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# *Views from the Hill*

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NEWS SHEET OF THE TEWKESBURY LODGE ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION November 2015

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## Controlled parking coming soon?

You may already be aware that Lewisham Council is carrying out a consultation on their proposal to introduce a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) on some, but not all, of the roads on the Estate. The roads directly affected are Horniman Drive; Westwood Park between Horniman Drive and Honor Oak Road, including the Hermitage; Cleeve Hill & Amroth Close; and the narrow section of Ringmore Rise at the junction with Horniman Drive. Residents who park their cars on these roads would be required to buy an annual permit to do so.

One of the Council's key arguments for the proposed CPZ is that there is a significant commuter parking problem, particularly on Westwood Park and Horniman Drive. The Association disagrees with this – our observations are that any commuter parking problem is limited to the easternmost part of Westwood Park and, due to the topography of the road, does not stretch far up the hill. Not many commuters want to climb a steep hill at the end of a day's work!

- If you live within the proposed CPZ, parking will be severely restricted, with no guarantee that you can park outside your own house, or indeed, within the CPZ.
- If you pay for a residents permit, you will have to park within one of the marked bays.
- Some properties in Horniman Drive will have single yellow lines outside their houses and no bays, so there will be no parking allowed within the hours that the CPZ operates. This will lead to competition with neighbours for the available bays.
- There will be double yellow lines restricting parking at any time around the Triangle (the area of green space at the junction between Horniman Drive, Liphook Crescent and Rocombe Crescent); on stretches of Horniman Drive, Cleeve Hill, and Amroth Close; as well as the narrow section at the top of Ringmore Rise.
- Even if you have only one car and a drive/private parking space, problems will arise for your visitors and tradesmen working in your property. You will not be able to park across your own drive. Although you can buy a book of visitor parking permits, visitors will have to find an empty bay to park in.
- Within the proposed CPZ, there will only be a limited number of pay and display bays that can be used by residents and visitors. These will be outside Ashton

Heights opposite Horniman Primary School, and either side of the junction of Westwood Park and Horniman Drive.

- Weekend parking is sometimes a problem, especially close to the Horniman Museum and Gardens, but the CPZ will only operate between Monday and Friday.



Needless to say, there will inevitably be increased parking pressure in the roads adjacent to the CPZ, particularly Liphook Crescent, Ringmore Rise, and the top of Westwood Park. Not only will this be due to visitors trying to find somewhere to park, but also residents living within the CPZ parking their cars elsewhere to avoid the £120 annual charge for a permit.

The Council have sent a consultation form to all households within the proposed CPZ. Closing date for responses is midnight on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. *The Council has also confirmed that although only responses from households within the CPZ would be taken into account, responses from residents in nearby streets would be noted.*

The responses to the consultation will be considered on a street by street basis. So if you agree that a CPZ would create rather than solve any parking problems, the most effective way of preventing our roads being included is to send in a response to the consultation - **wherever you live on the Estate**. So please take the time to respond by returning the consultation form to the Council or going online to [https://lewisham-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/proposed\\_cpz\\_-\\_forest\\_hill](https://lewisham-consult.objective.co.uk/portal/proposed_cpz_-_forest_hill)

**We would urge residents to attend the Association's AGM at 6.30pm on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> December at Horniman Primary School. We have asked our councillors to come and answer questions residents may have about the proposed Controlled Parking Zone, and the major changes to both our refuse/recycling services and Forest Hill Library.**

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# Major changes to Forest Hill Library – still time to object

With the Council having to identify a further £45million savings over the next two years, some reduction to all services is inevitable. However, the preferred option for our library service is unacceptable.

Of the 13 libraries in Lewisham, the Council now owns and manages only seven, with the remainder operating as community libraries. It is now proposing to outsource a further three – including Forest Hill Library. There would only be experienced library staff in Lewisham, Downham, and Deptford libraries, where opening hours would be extended. Our library will be only staffed by volunteers who will simply not have the expertise to maintain the same standard of service.

I believe that it is essential to have at least one qualified professional librarian on duty whenever a library is open. In particular, specialist children's librarians should be available when libraries are likely to be visited by children, including schools. Library users need staff who can suggest books for readers seeking advice, and help children and students to find the books they need for their studies. It is very unlikely that many volunteers will be able to fulfil these roles, though I accept there are plenty of useful tasks that they could do.

So instead of increasing opening hours and having all trained staff at a few libraries, a better solution would be to have some experienced staff at all libraries supported by volunteers. This, together with some reduction in

opening hours, would be a better way to safeguard services and reduce costs.

Forest Hill Library is a well-run, valuable community resource for both local residents and schools. Based on the experience of community libraries already in the Borough, it will be difficult to maintain current service levels, and library usage/borrowing figures are likely to be significantly reduced. In addition, if finding enough volunteers to run the service proves to be difficult, there would be a threat of possible closure.

Whether or not you responded to the Council's recent library consultation, do sign the on-line petition asking Lewisham Council to stop its plans to cut £1million from the libraries budget.

<http://www.change.org/p/lewisham-council-save-lewisham-libraries>

*Carole Abrahams*



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## Waste not?



As you know, at present Lewisham Council collects refuse and recycling weekly and offers a garden waste collection service at a charge. This is about to change

in order to meet new waste regulations introduced in January that require all Councils to separately collect paper, glass, metals and plastics wherever technically and economically practicable. The Council also needs to meet the 2020 nationwide waste collection targets. This will require councils to recycle, reuse or compost 50% of all waste, or face significant fines. In 2014/15, Lewisham recycled only 17% of our waste.

The Council recently carried out a consultation of residents views. The options being considered included a subscription based garden waste service with a possible annual charge of between £80-100; the addition of a food waste caddy; and a separate container for paper. There

will also be changes to the frequency of collections, with some of the five possible bins/boxes collected fortnightly.

Your Committee feel that the way this consultation was carried out was far from satisfactory. Residents were informed of the consultation via the central pages of the Autumn edition of *Lewisham Life*, which briefly outlined possible changes to the current system, and invited readers to complete a quick survey of their views. This consisted of two very general questions. What was not made clear was that the on-line survey was far more detailed and gave residents a real opportunity to comment.

There are more details of the changes to our refuse/recycling service in the full edition of our newsletter, currently in production.

*Valerie Ward*