

Welcome!

Welcome to N-gage, the newsletter of the Brixton Area Committee or 'BAC'. BAC is the group of 15 councillors from Brixton Hill, Coldharbour, Ferndale, Herne Hill and Tulse Hill wards that hear local issues and take decisions affecting you. We could tell you a lot of technical stuff about how the Group operates, but the best way of finding out what we do is to see what we've done. This first edition of N-gage will give you a flavour of just some of the important work BAC has undertaken and of the many positive stories arising in one of the most exciting parts of Lambeth.

Members of the public can submit formal questions to BAC via Lambeth's Democratic Services Team. For more details, contact Stephen Pollock at: spollock@lambeth.gov.uk or call: 7926 2170



Cllr Donatus Anyanwu Chair, BAC
Cllr Toren Smith Vice-chair, BAC

Brixton Central Square

Brixton Central Square or BCS project is one of the Mayor of London's 10 pilot projects forming part of the 100 Public Spaces initiative. This aims to breathe new life into strategic locations across London to create world class public spaces. Leading the way in this initiative was the much-trumpeted Trafalgar Square redevelopment. BCS will link St Matthew's Peace Gardens, Windrush

Square and Tate Gardens to create a coherent centre that will also link the outstanding architecture on the square's edges including the Town Hall, Tate Library and St Matthew's Church. Architects, Gross Max will provide the final design for the redevelopment. Consultation upon the design will take place this February and March and will form the centrepiece of a planning application to be submitted to Lambeth in the autumn. BAC has been hearing regular updates from senior officers steering the process and is a key element of the consultation. The meetings offer a great way to participate in the BCS process and be heard. The next update on Central Square will be at the 2nd February meeting.

New Schools in Brixton

Since news broke of the Government's intention to locate two new and badly needed secondary schools in Brixton (summer of 2003) BAC has been negotiating on behalf of the community to get the right result for Brixton. Sites earmarked for development are Shakespeare Rd waste depot and Glenbrook Primary School. At BAC's 4th September 04 meeting the leader of Lambeth, Cllr Peter Truesdale stated that the council was now in a position to progress the Shakespeare Road site. Whilst welcoming this development, BAC expressed the following concerns: Firstly, that the council took too long to identify sites, creating unnecessary delay in the school's opening; Secondly, that the 2 ½ acres allotted in Shakespeare Road, was too small and would jeopardise the establishment of an effective sixth form. After listening to BAC's concerns, the Lambeth Executive agreed to expand the site to three acres.

For more information contact BAC's Education representative Cllr Sally Prentice email: sprentice@lambeth.gov.uk

Arbour for Coldharbour

December 04 saw community members don wellies and raise shovels for a good old-fashioned tree planting in Saltoun and Rushcroft Road. The occasion was the BAC sponsored 'Greening of Coldharbour' initiative. BAC recognised that there was a need to create green corridors in some of the most deprived parts of the ward, but also acknowledged that local people should be involved in the planning and planting process. Working with Trees for Cities, the agency which specialises in community involvement for tree projects, BAC was able to deliver an innovative, all encompassing project. Participants can also take advantage of educational training in horticulture and arboriculture. There will be further plantings in February and March. If you'd like to volunteer or propose an area to plant, contact Lara Murphy of Trees for Cities on 7587 1320 or email lara@treesforcities.org for more details.



Local residents and Graham Simmonds (2nd from right) of Trees for Cities with a newly planted tree in Saltoun Rd

Flood Update

Following the flooding affecting residents in Half Moon Lane, Arlingford and Brailsford Roads and parts of Brixton in April 2004, the Brixton Area Committee commissioned a report to see what action could be taken to alleviate flooding in the future. Technical service experts, Mouchel-Parkman and Thames Water were requested to provide explanations on why the flooding was so bad and what could be done to alleviate future flooding in extreme weather conditions. Initial findings presented to Area Committee cite run-off from Brockwell Park, ineffectiveness of the sewerage systems and provision of gullies as some of the major contributory factors. The Committee has made requests to the Lambeth Executive to respond to the findings and that

money be spent on improvements to Brockwell Park drainage. The full flood report and its recommendations will be available on the Lambeth website in early March.

Calling all Voluntary Sector Groups

Ever shopped in a charity shop, used a local advice line, been part of a faith group activity or taken advantage of youth clubs or childcare? If your answer is yes, it's highly likely you are one of the 1000s of people that take advantage of Lambeth's vibrant Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS). These are the not-for-profit organisations, which deliver vital services to the wider community.

The sector's relationship with Lambeth is undergoing big changes. Following a report commissioned by Lambeth into how future arrangements with the sector could be arranged, 45 recommendations were made. Two of the most significant are the VCS's funding arrangements with Lambeth and the development of a VCS database to gain a more accurate picture of the many services in the borough. The database is being developed now and just what it should include is one issue to be discussed at BAC's 2nd Feb meeting. A number of VCS groups have been invited to speak. BAC invites anyone to be part of this process by attending on the 2nd.

Mark them in your Diary

The next 2 Brixton Area Committee meetings will be **7.30-9.30pm, 2 February 05, at Brixton Hill Methodist Church, Brixton Hill**, then **7.30-9.30pm, 23 March Brixton Hill Methodist Church**.

BAC are looking into alternative ways of getting N-gage to you, including by post and email. Should you wish to be included on the BAC database, please email your details to brixton@lambeth.gov.uk or use the cut out box below to send them to: N-gage, Brixton Town Centre Office, 2nd Floor, Stockwell Rd, London, SW9 9SL.

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House No & Street name	-----
Postcode	-----
Email	-----