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# 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

**June 2007**

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## COACHLOADS OF VISITORS EXPECTED FOR THE ELM VILLAGE ILLUMINATIONS

Blackpool, watch out! On June 5, after some two years of pressure by ourselves and Cllr Roger Robinson, the Council finally installed a light in the alleyway between Rossendale Way and Bergholt Mews. When this was announced at the last Committee meeting, members reacted with astonishment

before erupting in delight that something had finally been achieved. They toasted the event in rosé wine, before dancing a Victory Illumination Conga round the Village. A Downing Street spokesman said "This is a truly historic event. Tony Blair will see this as the icing on the cake to his ten years of service to the

nation". Cllr Robinson said to our reporter "Excellent . . . at least the Council does do something once in a while — hope the light helps". Seriously, we believe that it will, as recently the darkness of the alleyway allowed intruders to get into a neighbouring garden and drug dealers routinely to hide their wares.

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## IF YOU WANT SOMETHING DOING . . .

Many people these days feel that they are powerless and that all decisions are taken by bureaucrats and politicians. We in EVTRA agree that this often happens, but we also feel — and know — that ordinary people can change the things which affect their everyday lives. True, we sometimes feel that, as Shakespeare's character, Doll Tearsheet, put it, we "have grown old in the service". But there has been a reduction in the Service Charge, and we do have our light. The latter may seem a trivial thing, but it means a lot to some people: the Secretary has just received an email from a resident who says that she feels a lot more secure from intruders and drug dealers than before.

So here is a list of issues:

### Mice

An increasing number of residents have reported seeing

mice in or around their homes.

*What you can do:* There are supersonic devices available on the high street, as are poison and mouse traps; you can keep a cat, or talk to a neighbour who has one about encouraging the cat to sniff around; or you can request action from Pfp (Mehz.Omar@placesforpeople.co.uk) and/or the Council (020 7278 4444).

### The food smells

Some residents are suffering quite a lot of nuisance, especially as windows are kept open in the warm weather, from food smells coming from St Pancras Way. The Council can act, but must have evidence.

*What you can do:* Ask for a diary (phone the Customer Services Officer on 020 7974 2090), log the nuisance and

## A charming stranger is coming to your door...

It's that time again when subscriptions are due. The charge is again being kept down to **£2 per household** and someone will soon call round to collect the money from those who wish to join/remain as members. If you are out when we call you can **leave your £2 (and your name and address) at the Treasurer's address (53 Rossendale Way)**.

If you are at all nervous, our collectors will be very glad to identify themselves fully. They will NOT want to come in or ask you about any other matter.

Why we are good value: see the letter from our Treasurer at [http://www.ease.org.uk/subscriptions\\_2007.pdf](http://www.ease.org.uk/subscriptions_2007.pdf).

send the evidence to the Council. If anyone who does this contacts the Secretary, he will send you addresses of neighbours who are doing the same so that you can present a united front.

### Noise and dust from St Pancras Way

The Council's Environment Department can take action. But again they need evidence from residents.

*What you can do:* Contact the council through Michael Turay: michael.turay@camden.gov.uk.

### Noise from neighbours

Our houses are very close together and some people don't seem to realise that high fences or hedges don't keep out the sound of music or the sound of voices. So in this summer weather remember that your neighbours can hear what you're playing or saying in the great outdoors.

The above matters affect your life, but there are more serious problems. For example:

### Irresponsible use of mopeds on Barker Drive

Residents who live close by fear that very dangerous driving by youths on mopeds could result in a serious accident. They turn into the Village round blind corners at high speed. The Police and Council are keen to act. But they need to be called, or to have evidence, and especially registration numbers.

*What you can do:* report the offenders to the Police on 020 7404 1212 or 8733 6070.

### Burglaries

We have had reports of break-ins. In particular we heard about the kicking in of flimsy front doors.

*What you can do:* Change your door (we know this is expensive) or strengthen the bottom panel — for instance with a grille. If you are in part-ownership you could try pressing PFP on the grounds that, as landlords, they have some responsibility. We are pessimistic about getting them to do anything, but those who don't ask, don't get.

### Drug dealers

These people are unpleasant and dangerous in themselves, but typically want to avoid being noticed. However, their clients are responsible for a great deal of crime to get money to feed their habit. You can get action: we have recently had a report from residents who have seen off dealers who had been using our area for a period of time: the Police did a swoop and although no one was arrested the pushers have obviously decided that the pickings are easier elsewhere. So resident action can get results.

*What you can do:* Report suspicious incidents to 020 7404 1212 or 8733 6070

We all know that the end of the headline on p. 1 is "do it yourself". But you aren't alone. Yes, you do need to take action on your own behalf, but you aren't alone — there are willing neighbours, both those on the Committee, and those who aren't.

## FORTHCOMING

### REDECORATION

The Committee was considering making an application to English Heritage, as it seemed likely that by the time the redecoration (said to be happening in October 2006 — yes, 2006) happens we would be able to apply for listed build or conservation area status. However, we have just heard from PFP who say that the redecoration and maintenance programme will start in August and continue through the autumn. We have a

specification and they have acted on our concerns about monitoring and security.

We will give more details at the AGM and will circularise residents with the main points nearer the start date. Again, things do happen, though the progress sometimes seems to be on a geological time scale.

We are continuing to insist that there should be some process of monitoring and daily liaison with us to ensure that we don't get the shoddy workmanship we had last time.

### CAR PARKING

The Council has begun its review of the CPZ by asking EVTRA for comments. At the time of writing the details of our comment are still being finalised, but we shall say basically that the scheme has brought immense benefits. Residents currently have some of the easiest parking we know of. But we will ask for a full review in which you, the residents, will be consulted, most

importantly because we fear a massive deterioration may be caused by overspill from the

new developments on St Pancras Way.

## JOIN THE MAILING LIST

If you want to be kept informed about local problems and opportunities just send the Secretary (evtrasec@aol.com) your email address.

## AGM

The AGM will be held at the Irish Centre on Thursday 12th

July. Further information on this will follow.

## 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](http://www.crimestoppers-uk.org)

### Places for People

0800 432 0002 or 0800 432 0003; Mehz Omar (Neighbourhood Officer): 020 7520 7419; [mehz.omar@placesforpeople.co.uk](mailto:mehz.omar@placesforpeople.co.uk)

### Camden Council

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

[recycling@camden.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@camden.gov.uk);

[www.camden.gov.uk/recycling](http://www.camden.gov.uk/recycling)

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

*Healthy living activities and events*:

0800 068 2949, or [www.wellandwise.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:roger.robinson@camden.gov.uk)