8th April**. For more information about the Conservers and tasks in progress contact Brian Herring 851 7895 or Mike Keogh 692 4694.

Parking on the White Lines

The Borough Conservation Advisory Committee (BCAC) has asked the Council's engineering department to consider the use of a white line along the carriageway in front of a crossover to deter car parking in front of gateways. Although this is only advisory, in areas where this has been done, it has met with great success, and acted as a deterrent. If we can have these white lines in our area, I, for one would be willing to pay for one across my driveway.

Gill Heywood

Satellite Dishes

Sightings of extraterrestrial white saucers around the conservation area may soon be a thing of the past because the Government is planning strict controls to stop the spreading of these orbs known as satellite dishes.

At the moment, dishes must not extend above the level of the roof line of a house and there can only be one per house.

The gap in the law has prompted the Department of Environment to produce a consultation paper which will be published shortly. There are no clues as to what it will contain, only that there will be "additional controls".

Meanwhile, if you have to have one we suggest that painting it to blend with the house may be a good idea.

On the Other Hand...

Don't bother with a satellite dish: Cable TV will come to the whole Borough within five years. 30 channels, the best reception with use of fibre optics, even extra films, and both satellite stations. Videotron is setting up in the centre of Lewisham and will work radially, so we should be one of the first areas to benefit.

Videotron will be responsible for mending the pavements after the cables go in.

Planning Applications

Breakspears Rd;

18a to establish use as a flat
38 to establish use of ground floor as a flat
82 Alteration and conversion of cellar to one 2 bedroom flat with new windows and doors

Wickham Rd;

43 conversion to one 1 bedroom, three 2 bedroom, one studio flats
40b conversion of ground floor to two 1 bedroom flats

110 Manor Avenue; installation of new sash window in side of basement flat

Tyrwhitt Rd;

39 conversion to one 1 bedroom flat and two 2 bedroom maisonettes. Installation of two Velux windows in rear roofspace

Cranfield Rd;

10 erection of metal staircase at rear
58 conversion to three 2 bedrooms, 1 bedsit and erection of a three storey plus roofspace extension at side. Removal of dormer window and installation of two Velux windows in rear and front roof. Removal of conservatory. Erection of new roof and walls and alteration to rear extension.

14 St Margaret's Rd: Conversion to one 1 bedroom and two 2 bedroom flats, installation of two velux windows at front and one at rear.

79 Upper Brockley Rd: Continued use of rear garage for car servicing

11 Hilly Fields Crescent: Conversion to two 2 bedroom flats and one bedsit flat.

27a Montague Avenue: Conversion of roofspace to provide 2 bedrooms, dormer window in rear and velux window in front.

3 Brockley Cross: First and second floors conversion to two 1 bedroom flats. Alterations to shop front.

10 Ashby Rd: Retention of satellite dish in rear garden

186 Lewisham Way: Retention of part of boundary wall; double gates with piers with ornamental lions and access to Wickham Mews (*Congratulations from the Advisory Committee*)

Planning Applications Granted Permission.
2 Wickham Rd; Three hses in rear garden

Roundel Club (behind St Margaret's Rd) outline permission for housing with access beside flats in Adelaide Avenue.

28 Tressillian Rd

9 Hilly Fields Crescent Retention and conversion of coach hse

48 Breakspears Rd

25 StMargaret's Rd

5 Tyrwhitt Rd

Planning Applications Refused Permission

24 Geoffrey Rd; 3 units, lack of parking, overdevelopment

103 Manor Avenue; Change from residential to office use

Rear of 157 Upper Brockley Rd use of Garage for car repairs

Applications for Treeworks at:

Acacia Hse
Colin Blanchard Hse
Wickham Rd Estate
2 Glensdale Rd
70 Geoffrey Rd
74a and 11 Tyrwhitt Rd
45 Upper Brockley Rd
110, 69, 104 and 112a Tressillian Rd
4 Garsington Mews
6 Darling Rd
72 Rokeby Rd
80 Geoffrey Rd
37 Manor Avenue
65, 93 and 22 Breakspears Rd

Roads to Ruin

By now you will have heard about the Government's road scheme for the South Circular through Lewisham. We hope you have returned the Council's circular and shown your opposition.

If it goes ahead, it will affect Brockley very badly through greatly increased congestion, noise and pollution as vehicles come on and off it at Catford and Forest Hill and head this way.

The real solution is better public transport, especially rail, but the Government won't pay for this. Only roads will be supported by Government (your) money. So, join your local campaign where it gets going.

Watch out for leaflets and meetings and do participate: These plans can be defeated with your support.

Garden Wall Damage

Garden walls are often insured against storm damage in your house policy. So if yours was blown down in the last few weeks try your insurance company for rebuilding costs.

Want To Talk to the Council?

Make your moans heard in the right place.

We all moan to each other about broken pavements, potholes in the road, street lights out, dumped cars, rubbish, wheelie-bins on the pavement, permanently or just not returned on bin day, no road sweeper, caravans which don't move for years, noisy parties and many other grievances. Unfortunately, this might make us feel better but won't improve the situation.

PHONE THE COUNCIL

If we all 'phone with all the complaints we have, they will do something about it, even if only to shut us up! Here are some of the 'phone numbers and names to ask for to get through to the right department the first time. Don't be fobbed off.

Environmental Services; 695 6000

Dumped Cars... Ext 5127
Pavements and roads.../ Ext 5095/6
Wheelie-bins...and
Dumped furniture...and
Lumber collection... Ext 5115,
ask for Len Brown

Planning; 695 6000

Ask for Louise Holland or Jan Mondrjewski

Street lights; 690 4366 Ext 277

Road sweeping; 690 4366 Ext 243

Noise;

9.00am to 5.00pm 852 9121
Ext 365
5.00pm to 9.00am 695 6000

Smoky bonfires; 852 9121 ask for Ms Attrill

Rats; 852 9121 Ext 393

Annual General Meeting of the Society

The Brockley Society Annual General Meeting was held at St Peter's Centre, Cranfield Road on 23rd October 1989.

