

Gipsy Hill News



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You take your life in your hands!

When crossing at the busy junction of Park Hall Road and South Croxted Road, you take your life in your hands. That is what many local residents have been reporting to us.

There is a three-second pedestrian phase, which is supposed to allow pedestrians enough time to cross the roads before the lights change. However, this is simply not enough, particularly for the elderly or parents with small children.

For years local councillors have been pressing Transport for London to introduce proper pedestrian phasing at this junction. Despite many promises, this has not happened.

The Gipsy Hill Local Action Team, Andrew, Stephen and Suzanne, has launched a petition and a campaign to get proper pedestrian phasing for this junction. They have received huge support from the local community already.



Stephen and Suzanne caught in traffic.

“The response has been great,” says Suzanne. “Many residents use the shops at West Dulwich, but safety is a real issue. Southwark Council must take this issue seriously and deliver”.

Norwood Park gets a facelift

After 31 years of neglect by former Labour Lambeth, Norwood Park is at last getting the money it badly needs to make it a park for the 21st Century.

After a lengthy consultation with parents and children, work has started on building the new children's play area, replacing the vandalised and out of date facilities with new and exciting play equipment, which should be ready in time for the summer holidays.

The paddling pool is also being repaired at long last and we hope this will also be ready for the summer.

The tree planting campaign, organised by the Friends of Norwood Park, has greatly enhanced the park's appearance.

The next stage must be to update the dilapidated red-gra pitch, which needs new fencing, a new surface and a net to stop balls from being kicked into neighbouring gardens. In the recent consultation exercise, residents made it clear that they wanted the pitch to be multi-use and local councillors are pressing the Council to make this a reality.



Work on the park has started.

“After 31 years of Labour ignoring the park, Conservative councillors in Lambeth have managed to get record amounts of money to make Norwood Park an asset for the local community,” says Andrew. “The youth survey, asking local young people what they wanted in the park showed the paddling pool, swing park and sporting facilities to be top of their agenda. We are pleased that the Council has listened and taken action”.

We're around all year round!

Working with you to make our area better...

Clean-up Campaign

The Gipsy Hill Local Action Team, Andrew, Stephen and Suzanne, has launched a clean up campaign, walking the streets looking for graffiti, vandalism, broken paving stones, etc. and reporting them to Lambeth so that action can be taken.

“We have made over 60 complaints so far,” says Stephen. “If graffiti and vandalism is not tackled quickly, the area looks neglected and this encourages more crime. In fairness to Lambeth, it has responded very quickly to our complaints, removing graffiti in Gibbs Avenue and Square, Norwood Park, Pilgrim Hill, Norwood High Street, Bloomhall Road, Durban Road and Gipsy Road. Lambeth Council provides a free graffiti removal service to residents. Prompt removal of graffiti and gang tagging is the best way to prevent its re-occurrence”.

If there is graffiti or outstanding street repairs near you, phone Stephen on 07818 083388 or email stephen@iftsl.co.uk so that he can take it up on your behalf.

Vale Street - progress at last

After years of delay, there is real progress in transforming the depot site in Vale Street to provide a much-needed sports facility for local youngsters and to re-locate the amenity site so that there are no longer queues of cars waiting to get on to the site to unload rubbish.

The amenity site will be placed away from the road, with a slip road for cars to queue. The salt bins will be relocated, so local residents will no longer be disturbed by the gritting lorries starting their engines at 4am. The cemetery wall will be repaired and strengthened and the land will be de-contaminated.

Most importantly, there is to be a multi-use games area situated opposite the green and the entrance to Carnac Street.

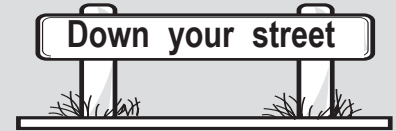
“We have been working with local residents, the church and the local tenants association for several years to get this depot site sorted out,” says Russell. “We are determined that the games facility will be ready in time for summer 2006, giving local children somewhere to play, where they will not be able to disturb local residents”.

Gipsy Hill Local Action Team

Gipsy Hill Conservatives have set up a Local Action Team to help support Russell, Gareth and Janet with their work in the local community. The team is:

- **Andrew Gibson**, who takes a keen interest in housing issues.
- **Stephen Govier**, who takes a special interest in crime prevention and community safety and is secretary of the Lambeth Crime Prevention Panel.
- **Suzanne Poole**, who has a particular interest in education, family and social issues.

The team has got off to a great start, petitioning for pedestrian safety in Park Hall Road and launching a local clean up campaign.



Northwood House - Russell is pressing for a new anti-slip ramp and hand rails leading up to Northwood House, which is a sheltered block. At least one resident has slipped and fallen, and something must be done.

Gipsy Hill parade of shops - Janet has succeeded in getting the hanging baskets re-hung along the parade.

Norwood Park - Janet has succeeded in putting pressure on EDF to connect the new lights in Norwood Park. Now it is safe once again.

Woodland Close - Russell and Janet are calling upon Lambeth to consult with residents in Woodland Close, Woodland Road and Camden Hill Road on the future use of the redundant play area in Woodland Close.

Gipsy Road - Russell is demanding a meeting with transport and parking officials to sort out the traffic congestion in Gipsy Road, outside the former Norwood Park School. The road is particularly bad in rush hour.

Benton's Lane - Russell has asked Lambeth to gate-off the covered footpath and steps adjacent to Goodbehere House, so that it can be made secure at night. The steps are used as a toilet and a refuse dumping ground and nearby residents have had enough. He is also demanding that action be taken to repair the inter-com in Astley House.

Bloomfield Estate - The Council has agreed to repaint all the lines on the Bloomfield Estate and replace missing parking signs. Russell has also requested that the pavements be repaired in Gibbs Avenue.