

Community updates for Sydenham Assembly 3rd December 2022

1 TRANSPORT ISSUES

CONSULTATION ON SILVERDALE/BISHOPSTHORPE ROAD MODAL FILTERS

Following questions at Full Council by Cllr Jack Lavery, the public consultation seeking feedback from residents, businesses and other stakeholders regarding the two modal filters on Silverdale and Bishopsthorpe Road will begin on 9th December and last for 6 weeks until January 22nd. The consultation will be open to residents affected by the displaced traffic along Mayow Road and other roads in the area. Officers will consider feedback to the consultation in conjunction with data monitoring to decide the future of the filters. The Council will publish the consultation details shortly.

GIRTON ROAD CAR PARK – FREE CAR PARKING AND ADDITIONAL SIGNAGE

Lewisham Council is offering free parking in our car parks on the four Saturdays leading up to Christmas – 3, 10, 17 and 24 December.

Customers will need to activate the parking session via PayByPhone - there is a signpost at Girton Road Car Park advising the customers on how to do this. Outside the festive Saturday free parking, users will continue to receive 2 hour free parking at Girton Rd Car Park and then charges apply after the free 2-hour period. Customers without a smartphone can text the location number to 65565. Customers without access to smartphone or telephone can visit PayPoint service stores that display a “P” logo. The nearest are:

- PJ Convenience Store 165 Sydenham Road, SE26 5HB
- Istanbul Supermarket 91 Sydenham Road, SE26 5UA
- New Istanbul Supermarket 81 Sydenham Road, SE26 5EZ
- Costcutter 38 – 40 Sydenham Road, SE26 5QF
- Palace Wines & Foods 3 Sydenham Road, SE26 5ET

Information regarding Pay By Phone, registering online and the payment methods available can be found at the webpage <https://park.paybyphone.com/lewisham/>

BLOCKED ROAD GULLIES AND UNDERGROUND STREAMS

Flooding at the bottom of Kirkdale and the Wells Park Road area in heavy rainfall is a matter of great concern to residents and Cllr Liam Curran has raised at Full Council, the continuing problem of blocked drains in Upper Sydenham. If you know of any blocked drains please report them here on the Council’s website:

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/roads-and-transport/roads-and-pavements/flooding-and-leaks>

The Council has been successful at securing some funding to survey an unmapped underground watercourse on the construction site at 150 Sydenham Road but more funding is needed to identify the various underground watercourses in Upper Sydenham particularly around Wells Park.

SYDENHAM PARK FOOTBRIDGE

The second phase of the installation of the new bridge deck has been completed. A range of design options were considered in the detailed planning stage. These had to meet very stringent requirements of Network Rail but were ultimately approved. The temporary closure of the bridge was to facilitate the works and was authorised through a temporary traffic order which was in place to restrict pedestrian and vehicle access during the works for safety reasons.

The construction work required the use of a specialised mobile crane. This unfortunately necessitated the removal of a London Plane Tree. Removing a tree is always a last resort and Lewisham Council explored all possible options to avoid this outcome, including using a larger crane and delivering the new bridge span to site via the railway line. These options would have resulted in the removal of additional mature trees and additional costs of over £400,000.

Cllr Chris Best presented a petition on behalf of local residents signed by over 2,000 residents at the last Full Council meeting. Residents were very upset about the loss and lack of consultation, receiving a letter on Friday 7th October with the tree felled on Saturday 15th October.

To compensate for the loss of the mature tree the Council will be planting four additional trees in the local area which are anticipated to be between 10 and 14 years old at the time of planting with the potential to develop a significantly greater canopy cover than the mature London Plane could. These will be funded by the Council from the relevant project budgets.

The Council will also be working with affected residents in the New Year to seek their views and ideas to agree the species and locations for the four replacement trees. Further landscaping may be considered where feasible and subject to funding being available.

Following a review of tree planting records across Sydenham, Forest Hill, and Perry Vale wards between 2013 and the end of the current tree planting season in early 2023, the Council will have planted 299, felled 252 with a net gain of 47 trees.

Unfortunately, when managing a large urban tree stock there will be occasions when trees will have to be felled for various reasons, including the risk posed to the health and safety of the public by a dead or dying tree and trees proven as implicated in damage to property or infrastructure.

