



NEWSLETTER

Editor: Doreen Brading
Deputy Editor: Philomena Menton
December 2008



Registered Charity No. 1096332

Wandsworth Local Strategic Partnership



Liliias Gillies

It is the role of LSP to identify land and articulate needs of the community and arbitrate between interests. It should produce a Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Local Area Agreement (LAAs). It should have oversight over consultation, planning and alignment of resources to deliver the SCS and monitor the achievements or otherwise of targets set in the LAAs.

The Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) is the replacement for the Community Strategy of some 5 years ago. There are various supporting documents the "Story of Place", a description of Wandsworth as it is, the Local Development Framework a guide for spatial planning, the Children and Young People Plan, the PCTs Commissioning Plan and the Older Peoples Strategy. The full public version of the Older People's Strategy will have been launched on 21 October at the Well-being Day at the Civic Centre The SCS will be published in January.

The strategic priorities for the SGS are as they were for the earlier Community Strategy viz - a) Making Wandsworth safer (b) Improving the local environment (c) Building a prosperous community (d) Ensure all children and young people achieve their full potential (e) Improving health and social care (f) Meeting housing need and, a new priority, (g) promoting active citizenship and building community spirit.

There are 5 cross-cutting people's which should be involved in all services in the borough, one of which is older people's issues, so we hope there will be a greater priority to these, The population of older people in Wandsworth has gone down relative to 25-40 but it is accepted that older people will have more

needs, Let's hope you will all be active citizens and speak about what you think about older people's needs and tell your councillors.

Battersea and North Wandsworth Health Consultation. This update of the current state of planning following the consultation on primary healthcare in this area reports on the setting up a steering group to carry forward the intentions. These are in order of timing a site development project for Bridge Lane Health Centre, an outline design for the planned primary care centre at Grant Rd and later developments at Doddington Health Centre linked with Battersea Fields practice and discussions with St George's to secure the PCT's interest in having a primary care development at Bolingbroke. All of these, it is assumed, can be accomplished over the next 5 years. The availability of capital maybe compromised by the present financial crisis and the agreement of St George's, in the first place to declare Bolingbroke site surplus to requirements and then to allow the PCT to have part for primary care development. The services in the Bolingbroke will be moved to St John's over the next three months but there will be no movement of GPs as none have premises in Bolingbroke.

Liliias Gillies



The Forum
wishes all members
and friends a very
Happy Christmas and
a Healthy New Year

Metropolitan Police News

PC John Fogg of Earlsfield Safer Neighbourhood Team attended the Forum meeting in September He reported that crime figures were down for the Borough. Although police officer numbers were down by 20 out of 580 at present, in October 14 new officers would be arriving to strengthen the Borough force. In future all police officers will be working from Earlsfield Police Station. Having everyone in one station will make the work more efficient

He answered questions on the low number of civilian workers which must make more paperwork for police officers on stolen motor and pushbikes in the Southfield/Tibbets Comer area and on how police officers are distributed across shifts to cover 24 hours /7 days a week. He also spoke about the 'pot in the fridge' which can hold information about next of kin and any medication which can be a boon if an older person has an accident and police or fire brigade have to break in

Wandsworth Town Centre

Sue Roscoe Wait spoke at the September meeting about the work of the Wandsworth Town Centre Partnership of which she is Chair. The Town Centre covers from Kimber Rd to the river and up West Hill to St Thomas' Church. The Partnership works to make the place good to live and work in. It has members from residents of the area, including from the Arndale flats, local police, Council officers, including transport and development, amenity societies, town centre Manager and the SouthSide management. Agendas are very full. One of the problems dealt with recently was young people coming out of school and streaming through the town centre which was very threatening to the shoppers. The Partnership and the Police worked with the two schools concerned and this was stopped. She explained that having seats was part of this problem and the new management decided not to have seats. People need seats when they are out shopping to rest or chat to friends and eventually the seats were brought back. Another problem was nappies accumulating on the roof of one block and it was one or two residents in a higher block throwing them out rather than disposing of them properly. That took a lot of negotiation. There have been some gang fights and CCTV cameras have been very useful in gathering evidence.

The Partnership Board have spent many hours on the plans for the Brewery site. There are a lot of buildings on the site which have to stay: the stables with the horses, the ram and other animals and also the mash equipment, its drum and all its copper piping are going to stay. This means the developer does not have the whole site and they need to build tall buildings to get enough return for their investment. There are not other developers clamouring to take on the site and the Partnership do not want to see the site lying empty and derelict, so some tall towers will be necessary.

Questions were asked about the lack of toilets on the ground

floor and the difficulty of having no down escalator. It was agreed that the Forum would write to SouthSide management about that.

