

Blackheath Cator Estate Residents Ltd

The Old Bakehouse, 11 Blackheath Village, London SE3 9LA 020-8297-1210
office@blackheathcatorestate.co.uk www.blackheathcatorestate.co.uk

NEWSLETTER – Summer 2019

AGM

The Company's 53rd Annual General meeting took place on a beautiful summer's evening on Tuesday 2 July 2019 at St Michael & All Angel's Church Hall. It was chaired by Jon Taylor and attended by some 42 shareholders. The Report of the Directors and the Audited Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2018 were received and adopted.

Andrew Crain and Derek Gardiner retired by rotation and Derek was re-elected to the Board for a further term. The meeting thanked Andrew Crain for his stint on the board for the past 3 years and wished him well. The Board is pleased to welcome a new director – Karolina Olbryk of Manor Way. The Board is now made up of Elizabeth Allen, Clare Cornwell (Vice Chair), Derek Gardiner, Barry Hadingham, Christina Lane, Karolina Olbryk and Jon Taylor (Chair). Rod Armitage continues as company secretary.

Questions raised by shareholders included the level of reserves, frontage charges, planning, lighting, crime, drug dealing, verges, parking and CCTV/ANPR, and will be issues the Board will be addressing over the forthcoming months and will report to residents on progress.

Frontage Charge

The frontage charge rate per foot will be set in the autumn. The rate per foot of £8.78 has remained unchanged for eight years, however, to reflect the level of reserves currently held, the Board has resolved that it intends to offer a modest reduction in the estate charge for the current year. The Board would remind residents, however, that the rate per foot could go up or down in future years and that the matter would be kept under review.

RESIDENTS OPEN HOUSE MEETING 14 MAY

19 residents attended the open house meeting to meet with Directors and the Estate Manager. Issues raised included making the newsletter more attractive and engaging. Other topics raised included Huntsman, the perceived increase in crime, the introduction of zoning to control parking on Blackheath Park, speed and volume of through traffic, grass verges. These issues, solutions and possible implications are all being addressed by the Board.

QUESTIONNAIRE/SURVEY – NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

As reported in the Spring newsletter, The BCER Board would like to hear from residents how they feel about living on the estate, what they like and any improvements they would like to see. An online survey has been posted on the website.

Please visit [Estate Information](#) on the website and click on [Questionnaire](#). If you do not have access to the website and would like to receive a paper copy of the survey please contact the Estate Office.

The Questionnaire will be available online until 30th September – so don't miss this opportunity to get your views across to the Board and influence plans for the future.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: social media initiative

Neighbourhood Watch on the Cator Estate is launching an eponymous (closed) Facebook group for our residents. Its purpose is to keep us informed about topics relating to the safety and security of our area. Please join either using the Facebook search function or <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1550705455070794>

RESIDENTS EMAIL ADDRESSES

We would also urge residents who have not so far provided an email address that they forward this to us so that we may include as many residents as possible on our database. This information is particularly useful if we need to contact residents at short notice about matters pertaining to the estate, for instance utility works, road works, etc. Please see the **Privacy Policy** on our website: emails will only be sent to residents about Estate matters, and email addresses will not be made available to any third party.

WEBSITE

The BCER website contains useful information including the history and background of the Cator Estate, as well as downloadable vehicle permit/gate pass application forms, information on shares, parking, gate manning etc, and we urge residents and potential residents to take a look. If you are looking for information that does not appear to be available on the website, or if you do not have access to the website, by all means telephone the BCER estate office and we will be very pleased to provide whatever information we can.

COMMUTER PARKING IN BLACKHEATH PARK

We would like to remind permit holders that parking away from the vicinity of the vehicle's registered address for frequent or extended periods is contrary to rules governing the issue of permits. Such parking may result in vehicle permits being revoked.

SCOOTERS, SKATEBOARDING AND CYCLING ON PAVEMENTS

Some residents report that instances of skateboarding, scooting and cycling are still taking place on pavements within the Cator Estate. Adult cyclists, skateboarders and scooters should always use the Estate roads rather than the pavements. Pavements should be strictly for pedestrians and young children with scooters etc should be supervised by parents, and should be mindful of people walking, particularly the elderly.

ARTIFICIAL GRASS TRIAL

Residents of the Cator Estate like the grass verges, however, some residents have queried the degree of re-turfing and some have complained about bare and sometimes muddy verges where turf does not 'take'. The Board therefore agreed to investigate further options and subsequently approved the installation of a trial patch of artificial turf to test its suitability and to seek residents' views. The artificial grass has been laid along the western verge at the northern end of Foxes Dale; this particular stretch was chosen because it has proved difficult for grass to thrive due to shady, dry conditions, and because it did not directly front any property, being alongside a side garden fence. We are grateful to the many residents who have commented on the trial patch and all these comments, along with any further comments received, will be considered carefully by the Board when it meets in September.