



Lambeth

# Brixton Business

newsletter  
autumn 09

**Welcome** to the first edition of the Brixton Business Newsletter, bringing you the latest information about Brixton town centre.

In my role as the Brixton Town Centre Director, I lead a team of council and police officers with the overall aim of making Brixton an even more successful commercial town centre. To achieve this, we focus on dealing with Brixton's challenges as well as marketing the things that make Brixton unique. These include the markets, leisure centre and entertainment venues. In this first edition of the Brixton Business Newsletter, you can read about how the Brixton Pound is going to help support business in Brixton and how the council is supporting businesses through the recession with services such as the Business Desk.

**Steph Butcher**, Brixton Town Centre Director



# Windrush Square

**Windrush Square** and associated improvement works are a partnership project between Lambeth Council and Transport for London to improve London's transport system and enhance the urban environment. The new square, named after a public consultation process, will feature distinctive new paving,

seating, lighting and tree planting.

The open design, with CCTV and improved lighting, enhances security. The square has been created for the community and will be used for a mix of cultural activities and events which will attract people into the square and the Brixton area.

The road layout will also be improved. Brixton Hill will change to two-way traffic and Effra Road will be narrowed, making the area a welcoming and open public space, with less traffic and pollution.

**For more information about the changes to Brixton town centre, see [www.tfl.gov.uk/brixtonsquare](http://www.tfl.gov.uk/brixtonsquare)**



# news

## **Business breakfasts**

Brixton business breakfasts are a new initiative providing a forum for local businesses to hear from speakers on a range of business related topics and an opportunity for networking. Lambeth Council encourages Brixton business people to get involved and is relying on local businesses to drive the agenda. Look out for the first Brixton business breakfast on Tuesday 29 September at 8am (venue to be confirmed). For more information contact Gail Rowe, Enterprise Manager on **020 7926 2162**.

## **Business recovery fund**

This autumn Lambeth Council will be launching its Business Recovery Fund to help existing Lambeth businesses who are seeking financial support to develop their businesses. The fund is intended to target those businesses that have been refused a loan from a conventional lender. Loans are up to £20,000 per business and will be managed by the council's Business Support Network partner, GLE oneLondon. Call the Lambeth Business Desk **020 7926 3032** for more information.



## **Lambeth Council working with local businesses**

Lambeth Council is engaging with businesses in Coldharbour and Acre Lane to find out what kind of support they need, while also dealing with current concerns. Rosie's deli café is a successful business based in Market Row, just off Coldharbour Lane. Owner Rosie Lovell, has worked hard to get her café off the ground: "Brixton is a great place to run a business. There are challenges, but it's great to hear that the council is taking action to support businesses in this area." The council intends to set up more local groups in similar areas.

Contact Janet Clarke, Neighbourhood Development Officer on **020 7926 2784**.

**Lambeth Business Desk**  
**020 7926 3032**

**Lambeth**  
**020 792**

Lambeth Council are continuing to support businesses through the recession and launched the Business Desk in February to give practical advice and referral services to local businesses. The service is free to Lambeth businesses and offers support on a wide range of topics from business grants, rents and rates, procurement and the environment. The Business Desk is now averaging 40 enquiries per week. You can contact the Business Desk between 9am and 5pm, from Monday to Friday or by email at any time.

**Phone: 020 7926 3032**

**Fax: 020 7926 4570**

**Email: [businessdesk@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:businessdesk@lambeth.gov.uk)**



## **Addressing crime and safety in Brixton**

**Steph Butcher, the Brixton Town Centre Director, leads the Brixton Issues Group in tackling some of the longer-term challenges facing Brixton. The group has identified three initial priority issues to address: street drinking and other anti-social behaviour, graffiti, and street crime – especially drugs-related offending. A key area of work for the group is working in partnership with the Town Centre Police to tackle crime and improve safety. One of the tools now at the disposal of the police is the use of dispersal zone powers and Designated Public Places Orders (currently being developed). Police and police community support officers will be able to seize alcohol and, under certain circumstances, require people not to drink in public places (although this is not a blanket ban on drinking in public). For more information contact Steph Butcher at [sbutcher@lambeth.gov.uk](mailto:sbutcher@lambeth.gov.uk) or on 020 79260196.**

# Brixton Pound



The Brixton Pound **B£** is a local currency that will be launched in autumn 2009 as a practical way for local people and traders to make their money work for Brixton.

Working alongside but not replacing sterling, the B£ will be a complementary currency for independent local businesses and individuals in Brixton. The council supports the use of the Brixton Pound and encourages local businesses to start using it.

The B£ will benefit Brixton by staying and circulating in the area, so that money continues to be spent in Brixton. The B£ will also create local trade and community connections and build the local economy by supporting local shops under threat from the recession.

## Why should my business use the Brixton Pound?

- You will be helping to market and promote Brixton
- You will experience an increase in customers seeking you out as an independent business
- Your business name and details will appear on the B£ website and googlemap
- You can create special offers for customers using the currency and build relationships with businesses near you

All B£ notes are printed on watermarked secure paper and backed by sterling held by Lambeth Credit and Savings Union. If your business would like to join the B£, please contact a member of the Brixton Pound team by signing up online at [www.brixtonpound.org](http://www.brixtonpound.org) emailing [brixtonpound@gmail.com](mailto:brixtonpound@gmail.com) or phone Tim Nichols on **07788 90 03 59**.



## Introducing Brixton town centre police team

Lambeth Council have been working with the Metropolitan Police to implement several measures to increase safety in Brixton. Simon Corbin (pictured left), Inspector in charge of Brixton town centre police team, has been working to increase police numbers, running the dispersal zone and increasing the number of passive drug dogs in the area.

**The dispersal zone** has been running in Brixton since April 2009 and we have seen a reduction in crime while the zone has been in place. The zone was introduced in response to requests from local people to manage anti-social behaviour and drug related issues. It means that police and police community support officers can remove people from a designated area for 24 hours. The introduction of the zone has seen a 20 per cent increase of high visibility police aimed at reducing crime and anti-social behaviour and providing public reassurance. More than 180 people were removed from the area between April and June 2009 and a significant number of those removed were not from Lambeth. The Metropolitan Police have also introduced passive drug dogs for the first time in several years. The dogs aim to discourage drug dealing and use and they have caught numerous offenders since they have been introduced.

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