For further information and contact please see Lewisham's web site

<https://lewisham.gov.uk/inmyarea/regeneration/transport-and-major-infrastructure/improvements-to-sydenham-park-footbridge>

PUBLIC TRANSPORT SERVICES

Report from Barry Milton of the Sydenham Society

A last-minute £3.6bn deal signed between the Transport Secretary and TfL until the end of March 2024 spells good news for our local Overground, Tube, DLR, bus and tram services.

This means that local Overground and buses will be able to maintain their existing timetables for the next two years at least. Not a bad result if you consider that passenger numbers at our local stations during the working week are approximately two thirds of where they were pre-pandemic and show little signs of shifting due to Working from Home.

For the London Mayor this means swallowing a whole number of unpalatable reforms – meeting the cost of concessionary fares for 16-18 and 60-65 year olds plus extending the ULEZ scheme to outer London in August next year. TfL will also have to meet fare rises from their own funds in January. With inflation running at over ten per cent, a fairly hefty fare hike should not be discounted. And don't expect any new buses and trains to join the fleet in the next few years – they've all been cancelled.

News from our other local train providers is mixed. At Penge East, the London Victoria service has now been fully restored to four trains per hour in the peak and two trains per hour at other times. But Southern services between Sydenham and London Bridge will remain at only two trains per hour, travelling on the "loop line" between London Bridge and Victoria. If you want to head south from Sydenham to destinations such as East Croydon, Gatwick or Brighton then you'll have to catch the four-trains-per-hour service to Norwood Junction and continue via Thameslink. With extra footfall at the station, it's good to know that Southern Rail have applied for a grant to improve passenger access at Norwood Junction with new lifts and stairs.

Elsewhere in our region, Southern and South Eastern routes into the capital have been cut back severely. Is this one occasion when we in Sydenham have come off pretty well compared with our local neighbours?

2 HOUSING ISSUES

Elderton Road – five new council homes to be built with construction starting in January 2023. Residents will be invited to meet the contractor virtual events in early 2023, alongside Sydenham ward councillors.

Markwell Close – feasibility and financial viability of new council social rented homes on site are being considered.

Hensford Gardens – consultation results under review.

No definite decisions have been made and residents will be contacted in relation to any development plans for both sites in early 2023.

3 PLANNING ISSUES

OUR LADY AND ST PHILIP NERI PRIMARY SCHOOL

Faithdean – the builders tasked with carrying out the recladding and roofing works to the school have issued a newsletter explaining that they have begun the works which include the formation of a new foundation around the school, new low-level brickwork and a mixture of brick slip or terracotta cladding. The works began last month and are expected to take a year. They have issued a Construction Management Plan to the Council which includes specifics such as the sequence of works, management and timing of deliveries etc. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of the plan can email Jaoa Caoto at the company at OLSPN@oakdeanconstruction.co.uk

BELL GREEN NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM (BGNF) UPDATE

A motion was passed at the last Sydenham Assembly, asking the Mayor to respond to concern over the Council's decision to refuse the BGNF Area boundary applied for and impose a much reduced area, cutting out many residents. Planners engaged by Locality have advised that the Council's action was beyond their remit and have offered to mediate in the dispute. A report, including a response from the Planning Department, is due to be discussed at Mayor and Cabinet on 7 December. The report can be found at the following link: Sydenham Local Assembly referral.pdf (lewisham.gov.uk)

4 Cost of Living Crisis

Sydenham Winter Welcome

We will hear more about the Sydenham Winter Welcome at the Assembly meeting – if you can help volunteer or run a session please get in touch.

Below is the current free weekly offer and we are hoping to add further sessions.

