Local residents in Blackheath are up in arms after Greenwich Council admitted making a planning blunder that means they may get a mobile phone mast erected next to the end of their gardens – and a short distance from no fewer than three schools. All this despite Greenwich Council planners refusing permission for the mast in September. In September 2016, Vodafone and O2 had applied for permission to build the mast on land off Siebert Road, next to the foot tunnel from Eastbourne Avenue that goes under the Blackwall Tunnel Southern Approach tunnel, which separates homes on Westcombe Hill and the dual carriageway. The council was sent a huge volume of protests, including a huge on-line petition, when the plan was mooted. As a result, the Council planners refused the application last November.

Residents breathed a sigh of relief, but were shocked when, at the end of July, workmen turned up with a digger to start work on erecting the mast. Householders in Siebert Road and Westcombe Hill had to persuade them to stop work until a council employee advised that the land owner had not given permission and work could not proceed.

Appalling mistake Local resident Nathalie Golden comments: ‘It is an appallingly bad mistake by the local Borough of Greenwich has, potentially, allowed a large telco such as Vodafone to run roughshod over the wishes of not only local residents and schools but also, ironically, the council itself. Permission was refused by the council but here we are fighting to stop it being erected despite everyone agreeing it should not be sited here. It is devastating for residents, especially when this isn’t the first such error made by Greenwich council.

The problem was what? Under planning law, a council has to respond within 56 days to prevent this type of application. Apparently, the council took too long to respond with their refusal – just a day. This meant that by default, the company that runs Vodafone and O2’s networks, Cornerstone Infrastructure (CTIL), had permission to erect the mast as long as the property owner agrees. Observers say that there has been a series of similar errors: in an incident in May, a mast was erected at Foxsfield Primary School in Woolwich, after the council failed to object in time.

Land Registry documents do not indicate who owns the land in question – although it is maintained by Greenwich council. Transport for London (TfL) is responsible for the nearby Blackwall Tunnel. The council’sPlanning Approach and the underpass. There are continuing investigations to establish ownership.

Rebecca Moore, a resident of Siebert Road, said: ‘We have already to live with the noise and pollution from the A102 and now we have the threat of this mast.’

What the Council said

In a letter sent by the council’s senior planning officer Victoria Geoghegan has written to the residents saying: ‘Regrettably and due to a systems error, the application wasn’t determined within the 56-day period which means it is deemed to be consented to and the mast can now be installed provided all other permissions are obtained.’

‘It is extremely unfortunate that the application wasn’t determined in 56 days given that representations objecting to the scheme were made. I can assure you that the system now been corrected to ensure that this will not happen again.’

Government guidance states that nearby schools must be consulted before an application is submitted. None of the three schools near the Siebert Road site were consulted: Invicta Primary School. MEFA Montessori for Autism, and the Kirkside Road site of Greenwich Steiner School. A Council spokesperson stated: ‘We are committed to doing the very best that we can to listen, record and act on residents’ views for each and every planning application. We have apologised to residents where mistakes have been made and are working hard to make sure that such errors do not happen in the future.’

The Council has meanwhile halted the works in Siebert Road and confirmed that a street-works permit will not be issued until the land ownership/highways status has been resolved. Cllr Geoff Brightly commented: ‘This is really frustrating for residents. The Council’s failure to meet the planning decision deadline has given Vodafone another chance to put up a mast that nobody wants. It’s a mess that shouldn’t have happened.’

Residents supported by the Westcombe Society and other groups are now anxious that the investigations and actions being undertaken by the council will ensure that the application is again refused.

Vodafone and O2’s statement A spokesperson for Vodafone said: ‘Vodafone and O2 customers expect to be able to use their mobiles and devices wherever they live, work and travel. Basic stations are low-powered devices which cover approximately half a mile in radius, therefore we have put up base stations close to our customers.

‘Vodafone and O2 identified that they need to improve the coverage to their customers in Blackheath and we now have consent for a base station on Siebert Road.

‘We have received a query on the land ownership at the proposed location and are currently investigating this point.’

This is the age of the train . . .

Under plans that are now out for consultation, Greenwich, Mure Hill, Westcombe Park and Charlton could get direct trains to Luton Airport via a new line, Thameslink Memo Route TL10.

