

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



NEXT MEETING: 7PM ON TUESDAY 3RD AUGUST 2004 AT LORENZO'S RESTAURANT

www.norwoodchamber.org.uk

For more information about the chamber, its objectives, minutes of the last meeting, copies of our newsletter and the opportunity to join the mailing list visit www.norwoodchamber.org.uk

RECYCLING BINS

The Chamber teamed up with CPCA to discuss the impact of new recycling bins obstructing our pavements. Lambeth were receptive to understanding the hazards and street scene blight caused by the bins. But they undertook to do a rapid rollout of new bins to help reach targets for recycling and they felt it was better to address concerns after deployment rather than do consultation before, for expediency. They will now be looking at relocating the bins and developing kerbside bays in side streets. Lambeth will ask Croydon to assist in their endeavours.



WHO WATCHES THE WATCHERS?

Members attending our February meeting were given the opportunity to put their questions regarding the way CCTV cameras are used in the Triangle to Norman Whaley, London Borough of Croydon. We raised the issue of crime prevention vs parking enforcement. Norman explained that his team is only involved in the crime prevention aspects and TfL routinely ask them to pass control of the cameras over to them for parking enforcement. When this happens the cameras are logged out of action. Norman couldn't give us figures for the amount of time TfL have the cameras under their control but the Chamber hopes to obtain them soon.

MINIMUM WAGE

The minimum wage will be increased in October. Adults must then be paid at least £5.05 an hour, up from £4.85, while 18 to 21 year olds must be paid £4.25. Unions wanted a £6 rate but some businesses called for the rate to be frozen because they said it was affecting their competitiveness. A further increase in the adult rate to £5.35 an hour is provisionally scheduled for October 2006.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 5th April 2005 at Lorenzo's Restaurant in Westow Hill. Our guest speaker from Chrstrainers will give a talk about life coaching and NLP (Neuro Linguistic Programming).

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Annual membership fees of £25 are due on 31st March. Please check that your standing order is in place to ensure renewal of your Chamber membership.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM

We have written to Lambeth and Croydon Borough Commanders to support the request by local councillors to establish a Safer Neighbourhood Team for Crystal Palace. If established it would help to address the peculiar problems associated with looking after a district centre that is dissected by the boroughs of Bromley, Lambeth and Croydon. We also supported the view put forward by Crystal Palace Community Association that such a team should operate from Gypsy Hill Police Station. A Safer Neighbourhood Team for Crystal Palace could help to alleviate cross-boundary hiccups, such as the recent incident when Lambeth officers attended the scene of a violent robbery in a shop and incorrectly stated they did not have access to the Croydon based CCTV camera on the other side of the road. Unfortunately such misunderstandings are not new to the area.



STREET REPAIRS

Bromley took NG Transco to court for substandard road repairs. They were found guilty of 17 offences and ordered to pay costs totalling £8,715. Lambeth have been doing their bit to improve the area, tackling eyesores such as the public toilets on the parade and putting in more pedestrian friendly bollards in Beardell Street outside the library. But what have Croydon been doing? Last year's utility work outside Los Toreros left the footway in an appalling condition but still hasn't been put right. Sort it out Croydon!

