

Slade Green Community Forum

Registered Charity No. 1097246

Website: www.sladegreen.org



Annual Report, 9th November 2009.

By Forum Chair Roy Hillman, on behalf of the Executive Committee

It has been a relatively quiet year for the Forum, with no big Public Inquiries or consultations taking place. We've also been a bit limited by a smaller number of Executive Committee members and my own limited availability during the past year. Notably, further consultation anticipated about the future of the Howbury Centre site did not take place, which caused a problem in that one of our amounts of funding for Newsletters and Public Meetings was specifically tied to this consultation, effectively leaving us a Newsletter and Public Meeting short for the year.

However, we anticipate being back up to 8 Executive Committee members after this year's Annual General Meeting, and hopefully that will enable us to do more in the community. Additionally, we have had an offer of help that will enable us to produce more regular updates to members and free up some of my time to work on putting more information on the sladegreen.org website

In October 2008 (just after last year's Annual Report) a Pumpkin Party was organised jointly with Bexley Community Safety Partnership, the Slade Green Decides Panel and Orbit Housing. This October saw a very successful one-off event celebrating 100 years of the Metropolitan Police (sponsored by 'Justice Seen, Justice Done'). These events were both organised for us by Gill Davies, who we thank very much for her efforts. Gill was also the key person organising events in April celebrating the events of April 16th and 17th 1941 when the bravery of local volunteers saved the centre of Slade Green from being blown up. We've had two aims with this event, which we plan to run again in 2010. Firstly, simply that the events and people involved should not be forgotten. We also hope that local children will understand that the people involved were ordinary local people, not super-heroes or celebrities, as it has been a concern that some local children seem to believe that ordinary people can't achieve anything. The 1940's dance part of the event raised sufficient funds for a commemorative plaque, which we hope to unveil at the 2010 event.

We've carried out our main aims of informing and consulting by publishing Newsletters, producing updates between Newsletters, and holding Public Meeting, as follows:

Newsletters have been published (circulation about 4800), and have included:

- A large spread of information about activities offered by the North End Children's Centre and local partner organisations;
- publicity about two organisations offering independent benefits advice; a new book on the history of Crayford, events at St. Augustine's Church; Events run by Howbury Friends; and our own events;
- publicity about consultations on the new Academy school in Barnes Cray and about new methods of consultation on health care issues in the area

Public Meetings have been held with presentations on the North End Children's Centre and on the proposed new Academy, and discussions were held on the future of the Howbury Centre site and the possible future merger of Slade Green Infant and Junior schools.

Forum members continue to regularly attend Community Safety Partnership meetings about the area, in particular passing on information received about trouble spots in the area. During the year we've also met with other Forums and attended various meetings about issues that effect the area. We've supported plans for a more official Bexley Forum of Forums to jointly promote the work of community and environmental Forums in the borough (congratulations to Doreen Ives from Erith Forum on her recent election as Chair of the Forum of Forums).

Forum members have also been involved as volunteers for TriForum, organising events and helping with distribution of TriForum's mail outs to young people and schools flyers. TriForum is a joint 'youth arm' of Belvedere, Erith, Northumberland Heath Forums and ourselves, and the year has been a difficult one for them, with funding effectively drying up - we're hoping this past summer's Fun Day will not be the last TriForum event - certainly the volunteers involved haven't given up! We anticipate becoming more involved with networking about children and family issues through a panel set up for this purpose.

I'd like to thank everyone involved in the past year - Committee members, volunteers at events, people who attend public meetings, and look forward to working with you all again this coming year!

Slade Green Community Forum Executive Committee 2008-2009: Roy Hillman (Chair/Treasurer, Plantation Road); John Eastaugh (Slade Gardens); Mel Hudson (Lincoln Road - co-opted); Mandy Jarvis (Forest Road); Brenda Langstead (Craydene Road); Kevin McLaren (Hildren Drive); Brian Rodmell (Alderney Road)