Andrew Leitch, newly appointed director of Wandsworth Museum, was introduced and spoke about his ideas of how to go about developing a new Museum for the history of Wandsworth, either in the former West Hill library or somewhere in the Town Centre, probably in 2010, He is hoping to put on small exhibitions in the Borough libraries and work is going on with schools. He is also working with the Local History Library and Wandsworth Historical Society which will be vital partners for the Museum.

In answer to questions he thought that the Library in the old museum building should be open next year. The Museum is now an independent charity with its own Friends Association, also a charity

Battersea Park Christmas Dinner

Christmas, Day Dinner in the marquee in Battersea Park is a highlight for several hundred people who are likely to be alone on Christmas Day. Re Johnson, Chair of Battersea Park Rotary Club, came to the Forum members' meeting to talk about the Rotary Club and how her particular branch started the Christmas Dinner. Re began helping many years ago when her husband was a member of the Rotary Club and there were no women members.

They decided that the standards for the dinner had to be like they would when having guests to their own home and that has been maintained with lovely tablecloths and decorations. It started in the Caius Club in Battersea and then was in Battersea Town Hall, and then Battersea Park. The facilities in the present marquee are excellent. It is a very stable structure with excellent kitchen and toilets and plenty of room. Last year about 400 people came, being picked up from home and returned after. They had about 150 volunteers to help. Application forms will be available from October and Re will send some to the Forum.

Lilias Gillies

CARE Information Centre
Line for Wandsworth
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

 **020 8875 0500**

Minicom: 020 8643 8985 Fax: 020 8643 8531

www.careline.org.uk

e-mail: careline@clara.net

**Monday to Friday 10am-8pm
Saturday 10am-1pm**

Laurie Green, stalwart of PROP and Campaigner on behalf of older people, in Putney and everywhere, died earlier this year.

Laurie was born in 1924 in Fulham. He was fourth of a family of six, living in the top half of a small house off Fulham Palace Rd with no bathroom and another family downstairs. It was a happy, caring family. Mother cared about education. Laurie had to learn to read the shopping lists given to him and to remember the Coop number. When his youngest brother was born he used to go into the old lady next door and together they would puzzle out the newspaper headlines. Later when the family had moved to Chiswick family outings explored the neighbourhood, Chiswick House, along the river from Hammersmith Mall to Strand on the Green and to Kew.

When Laurie was 9 he had a long time in hospital with rheumatic fever. The treatment was long and uncomfortable, he had to sweat it out with flannel nightgowns, but he read a lot.

Even as a schoolboy he was interested in politics and with his brothers went to open air meetings on Turnham Green and in Acton Coop Hall. He collected money for ambulances and medical aid during the Spanish Civil war and painted slogans on factory walls and railway bridges. In 1938 he attended the welcome rally at Earls Court for the International Brigade.

Leaving school in 1943 he went straight into the army. After training he was sent to India via Freetown and Cape Town. It was there he experienced apartheid in action when a white man confronted Laurie and some of his fellow soldiers

Laurie Green



Laurie Green receiving the 'Contribution to the Community Award' from Tony Coleman MP

and two of the sailors who were black. The train they were transported on was "whites only". He came across the Communist Party in India and joined the Communist Party after demob and was a lifelong Socialist and fighter for the underprivileged of the world.

After the Army Laurie trained as a teacher and worked in various schools in West London becoming a Headteacher in 1965 until his retirement in 1983. In 1968 he wrote "Parents and Teachers; partners or rivals", a pioneering book arguing for more parent-teacher cooperation.

After his retirement Laurie became secretary of Putney & Roehampton Organisation of Pensioners and later Chair. He wrote frequently to the local press, campaigned vigorously in Putney High St and lobbied his MP regularly.

Laurie had wide interests, particularly in jazz and poetry and has written and lectured on both. He wrote poetry and also published "Essays of an Octogenarian Communist" and a book of poems. His autobiography, "The Red above the Green", was published in 2006.

Laurie met and married Jean, a fellow Communist. They shared a common interest in jazz and a common zeal for action for equality. Jean worked with Laurie in many of the PROP campaigns and followed Laurie as chair for several years before her death in 1998.

Laurie wrote regularly to the Forum urging us to action on many topics. We shall miss a stalwart campaigner, a thinker for the rights of the common people and someone constantly spurring on the rest of us to action.

Lilias Gillies

How to get your pension?

