

Windrush Square latest

Business owners will be pleased to hear that works on the new improved Windrush Square are ahead of schedule and the square will be complete in late January.

Plans are currently being made for an opening event in the new year. The launch will bring local young people and the wider community together to celebrate the new space. Watch this space for the full events programme!

Brixton Hill at St Matthew's Church outside Lambeth Town Hall is now a two-way road. The switch-over on Sunday 15 November 2009 went smoothly with no problems reported to Lambeth Council.



New powers to deal with inappropriate behaviour

Steph Butcher, the Brixton town centre director, is working closely with the police to address anti-social behaviour in Brixton. As reported in the autumn issue of this newsletter a successful dispersal zone has been running since April 2009 and passive drugs dogs have been brought-out by the Metropolitan Police for the first time in several years to discourage drug dealing.

Following these successes and the closure of the dispersal zone at the end of October 2009 a Designated Public Places Order (DPPO) is now in force. The DPPO gives the Police more power to restrict the inappropriate behaviour that can be associated with public drinking and will help local people enjoy the open spaces in Brixton. The DPPO is not intended to restrict those who drink in public places responsibly. Its focus is to restrict inappropriate or threatening behaviour to other members of the public.

Acre Lane and Coldharbour Lane forums

Coldharbour Lane businesses got together for the first meeting of the Coldharbour Lane Business Forum this month on Wednesday 11 November at Lambeth Town Hall.

The meeting was held early in the morning from 8am to 9.30am in order that as many businesses as possible could attend.

The businesses shared tips on dealing with the difficult economic times.

To join in or find out more about this forum, or its counterpart across Brixton Road, the Acre Lane Business Forum, contact Janet Clarke on **020 7926 2784** or jclarke@lambeth.gov.uk

Message from Jo Negrini

Following 10 years with Lambeth Council, I am leaving the authority to take up a new post as Director of Strategy in the new Regeneration Department with Newham Council. Leaving Lambeth has not been an easy decision. It's a truly great borough and it's been a privilege to be part of the senior management team, taking the organisation from 1 to 3 stars. I've also been extremely fortunate to have one of the best Divisions in the council, and I am very proud of what we have achieved. My final day will be Friday 29 January 2010. Arrangements are being progressed to secure an interim appointment to ensure a seamless transition.

If you would like this information in large print, Braille, audio tape or another language please contact us on 020 7926 3026.

Brixton Business

newsletter
winter 09

Welcome to the second edition of the Brixton Business Newsletter, bringing you all the latest business information concerning Brixton town centre.

This year winter festivities in Brixton feature a Christmas tree sponsored by Morley's, Christmas lights throughout the town centre and a magical procession in an open top bus by Father Christmas.

You can join in and help brighten up Brixton by decorating your business in a suitably seasonal style. The Christmas tree lights will be switched on at 5.30pm on Friday 4 December.

For more information on anything within this newsletter contact the Brixton town centre director at: brixtontowncentre@lambeth.gov.uk



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Free business breakfasts

Brixton business breakfasts are a new initiative providing local businesses with an opportunity to learn from expert speakers and network with each other. We are encouraging Brixton business people to get involved and we would like you to drive the agenda.

The events are free to attend and a complimentary breakfast is provided, with a chance to win a meal for two at the Ritzy. The next Brixton business breakfast will be held on:

- Tuesday 15 December discussing tendering and procurement: how to identify and access public contracts
- Tuesday 26 January where you can find out what help and subsidies are available to expand your business.

The events are from 8am – 10am at the Ritzy Cinema. To book call GLE oneLondon on **020 8678 5450** or email southcentral@gle.co.uk



Who is the best market trader in Brixton?

Nominations for the best market trader in Lambeth are being accepted until Friday 8 January as part of the third annual Lambeth Business Awards.

Funded by Lambeth Council and Lambeth First, and organised by South London Business, the awards are free for businesses to enter and winners can gain excellent networking opportunities and a high level of media coverage.

For more information, or to nominate, contact Keith Trotter on 020 7926 2705 or visit www.lambethbusinessawards.co.uk

Help for your business

Whatever the current challenges for your business the Business Desk can help you take those next steps to success. Call **020 7926 3032** for free and confidential advice. If you are a Lambeth based business you can contact the Business Desk Monday to Friday between 9am – 5pm. You can also email us at businessdesk@lambeth.gov.uk

Empty shops

The vacant shops initiative continues to gain momentum with guidance notes now available for both tenants and landlords at www.lambeth.gov.uk/business

The owners of the Brixton Village market arcade are keen to encourage new creative and cultural businesses into their (approximately 20) empty units. They are offering free trial periods of up to three months – at least one new occupier has moved in so far. They are working with a national non-profit organisation to market the empty units. The first part of this process was an open day - designed to encourage new occupiers. The day was a great success as over 300 people attended to find out more about the empty units.

For more information contact Chris Norris at cnorris@lambeth.gov.uk or call 020 7626 7165



Low carbon zone bid approved for Brixton

Brixton is to become a low carbon zone. This follows the Mayor of London's approval for Lambeth Council's bid in September. The funding from the Mayor will be used to set up a Green Business project to work with every business in the area and help you cut carbon emissions.

You will be provided with energy monitors to help you assess your carbon footprint and take steps to reduce it.

The scheme will also cut fuel bills in hundreds of Brixton homes, as well as develop projects to help residents grow their own food, boost recycling and encourage cycling and walking.

Customers back the B£

Over 110 Brixton businesses are now proudly accepting and offering as change Brixton pounds. Many of them actually cannot keep up with demand for the new complimentary currency and are having to restock.

The B£ has received a lot of news coverage since its launch at Lambeth

Town Hall in September 2009. From the Daily Mirror in the UK to French newspaper Le Monde and even to news bulletins in Australia, Brazil and Russia: there has been lots of interest in Brixton!

The Brixton Pound (B£) is the UK's first local currency in an urban area



and the fourth to have its own currency, following the Totnes Pound in Devon, Lewes Pound in Sussex and Stroud Pound in Gloucestershire.

To get involved visit www.brixtonpound.org or call Tim Nichols on 07788 900359