Trains would go every half-hour, seven days a week from Luton to Rainham, Kent, via Blackfriars, London Bridge, Greenwich and Dartford. During peak hours on weekdays, the trains would be more frequent.

A stop at London Bridge will be welcome to open up links to north London and beyond when the Thameslink works are completed in 2018. It will give passengers at Deptford, Greenwich, Blackheath and Westcombe Park – who currently rely on trains to Cannon Street – a choice of London terminals. Trains, trains to Charing Cross ended in January 2015. The new lines through London Bridge to Blackfriars will go between those to Charing Cross and Cannon Street, thus impeding the old connection between Greenwich and the Charing Cross lines. Trains can still run to Charing Cross in emergencies.

Trains would also stop at Charlton, Woolwich Arsenal, Plaistow, Abbey Wood and Dartford, but not at Belvedere, Erith – or Woolwich Dockyard. There is some concern that trains to Cannon Street might run less frequently in consequence.

Matt Pennycott MP for Greenwich and Woolwich has been pressing government ministers on the route of Southeasterns with little success. Asked if he backed plans to devolve SE London’s rail services to TfL, transport secretary Chris Grayling was non-committal, saying he wanted to see proposals from mayor Sadiq Khan first.

The Westcombe Society

The annual Macmillan Walk is on Sun, 17th Sept, starting at 9.00 am at Westcombe Park Station (Station Crescent) See page 2. Please ring Caroline on 0208 853 0948

The Annual Macmillan Coffee Morning is on Fri, 29th Sept. 10.00 am - 2.00 pm Volunteers are needed to make cakes and sandwiches, and to help on the day. Please ring Caroline on 0883 59408

OnBlackheath

Dates are now fixed for the events in September: it features among others, the American pop-star hip-top De La Soul, Metronomy and Travis, who was a classic album in the 90s. The Libertines perform on the Sunday, appropriately enough, along with Seetack Steve Jago Bugg, and KT Tunstall. For details: www.

The Blackheath Society is hosting an open post-event meeting in the Studio Age Exchange from 7.00 – 9.00 pm on Thurs. 21st Sept.

Grants for the Arts

The Arts Council has withdrawn its annual grant to Greenwich Dance, which has done invaluable work in the community, and has built up a brilliant artistic reputation. The Arts Council has decided to allocate more of its budget to arts organisations outside London.

People

We are very sorry to announce the deaths of Ann Beattie, Isabel Shepherd, Lynne Stillwell, Norman Truscott and Neil Macfadyen. We send our condolences to their families.

Knife crime

Council trading standards teams report that nearly one in four shops are break- ing the law on under- age knife sales in some areas, with blades sold to children as young as 13. In separate test purchases undertaken by the Royal Borough’s Trading Standards and the police, four shops, including a major supermarket chain, sold either razor blades or craft knives to young teenagers.

Free child care

The Royal Borough reminds parents and carers that from this month they may be eligible for more child care each week. At present all families with 3 or 4-year-olds can get 15 hours per week of free childcare over 38 weeks of the year. Now, some will be able to get an extra 15 hours a week on top of that. For more information about Free Early Learning Royal Greenwich, email freelearning@greenwich.gov.uk or call 0208921 0912.

Congratulations to Myerscough House for a highly successful Parkfest event in Weymouth Gardens. See p.2

Newsbriefs

This is the age of the train . . .

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Memories of summer:

Parkfest Mycenae Gardens July 25th

This free “Summer Extravaganza” included something for everyone: Live Music (including guest star Tava), Dance, Theatre, Workshops, Face Painting, Stalls, scrumptious food and of course, a bar. Great fun was had by all!

Charity walk for Macmillan

Di Blackwell

There are 2 terrific reasons to join the Macmillan Cancer Support fundraising walk on Sunday, Sept 17th , organised by The Westcombe Society. The most important reason is the opportunity to help a truly life changing cause. Macmillan Cancer Support provides patients with practical, medical and financial support, and pushes for better cancer care. The other reason is to take in the many delights of our local area during the walk which is about 10 km in length and takes approximately 2/1 hours at a leisurely relaxed pace. You may discover local sites you didn’t know existed. The walk takes in some of the Green Chain Walk but is really a bespoke trail especially mapped out by Westcombe Society volunteers. It passes through a landscaped park, a mini zoo, grand buildings, AND pretty parks with fabulous views over London, Kent, and Essex, ending at ancient Oxleas Woods, a very special place that is about 900 years old.