There are currently three ways to receive your state pension and any benefits:

- Direct payment Into a bank or building society account
- Payment Into a Post Office Card Account (POCA) - the POCA will be replaced In 2010
- Payment by weekly or monthly giro cheque that can be cashed at the Post Office
- Legaly, the DWP cannot stop paying your pension, even if it is by cheque
- Anyone wishing to change the way In which they receive their pension should contact the DWP

NHS CALL 24 HOURS ON
0 8 4 5
Direct 4 6 4 7

NHS Direct is a 24 hour nurse-led helpline providing confidential health advice and information. It is staffed by qualified nurses and health information advisors. Calls are charged at local rate and for patients' safety, all calls are recorded.

NHS Direct is also available on the internet, providing healthcare information and advice at - www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk



Ubuntu

Coming Together for Africa Day

Clapping, singing and a whole lot of music was thoroughly enjoyed by over 200 people attending our Africa Day event on October 4th. As part of Black History Month, Peabody together with Wandsworth Afro-Caribbean Library invited Wandsworth residents to celebrate our diverse cultural heritage. Guests swayed to the music of Osibisa, enjoyed a performance by Hands of Praise Gospel Choir, and joined in with The Seventh Day Adventist Church Choir. The event was opened by The Mayor of Wandsworth, John Farebrother who seemed to thoroughly enjoy the delicious African food on offer. Many compliments must go to our cooks, Josephine and Alicia, who worked very hard to provide a spectacular array of dishes for a hungry crowd.

HELPTHEAGED WE WILL

Inflation Rate for Pensioners is 'highest for 20 years', says Help the Aged

Reacting to Retail Price Index (RPI) figures, for the third quarter of 2008 released today, which show the rate of inflation for single pensioners is at its highest ever since 1988, Mervyn Kohler, Special Adviser for Help the Aged, says:

Today's figures show inflation for single pensioners is at its highest for 20 years. Single older people are facing an inflation rate nearly four percentage points higher than the average rate of inflation and 1991 was the last time a two person pensioner household saw a similar rise.

This massive hike in inflation means that more and more, older people are being forced to cut back on essential items, like food and fuel. There has been a lot of talk recently about the credit crunch, but older people in particular are getting squeezed. It is virtually impossible for older people on low fixed incomes to cope with the unrelenting rise in the cost of living.

Older people are facing a unique financial crisis and the Government should be doing everything in its power to ensure pensioners can make it through the coming winter. At the very least the Government must ensure older people get the benefits that are rightly theirs - more than £5 billion went unclaimed last year, sitting in the Treasury instead of helping the millions of older people who actually need it to survive.

FIND-A-DENTIST

Wandsworth **NHS**
Primary Care Trust

Do you need
to find a NHS
dentist in Wandsworth?

Don't wait until you are in pain call the helpline now!

Telephone **020 8335 1399** for information about dental surgeries in your area



'90'

Lionel Davis, a veteran member of the Forum, was 90 in November.

Lionel's association with the pensioners' movement in Wandsworth goes back a long way. He was a member of the Pensioners' Conference Committee, the forerunner of the Forum, more than 20 years ago, and he has been a member of the Management Committee of the Forum since it was formed,

Lionel was born in Barbados in 1918. He came to Britain, however, only in 1955, after having been, amongst other things, a Salvation Army Officer in Tobago.

Five years' factory work in Birmingham was followed by four years with British Rail in London, and eight years as a civil servant. For five years, until his first retirement in 1978, he worked as a community relations officer, and then, for four years more, until his second retirement in 1983, with the Royal Anthropological Institute.

As well as being a member of the Wandsworth Forum's Management Committee Lionel has been the Forum's delegate to the Greater London Forum for the Elderly, the organisation which has helped to establish a Pensioners' or Older People's Forum in each of the Greater London Boroughs and the City of London. He has also, at various times, been a school governor, a member of the Inner London Education Authority, and a Lay Visitor at Wandsworth Prison. He has always been a man with many interests.

On behalf of members of the Forum we thank Lionel for all that he has done, and is doing, for older people. He has our warm good wishes for the future. Long may he be with us.



The Disability and Social Care Advice Service (DASCAS)

At the 14 October WOPF members' meeting, Esther from DASCAS talked about the role of her small but important organisation in Wandsworth. DASCAS, the Disability and Social Care Advice Service, is a voluntary organisation that operates a telephone advice line for five days a week from 10AM to 4PM. It is run by a small, friendly team (two paid staff and seven volunteers) operating an advice and advocacy service for people with disabilities, offering advice and/or social assessment experience in the field of disability and social care. It focuses on providing a high quality service for people living in the Borough of Wandsworth and visits clients in their own homes. Its key work consists in encouraging the take up of disability benefits, whilst also supporting clients to identify their social and care needs and enabling them to access services.

