

SOUND

News for the Brixton, Loughborough & Herne Hill areas

Tackling crime on the doorstep



The new Lambeth Safer Estates Task Force has been launched on the St Matthew's Estate, Brixton. The task force, with police, youth and community workers and housing staff, is based literally on residents' doorsteps, in a flat on the estate.

Lambeth police commander Dick Quinn, Lambeth Councillor Charles Anglin, executive member for community safety, and Lambeth's Head of Community Safety Jonathon Toy joined residents to cut a ribbon declaring the flat open at 1 Gale House as the base for the task force.

"This is about improving the quality of life, tackling drug crime, supporting residents and improving the environment," said Commander Quinn.

Said Jonathon Toy: "We will be working in the heart of the community, tackling crime where people live."

The task force will be working with drug users, tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, supporting tenants, setting up activities for young people, providing drug education and pinpointing environmental problems.

It is backed by social landlords the London and Quadrant group and Presentation Housing Association, and the Home Office.

The task force will operate for up to six months on St Matthew's. Similar teams will be put together for other estates. St Matthew's residents can contact the task force at 1, Gale House or by calling 020 7737 7943.

Under new management

The Brixton Town Centre Management office is delighted to welcome a new manager. Diane Burridge joined the team at the end of 2003 and took over from Paul Reid in leading the town centre team in Brixton.

"I'm really excited about working with residents and businesses in Brixton," said Diane. "I'm looking forward to supporting the development of Brixton as one of the most exciting areas in London, with benefits for everyone living and working here," she added.

Diane has a background in regeneration and recently worked to support east London's street markets in Petticoat Lane, Brick Lane and Whitechapel. She also supported communities in those areas by helping to set-up forums for the restaurant and clothing industries as well as developing workspace units and cultural centres; experience she'll no doubt be bringing to Brixton. Some residents may even remember Diane as a science teacher at Vauxhall Manor School in the 1970s.

The Brixton Town Centre team supports residents through the Brixton Area Forum and reports to the Brixton Area Committee.



Refreshing Brixton

Operation Refresh was launched at the unveiling of the murals which have brightened up the hoardings around the entrance to Brixton tube station.



Mural painters from Stockwell Park School with Lambeth Police Commander Richard Quinn and Council Chief Executive Faith Boardman.

Since before Christmas the council, the police, Brixton Area Forum, transport agencies and others have been working together on "Operation Refresh" in Brixton Town Centre.

Building on last year's "Crack Out" joint work tackling crack cocaine the new operation has a straightforward aim: "To make Brixton's town centre a safe and pleasant place in which to live, shop, work and travel".

"It's about making the area safer and cleaner and easier for the police to operate in," said community safety officer Rachel Gailey. "But we also want to make sure that people who are vulnerable or likely to get into trouble get proper care and support."

Since the operation began crime has gone down and the town centre is cleaner. Homeless

charity St Mungo's has been working with the council and the police and has helped people sleeping rough with housing and healthcare. The number of people sleeping out has been cut by two thirds. And the media have taken notice! (see below)

New work includes tackling litter, with the council's street care agents patrolling alongside police at well-known "grot spots", including the Coldharbour Lane junction outside KFC, Brixton tube entrance and the entrance to Morleys.

Litter bugs have been warned and even issued with on-the-spot fines!

For more information on making Brixton safer please contact the community safety team: Rachel Gailey on 020 7926 1032 and James Priestman on 020 7926 1033.

What the papers say

"The police and community drive against crack has had a huge impact. It's been joined, too, by a new effort to clean up the borough."

Evening Standard, 29.1.04

"Brixton has been made a safer place by the police concentrating on hard drugs. There has been a dramatic reduction in crack dens, cocaine and heroin addicts, and the street crime that finances these expensive habits."

The Guardian 2.2.04

Civic Awards 2004

Now's the time to get your nominations in for the Lambeth Civic Awards, for people who care about their community and make a positive contribution to the lives of others.

There are seven categories: Individuals in each of the borough's town centres, Streatham, Norwood, Clapham and Stockwell, Brixton and North Lambeth; a boroughwide award; and an award for a local small or medium-sized business which has contributed to the community.

Just tell us:

- Your name and full contact details (inc. tel and email);
- Who you are nominating and which category, with their contact details;
- What they do;
- How long have they done it;
- Is it voluntary or part of their job?

Entries to the Mayor's Office, marked Civic Awards 2004, Room 124, Lambeth Town Hall, SW2 1RW, email mayoroflambeth@lambeth.gov.uk, fax: 020 7926 2846

Closing date 16 April.

More information: 020 7926 2120



in brief

Marchant House on the St Matthew's Estate is to be sold to London & Quadrant Housing Trust for refurbishment. Along with similar deals on the estate with Presentation Housing Association, the council is bringing approximately £18 million investment for new and replacement affordable housing to the area.