Please do join us at the north side of Westcombe Park railway station at 9am. You will receive a free bottle of water before we set off - but do bring anything else you might want to eat or drink on the walk.

As we walk through Maryon Wilson Park, you feel very much that you’re in the country – no city noises, just birds, rustling leaves and the occasional farm sounds of ducks, geese, chickens, goats and pigs in the park’s small animal park. There’s also a deer enclosure.

The walk also takes in Charlton Park, with beautiful Charlton House – which is one of the finest remaining examples of Jacobean architecture; around the house is the sensory garden, with plants that can be appreciated by people with visual or other disabilities.

We pass by Commonwealth war graves in Charlton cemetery and the Royal Artillery Barracks, and on to Plumstead Common and Shrewbury Park. Be prepared to know we’re at Oxleas Woods, and enjoying the splendour of oak, silver birch, hornbeam and copice hazel.

The café at the top of the hill is a popular meeting place with breathtaking views. This is where the walk officially ends.

At this point you can take the 89 bus home - or walk on to Sevenoaks Castle. Please register in advance – there’s a £10 registration fee.

To register, pl. ring Caroline on 83516948. Neither the Westcombe Society nor Macmillan can accept responsibility for those who do at their own risk.

Letters

From: Rebecca Lord Maze Hill

Although I am in favour of keeping interesting buildings from the past, I find the gas holder on the Peninsula ugly and think it would be better to get rid of it.

From: Arauc Lord

I read with interest the letter the Mr Allman regarding his views on the Conservative DUP arrangement and his inference that this in some way indicates the Conservative Party supports terrorist organisations.

What sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander: we should probably ask every Labour Councillor and indeed our MP, to declare their own position on which of the various terrorist organisations that have for years been supported by Mr Corbyn.

Frankly I don’t even know why I am even responding to this sort of insane tripe but perhaps a bit of tripe in return would not go amiss.

From: Rebecca Lord Maze Hill

Impressive though it was to see the big, grey warden, The Degas, moored in Greenwich, the constant roar of its engine quelled the usual tranquillity of the river walk, as well as reducing the air quality. By not investing in an onboard power source for visiting ships.

Greenwich Council is throwing away the advantages our location on the river brings, with regard to noise and air pollution, and is undermining its green credentials. As a Greenwich resident, I call for this investment to be made, and would be willing to accept a temporary rise in council tax to pay for it.

From: Martin Guba Ruthin Road

I wonder if any of the readers who were attracted by the adverst in the back page of the July/August 2017 issue for the Painter School noticed the news item on the front page – Our Toxic Air – which reported that the air pollution on the corner outside the school was the highest in the area, over twice the EU legal limit!

St George’s, Glenlucie Rd.

Sundays: 11.00am Children’s Church 11.00am. Holy Communion (All Age service) 12.30pm (each month).

Wednesdays: 9.30am Morning Prayer 12.30pm Supri Lunch Fellowship 4th Sunday each month. Talk at Service Christ Church Trugridge Road

Scroggin Group meets at 99 Westcombe Park Road on 3rd Sunday each month Wed. Sept., 15th 7.45 at St George’s Spiritual Film Night: Whole rider A Mauve girl fights for her rights.

Contact: Fred Dye Speaker eyvans@icloud.com Tel: 07864 614425

photos: Di Blackwell

Charity walk for Macmillan

Di Blackwell

Letters to the editor may be shortened for space reasons.

WESTCOMBE NEWS

HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for someone with a car who would collect bags of papers from an address in Coleraine Road ten times a year and deliver them to the homes of those who deliver them street by street.

We also welcome occasional help for when deliverers are away.

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Neville Grant, The Editor westcombe@news.co.uk Tel. 020 8858 0489 PLEASE NOTE: Deadline for the October issue: 10th September Env. Editor Maggie Gravelle Reporters: The community – you!