The following Officers were elected:

Chair... Mark Doyle
Vice Chair... Bob Hayes
Secretary... Tony Kirwan
Social Secretary... Bernie Harper
Treasurer... J.W. Heywood
Fayre Committee... Bernie Harper & Lindsey Hayes
Police Liaison... Tony Kirwan
LPTUC... Harold Shalet
BCAC... Gill Heywood (Chair) & Bob Hayes

It was with much sadness that the meeting heard that Gill Heywood, our Chair for the last six years, was not standing for re-election. A vote of thanks was proposed to Gill for all the work and effort she had put into her terms of office and all wished her well in her new role as Chair of the Borough Conservation Advisory Committee.

A review of the past year showed how successful the Society had been in its efforts to enhance and protect our area from the negative approaches of developers, the Department of Transport and British Rail. It showed how working with other amenity groups, particularly the formation of BATTLE, could successfully fight our issues from a position of strength. It also showed, however, that there was still a long way to go and such issues as the Channel Tunnel Link, the roads and the development of the Brockley Nursery site would continue to involve the Society for some time to come.

After the meeting closed discussions continued over wine and cheese.

Since the above report was prepared Mark Doyle has, for business reasons, reluctantly resigned from the Chair. We would all like to thank him for the work he has done, and wish him well in his new career. This does, however, leave the post of Chair vacant. Ideally the Chair should be a good organiser and communicator. The duties include chairing the monthly meetings and delegating and co-ordinating the numerous activities of the Society. If you think that you could take on this role, or you know someone who could, please contact Bob Hayes on 692 2289.

Space For Parking?

We have been telling the Council for some years that on-street parking is becoming intolerable in Brockley. In the past the reply has been that it is not a planning matter, or that there is adequate parking space for yet another conversion or that although heavily parked, this is SELTEC students and the residents haven't really got a problem: Officers only work on weekdays from 9 to 5 and have never seen Manor Avenue on a Sunday, say, or tried to park in the evening, at the lower end of Tyrwhitt, Tressillian, Cranfield, Wickham, Breakspears and many other roads.

At last the Borough Engineers' department is objecting to planning applications that could mean more

than two cars parked on the road at each house. We intend to support these objections and if possible, make them stronger. Where off-street parking can be made available (other than in front gardens), it must be a compulsory part of planning approvals.

Rubbish.

Won't go in the Wheelie-bin? There is no excuse! You don't have to go to Bromley to get rid of your rubbish any more. Lewisham Council has now opened its Waste Transfer Station at Creekside off Deptford Church Street. You can take anything there; mattresses, TVs, furniture, washing machines, fridges, anything you don't want is welcome. There is also a waste paper bank, bottle bank and the only can bank in the Borough on the site. Open 8.00am to 7.00pm Monday to Saturday, 10.00am to 2.30pm Sundays and Bank Holidays.

Watch Out... there's a Burglar about!

Recently we had an intruder in the house— apparently known in the nefarious trade as a "creepy". The gall of the fellow! We were in the house at the time; he crept in over the fence and through the back door. Within five minutes of 'phoning the law there was a Police Officer in the garden with a torch and another in the hall taking the details. They didn't catch him this time, but now they know a little more about him and one day he'll be caught.

According to Mick Franks, our local Bobby based at Brockley Police Station, crime figures in the Brockley area are seriously escalating. On his beat alone there have been 16 reported burglaries mainly committed during the daytime and evening, one reported mugging and 11 reported vehicle crimes, mainly committed overnight at the Lewisham Way end of Brockley since Christmas.

There's a lot you can do to prevent these intrusions into your life. There are two Crime Prevention Officers based at

Brockley; George Spurling and Len Philips, 'phone them on 697 9411. They will arrange to visit you and give you advice on how you can make your place more secure.

On the same number you can obtain details about your local Neighbourhood Watch Scheme and also ask for the use of the special marking equipment so that if your valuables are stolen and then retrieved by the Police they can be returned to you.

Mick Franks also warns about bogus callers at your door. Always ask for identification from a person claiming to be "from the Waterboard" or wherever, and to be aware that if they are bogus they often work as a little team, with one man keeping you busy 'checking' your plumbing/ telephone line/ gas supply or whatever they claim to be doing, whilst another man is rifling through your possessions in another room.

If you are suspicious about anything at all, be it the "gasman", someone you see in a neighbour's garden, or something you see in the street **YOU MUST TELEPHONE 999 IMMEDIATELY**. The operator will put you straight through to Scotland Yard who will

instantly contact your nearest police station with their computer network. This is how the Police were at my door so quickly; any call for help is responded to instantly. You can also call Brockley Police Station 24 hours a day on 697 9441 or you can call the Police Area Communication Centre (who will put you through to Brockley) on 697 9212, but 999 is quicker.

Sheila Job

Noise Pollution

Sharing other people's sounds can add much pleasure to life but those same sounds can also make life more stressful, especially when electronically enhanced and pumped into the streets from cars and open windows. Somehow the nicer the weather, the greater the sounds; rythm and blues; classical Cats; the rocking beat, all pour out— the bed sit soul sounds.

Perhaps the worst of the sounds are from all night parties- noise, not nice, parties-people who live close by must endure the sounds at second-hand for as long as it takes. Party drinks, party rock breeds trouble which can burst into violence, only then can the police take a hand to stop the racket. It is now that criminal offences can finally spoil the party fun.

R.K.



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