CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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NEXT MEETING: 7PM ON TUESDAY 4TH MAY 2004 AT LORENZO'S RESTAURANT

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CRYSTAL PALACE TRAFFIC WARDENS HIT THE NATIONALS AND TV NEWS

Terry Marks, owner of the 2 Bob Café in Westow Hill, couldn't believe what he saw on the afternoon of 16th April. He discovered a Lambeth Traffic Warden, on duty, yet asleep in his white 'Parking Enforcement' vehicle. As if this wasn't bad enough he was also parked on a double yellow line. Terry used the camera on his mobile phone to take seven photos of the napping warden. When the warden woke up he even drove the vehicle menacingly at him, to intimidate him for taking the photos. Terry then contacted the local paper. It wasn't long before national papers such as The Sun and The Daily Mirror picked up on the story. ITN reporter Kier Simmons covered the story and even did a Live Satellite Link from Westow Hill which was given top billing on the ITV Evening News show London Tonight. Kier visited the Lambeth HQ for the Traffic Wardens but was refused an interview and there were scenes of a council official being chased down Gipsy Hill, hiding behind a clipboard. Kier also discussed the issue of traffic wardens appearing at 4pm every day and ruthlessly ticketing vehicles parked in bays where waiting restrictions are confusing and are at best on the borderline of entrapment. Whilst ITN were filming one warden issued a ticket two minutes before the restrictions came into force. A car pulled up outside Woolworths and parked on the pavement right on the white zig-zags of the crossing but it was on the Croydon side, not the Lambeth side, so the warden did absolutely nothing, taking the interpretation of borough boundaries to a literal nonsense. It's as if Crystal Palace hasn't got enough traffic problems of its own!

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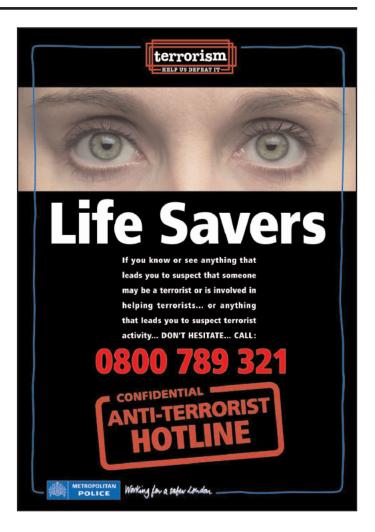
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EAST LONDON LINE EXTENSION 2010

In February the ELLE project team passed final documentation to the Department for Transport and is now awaiting approval to formally approach the construction industry. If this is received an advert will be placed in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) and the procurement process will start.

The Department for Transport remains adamant that the project will not get underway until it is certain that funding has been identified to pay the builder on completion. A decision to proceed in the near future will mean the project completion date is now June 2010. This date has been in the public domain for at least eight months and was calculated once the full impact of the legal challenges had been assessed.

At the current time there is only one plan with the Department for Transport and that is to build the whole project. However as a contingency measure the project team has been looking into the impact of delivering the whole project in phases. The Mayor of London has recently expressed interest in taking over responsibility for the delivery of the project from the Strategic Rail Authority. Although alternative funding is being looked into by Transport for London, it is unlikely that any firm decisions will emerge until the outcome of the current rail industry review in the early summer.



MI5 SECURITY ADVICE GOES ONLINE

Eliza Manningham-Buller, Director General of the Security Service, has launched a new web site at www.mi5.gov.uk with security advice for businesses. Traditionally their advice was confined mainly to Government but with the threat of global terrorism the MI5 will now extend this to a wider range of people. It will also be of general interest to the public.