
EVTRA Newsletter

An occasional publication of the Elm Village Tenants and Residents Association



Covering 11-111 Barker Drive, Bergholt Mews , Blakeney Close,
Rossendale Way and 44 St Pancras Way

April 2009

It's Spring! So everything is green ...

Green (1): Hedges

Hedges and other greenery are growing, and being wilful don't always stay behind your fence. We have been asked to suggest that you don't do major clipping outside your fence yourself but get the Garden Centre to do it. They are specialists, they love plants, they are paid to do it, and they are free! Just call in at the Garden Centre, or leave a note, phone Mike Jackson (020 7387 7080) or email him at mike@camdengardencentre.co.uk

Green (2): Model vegetable and fruit garden

The Garden Centre is also applying to set up a model veg and fruit garden in Barker Drive. The project is at an early stage, as they are still looking for permission. But if it happens it will be a great (free) asset to the community. Our Garden Club will be strongly encouraged to take part, and there will be openings for children and disabled people. We may also even get some cheap and very organic produce!

Green (3): Initiative from Camley Street Natural Park

The staff at Camley St Natural Park plan to take their expertise and enthusiasm out into the community and have offered us the chance to host events in the park. These will be free and will respond to requests from residents. They will also offer repeats of successful activities they have run at the Park, such as observation of birds. Mike Jackson is working with them on our behalf to produce some ideas.

Green (4): (sort of) Future of Camley Street

In this case we mean the bit that people drive on and the immediately adjacent land and buildings. The Committee has been concerned for some time that Camley Street could become a natural barrier, a parking space for overnight freight lorries, and a general dumping ground for unwanted aspects of the new King's Cross development. This would leave us literally "on the other side of the tracks",

separated from the new and exciting quarter.

Yet in terms of distance we are very close indeed to the centre of this new activity. Also Camley Street runs straight down into the square which is intended to be the impressive centre of the new rail complex.

We have therefore drawn up a set of proposals which would make Camley Street into a lively, modern, desirable area. Our estate would then have all the benefits such a development can bring, whilst its layout protects it from the disadvantages of through traffic. Among the ideas are easier access to the canal and to one entrance to the new site, buses, shops, and a leisure centre. We believe that our ideas are both realistic, capable of relatively quick implementation and not costly.

We have drawn up a document which we plan to circulate to people who are potentially interested, and

easier access to the canal and to one entrance to the new site, plus buses, shops and a leisure centre. We believe that our ideas are realistic, capable of relatively quick implementation and not costly.

We have drawn up a document which we plan to circulate to people who are potentially interested, and first of all to our residents. The Secretary will then put interested parties in contact with each other.

We don't know if anything will happen – we have become very cynical about such developments in Camden – but we feel it is worth the try, as the benefits could be so great and inaction can only be to our detriment. We will be circulating the document in the very near future.

So much green – but there's also

Something brown on your shoe.

Well, you may be the lucky one, but some of your neighbours have had some nasty encounters with some of the

several tons of dog mess which are deposited on our streets every day.

Let's be clear – we are not against dogs. We know of many animals in the Village that are a pleasure and comfort to their humans and cheer us all up. The sight of one of the residents of Rosendale Way being taken for a very brisk walk by a four-legged friend owned by her neighbour certainly cheers a gloomy day!

But those who use Barker Drive have been the victims of much less neighbourly behaviour, not to mention the frightening sight of small children playing in the Barker Drive Space and picking up a ball or a stick, plus possibly something undesirable.

The owners who spoil the space just don't seem to know or care that dog faeces can cause very serious illness.

So if you see an antisocial owner "at work" contact the street cleaning section of the Council, tel. 020 7974 6914.

And finally...

The Carol Event

Christmas is now long past, but as we have not had a Newsletter since then, we need to report that the annual Carol Event again took place successfully, with the tree on the Green as usual. For some reason there were fewer children this year, which was a pity, as their decoration of the tree in the past has always been enthusiastic and imaginative.

But this year, after a few carols, we retreated from the cold to the warmth of the Constitution Cellar. As it was a private event children were welcomed, and our juvenile musical star, Zoe, again took a leading part. She was joined by her brother to end the singing. Everybody joined in and they got loud applause. Free mince pies and mulled wine left everyone in a neighbourly mood and looking forward to Christmas.