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Emily Norton. All queries and comments to: 020 8853 2756 environment@westcombe.org

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"alive with all sorts of great stuff"

Bo-Peeps

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Grant Saw Wealth Management Limited
**LOCAL NEWS**

**New political map?**

The Boundary Commission (BC) is considering feedback received last year, and during the first half of this year, on its initial proposals, on changes to constituency boundaries:

our proposed new constituency is Greenwich and Deptford, detached from Woolwich - itself split into two, as is Thamesmead. You can view the initial proposals on the map below. The BC is now considering all the views received during both consultation periods and will decide whether to revise the proposals. If they are again revised, the BC will consult on the revisions yet again, probably towards the end of 2017. The aim to reduce the number of MPs, and to try to make each constituency more even in terms of numbers.

See also: bce2018.org.uk

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**Local councils face a crisis**

The Economist recently reported that in the government’s attempt to slash spending, hardest hit has been the Department for Communities and Local Government, which provides councils with most of their funding. As a result, their spending on public services this year will be 22% lower than in 2010. Some services have been pared down drastically.

At this year’s Local Government Association’s annual conference in Birmingham, the Chairman Lord Porter called on the government to secure the financial sustainability of councils.

By 2020, local government in England will have lost 75 pence out of every £1 of core central government funding it had to spend in 2015 - this is money used to pay for essential local services: rises in council tax will not solve the problem.

The Economist warns some authorities may soon be unable to meet their statutory obligations. Councils face an overall £5.8 billion funding gap by 2020. The LGA is therefore calling for:

* Local government to be allowed to keep all of the business rates it collects locally
* A fairer system of funding councils
* Council tax limits should be abolished.

A new LGA report, Growing Places sets out how councils can – with fairer funding and freedom from Westminster – build desparately needed affordable homes, create jobs and school places, and provide the dignified care for the elderly and disabled.

What impact will these cuts have on Greenwich? The main problem here is that the borough is capital rich – but revenue poor. The good news is that the Royal Borough has drawn up a Financial Efficiency Plan to balance its budget for the medium term future. The Leader of the Council Cllr. Denise Hyland promises the council will continue ‘to deliver effective & efficient services to the community.’

Postscript: Councils received £16.5 billion (£6.4 billion of EU funding). They await details of how the government will fulfil its pledge to replace EU funding after Brexit.

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**Save our Gas Holder! / W N reporter**

As reported in August’s WN, the council has been running a consultation on the future of the East Greenwich Gas holder No. 1 on the peninsula.

This assumes it will be demolished – but local resident Mary Mills reports that an increasing number of locals are beginning to object. Twitter and Facebook pages were set up in June asking residents to vote and comment – and Mary says that they are getting ‘massive support.’

“The holder is exceptional,” said Mary. “It is very very big (one of the biggest ever) and it is dramatically sited as a local landmark. It was constructed with very revolutionary engineering and has been deliberately plain, like modern movement buildings.”

We reported on this issue in the last edition of the WN. The WN has now learnt that the holder has been removed and is scheduled to be demolished.

The council’s draft report implies that all evidence of this monumental landmark – an important reminder of Greenwich’s industrial heritage – will be obliterated.

The end date of the consultation period was 17th July 2017, and “the Planning Brief is anticipated to be formally adopted by the Royal Borough in late July 2017”.

The council’s report suggests that the Council is trying to fast-track the whole exercise. It is well-known that consultation exercises launched over holiday periods – such as the summer, and Christmas – often get set an easier ride because so many people are away during these periods.

So by the time you read this, it is possible that the Council hopes that the whole project will be done and dusted.

The draft report being consulted can be found on this link:


The consultation end date was 17th July, but it may still be worth making your views known.

Mary Mills told us that the WN that the Greenwich Industrial History Society has published a blog page on the background to the site and also mentions what is done with defunct gas holders worldwide. The society is known for its campaigns to save historical sites celebrating Greenwich’s industrial heritage. The link is: http://greenwichindustrialhistory.blogspot. co.uk/2017/06/the-east-greenwich- gasholderbiggest.html

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**Heath under threat?**

The Blackheath Joint Working Party (BJWP) proposed that the number of days where there are events somewhere on the heath during the April to October period should not exceed 90.

This has now been changed to 90 days per council period, including set up and set down, and not including the London Marathon event, which uses parts of the heath managed by both councils.

