

Gipsy Hill News



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Let down by Morrisons

Residents in Upper and West Norwood feel badly let down by the sudden decision by Morrisons to close the supermarket in Westow Street in Crystal Palace.

Morrisons had taken over from Safeways who had been operating successfully on this site for over 20 years. The decision to close was at short notice and many residents are angry to lose their largest local supermarket.

“We share local residents’ frustration,” says Suzanne. “And we are very concerned about the impact the sudden closure will have on other local shops and businesses in the Triangle. The Triangle is a thriving shopping area and we want it to stay that way.”

Suzanne and Graham have written to all of the other big retailers, including Tesco, Sainsbury and Asda, asking them to consider opening on the site.



Graham and Suzanne at store site.

“We have also complained to Morrisons that the gates to the car park are not always fully opened,” says Suzanne. “Recently, vandals pushed over trollies and put graffiti on the walls, giving the building a feeling of neglect. This adds insult to injury. The least they can do is keep the site in good

Vale Street – big changes planned for 2006

There are exciting changes planned for Vale Street in 2006, both to improve the amenity site and provide a much needed multi-use play area for local children.

Plans are underway to move the amenity site away from the road, with a slip road as access. This will stop long queues forming down the street as at present.

The new site clears the way to build the much-needed games area for local children. Local councillors and residents have been fighting to get

games area for over 6 years. There is also the scope to have more recreational facilities on the site, but there will need to be consultation with local residents.

Housing will be built on what used to be the former bus depot site.

“This is exciting and will bring more play facilities for children and possibly facilities for the whole community,” says Andrew. “The work on this site is long overdue and we will support local residents in making sure it is completed as quickly as possible.”



Andrew inspects Vale Street facility.

We're around all year round!

Working with you to make our area better...

New Norwood School opens in 2007

The new Norwood secondary school looks set to open its doors in September 2007, but in a temporary site in Gypsy Road until the new, permanent building is complete in Elmcourt Road in 2009.

The school will be based in the former Norwood Park school building in Gypsy Road. The school was closed by Labour councillors in 2002 and the land was to be sold to property developers.



Residents will be consulted about site.

In the meantime, work will continue on completing plans for the new school building which will be based in Elmcourt Road, West Norwood.

“Pressure from Norwood’s Conservative councillors has ensured that the new school will be open by 2007 and this is good news for local parents” says Graham Pycock. “We were opposed to the closure and sale of Norwood Park school and we welcome the fact that the site will continue to be used for educating local children. There will only be two intakes of children, (360 pupils in total at most), not a “full” school. We will be consulting with local residents to find out what they think should happen to the site in the long term.”

Crystal Palace Park is NOT for

Parts of Crystal Palace Park should not be sold to property developers to fund planned improvements. This is the overwhelming response of the residents who responded to the survey carried out by Andrew, Suzanne and Graham.

The London Development Agency has exciting redevelopment plans for the parkland, which have been well received. However, the LDA wants to fund some of the costs by building over 200 housing units in the park.



Graham and Suzanne visit proposed development site.

Andrew Gibson says, “We, together with Conservative councillors in neighbouring Southwark, wrote to residents in SE19, asking them to take a look at the plans and to send us their views. The response rate has been staggering, with over 200 responses and the figure is still rising. Residents are opposed to plans to erode the park by building houses.”

“We have called on the LDA to reconsider,” says Andrew. “If every time a park is improved, parts of it are sold off for housing, we will gradually destroy our green and open spaces.”

Advice Surgeries

1st Saturday of every month:

Emanuel Community Centre,
Clive Road
9.30 - 10.30am

3rd Saturday of every month:

*Upper Norwood Library,
Westow Hill (*new venue)
9.30 - 10.30am

Every Saturday:

495 Norwood Road
(opp.B&Q),

Welcome Graham



Former Lambeth councillor and chair of governors of Kingswood Primary School, Graham Pycock, has joined the Gipsy Hill Action Team. Graham has lived in West Norwood for over 30 years and has been a keen and active local campaigner.

“We are delighted to have Graham on board,” says Cllr Janet Grigg. “Graham has lots of enthusiasm and experience and has been a tireless community campaigner.”