



## April Update

### Dear Neighbour,

Here is the latest round-up of news.

Best Wishes,

### BVRG

#### Elections / Candidates

The BVRG has asked candidates for the various parties some questions of local relevance on behalf of members. The responses can be seen [here](#)

Also, don't miss the hustings at the Blackheath Halls on Monday 26th April at 7:30pm. Entry is free and this will be your chance to put the local candidates on the spot.

#### Cumulative Impact Zone

Thanks to all members who contacted Lewisham Licensing to support the continuation of the Cumulative Impact Zone. The background to the introduction of the CIZ can be found on the BVRG website [here](#)

We have spoken to Licensing, and your submissions are much appreciated.

The next stage is the publication of a new draft policy in May. This will be sent to licensees and local groups such as the BVRG, but not to individuals, although it will be available on the Lewisham website, and we shall do our best to alert members as to where it may be found. There will be a 12 week consultation period, and members who agree with the retention of the CIZ (or indeed disagree) should make their views known to Licensing. This is really an "I agree" or "I disagree" exercise and the BVRG will be encouraging members to support the retention of the CIZ.

The final Council decision will be in November, the third anniversary of the introduction of the CIZ.

#### Library Square

As reported in our last update, the Blackheath Society held an exhibition at Blackheath Halls in January of potential plans for development of the area around the Library and Car Park on Blackheath Grove. There was mixed reaction to the exhibition, including some strong opposition from nearby residents and a new organisation known as Village Space, and we understand that the Blackheath Society now plans to extensively reformulate its ideas. We will keep BVRG members updated with any news.

#### Trains

We have received confirmation that the train census has been completed (Southeastern's own monitoring of how busy the trains are since the December the 13th time table was introduced). We have been in continuing contact with local MPs and councillors about this matter. Southeastern have informed Bridget Prentice, MP for Lewisham East, that as of the new May timetable Southeastern will add two more carriages to the 8.48 am service to Charing Cross from Blackheath.

The Blackheath Village Residents Group don't believe two carriages compensates for the loss of 50% of Cannon Street trains from 8am to 9am, and the general overcrowding at this time from Blackheath via London Bridge to Charing Cross and Cannon Street. Southeastern won't be increasing lengths

of return evening trains either, nor reinstating routes via Woolwich and Blackheath. Bridget Prentice goes on to say "The next opportunity for a review of the timetable will be in 2014, and at this stage Southeastern will restore any services it needs to". We have arranged meetings with candidate MPs for Lewisham East to highlight how strongly we feel about this matter and to discuss what further can be done.

## **Safer Neighbourhoods Policing**

The first Blackheath Ward Panel meeting with Sgt. Mark McLellan took place at Lewisham Police Station on 13th April. At this meeting Cllr. Godfried Gyechie stood down as ward chair to be replaced by David Webster. The replacement for PC Bettany was announced as PC Rob Sheppard, who will start at the beginning of May. This means that our team now comprises six members: Sgt. Mark McLellan, PC Gary Washington, PC Rob Sheppard, PCSO Scott Sparrow, PCSO Alex Hodonou and PCSO Frank Jayeola.

The various policing issues within the ward were discussed and the following ward priorities were set: 1) Burglary; 2) Drugs and Drugs Misuse; 3) Antisocial Behaviour & 4) Theft from Vehicles. These priorities will be reassessed at each panel meeting and priorities will be added and removed as deemed appropriate. It is important to stress that we have a very low crime level ward and the priorities do not necessarily indicate an increase in crime within the ward. However, the fourth priority - theft from vehicles - has been added in response to a surge in petrol siphoning from cars in the Dartmouth Row area. Our few drug issues largely relate to class B drugs.

The team are very keen to hear from any BVRG members who have questions or issues. In addition, the ward panel is always looking for new members and aims for coverage throughout the ward. Future panel meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of every other month. The next meeting will be at 7pm at Lewisham police station on 8th June. Please call Sgt. McLellan if you would like to contribute.

### **Blackheath Safer Neighbourhood Team**

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Web [www.met.police.uk/teams/lewisham/blackheath/index.php](http://www.met.police.uk/teams/lewisham/blackheath/index.php)

### **AGM**

The next BVRG AGM will be held on Thursday 24th June at The Bakehouse Theatre in Bennett Park. Further details will follow nearer the time.