Our concern is that this could allow for a possible number of event days on Blackheath of 130 plus about seven for the Marathon, most of which would be likely to occur in the April to October period. In 2017 there will have been 94 event days during the April to October period. Although Council Officers assure us that they will not use the full 90 days plus that the Council proposed in the final draft Events Policy, there are no guarantees about this.

We are reminded of the relatively recent RBG Circus Field Licence application which caused a great deal of disquiet and an unprecedented response from many residents, mainly triggered by a clause that allowed for the possibility of a large number of events on the Greenwich side of the heath in the future.

We imagine local residents will feel the same if there is even a remote possibility that the number of event days on Blackheath could increase from around 90 in the summer months, as at present, up to 180 plus in the future. All the amenity societies have agreed that Blackheath should not be allowed to become mainly an event site: it should remain principally an open space. Do you feel the same?

Some feel that the current use of the heath is probably already higher than the heath can sustain on a long term basis. There is a recently published grassland survey that suggests some deterioration over the last 14 years when compared with that in the 2003 Wilkie report. This is regrettable given the status of the heath as a Site of Metropolitan Interest for Nature Conservation. Whether or not this is due to the use of the heath as an Event space, it raises a serious question: are the Royal Borough of Greenwich and the London Borough of Lewisham fulfilling their responsibility to protect the heath and its fragile ecosystem?

If you have views on this we would like to hear them; and you could write to Janine Whitaker (Janine.Witaker@royalgreenwich.gov.uk), Kevin Sheehan (Kevin.Sheehan@lewisham.gov.uk), Kevin Bonavita (Kevin.Bonavita@lewisham .gov.uk), Gemma Buttell (gemma.buttell@glendale-service.co.uk) and your local Councillors.

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**The Alexandra Players**

Due to objections from the church on the grounds that it was against their family ethos and integrating to women, we are sad to announce that we are unable to go ahead with our planned production of Up Pompei! in October.

We are all extremely sad that after 60 years of affiliation and friendship with the church and so many unchallenged and entertaining productions, we have had to postpone this production until a more suitable venue can be found.

The play was chosen to celebrate the 100th birthday of Frankie Howerd, who was born in Etalm. We apologise for any disappointment this may cause. It has now been decided to put on Alan Ayckbourn’s farce Season’s Greetings instead.

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**A creative solution: the old gas holder in Dublin. How about it, Greenwich?**

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**Westcombe News September 2017**
A quiet presence in Tranquil Vale

GILL STOKER

The Mary Evans Picture Library has been a presence in Blackheath ever since the company was founded by local residents Mary and Hilary Evans in 1964. Since then it has been supplying images to publishers, magazines and newspapers as well as for films, TV programmes and other media throughout the world. The first office, with a small staff, was based in a building next to Blackheath station. By the late 1980s the company was growing space and needed larger premises. Around the same time, All Saints Parish Hall at the top of Tranquil Vale, opposite The Crown pub, was found by church authorities to be surplus to requirements. The Mary Evans Picture Library was lucky enough to be chosen as the most suitable (and quiet) organisation to become its new resident. The hall was built in 1928 in Arts & Crafts style, for use by All Saints Church and local community groups. Its Lewisham Council’s local heritage list, and falls within the Blackheath Conservation Area. Here is the official description:

"Former parish hall. Detached, 1927-8. By Charles Canning Wimml. Brick in Flemish bond with stone dressings and plain clay tiles. Between one and two-and-a-half storeys. Pitched roofs. Flat arched windows. Ovolo windows to one-storey element. Leaded lights. One storey entrance porch has double doors in pointed-arch doorways in chamfered stone sur- round beneath dentil eaves. Principal gable (sloorning three storey elements) has central flat arched rectangular win- dow. Gable has diamond pattern com- posed of red clay and rough-cast render. This set into deep pointed-arch reveal edged with round/flower motif. Reveal sprigs from brick corbeling." The site of the building was previously occupied by a set of six shops dating back to the late 1830s, but these were destroyed during an overnight Zeppelin raid in August 1916. In the early 1920s the site was donated to All Saints Church by the 6th Earl of Dartmouth, and a few years of intensive fundraising followed. The foundation stone – halfway up the building - was laid in March 1928, the hall was blessed by the Bishop of Woolwich in September, and the formal opening in November was a royal one, with Princess Marie Louise of Schleswig-Holstein (one of Queen Victoria’s granddaughters) offici- ating. By May Day 1930 the buildings costs had been fully paid off. Over the years, from 1928 through to the 1980s, the hall was used for church meet- ings, fundraising events, youth clubs, local school activities, dancing classes, local exhibitions, sports activities such as bad- minton, and health clubs. During the Second World War the London County Council requisitioned it for use as a British Restaurant, a government- led scheme providing low-cost hot meals. This scheme continued for ten years after the war ended; the building was finally handed back for church use in 1955. The Mary Evans move took place over the Christmas and New Year holidays of 1988/1989, ably and efficiently organised by Mary Evans herself, and the company has been there ever since. Mary and Hilary Evans have both sadly passed away in the last few years, but their daughter Valentine has taken over, and it continues to run it in the manner they would wish, preserving history with consideration and integrity. Since then, the building has been included in the Open House London scheme, attracting over 200 enthusiastic and fascinated visitors in September 2016. It will be open to the public again this year, on Saturday 16th September, with guided tours available at regular intervals through- out the day, and a team of Mary Evans staff ready and willing to chat to visitors about the building and the company. The business continues to thrive, taking on new collections, many of them digital, and it is now possible for clients to license images from a wide variety of contributors including The London Fire Brigade, The National Archives, Historic England, The Metropolitan Police Association and the National History Museum, as well as the wonderful images from Mary and Hilary’s own collection.

One of the remits of the library has been to make history accessible, and in recent years digitisation of the collection has meant that images are no longer restricted to commercial clients, but can be pur- chased as personal prints by anyone through Mary Evans Picture Library’s print website at www.prints-online.com where the most popular print amongst the general public is consistently “Goodbye Old Man” by Fortunio Matania.

Open House London, Sat. 16th Sept. 10.00am - 4.30pm Mary Evans Picture Library, 59 Tranquil Vale, SE3 0BS: www.openhousetown.org.uk. See also: the website: www.maryevans.com

FEATURES

Tackling Greenwich’s housing crisis

Just who can afford “affordable” housing?

THe Royal Borough of Greenwich has much to be proud of. Greenwich is doing more to tackle London’s housing shortage than any other London borough bar one on some measures. It has given planning permission for 27,745 homes, which are now under construction or not yet started, a massive pipeline. In addition, 2843 new homes have already been built in the Royal Borough of Greenwich over the last three years. However, as the W&E pointed out in its last edition, one home in eight that has been built in Greenwich recently has been sold to foreign investors.

Furthermore, the Council’s record on the number of affordable homes built – and the number demolished – can be questioned.

Should more affordable homes be built?

Over the last three years Greenwich has delivered 1,052 affordable homes, 37% of the total homes built in the borough. Affordable housing is being built not just now but under the last three years. However, as the W&E pointed out in its last edition, one home in eight that has been built in Greenwich recently has been sold to foreign investors.

Furthermore, only some of these “affordable” homes will be genuinely affordable social rented housing like the homes that they are meant to replace. At a cost of immense disruption to local residents, the amount of genuinely affordable social rented housing is thus being reduced. It is hardly surprising that the pendulum is swinging against demolishing council estates. For example, Greenwich resident Yasar Ahmed told the W&E that the redevelopment of residential areas in Rotherham involved upgrading existing properties, and providing better infrastructure - schools, etc. - rather than demolition. The Mayor of London, in his 2016 draft Guide to Estate Regeneration, states that, “demolition should only be followed, where it does not result in a loss of social housing, or where all other options have been exhausted”.

So, Greenwich is doing a good job. However, the Council could and should deliver more genuinely affordable homes. And the Council could stop new council estate demolition schemes that reduce the amount of social rented housing.

JIM WINTOUR

Jim Wintour is a former housing officer in Greenwich.

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DEl REST

Frances St.

But there are still 15,000 people on housing waiting lists in Greenwich.

PHOTO: Jim Wintour

Westcombe News September 2017
Calling all community businesses!

Community businesses are the organisations that put their local area at the very heart of what they do: the restaurants, energy companies, bakeries, sports clubs and pubs that are run by and for local people (to mention just a few!).