The £75 million plus regeneration of the Angell Town Estate is moving into its final phase, with the refurbishment of half the properties in Warwick House, new homes in the other half and demolition work starting to replace Marston House south and Marston House north. In Myatts Field north a Private Finance Initiative bid has gone in to rebuild 244 flats on the estate.

Lambeth Council is working with the Black Cultural Archives organisation (BCA) on plans which could see Raleigh Hall, the council-owned derelict building immediately opposite Lambeth Town Hall, transformed into a Black Cultural Archives Museum. A comprehensive study is currently underway to establish the project's viability and long term prospects.

Children from Loughborough primary school took the Greening Coldharbour message onto the streets last month, planting two silver birches in Flaxman Road.

They were joined by students at St Saviour's primary school, brightening up Coldharbour Lane with two ornamental pear trees - watch out for the blossom!

The planting is part of a wider tree planting and community education programme run by the Brixton Town Centre office and Trees for London.

Community Safety Day

20 March 2004, 10am - 3pm

In association with Moorlands Triangle Partnership

Join us at the Guinness Trust for a fun and informative Community Safety Day.

Events include:

- Mobile phone marking
- Vehicle marking including bikes
- Crime prevention advice
- "Stop, chain and check" information
- Your chance to find out about policing plans in the area
- Activities for children and young people

Free of charge. Lunch will be provided.

For more information, please call Rachel Gailey at Lambeth Community Safety Team on 020 7926 1032.

Brixton Area Committee - making decisions locally

The Brixton Area Committee is made up of the 15 local councillors representing Coldharbour, Ferndale, Brixton Hill, Herne Hill and Tulse Hill wards. It is chaired by Councillor Donatus Anyanwu, and meetings are open, giving you the chance to question the councillors and council officers about local issues. See you there!

Forthcoming meetings:

15 March, 7.30pm, St Matthew's Tenants Hall, St Matthews Road SW2

4 May, 7.30pm Brixton Recreation Centre, 27 Brixton Station Road SW2

Brixton Area Forum (BAF) update

BAF Elections

Elections for chairs and vice chairs of the Brixton Area Forum board and working groups will take place in April and May.

Rachel Heywood is the current chair of Brixton Area Forum. Sadie Campbell is the vice chair.

BAF Meetings

- Ferndale neighbourhood forum**, 7pm, 9 March
- Crime working group**, 7pm, 10 March
- Brixton Hill neighbourhood forum**, 7pm, 11 March
- Coldharbour neighbourhood forum** 7pm, 31 March
- Environmental Quality working group** 7pm, 1 April
- Traffic and Transport working group** 7pm, 6 April
- Cultural and Creative Industries working group** 7pm, 7 April
- Community Assets working group**, 7pm 8 April
- BAF Board** 7pm, 13 April
- Tulse Hill neighbourhood forum** 7pm, 20 April
- Crime working group** 7pm, 21 April
- Brixton Hill neighbourhood forum** 7pm, 22 April
- Business Forum** 12.30pm 22 April
- Ferndale neighbourhood forum** 7pm, 27 April
- Young People's Services working group** 7pm 29 April

All dates are to be confirmed. Contact Jill Mansfield at the Brixton Town Centre office on 020 7926 1077 for venues and more information about the Brixton Area Forum.

To find out about the work of the Brixton Town Centre Office and getting involved in local issues through the Brixton Area Forum and the Brixton Area Committee, contact the Area Information Officer, Jill Mansfield on 020 7926 1077 or brixton@lambeth.gov.uk.

Contacting your local councillors

Coldharbour

- **Donatus Anyanwu** (Lab)
020 8769 7541, danyanwu@lambeth.gov.uk
Surgery: First Tuesday of the month, 6-7pm, 136 Marston House, Angell Town Estate, SW9.
- **Sharon Erdman** (Lab)
020 7274 4193, serdman@lambeth.gov.uk
Surgery: Second Saturday of the month, 11am-12noon, Lambeth Town Hall, Brixton Hill, SW2 1RW (Acre Lane entrance).
- **Sharon Ward** (Lab)
020 8677 4972, sward@lambeth.gov.uk
Surgery: Third Saturday of the month, 10:30-11:30am, Housing Office, Somerleyton Rd, SW9.

Ferndale

- **Imran Hussain** (Lab)
020 7793 0382, ihussain@lambeth.gov.uk
- **Paul McGlone** (Lab)
020 7738 7895, pmcglone@lambeth.gov.uk
- **Sally Prentice** (Lab)
020 7587 0160, sprentice@lambeth.gov.uk
Surgery: Every Tuesday, 6:30-7:30pm, Pulross Health Centre, 47a Pulross Rd, SW9 8AE.