DASCAS independent telephone information service covers any aspect of disability and social care. It helps clients to claim benefits, assists clients to complete forms, gives advocacy and support up to tribunal level in disputed cases and offers advice and support to professionals working with disabled and frail people, always prioritising the housebound.

DASCAS has provided an advice and information service for people with disabilities, their carers and professionals in the field since 1977. It was first awarded a contract with Wandsworth Council to provide advice to local people in 1996; its contract included:

- the provision of the Social Care Advice Line
- disability benefits casework and representation
- home visits to those who cannot access other services
- outreach sessions

The major role of DASCAS is representing people of all ages, a rough division in its clients being that attendance services (personal care, washing, dressing, eating, etc) are generally provided to the over 65 age range and disability services (e.g., a person's mobility) to the under 65s. Among DASCAS provided services, its form filling assistance is probably the only agency provided on in Wandsworth. Obtaining benefits enjoys a success rate of 80 - 85% and they are administered by the DWP and are neither means tested nor taxable. Clients are either referred by other voluntary and statutory agencies in the borough or can self-refer, and DASCAS aims to see all personal callers by appointment.

Contacting DASCAS:

The Disability and Social Care Advice Service (DASCAS)
5th Floor, Bedford House
215 Balham High Road
London, SW17 7BQ
Phone: 020 8333 6949
Fax: 020 8378 6265
Email: info@dascas.org.uk



Freddie Roth

Trading Standards Officers

In the second half of the 14th October members' meeting, Sue Cox and Ben Read discussed the role of trading standards officers (TSO) in protecting the public. A TSO's brief is to enforce different bits of criminal legislation, in order to protect consumers by promoting a safe and fair trading environment, working at local council level, advising on consumer law and investigating complaints so that offenders can be prosecuted by the local Council.

Their duties could include:

- visiting local traders and businesses for routine checks or to investigate complaints
- taking samples of goods for testing
- checking that weighing scales and measures are accurate
- making sure that labelling is correct and advertising is not misleading
- advising consumers and businesses about the law
- investigating suspected offenses, which could include undercover or surveillance work
- preparing evidence and going to court in prosecution cases.

A TSO's job can be assisted by law enforcement or fair trading officers (who do similar work but do not deal with weights and measures), and consumer advisers, who are often the public's first point of contact in a trading standards department. The two basic operating procedures are the inspection of premises and following up complaints from the public. The legislation enforced falls into five main areas: fair trading, propriety information, product safety, weights and measures and consumer rights. Accordingly, the range of issues investigated by a TSO could include:

- animal welfare
- counterfeit goods
- product labelling
- weights and measures
- under-age sales.

TSOs also warn against doorstep sellers and cowboy builders that impose their presence on householders or provide questionable cost estimates that can creep up by an enormous amount. The public should always be on the alert for elements ranging from bogus utility personnel to false antique dealers whose only intent is to enter homes with harmful intent, usually to steal things. The best procedure against such types is to use your common sense, never allowing such people access to your home and never forgetting to check credentials. With regard to shifty builders, always get a second opinion on any work, preferably consulting to a government approved list of service providers. Note that contracts can be cancelled within seven days.

In Wandsworth, TSOs can be contacted as follows:

The London Borough of Wandsworth
Environmental Services
PO Box 47095
London
SW18.9AQ
Telephone: 020 8871 7720
Fax: 020 8877 0214
e-mail: tradingstandards@wandsworth.gov.uk

Can you help? Forum AGM 2009

Looking forward to next year the Forum AGM will be on Tuesday 14 April when we shall have the annual report for 2008 and elect the new committee for 2009-10.

The Forum is invited to send representatives to many meetings to speak up on behalf of older people. The LINK which is to monitor healthcare and social services and make comments to the appropriate bodies is a new body where we must have a voice for older people not only on its executive but on the working parties and visiting groups which it will no doubt be setting up. We also send representatives to the Police Consultative Committee, Thinking Partners Group at the PCT (thinks about diversity and how plans impact on different groups of people), and others in Wandsworth and the Greater London Forum for Older People and the London Strategy Group for Older People (which relates to the Mayor and the GLA). We could attend other meetings if we had the people.

Particularly needed are people with an interest in Housing and Health

We need people who are willing to attend meetings, some of which are in the evenings, and are able to speak up in meetings and report back to the Committee on what has been discussed. The Committee has reports from many meetings and in that way the Forum tries to keep abreast of events in the Borough.

If you might be interested in taking on a representative job like that perhaps you could come along to a Committee meeting and learn more about what is involved.

