

# Thurlow Park News

16 Years on the Job – Councillors Irene Kimm, Clare Whelan, and John Whelan  
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Winter 2006

## School Design Gets Qualified Approval

Lambeth planners have given qualified approval for the proposed layout of the new Elmgreen Secondary School in Elmcourt Road, which will open on a temporary site in Gipsy Road in 2007.

Parents with children coming up to secondary school age are relieved that the scheme is going ahead with the first 180 pupils next year. Residents of Lancaster Avenue, Pagoda Grove, Elmcourt Road and Maley Avenue made a huge contribution to improving the detailed plans and making them more environmentally friendly.

A full planning application for the site is not expected until next summer, but in the meantime the planners have put down markers about traffic issues, hours of operation for floodlit sports areas, and specified strict crime prevention measures.

Councillor John Whelan says: *“This is a reasonable result for our community and gives some peace of mind to both prospective parents and local residents alike. Potentially highly divisive issues were handled with good sense and respect on both sides of the argument. The jury is still out on the final design.”*

For more information about the planning decision contact [john@whelan.net](mailto:john@whelan.net) or ring 020 7926 2149 (in working hours).

## South Circular Crisis – Safety Measures ‘Promised’

Transport officials are to rush through temporary ‘road narrowing’ measures for the South Circular where Lovelace Road joins Thurlow Park Road. It follows the resignation after just five days of the autumn term of the new crossing patrol woman who had been promised way back in March.

At least three community groups have joined your elected councillors in highlighting the traffic hazards on the South Circular. Councillor Irene Kimm says: *“As part of a package of improvements to one of the most dangerous stretches of road in South London, pedestrian crossings between Birkbeck Hill and Lancaster Avenue will be upgraded.”*

For more information about the planned changes contact [clare@whelan.net](mailto:clare@whelan.net) or ring 020 7926 2149 (in working hours).



*John, Clare and Irene outside Elmcourt School.*

## Peabody Woods Clear Up



*Irene and Clare help in the clear up at Peabody Woods*

Clare, Irene and John have been working with the Peabody Tenants and Residents Association now for the past three years to improve the environment at Peabody Woods.

Last month an action day took place with Trees for Cities and more than 50 volunteers involved to remove brambles and litter, plant bulbs, and look after the trees planted last year some of which had suffered in the hot summer.

Irene says: *“The Peabody Woods are a much needed ‘green lung’ for our community and thanks to volunteers and the efforts of the tenants and residents huge improvements are taking place to make the woodland a haven of peace and rest.”*

We're around all year around not just at election time

# Labour Slashes Investment in Norwood

The new Labour Council has slashed millions of pounds of proposed investment in West Norwood – notably the £1.3million of money targeted to improving the Vale Street Recycling Depot. Other smaller cuts have been made in local schemes and a decision taken to relocate dustcarts to Vale Street from East Brixton.

*“West Norwood is bearing the brunt of Labour’s new focus on Brixton,” says John. “The New Labour administration is also planning to axe the Norwood Area Committee, which for the past three years has been a powerful voice for local people. It feels as if our whole community is being punished.”*

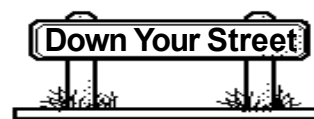
## Labour Delays Controlled Parking Zone

The new Labour council has delayed a much needed review of the existing Tulse Hill Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) and the ballot of a proposed extension to neighbouring streets.

While half of the funding has been secured, the rest of it promised by developers currently engaged in building work where Croxted Road meets Norwood Road has yet to be handed over.

*“We have been given numerous and contradictory excuses by Lambeth officers,” says John. “They are now saying consultation could happen as late as June of next year. Your councillors are urging them to carry out consultation sooner. In the meantime, local people are suffering from acute parking congestion especially in Trinity Rise and Hawarden Grove.”*

**FORECAST: Labour statements made to the November Council meeting indicate that the existing parking permit charge paid in Tulse Hill Controlled Parking Zone will be increased in 2007. Larger motor cars will also pay more. Thanks to the Conservatives this has been pegged at £60 a year since the mid 1990s.**



**Rosendale Shops Face Lift** – the shopping parade close to where Rosendale Road meets Norwood Road has been given a complete facelift thanks to your councillors. New pavements have been laid and bollards now stop pavement parking by junk cars. Clare says: “This has been top of our agenda for years and we’ve managed to start to deliver a real transformation.”

**New Residents Groups** – Clare, Irene and John are working with local residents who are keen to establish a joint residents’ association and neighbourhood watch in two areas that currently have no community voice. One is in Birkbeck Hill – Thurlow Hill area and the other is in the streets around Deronda Road going south to Tulse Hill. If anyone would like information, contact John on 020 7926 2149 or [john@whelan.net](mailto:john@whelan.net).

**Peabody for Sale?** – Peabody Trust are selling off even more of their homes on the Rosendale Estate with prices from £200,000 to £230,000. One cottage is also being offered for rent through local estate agents at £1,000 a month. As your councillors, we are supporting the residents who are currently evaluating the benefits of opting out of Peabody control.

**Tulsemere Road Victory** – Resurfacing Tulsemere Road was a top priority for Irene, Clare and John as your local elected ward councillors in the current 2006-2007 council year. Clare says: “Let’s tick the box. It’s now happened and we are grateful to Lambeth officers for finally getting it done. Without the insistence of local people it might never have happened.”

**Hawkley Gardens** – Hawkley Gardens, off Lancaster Avenue, has new lampposts and signage thanks to a long battle with faceless Lambeth officers. Their initial response to the request was “no way.” Luckily, the residents association had kept their correspondence going back to 1966 when Lambeth formally agreed to ‘adopt’ the road. “As your councillors, we insisted that Lambeth kept a promise made 40 years ago,” says Irene. Game over.

HELP US TO HELP YOU!

Clare, Irene and John are looking for more volunteers to help deliver this quarterly newsletter about what’s going on in our community. If you can help us just by delivering a street or two, please send back the tear off slip below with your contact details using the FREEPOST address or send us an e-mail or make a phone call to our number.

Name:  
Address:

Tel:  
E-mail:

Return this slip (no stamp is needed) to Thurlow Park Councillors, FREEPOST, SE5180, London SE27 9BP or e-mail to [john@whelan.net](mailto:john@whelan.net) or tel. 020 7926 2149.