



Lambeth

Brixton Business

newsletter
Summer 10

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

In this edition of the newsletter you can read about the latest Future Brixton arts projects, a potential new leisure facility as well as the visit of two world famous movie stars to central Brixton. You can also read the latest on Brixton's evening economy business group and the opening of new H&M and T-mobile stores on Brixton Road.

Stephanie Butcher

Brixton Town Centre Director
sbutcher@lambeth.gov.uk



Photo: Crispin Hughes



news

Business loans up to £15000 from your council

If you're a Lambeth business that needs access to some cash and business support, the Lambeth Business Loan Fund can help. Loans of up to £15,000 are available especially for small sized businesses facing challenges during these difficult economic times. For more details about the Business Loan Fund, contact the Lambeth Business Desk on **020 7926 3032** or email **businessdesk@lambeth.gov.uk**. The Lambeth Business Loan Fund is administered by GLE oneLondon and funded by Lambeth First.



Photos: James O Jenkins, Charlotte Willig

H&M comes to Brixton

One of the key aims of the Brixton Town Centre Director is to encourage new businesses and investment into Brixton. So it was with great pleasure that Steph Butcher was able to facilitate the opening of a new store of the popular fashion chain H&M in Brixton. The clothes retailer has taken over the majority of the former Woolworths site on Brixton Road - mobile phone company T-Mobile has also opened a new shop on the site. H&M's newest store opened to queues of eager shoppers at noon on Friday 29 April 2010.

Purple flag

Purple Flag is a scheme about the quality of a town centre's evening economy – it is similar to the Green Flag scheme for parks and the Blue Flag scheme for beaches. In connection with the Association of Town Centre Management, Brixton is planning to initiate its own Purple Flag scheme.

If you are a local business that operates or would like to operate in the evening and night time economy please contact Rheanne Gonyou **rgonyou@lambeth.gov.uk**.

Colourful new arts projects



As part of the Future Brixton masterplan we have been working with local shops, businesses and residents to develop the Future Brixton arts project. A number of projects are now starting to take shape across the town centre. The projects – working across different art forms from writers, artists, to photographers and fashion designers – has now kicked off across the town centre.

Three projects have been developed and are now visible: they include a series of elegant paving stones for Tunstall Road, designed by artist and stone mason Marcia Bennett-Male (pictured on front cover) and an exciting new shutter scheme project, designed by local artists along Coldharbour Lane. The latest most high-profile project yet was unveiled on 15 July above The Dex nightclub and Prince pub. It is a Heron sculpture by Maggi Hambling which celebrates Brixton's history and the herons that used to live by the River Effra, which now runs below ground.



Temporary ice skating rink may come to Brixton

On 26 July, the council's Cabinet will consider whether the disused Popes Rd car park in Brixton should be earmarked as the site for a temporary ice rink. The council-owned site is scheduled for demolition this year and, if agreed, a temporary ice rink could open in Brixton next year.

The temporary ice rink is part of the Streatham Hub regeneration scheme, which will provide a new permanent ice rink in Streatham, along with a new leisure centre, housing and a Tesco store.

A number of sites were considered for the temporary rink, including many in Streatham, but Popes Road was chosen as the best option based on a number of factors –

including ease of access for visitors, technical matters, such as drainage and power supply, along with timescales and costs of developing land.

The disused car park, situated next to Brixton Rec, is a town centre location that is already home to a large leisure facility and has excellent transport links.

If this recommendation is given the green light, a planning application to build the temporary ice rink in Brixton will be submitted this summer. The temporary rink is likely to operate for approximately two and a half years before it is dismantled. The site itself is recommended for a mixed-use development opportunity in the Brixton Masterplan and the council will be progressing



proposals for its long-term use whilst it provides a temporary home for the ice rink.

We will be talking with local residents and businesses over the summer in addition to the statutory planning consultation and look forward to hearing your views. You can find the latest information about Streatham Hub on the council website and you can contact the project team on futurebrixton@lambeth.gov.uk or **0800 052 6336**.



Photo: Artur Salisz, artkremno@gmail.com

Windrush Square shimmers in the sunshine

Now that the weather has improved, Windrush square has become the place to enjoy the warmer temperatures.

Adults are enjoying the grass to relax in the south of the square while children are playing in the fountain and on the sculptured granite seat under the London Plane tree at its northern end.

Brixton roadworks now complete

Alongside the scheme to improve Windrush Square, Transport for London (TfL) have been

upgrading the roads and pathways to make travelling through Brixton a better experience for disabled people, pedestrians, bus users, cyclists and motorists.

These major works are now complete. Phase one and two of the project saw upgrades to facilities which have improved road safety and access to the town centre. On the A23 Brixton Road between Stockwell Road and Coldharbour Lane, footways have been widened, additional

sections of bus lanes introduced and general street clutter removed.

Phase three concluded the scheme most recently with the removal of the one-way system and improvements to the footways around St Matthew's Church and the opening of Windrush Square. Finishing touches to footways and pedestrian islands were completed in early June 2010.

The project has been led by TfL in partnership with Lambeth Council.

Brixton Village extra opening hours

Despite the difficult times for small businesses Brixton Village, the covered market also known as Granville Arcade, has gone from strength to strength. The Village, which contains a wide variety of restaurants and independent shops and activities, is now open late on Thursdays till 10pm. Every Saturday, thanks to the input of Spacemakers, Brixton Village also hosts an exciting mini-festival.



Stars tread the red carpet at Brixton premiere

The UK premiere of *Why did I get married too?* took place at the Ritzy Cinema in late May.

The pop star turned actress Janet Jackson and actor, playwright, director Tyler Perry walked the red carpet in Windrush Square before settling down inside the Ritzy for an exclusive first UK showing of the film in Brixton.

Chris Rock was at the Ritzy in June where he held an exclusive Q&A session about his new film *Good Hair*.

Safer neighbourhoods in Brixton

Lambeth Borough Police work directly with both schools and young people's Services in Brixton. Schools Officers serve in Secondary Schools and Pupil Referral Units and Safer Neighbourhoods Officers also visit primary schools as often as necessary.

The end of the school day can generate issues that sometimes need to be addressed by police. The Safer Transport and Town Centre teams are active in ensuring that behaviour is acceptable on buses and around transport hubs at this key time. They are supported by Safer Neighbourhood Officers, who aim to keep their particular Ward as free as possible from anti-social behaviour.

For more information or to report inappropriate behaviour contact your local team at www.met.police.uk/teams/lambeth

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