

Blackheath Cator Estate Residents Ltd

Chapman House, 10 Blackheath Village London SE3 9LE 020-8297-1210 office@blackheathcatorestate.co.uk
www.blackheathcatorestate.co.uk

NEWSLETTER – Spring 2009

BCER'S "QUESTION TIME" 31 MARCH

We look forward to seeing as many residents as possible at this meeting to be held at 8.00 pm at St. Michael's Church Hall.

The format will be informal and no executive decision or formal business will be taken. The only rules will be those to ensure proper debate and ensure that as many questions are possible are answered. Questions may be submitted in advance, but it is hoped that most will come from those present on the night. Residents will be asked to 'sign in' on arrival and refreshments will be provided.

THE HUNTSMAN SPORTSGROUND PLANNING APPLICATION

An Outline Planning application has been submitted by Derreb Ltd (ref 08/2925/O) for this site, proposing the erection of 141 residential dwellings, car parking and vehicle access. BCER has formally objected to the development and strongly advised residents to object individually as well. We will continue to keep residents updated of any further news by email and in subsequent newsletters.

If you would like to receive updates by email and you have not previously sent us your email address, please do so at office@blackheathcatorestate.co.uk.

BLACKHEATH PARK PLAYING FIELDS

In regard to the strips of land not acquired for Thomas Tallis School use, residents will be pleased to learn that we have received written confirmation that Greenwich Council has no plans to relax or remove their designation as MOL.

ROADS AND PAVEMENTS

The schedule of road and pavement improvements for 2009 is soon to be finalised and will be posted onto the BCER website. Residents may also call the office if they wish to have a copy of the schedule sent to them.

HAZEL NELSON

Many of you will know the sad news that Hazel Nelson died on 14th January.

Hazel was the Secretary of the BCER Company from May 1984 to December 1995. That title belies the vital role she played in Cator Estate affairs over many years. Rod Armitage remembers attending board meetings at her house where her front room doubled as the Cator Estate office. He recalls her beautifully handwritten agendas and amazing efficiency. In particular, Rod remembers her skill in gently letting the board know when lesser items were taking up too much time, or when it was going round in circles. Hazel was also excellent in putting residents' views on various issues to the board. She walked the estate almost daily checking on trees, footpaths, roads, lighting and traffic. She kept a close eye on all developments, large and small. Gill Butler found her a great ally in persuading the Council to return the 'Donkey Field' in Brooklands Park to its original use, attending meetings with donkey experts to advise on fencing and shelters and establishing the exact position of the Estate boundary. Thanks to her we still have that hawthorn hedge.

Hazel's legacy is all around us in the Cator Estate in so many ways. She will be greatly missed.

CIRCULATION PERMIT RENEWALS

There has been some delay in processing the circulation permits. Residents may continue to use their existing permits until they receive their new permit. Wing Security have instructions not to clamp any vehicle displaying an out-of-date permit until further notice. This instruction will remain in force until our backlog is dealt with and all permit applications processed. We would appreciate your patience in this matter and apologise for any inconvenience caused.

APPEAL FOR BOARD MEMBERS

Are you available one evening a month to join the Board of Directors? If you are keen to make a contribution to the running of the Cator Estate then we would love to hear from you. We will be looking for new members to stand at the next AGM which will take place in September. We are particularly keen to hear from residents with a background in surveying and estate management, architecture, law accountancy and senior management or administration in the public or corporate spheres. Experience in community work or the voluntary sector would also be valuable. If you would like to find out more then please contact the office for more information

ACTING CHAIRMAN'S NOTE

Although it is the big things that take up most of the time at Annual General Meetings and board meetings, it is, perhaps, the small things, all of which need some organisation and administration by directors and our administrators, that make a lot of difference on the estate. The litter clearing, a perennial and growing problem, is one such. But constant vigilance is also needed on our trees (and their roots!). Street lights go out, and new lights have to be installed (and a balance struck between turning the estate's lighting to modern road standards and maintaining a rural ambience). Day to day maintenance of the estate's green verges has to be organised. Small tasks – repainting of bollards, extra cycle stands at Blackheath Park gate, the annual cleaning of road gullies, the issue and re-issue of circulation permits, the answering of queries (on many subjects often not within our control) all take time. There are the problems to be analysed – that permanent puddle in the pavement outside 5 Blackheath Park, the overhanging trees – some of which we can deal with and some we cannot. There are the matters we spend lots of time on and which, eventually come to fruition – the new archway light at the Blackheath end of the Blackheath Park/Parkgate passage way - and those that don't – the provision of more seats on the estate. A lot is going on all the time, but we are always looking for new ideas on how our environment might be improved - let's have your ideas – to the Office or at our forthcoming Question Time.

DOG FOULING

We have had a number of complaints about the increase in dog fouling on the Cator Estate. If you have a dog, please clear up after it.

REFUSE

We would request that the litter bins on the estate are used for litter and small items of rubbish only. They are not to be used for disposal of household waste, which is collected on Tuesdays by Greenwich Council.

Please check with Greenwich Council for any updates/alterations to collection.

GATE CLOSURES

Would residents please note that the usual alternation of gate closures will be suspended for March and April. It has been suggested that this may help residents' access and exit from the Estate for the duration of the A2 roadworks. Pond Road will therefore remain closed and Morden Road will be manned. The matter will be kept under review.

Residents may be interested in learning more about the Bowling Club in Brooklands Park. We are pleased to include this article, prepared by the Club's Treasurer, Jenny Ekins.

BLACKHEATH & GREENWICH BOWLING CLUB

We are situated in Brooklands Park, but I wonder how many of the residents of the Cator Estate realise we are there, even though the Club, established in 1903, moved to the present site in 1926.

We are a friendly club which would welcome new bowlers of all ages and abilities. Our season runs from the end of April until the end of September. During the winter we have regular club nights on the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month, plus social events.

We have a beautiful south-facing green, surrounded by a large and interesting garden. Our clubhouse has a large terrace adjacent, on which one can spend a lovely summers evening or weekend, enjoying a convivial drink and watching bowls matches or even taking part if you so desire.

If you are interested do come along and meet us on one of our club nights before the season commences. They are on 7th and 21st March.

For more information please ring Jenny Ekins on 020 8857 0456.