The Committee meets on the first Tuesday of each month (except August) at 2 pm in the Anchor Centre.

Urgently required

A further job vacancy with the Forum is to look after the Forum's audio and projecting equipment which is used at meetings

Opportunities to get involved in organising the

CAPITAL AGE FESTIVAL

Operational director with strong artistic focus

Your role:

artistic and strategic management of the festival

What we are looking for.

previous involvement in the arts • possibly ex borough arts officer
leadership skills • good at team work • enthusiasm
regular time to devote to festival

Operational manager

Your role

planning and operational direction of the festival

What we are looking for:

leadership skills • organisational ability • previous exposure to the arts
good at team work • enthusiasm • regular time to devote to festival

Treasurer

Your role:

management of accounts • scrutiny of budget • payment of bills

What we are looking for.

good numerical skills • previous accounting experience
integrity • efficiency • questioning ability

Fundraising officer

Your role:

fundraising

What we are looking for.

self-starter • knowledge of funding streams
experience of successful funding applications
good word-processing skills • excellent writing skills
ability to meet deadlines

What we offer

flexible working
excellent social network
exposure to the arts

To apply

Send a letter outlining your experience and what you can offer to
nabilla.stelter@lonson.gov.uk

Selected candidates will be invited to an informal interview, where they will have a chance to ask further questions. Successful candidates will benefit from guidance and a handover period from outgoing officers.

Simplified Claims Form

From October 6th anyone making a successful claim for pension credit could also receive additional benefits without making a fresh claim. This is because their details will be automatically forwarded to their local authority, which will immediately entitle them to receive Council Tax benefit and an assessment for Housing Benefit.

An 'old fashioned' helping hand

Occupational benevolent funds give practical help in times of need to people who have a link with a particular trade or profession. The help on offer, (care is taken so that benefits will not be affected), included grants, allowances, debt counselling, sheltered housing, and residential care. Few people know about this organisation - but they can provide vital help in an emergency.

Occupational Benevolent Fund Alliance (Helpline)

Tel: 01707 651777

Email: info@aco.uk.net

www.joblinks.org.uk

10am - 4pm

SCOTSLINE

0800 652 2989

A helping hand
for Scots in London

www.royalbritishcorporation.org.uk
3, King Street, Covent Garden
London WC2E 8JS



MEMBERS MEETINGS

All at Anchor Church Centre,
273 Garratt Lane, SW18. 2pm-4pm
Buses 44 and 270 pass the door

Tuesday 9th December
Daniel Robbins on
Lynley Samborne House

Tuesday 13th January 2009
Lillias Gillies
A Holiday in Umbria

Tuesday 10th February
Battersea Cats and Dogs Home

Tuesday 10th March
tba

Tuesday 14th April
Annual General Meeting

Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month
(except August)

Wheelchair Access, Loop System, Refreshments
All are welcome - bring a friend

If you want to join the Wandsworth Older Peoples' Forum,
please fill in the subscription form below and return with
your payment to:

Membership Secretary, Wandsworth Older Peoples' Forum
WCEN inc. DRCA, Charlotte Despard Ave. London SW11 5HD

I wish to join the Wandsworth Older Peoples' Forum.

Individual Membership £5 per year

Name

Address

..... Postcode

Telephone:

Organisation Membership £5 per year

Organisation Title

Contact name

Address

..... Postcode

Telephone:

Cheques payable to 'Wandsworth Pensioners Forum'



Subscriptions 2009

Subscriptions for 2009 will be £5 due from 1st Jan,
£5 for individuals and £5 for organisations

As Wandsworth Pensioners Forum is now a charity
a Gift Aid Declaration made by taxpayers will
enable the Forum to claim tax back on what you
pay as subscriptions and on any donations made.
Please fill out a Gift Aid Declaration if you pay tax
and help the Forums funds.

Newsletter Questionnaire

There has been a good response to the
Questionnaire with the september newsletter. The
responses are being analysed and a report will
appear in the March newsletter



WANDSWORTH INTERPRETING SERVICE

Bedford House, 215 Balham High Road, SW17 7BQ
Tel: 020 8672 1043 / 3649
Email: wis@wandsworth.gov.uk



NEWSLETTER

Editorial Team

Editor: Doreen Brading
email: doreen.brading@tesco.net Tel: 020 7223 9728
Deputy Editor: Philomena Menton
Press Officer: Freddie Roth
www.wandpensforum.org.uk

Correspondence to Hon Secretary

Lillias Gillies, 6 Fircroft Rd, London SW17 7PS
Tel 020 8672 5592 (and FAX)
e-mail lillias.gillies@btinternet.com