So we’re delighted to announce that applications are open from Thursday 13th July for a new support programme just for them: the Community Business Trade Up Programme, run by School for Social Entrepreneurs, in partnership with Power to Change.

The programme supports the leaders of early-stage community businesses with:
- a fully funded learning programme (consisting of 12 learning days spread over six months)
- a grant of up to £10,000

The focus of the programme is to grow community business’ impact by increasing their sales and trading income. The learning programme runs from January to July 2018 and will support 100 community business leaders across England. They will learn in groups of 10 peers at eight locations: York, Liverpool, Midlands, Ipswich, London, Hampshire, Devon and Cornwall.

Alastair Wilson, CEO of School for Social Entrepreneurs, said:

“We’re delighted to partner with Power to Change to support the learning of community business leaders, people who commit themselves to improving their local areas and nurturing local vibrancy. School for Social Entrepreneurs has 20 years’ experience in helping leaders of social change develop the confidence, skills and networks to grow organisations that help people to improve communities.”

Mark Gordon, Power to Change’s Director of Communications, said:

“Community business is all about exploring new ways to help local areas grow and thrive: a great opportunity for new entrepreneurs to look at new ways of doing business and doing good.”

The first phase of the programme, which started in May and ends in October, is already supporting 30 community business leaders in London and Liverpool. It will support 130 leaders in total.

The second phase of the programme will support a further 100 community business leaders across England via School for Social Entrepreneurs’ eight Schools based in England. It will run from January to July 2018. Applications for the second phase open on 11th July 2017 and close on 11th October 2017.

You can find out more and register your interest in the programme at: https://www.the-see.org/courses/community-business/

For example: Greenwich Bus Tours provides a unique opportunity for locals and visitors to explore hidden gems across the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

Contact: 020 8104 2267
info@visitgreenwich.org.uk

DER FREISCHUTZ
THE ENCHANTED BULLETS

Blackheath Halls Opera Der Freischütz
(The Enchanted Bullets) is yet another milestone in the Halls wonderful venture into performance by and for the local community. This is the eleventh Community opera put on in the Halls, and following Cupidos last year, and other notable productions, it did not disappoint.

The opera, by Carl Maria Von Weber, was first performed in 1821, and has been a favourite part of the repertoire in Germany ever since, though it is rarely performed in this country.

Make no mistake: community opera is a real challenge, and it gives great pleasure to see so many people new to opera – both performers and audience – exploring and enjoying the possibilities.

A great deal of credit goes to Rose Ballantyne, the Halls Community Engagement Manager and Project Manager, and Director Oliver Platt and his gifted production team. Indeed, teamwork is the name of the game: the teamwork involved in opera – between orchestra (Blackheath Halls Orchestra under director Nicholas Jenkins who was both conductor and chorus master) and the numerous other players – the soloists, Blackheath Halls Opera Chorus, Royal Greenwich and Blackheath Halls Youth Choir, Lewisham Youth Choir, (both involved for the first time this year), and pupils from Greenval School and Charlton Park Academy, presented huge logistical demands.

Join us for a special Autumn Dance Event for Ages 60 and Over

Join us this autumn for Trinity Laban’s first ever September Series – with two weeks of inspiring and energising workshops for all abilities for the over-sixties.

Dance sessions at Trinity Laban are exhilarating, exciting and friendly. No prior dance experience is necessary. The over 60’s Intergenerational Project is on Mon 4th, Tues 5th & Wed 6th Sept. There are other workshops too on Mon. 11th - Wed 13th September.

The 60’s Intergenerational project bring people of different ages together to embark on a creative journey through dance and collaboration. This project is open to all ages (10+) and abilities. Free lunches, too!

For details, please contact Laban Box Office on 020 8463 9100

AUTUMN DANCE EVENT FOR AGES 60 AND OVER FREE LUNCHES, TOO FOR MORE DETAILS, PLEASE CONTACT LABAN BOX OFFICE ON 020 8463 9100

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"Come to Charlotte’s Got Talent on SUNDAY 24TH SEPTEMBER 2017 3pm at St Richard’s Church Centre, Swallowfield Road, Charlton, SE7 8RT"

2017 - 2018 edition of Westcombe News ended in January 2018. Updates to the content may have occurred since then. Please contact us for more information.
It’s an important tool, one that helps us ensure that when they leave Zoom to from here

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