Day	Time	Activity	Venue
Monday	10am – 5pm		Sydenham Community Library, 210 Sydenham Road, SE26 5SE
	9.30am – 2.30pm	Coffee morning	Grove Centre, 2 Jews Walk, SE26 6PL
	12.30 – 3pm	Sydenham Arts weekly creative sessions	The Sydenham Centre, 44A Sydenham Road, SE26 5QF
Tuesday	10am – 5pm		Sydenham Community Library, 210 Sydenham Road, SE26 5SE
	10.15am – 10.45am term time only	Sydenham Community Library Rhyme Time for babies and children under 5 years	Sydenham Community Library, 210 Sydenham Road, SE26 5SE

	11am – 4pm	Coffee at Ignition Brewery	44A Sydenham Rd, SE26 5QF
	11am – 12.30pm	Meeting Point Seniors Club for those aged 65 and over	Here for Good, 17 Sydenham Road, SE26 5EX
	1pm – 3pm	Teas and biscuits in the café area	Forest Hill Pools, Dartmouth Rd, SE23 3HZ
Wednesday	9.30am – 2.30pm	Coffee morning	Grove Centre Church, 2 Jews Walk, SE26 6PL
	10.30am – 12 noon	Open Door Coffee Morning	Here for Good, 17 Sydenham Road, SE26 5EX
	10.15am – 11.30am	Baby and Toddler Group	210 Sydenham Road, SE26 5SE
	12.30pm – 2.30pm	Adult Craft making jewellery, cards, ceramics and painting	Sydenham Community Library
	1pm – 3pm	Teas and biscuits in the café area	Forest Hill Pools, Dartmouth Road, SE23 3HZ
	Every second Thursday 3.45 – 4.45 pm	Children’s Writing Club 5–11 year olds	Sydenham Community Library
Friday	10am – 5pm		Sydenham Community Library, 210 Sydenham Road, SE26 5SE
Saturday	10am – 4pm		Sydenham Community Library, 210 Sydenham Road, SE26 5SE
	10am – 1pm	Knitting Club by registration only	Sydenham Community Library
	10.30 – 12 noon	Coffee Morning	Holy Trinity Church, 66 Lennard Road, SE20 7LX

We are working on an intergenerational offer on Sunday afternoons at the Grove Centre and this will be updated on the SEE3 web site -

<https://www.see3.co.uk/winter-welcome>

5 CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Look out for all the events coming up in preparation for Christmas! Don't miss out on any of the fun. Make sure to check regularly SEE3.co.uk -

<https://www.see3.co.uk/copy-of-what-s-on> - for the listing of any Christmas markets, events, sales, lighting of the tree or late-night shopping.

BOROUGH OF CULTURE 2022 – WE ARE LEWISHAM.

December is the last opportunity to enjoy events and experiences offered across Lewisham as the London Borough of Culture 2022. Find out about these events at: [What's on - Lewisham \(wearelewisham.com\)](http://wearelewisham.com)

Celebrate the year's finale at LIT! running from 15 December to 8 January in Beckenham Place Park, Bellingham, and offering fun and entertainment for all ages.

SYDENHAM ARTS

Join a wide range of creative, fun activities at Sydenham Arts this month, including:

- Greetings card recycling on December 5th at 12.30pm at the Sydenham Centre as part of Sydenham Winter Welcome, which also offers collage making, origami, concertina making, handstitch and embroidery and drawing techniques using pastels and watercolour pencils.
- Moving with Parkinson's – weekly sessions at 10.30 am from December 5th at the Sydenham Centre as part of our Wellness programme.
- Our end of year film quiz to celebrate another year of successful film screenings, on December 9th at 7.30pm at the Ignition Brewery.

Visit <https://sydenhamarts.co.uk/whats-on/> for more information.

The (Blues) Brothers Grimm - St Bartholomew's Church

Get into the festive spirit with a visit to Spontaneous Productions' "The [Blues] Brothers Grimm", a fun family Christmas show for all ages, featuring three famous Grimm tales and a Blues and R&B soundtrack. At St Bartholomew's Church, Westwood Hill, Sydenham. **Two performances every day at 2pm and 3.30pm on: Saturday 10 and 17 December Sunday 11 and 18 December.** No advance booking – just turn up and pay a minimum suggested donation on the door. For more details visit: <https://spontaneousproductions.co.uk>

SUSTAINABLE CHRISTMAS TREE

For many years the Sydenham Assembly had sourced funding for an annual Christmas Tree for the High Street. It has been an objective for a while to instal a permanent and sustainable tree and this year it has been finally achieved with the lighting up of the new tree – a Colorado Blue Spruce - outside the Sydenham Centre after the meeting.

Alex Bourdelon of the Sydenham Community Project has been working hard on the project, including fundraising for the lights, and we will be hoping to obtain funding next year for similar trees for outside the library and in Kirkdale.