

Dora Mornings - in memory of Slade Green Reading Group member Dora, every Friday morning 10.30 - 11.30 am during term time, come along to Slade Green Library for a free cuppa and a chat.

A Storyteller for adults

Wednesday 21st December - 3 pm

At the Library Foyer in the Howbury Centre. The Forum has again organised this event with seasonal and other stories.

Christmas Carols Sing-A-Long

St Augustine's Church, Slade Green Road

Friday 23rd December at 6pm

A chance to sing your favourite carols!

Exhibition on plans for the Howbury Site and local schools

In the Foyer of Slade Green Library at the Howbury Centre.

Main dates / times (Council officers on hand to answer questions):

Saturday 10th December 10 am - 5 pm

Friday 16th December 10 am - 7 pm

The exhibition can also be viewed on the following dates/times -

Monday/Tuesday/Wednesday 12th/13th/14th December 10 am - 5.30 pm

Thursday 15th December 2.15 - 5.30 pm

Saturday 17th December 10 am - 1 pm

Feedback questionnaire's will be available and can be returned during the exhibition or by early January.

Slade Green Community Forum Annual General Meeting

Monday 19th December 2011, 7.30pm

at Slade Green Christian Fellowship

(corner of Elm Road and Slade Green Road).

Agenda

1. Annual Report and Income/Expense Account
2. Election of Executive Committee members
3. Discussions on the Councils combined plans for the Howbury Site and local schools

Forum membership is open to all residents of North End ward aged 16+ and teachers in local schools. Anyone wishing to stand for election to the Executive Committee should leave a message on 07968 288212 by Monday 12th December

Around the Green

The Newsletter of

Slade Green Community Forum

Autumn 2011



Community Facilities, Schools & New Housing

Bexley Council's plans for the Howbury Centre site and plans for changes to all the local primary schools dominate this Newsletter. The plans include about 400 new homes, a new community facility with an expanded library replacing the Howbury Centre and Slade Green Community Centre, and each of the local schools (Slade Green Infant, Slade Green Junior and Peareswood) becoming two form entry primary schools, including Haberdasher Aske's Academy taking over what is now Slade Green Junior School.

Inside you will find a letter to residents from the Council Cabinet Member who is leading on this issue, together with a short comment from our Ward Councillors explaining why they voted against the plans, and a comment from Slade Green Forum's Chair explaining the Forum Executive Committee's concerns.

You can find out more for yourself at a Public Exhibition the Council will be holding at the Howbury Centre on Saturday 10th and Friday 16th December (more details on the rear of this Newsletter). We urge you to attend this, and to return the feedback questionnaire's that will be available at the exhibition.

You can also talk to the Forum about the views expressed by the Executive Committee and what you would like us to do in response to the proposals at our Annual General Meeting on Monday 19th December at 7.30 pm (details on the rear of this Newsletter). The meeting will be fairly short, running through to 9 pm, with time afterwards for you to talk directly to Forum Committee members and the Ward Councillors about your views on the issue.

Zumba Classes

Slade Green Community Centre

Thursdays 8.00-8.50pm

Zumba is a Latin inspired calorie burning dance fitness workout Contact 07746082182

Only £4 per session. Beginners welcome!

Update from Bexley Council

Dear Slade Green Community Forum newsletter reader,

I'm writing to let you know of a significant step forward in the regeneration of Slade Green.

The Council's Cabinet members have agreed invest more than £8 million in developing new community facilities and two new primary schools for the area.

The plans, which will see two new primary schools created from the existing Slade Green Infant and Junior Schools, were agreed at the Public Cabinet meeting on 18 October.

The new community facility is expected to take four years to complete and will include:

- ✓ a new library with ICT suite and school/children's library
- ✓ flexible community spaces that can be subdivided according to community need
- ✓ storage space for equipment
- ✓ catering facilities
- ✓ changing rooms
- ✓ toilets
- ✓ a flexible office space
- ✓ multi-use games area
- ✓ car parking and landscaping

Developments at the schools include refurbishing and adding an additional three classrooms to Slade Green Junior School and five extra classrooms at Slade Green Infant School.

As you may be aware, Mel Hudson from Howbury Friends spoke at the Public Cabinet meeting , after submitting a petition to the Council regarding the new community facilities.

As Cllr Teresa O'Neill, the Leader of the Council said at the meeting, this is about planning for the future and making those plans together.

Discussions with community groups on the internal design of the facility will take place during 2012, with the construction of the new community facilities and the extension of the schools taking place from 2013 to 2015.

The existing Howbury buildings and Slade Green Community Centre will remain open until the new community facilities are ready in 2015.

I hope you agree that these are exciting times for Slade Green. It's investment that is much overdue and I'm pleased that we can at long last get on with the business of delivering it.

Cllr Linda Bailey, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Regeneration

Comment from your Ward Councillors

Northend Labour Councillors could not vote for proposals put forward by the local authority at a recent Council meeting.

The lack of detail on what local community services would be provided, who would possibly run them and what charges would be placed on local residents to use them prevented them from supporting the motion.

Councillors Brenda Langstead, Stefano Borella and Alan Deadman upheld their promise to local user groups and residents that they would vote against any proposals that did not give the community what they needed to replace what was being demolished to make way for the new homes being built on the Howbury site.

Comment from Forum Chair Roy Hillman

The Forum's Executive Committee largely support the plans for the local primary schools and the library, although we have some concerns as to how the plans will be carried out.

However, we don't believe that the new community facilities can be called 'regeneration of Slade Green' when they will be a lot smaller than the current facilities. With just one main hall, smaller than the largest of four halls we are losing (Sports Hall, old Gymnasium, Drama Hall in Howbury, plus Slade Green Community Centre) this is a big reduction in community space. And recent plans mention putting the Howbury Pre-School into the new community space instead of having its own dedicated classrooms. So at present we are opposing these plans.