

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

November 2007

TAKE ACTION!

Don't put up with noise!

You will all be aware of the ongoing development of St Pancras Way. Signs proudly proclaim that affordable housing is on offer. We hope so, then our own children, now becoming young adults, might just have a chance to carry on living in the community where they grew up. However, at times the noise from the site has exceeded the allowed level and has also taken place at times outside the permitted hours. We have members who are monitoring this and have obtained action on various occasions. If you suffer from the problem you should first contact the

relevant Council officer (Michael Turay: michael.turay@camden.gov.uk).

Then it would be helpful if you could let the Secretary know you have done this so that we can build up a log of offences. Such detail is essential if we are to press for further action.

Help the world's poor — but make sure you aren't being ripped off first

Various residents have pointed out that leaflets keep coming through the door which ask you to donate clothes. But this isn't Oxfam or similar projects. One which came to the Secretary said — in very small print — that the

clothes would be sold on at a cheap price.

So check before you give. First, the clothes should be passed on free. More importantly, the collectors should be a recognised charity and should state this, with a reference number — which you might want to check up on. Even then, you may be suspicious. If you are, try to ring the phone number given on the leaflet.

We are also trying to find whether the Council can take action. And of course there are shops on Camden High Street and collection points at Sainsbury's and at the junction of Camden Road and St Pancras Way.

REPORTING BACK . . .

We haven't forgotten you! — or those questionnaires

In the summer we put out three questionnaires aimed at following up issues raised by residents. The results are given below.

Complaints about Places for People

(Cue for long period of muzak while you wait for the phone to be answered.) We were pleased but surprised, after our many years of depressing experiences, to receive very few

replies on this matter. As a result, there isn't enough evidence to start a formal complaints procedure as an organisation. We will keep on listening but in the meantime we suggest that if you have had a history of unanswered complaints and action not taken, you should ask to begin a formal complaint procedure. Make this request in the first instance to the Estate Manager, Mehz Omar (020 7520 7419; mehz.omar@placesforpeople.

co.uk) in writing. When we did this as a committee, PFP got their act together — well, for a while, at least!

Bus services: those boots can keep on walking!

There were not a lot of responses on this matter but we felt there were enough to merit asking Cllr Robinson to push our case. The requests are: Plus Bus (Barker Drive–King's Cross–Mornington Crescent–Camden Town); No. 274 to stop at the end of Barker

Drive; No. 88 bus to stop opposite Sainsbury's, as it used to do.

Rodents: mice and rats still chewing their way round Elm Village

There was a good response to this. It is clear that many residents are having serious problems and are very upset by this nuisance. People are very indignant that the

Council charges £70 or so to deal with the pests, though this is cheaper than getting in a commercial company. I am now getting on myself but I remember clearly my mother getting the Council to come free, as it is a health issue. Does anyone have similar memories?

It has been suggested that the rodent problem needs to be tackled village-wide,

because the animals move about through the cavity walls and pipes in our terraced houses and flats. The trouble with this is that not everyone has the problem (or hasn't replied), so will not wish to spend the £70. However, we have asked Roger Robinson to see if the Council can give a reduced rate for such an operation.

GET WELL, ROGER!

Some of our concerns are on hold as Cllr Robinson was in hospital having a double hip operation to allow him to be active for another 20 years. We have it from a reliable source that nevertheless he has been using his mobile

phone to deal with residents' concerns. A less reliable report tells of Roger on the operating table telling the surgeon "Just hang on a second, I've got to deal with the case of this old lady who is being harassed by drug

dealers". We are sure that you will join us in wishing him a swift and full recovery. If you would like to do this personally, email him (roger.robinson@camden.gov.uk).

FOR YOUR DIARY

Carol singing

Our annual Carol Singing event, with, as ever, free mulled wine, soft drinks and mince pies, is fixed for **Wednesday December 12 at 6pm on the Green**. We will

follow the custom of having a tree, and anyone who wishes to bring children to help decorate the tree is very welcome (this will start at 5.30). In previous years some children have made their

own decorations, which is also very much encouraged. If you wish to help in any way (making food, playing an instrument), please contact the Secretary.

EASY WAYS TO HELP US — AND YOURSELF

Redecoration news

You should have been notified about the redecoration which you can now see going on round the Village. If you haven't and you wish to check a point or to complain about work done you should contact the site supervisor, Tony Chisholm, on 07967018166. So far we've heard no adverse comments.

Dangerous bugs at large!

Fortunately, at present there is nothing worse in view than the annual round of debilitating 'flu attacks. However, resident Stella Timmins has picked up in the Press that a huge medical research centre (which we are assured is for peaceful purposes . . .) is planned for Brill Place (next to St

Pancras) or possibly on the St Pancras Hospital site. She is concerned about the dangers of escaping viruses (as in the recent foot and mouth outbreak), or (worse) that the site might also be used for military biochemical warfare research. We have asked her to keep

monitoring the situation. If you are sympathetic and wish to help her, contact her through the Secretary (email, letter or phone message) who will forward your name to her.

“The biggest square in Europe – and more important than Docklands”

These are some of the reports we are receiving about the King’s Cross development, which is now moving into a new phase

following the completion of the Eurostar link. A member is monitoring events. If you have information which may be useful to her, please send it to the Secretary, who will forward it to her.

SUBSCRIPTION TO EVTRA

If you haven’t paid your **annual subscription** of £2, please put it in an envelope

addressed to Pat MacGowan (our Treasurer) at 53 Rossendale Way. Don’t forget

to include your name and address – we don’t want you to buy him free beer!

KEEPING UP

If you wish to be kept informed of the many offers and notifications of events, developments, proposed changes, and chances to volunteer which the

Secretary receives, send him an email (evtrasec@aol.com). Among recent arrivals have been an opportunity to view the King’s Cross development,

money for families who need counselling, and various money awards and free courses for young people.

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/Kentish Town police:

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;

Neighbourhood Officer: Mehz Omar 020 7520 7419; mehz.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:

020 7974 2915

Street problems/parking

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