

Looking Up in Streatham

Streatham Area Committee Newsletter

Spring 2005

Streatham Hub – Ice Rink saved!

The latest on the new developments by Streatham station, ice rink and swimming pool



The area just south of Streatham station will soon be transformed with a brand new Olympic-size ice rink, swimming pool and fitness centre, a major new food store and 300 units of housing as well as significant improvements to transport connections.

The £100 million Streatham Hub Project, as it is known, will bring a much-needed regeneration boost to Streatham and will guarantee the future of an ice rink in Streatham.

This in stark contrast with the situation just four years ago when Tesco had bought the ice rink and put in a hostile planning application to demolish the ice rink and build a new superstore in its place. The ice rink is a much-loved Streatham landmark and is the only ice rink south of the river, out as far as Guildford.

The threat of closure resulted in a massive campaign by local residents, ice rink users and the Council to save the ice rink. Tesco eventually agreed to rethink their proposals. The Council entered into protracted and very tough negotiations with Tesco who submitted new plans that were approved by the Council in February 2003.

Hard-fought legal agreements attached to the planning permission will keep the ice rink open until the new Leisure Centre is built, incorporating a new Olympic size ice rink with a swimming pool, fitness centre and sports hall. Only when the Leisure Centre is completed will Tesco be able to build their new supermarket together with the 300 new flats and underground parking.

The overall scheme, has gone through a number of hurdles, with the Mayor of London finally lifting his embargo in December 2004 and with further approval

from the Government Office for London being required which was granted in March 2005. Funding for the new Streatham Leisure Centre has been underwritten by Lambeth Council to the tune of £1 million a year.

A complicated landswap arrangement has been negotiated between the Council and Tesco, as the Council owns the swimming pool and the old Council depot behind it, while Tesco owns the redundant bus garage and the ice rink, together with the carpet warehouse and car valeting businesses

The new Leisure centre will be built on the site of the redundant bus garage, with new bus layover facilities being provided next to the Streatham railway station. The supermarket will be built on the site of the ice rink and swimming pool. Some housing will be on top of the supermarket itself and some towards the back of the site. The United Reformed Church will remain.

Because of a prior deal between Tesco and Transport for London, the new bus layover has to be built ahead of any work starting on the new Leisure Centre. The complicated engineering works involved in building the bus layover means that the existing swimming pool has to close for 18 months before the new pool is open.

What happens next?

We now have to find a partner to fund, design, build and run the new leisure facility. This requires a formal tendering notice to be published across Europe inviting potential contractors and leisure operators to express their interest. Then there's the shortlisting process and the contracts to sign. This will take about 18 months in all. Then building can begin. We'll also work with local residents to minimise disruption.

Keeping you informed.

Information Boards will shortly be going up in the Streatham Baths and elsewhere. Progress will also be reported in issues of Lambeth Life and in future issues of this newsletter. We welcome your ideas and involvement. To find out more, contact the Streatham Town Centre Office (details below)

