
EVTRA Newsletter

An occasional publication of the Elm Village Tenants and Residents Association



Covering 11–111 Barker Drive, Bergholt Mews, Blakeney Close, Rosendale Way and 44 St Pancras Way

February 2007

Best wishes for 2007 from the Committee

Places for People news

Tighten your belts — Service Charge set to rocket

The Committee have had some legal advice about the hike in service charges set to hit us in April. We thought it was unfair that we should get a massive rise because the Housing Association had failed to plan in the past and now wishes us to pay not only for the present but also for a future when most of us will no longer be here, because of a pressing commitment to attend our harp and hymn-singing lessons. However,

our advice is that this is unlikely to outweigh any argument from PFP that they have a duty to look after residents.

Advance warning: decorators on the loose

We are assured by PFP that redecoration will happen “in the spring”. We fear that the work will not be done by the legendary cheap but efficient Polish but by one of the usual gang. On last time’s showing, there could be

some very shoddy work. The Committee have asked PFP for a hotline so that residents can report problems immediately and get things put right. We’ll keep you informed.

Some of the fencing at the front of houses is in a bad state, so we have tried to get PFP to offer a package deal allowing such fences to be repaired before the redecoration, which would make the fence repairs cheaper (PFP say it is residents’ responsibility: better check your lease). We await their reply.

THE ENVIRONMENT

Elm Village skyline set to change again

The development of St Pancras Way is still attracting profit-hungry developers. A revised application for the next stage in this development, at nos. 22–24, has now been received by Camden Council. EVTRA is sending a deputation to the Development Control Committee meeting on March 1. The grounds for objection remain the same — buildings far too high and cutting out the light, many more people seeking to use the

same services (schools, medical centres etc.), and a ban on cars, so the new residents could obviously decide to use our spaces in the evening and at weekends. If you wish to show your support contact EVTRA’s St Pancras Way subcommittee (7383 3092, maeve.oc@blueyonder.co.uk).

A little bit towards the environment . . .

After due investigation it seems that a few modest things can be done for the wildlife that helps to make the village more attractive to live in. Mike Jackson of the

Garden Centre is trying to get a few projects going. The most notable concerns the space next to the wooden viewing platform over the canal towpath. This area is not being neglected but is being managed to encourage birds and wild plants. This is why mowers etc. are not being used there.

. . . and some more active furry friends

We have started to receive reports about two problems. One is mice. This does not seem to

have become too widespread but should you become seriously infested you can either get a cat (though the ones we know seem to look at mice and say "well, what

am I supposed to do about it?") or get the Council to come and deal with them.

A more serious problem is foxes. They are now seen frequently in

the Village, as is their effect on rubbish bags. One resident says that her cat was savaged by a fox. We'd be interested to hear via the Secretary of any ideas residents may have about how any problems can be managed.

LOCAL PROJECTS

Aunt Sue wants to help you

We have been approached and interviewed by a team of researchers from London Metropolitan University about their project, "Aunt-Sue". This is an acronym for "Accessibility and User Needs in Transport for Sustainable Urban Environments". Apart

from the obvious issues of transport services and the various needs of disabled people, the project has a wider brief, such as the needs of people with young children and the elderly, and also looking at conditions which make access to and use of areas more or less difficult (e.g. poor lighting, crime, etc.).

The team wants to have a meeting with a group of about a dozen people who would be representative of the estate. They will circularise the whole estate in the very near future and you are invited to reply and to join one of the meetings.

GENERAL INFORMATION

If you wish to be informed of local projects and opportunities to

comment or participate, just send

your e-mail address to the Secretary (evtrasec@aol.com).

SOCIAL LIFE

Carol Event drunk dry by enthusiastic singing residents

The Carol Event has now become an Elm Village tradition and is causing envy in some other areas, we understand. Twenty or so people used their imagination to trudge through the snow to look for reindeer and join in the singing by the Christmas tree, donated once more by the Garden Centre and decorated by village children. The tree was again left on the Green until the New Year. The singing was accompanied very professionally by last year's team of Harriet (accordion) and Zoë

(guitar). It is rumoured that the singers sang loudly in order not to hear the singing of the MC (Ed). Their efforts were rewarded by large numbers of mince pies and mulled wine (all drunk!). The wine was heated courtesy of Green resident Sarah Butler, even though her house was in the middle of very serious redecoration. Thanks to all who took part and we look forward to the next Event.

Elm Village wins the FA Cup (May 2010)?

The Constitution FC (which contains many local lads) remains unbeaten at the time of writing. We are now arranging for a special correspondent to give full reports on the team and its matches on the web site (www.evtra.org.uk/sports.html). The *Camden New Journal* only gives minimal reports and the Camden Sunday League site just gives the facts (tables etc.). Don't miss the lively accounts that we hope to bring you.

REVIEW SPOT

The little shop with a big selection: "the Turkish shop"

If you haven't discovered it so far, do so quickly — it saves so much trouble. It's pretty well opposite the Royal College Street gate to the canal and next to the 46/274 bus stop. The store is officially a green-grocers (their Mediterranean fruit is always better than the

supermarkets) but sells a wide range of basic goods, from bread to tinned vegetables and pet food to loo paper. Currently bread costs 69p–99p and the 2-litre milk containers are £1.10. They do regular bargain offers, 2 for 1 etc. They sell two bottles of wine for £5 (certain brands only), not chateau-bottled but solid and drinkable — and Panadol or

similar pills if you have too much of the contents of these. They also sell postage stamps, do mobile top-ups and can do electricity or gas payments. You can even watch Turkish soaps on their TV (if you understand Turkish) and they are unfailingly polite. Open 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. (only closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day).

USEFUL CONTACTS*

Police

Urgent calls: 999

Drug dealing etc.: 020 8733 6262

Reporting needles: Drug Action Response Team (DART):

0800 032 3278 (do not move the needle yourself)

Reporting dealing etc.: Safer Neighbours Programme
020 8721 2810

Camden Town and Kentish Town:
020 7404 1212

Camden Town street wardens
020 7974 5195

Street Services Team (help for people on the street)
020 7833 7970

Community safety team
020 7974 2915

Borough Control Room (for reporting less urgent crime)
020 7404 1212

Crimestoppers (for anonymous information): freephone 0800 555 111; www.crimestoppers-uk.org

Places for People

0800 432 0002 or 0800 432 0003;

Mehz Omar (Neighbourhood Officer): 020 7520 7419; mehjabin.omar@placesforpeople.co.uk

Camden Council

Recycling: 020 7974 6914 (for free collection of garden waste);

recycling@camden.gov.uk;

www.camden.gov.uk/recycling
Guide for older people (Getting on in Camden): 020 7974 4523; www.camden.gov.uk

Healthy living activities and events:
0800 068 2949, or www.wellandwise.org.uk

Disability information directory :

020 7974 2230

Community Safety Team: 7974 2915

Street problems

Litterline (rubbish collection, graffiti, dirty streets, abandoned

cars): 020 7974 6914 or 6915; street.environment@camden.gov.uk

Blocked kerbside gullies and drains: 020 7974 2005

Dog fouling: 020 7974 6914

Hole in road/uneven pavement: 020 7974 2015

Street lighting: 020 7974 2006

Street sweeping: 020 7974 6915

Parking permits: 020 7974 4646

Noise (9.0 a.m. to 4 p.m.): 020 7974 2090; env.health@camden.gov.uk

Weekend noise service (Friday and Saturday, 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.): 020 7278 4444

General enquiries (Town Hall):
020 7278 4444

Councillor: Roger Robinson,
roger.robinson@camden.gov.uk

*Please let the Secretary know if any of these details need to be updated.