Brixton Hill

- **Nick Cattermole** (Lab)
020 8764 4408, ncattermole@lambeth.gov.uk
- **Steve Reed** (Lab)
020 8674 8316, sreed@lambeth.gov.uk
- **Lydia Serwaa** (Lab)
020 8678 9432, lserwaa@lambeth.gov.uk
Surgeries: Second Tuesday of the month, Brixton Town Hall; third Wednesday of the month, Roupell Park Community Flat; fourth Thursday of the month, Blenheim Gardens TMO office.

Herne Hill

- **Jim Dickson** (Lab)
020 7737 1791, jdickson@lambeth.gov.uk
- **Kirsty McHugh** (Lab)
020 7924 9038, kmchugh@lambeth.gov.uk
- **Peter O'Connell** (Lab)
020 7720 5435, poconnell@lambeth.gov.uk
Surgeries: Third Friday of the month with Tessa Jowell MP, 11am-12.30pm, Brixton Advice Centre, 167 Railton Road; third Friday of the month, 6-7pm, St. Matthew's Church Lilford Road; last Saturday of the month, 2.30-3.30pm, Carnegie Library, Herne Hill Road.

Tulse Hill

- **Tom Franklin** (Lab)
020 7926 2965, tfranklin@lambeth.gov.uk
- **Jackie Meldrum** (Lab)
020 8671 5595, jmeldrum@lambeth.gov.uk
- **Toren Smith** (Lab)
020 8671 7533, tjsmith@lambeth.gov.uk
Surgeries: First Friday of the month, 7-8pm, St Matthews Tenants Hall, St Matthews Estate, SW2; second Friday of the month, 7-8pm, St Martins Old Library, 220 Upper Tulse Hill, SW2; third Friday of the month, 6-7pm, 13 Purser House, near Jubilee School, Tulse Hill Estate, SW2.

On your bike!



Borough residents Rita Foster and Annaliese Garratt give the thumbs up to a new cycling course designed to encourage women in Lambeth onto their bikes.

The pair took their first lesson on Valentine's day, as part of a free training package offered by the women's Design Service environmental charity, supported by local bike shops Brixton Cycles and Evans Cycles and funded by the council, Transport for London and the national lottery.

"I cycled a long time ago, and now I would like to get back my confidence," said Rita. "The training will help me overcome my fear of traffic, and cycling to work instead of driving will help me get fit and save money."

More free cycling and bike maintenance sessions are taking place through March and April. For details contact Alix Stredwick on 020 7490 5210, email astredwick@wds.org.uk

Paris in the Spring

Landlords in Lambeth could win a free weekend in Paris if they sign up with the borough's Lettings First scheme.

The scheme works with property agents and property owners who have housing to let, offering guaranteed rent in advance and income for up to five years. Lettings First, a partnership between Lambeth Council and Avenue Lettings, keeps an eye on your property and delivers vacant possession at the end of the lease.

Register by 31 March and you will be entered in the free prize draw for the Paris trip. Call 0845 064 0000 or visit www.lettingsfirst.com

Empty properties

What strategies are in place for bringing empty properties back into use?
What grants are available and what are the conditions for these grants?
What can the Council do if a property continues to be vacant?

Houses in multiple occupation

Tenants - wondered about whose responsibility it is to ensure your safe exit in case of a fire?
Landlords - want to know more about Lambeth's approach to dealing with HMOs?
What is going to be the effect of incoming Government Legislation?

Private sector landlords

Are you a good landlord, and would like to see the Local Authority do more to reflect this?
Do you want better business opportunities?
Should the Council do more to address the issue of bad landlords?

Grants and loans

Do you need your home adapted or repaired because of your age or due to a disability?
What assistance is available to keep your home warm, and to reduce energy bills?

Private sector tenants

Would you like to know more about your own rights and responsibilities as a tenant?
What does your landlord have to do if s/he wants you to move?
How do you best ensure that your deposit is returned when you leave?

Owners, Landlords and Tenants Fair

What has the London Borough of Lambeth got to offer you?

Do you want to know how you could find out more about the issues affecting private sector housing today?

Yes? The London Borough of Lambeth is holding two half-day Private Sector Housing Fairs on Friday 19th March and Saturday 20th March. We will be consulting on our strategies on all the above topics. There will be a series of speakers, as well as workshops and stalls. Refreshments will be provided.

Interested?

For more information about the fairs, or to register an interest in attending, please phone 020 7926 4444, or e-mail privatesectorhousing@lambeth.gov.uk

Private Sector Housing – What is it, and what's it got to do with me?

9.30am - 1.00pm
Friday 19th March
Assembly Hall
Lambeth Town Hall
Brixton Hill
SW2 1RW

OR

9.30am - 1.00pm
Saturday 20th March
Franklin Wilkins Building
King's College London
Stamford Street
SE1 9NN


Lambeth
Housing