



# OCTOBER 2009 UPDATE

Dear Neighbour,

Here's our latest update for you - do contact us on [bvrg@bvrg.org.uk](mailto:bvrg@bvrg.org.uk) if you have any thoughts or comments on the information below.

**Email – if you have received a hard copy of this update and you have an email address please do let us know so that we can reduce our printing costs and time it takes to deliver to you by hand. Many thanks!**

## IS YOUR TRAIN BEING CUT?

From 13 December 2009, SouthEastern are planning to cut the rail services on the Blackheath route without adequate public consultation. This was the subject of a lively debate at our AGM on 7 July, which was well attended by members. The BVRG is planning several leaflet drops at the station to raise awareness amongst commuters in the run up to the introduction of the new timetable, the first one of these being on **Monday 19 October 2009 from 7.30am to 9am** – anyone able to help with handing out leaflets to commuters please email us at [bvrg@bvrg.org.uk](mailto:bvrg@bvrg.org.uk) as soon as possible for more details.

## What will the cuts mean?

- Peak time between 8.00am and 9.01am: 50% cut in Cannon Street services, with three Cannon Street trains and one Charing Cross train being withdrawn
- No peak hour direct train service for commuters from stations along the Woolwich line to Blackheath and Lewisham
- More overcrowding on already busy trains
- Further changes to the evening peak service and the overall timetable

We believe this is the worst timetable for Blackheath commuters for at least 35 years and yet SouthEastern Trains is the only London train company to be allowed to raise fares next January.

## How can you help?

SouthEastern have completely ignored the impact on local people. Please help us to get our train services back to an acceptable level.

1. Sign our online petition. This can be found at <http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/Southeastern2>
2. Join our Facebook group [www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=134398160753](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=134398160753)
3. Email / write to the relevant people. Your objection does not need to be very detailed – in our experience, a couple of sentences will be enough and it's the number of objections which can make a difference. A list of contact names and email addresses is published on our website – follow this link. [www.bvrg.org.uk](http://www.bvrg.org.uk)

## LICENSING UPDATE

Lewisham's current licensing policy comes up for review in 2010, and the process is already under way. This will cover the 27 premises on the Lewisham side of Blackheath which are licensed under the 2003 Licensing Act. Premises on the Greenwich side, which is roughly from the Concert Halls down that side of the road to the railway line, are of course not covered by this review.

What does this mean for Blackheath Village? One of the major achievements of the BVRG has been getting in place a Cumulative Impact Zone (CIZ). A CIZ means that, by default, Lewisham Council will now refuse licensing applications if the applicant cannot demonstrate that there will not be an adverse impact on the people living in the CIZ. (Without a CIZ, the default is to grant applications).

The CIZ comes up for review as part of the licensing policy. If it is not renewed, the position will revert to what we had a few years ago, when we had to spend considerable time and effort fighting applications for ever-later licences. The BVRG along with the Blackheath Society recently held a meeting with Lewisham Licensing. They are looking for evidence in the form of statements, photos or similar as to whether the CIZ has reduced alcohol-related public nuisance, but not eliminated it. Or indeed any of the four licensing objectives in the 2003 Act:

- \* The prevention of crime and disorder
- \* The prevention of public nuisance
- \* The protection of children from harm
- \* Public safety

The paradox is that there is a possibility that, if there is no public nuisance, the argument may be put that there is no need for a CIZ, so we need to have evidence of the actual situation.

We will be contacting members in the next couple of months to ask for their input to this important process.

## BVRG NEWS

Have you looked at our new website [www.bvrg.org.uk](http://www.bvrg.org.uk) ? Please do so and let us have any feedback. You can post messages and catch up with all our news.

**Donations** – a regular plea for help. BVRG is a membership organisation for neighbours in and around Blackheath Village It's free to join and run completely by volunteers. Whilst we have no need for a significant amount of money at the moment, we do need to keep our funds topped up at a modest level to cover printing and administration costs. Any donations are very gratefully received – please make cheques payable to the Blackheath Village Residents' Group Limited and send to the address below.

**And finally ....** last year some members asked about the Blackheath Society Christmas Cards. The 2009 cards are now available and can be seen on the publications pages of [www.blackheath.org](http://www.blackheath.org) where there is a downloadable order form and details of how to buy them.

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