

update

The free newsletter of the St John's Society

South East London Against Heathrow Expansion

Aircraft noise over St Johns has increased massively over recent years, and is likely to get worse if Heathrow expands further. We are joining other local groups, including the Blackheath Society and the Brockley Society, in responding to the government consultation on the issue.

St Johns residents before the mid-1990s will remember when aircraft were a rare sight. Since then, most of south-east London has become a Heathrow flight path because the rising number of planes means air traffic control can no longer start their final approach over west London as previously, but must direct them in a huge arc out to our area, 20 miles from the runway. Hence the screeching noise of aircraft which intrudes into the homes and lives of local residents.

Unfortunately, the government is massively influenced by the aviation lobby and is thought to be in favour of plans for further Heathrow expansion, despite active opposition from almost all London MPs, including local MP Joan Ruddock.

We are opposing on three grounds:

(1) Noise and pollution would increase substantially. A third, shorter runway at Heathrow would concentrate bigger, noisier planes on the two existing runways and the flight paths over us.

(2) We believe there is a major safety risk, particular given cross traffic to City Airport. Both 9/11 and the collision this summer of two planes in southern Germany have highlighted the dangers. There are also serious worries about the ability of privatised air traffic control to cope with 175,000 more flights per year.

(3) Heathrow is not suited to be an expanding hub airport in London; the current proposed expansion would not be the last. Heathrow also cannot meet increased demand for

night-time slots, even if the government wins its appeal against the European Court of Human Rights ruling that bans night flights into Heathrow.

If you would like to see the full text of our letter to the consultation committee or find out how to get involved, please contact Aidan Fenten on 07950 412 046, or email: afenten@totalise.co.uk.

update Back in Print

Well it's been a long time since the last edition of Update but here it is again. Hopefully it will give you some information about what's happening or has happened in the St John's area and more important it's a forum for anyone living in the area to put their views forward and try to ensure that residents are informed or consulted before the Council or other organisations decide what should happen in and around St John's.

So come on - get involved or send us your comments.

In this issue there is news on: **Broadway Fields** – another long awaited project, **Brookmill Park** and another opportunity to join in the river clean up – good fun if you like water and are interested in seeing what ends up in the river, Traffic **calming** the hole in Blackheath has been very effective! **St John's Station** some news at last, and other articles of interest.

Lastly, SJS is quite simply a forum for local residents - it's up to you if you have an issue - but SJS may be able to link you up with others who are also concerned. Don't just sit and grumble, get up, get out ... we will have a meeting soon and will let you know where and when - our only agenda is informing and reflecting the views of residents as best we can!

Broadway Fields

Local community must be wondering what is happening to the almost derelict piece of wasteland trapped between Brookmill Rd, the Ravensbourne river culvert, and the proposed new Seager development site – otherwise known locally as Broadway fields. Work is ongoing at present to try and design and plan a new park area with areas set aside for specific play activities. This is for use by local communities and also by the nearby Ade and Stanhope School who are desperate for some outside recreational space.

The funding has come from almost £250,000 from the section 106 money received from St James Homes for the development of the new One SE8 Development, other funding expected is the same amount from Macdonald Egan from the section 106 money for the future development of the Seager distillery site and an additional sports grant. Total figure for the area is therefore in the region of £660,000.

One of the main problems though is safety of children attempting to cross Brookmill Rd (one of Lewisham's most dangerous roads) to access the new park, especially if the local school will be using the area as intensely as it would wish.

Do any of the local community have any ideas how to make this a safe area to access? Does any of the local community have any ideas on designs for this area? – There is still time to change any plans.

Good feedback is required – so now is your chance to voice concerns or requirements and local needs.

All your views on the future of Broadway fields would be most welcome and passed on to the relevant parties involved – before it is too late.

History

Did you know that Deptford has been continuously settled in for 2,000 years?

Did you know that Deptford occupied a crucial position on the major Roman road from Dover to London? The Dover Castle pub on Deptford Broadway (destroyed by an unexplained explosion in 1991) was once a large 14th century pilgrim's inn, the Christopher. By the Tudor period Deptford was the last coach stage out of London and very vulnerable to highwaymen.

We received this letter from a local resident and thought it was worth publishing in the newsletter because many people in the area feel quite strongly about the subject.

“Deptford is a nice place to live. Here, there is a healthy mix of cultures, with lots of hidden green islands to discover. Disconcerting is the rat population, which is becoming larger and more difficult to deal with. Some weeks ago we were shocked to find a large fat rat ambling around in our kitchen. He seemed much less troubled by the experience than I was. "This is getting to be an everyday experience", said the rat man." Well, never mind. Business is booming in the take-away trade and this is the age of plenty. Everywhere around us on the pavement we see bits of chicken, fries, half eaten kebabs, old carpets, discarded bread wrappers, mattresses, worn out sofas, unwanted car tyres topped up with a generous amount of broken glass. The list goes on and of course there are all this damped cars/vans thoroughly filled with more rubbish. The big question is 'Why do we feel it's OK to drop our rubbish all around us? Why do people leave fridge and microwave cookers in the street? Is it because the Council is so reluctant to collect our refuse nowadays? Or are cars dumped because it getting too expensive to do it properly? And why aren't we worried for our children? Have we lost all our senses of responsibility and self-respect? Yes, it is inconvenient to bin our rubbish, whilst others do not bother. Why are we not willing to share and care any more? We all know that it is only our small world that can afford to throw food away thoughtlessly, whilst in other parts people die of starvation. Or perhaps part of it is an expression of how much aggression, frustration and little self-esteem we carry around inside ourselves? I think we are all worth more than this.”

Name & Address Supplied...

The nearest Lewisham Refuse Collection place (it is free and they take all kind of rubbish) is in Landman Way, New Cross. It is open Monday to Friday from 8am till 6 pm, on Saturday from 8 am until midday and on Sundays from 8 am until 4 pm.

Dates for your diary:

Next Park User Group Meeting: 4 pm on Thursday 28 November (Rangers hut in Brookmill Park)

River Clean Up - 10 am - 1 pm Saturday 16 November (All welcome - meet in Brookmill Park)

Grant Award

The St John's Society was successful when applying for a small grant from the Deptford Challenge Trust, this summer. The money has been banked and will help enormously with the running and funding of this newsletter as well as setting up the St John's Society website. However, a major part of the funding (some £400) has been set aside to go towards providing a party in Brookmill Park, for **all** the residents of the St John's area. Following the success of the party that was held September 2001, we hope to be bigger and better this time.

Do you have any preferences for time of year, day, or time for this party?

Are you able to offer any financial sponsorship or perhaps practical help on the day?

Are there any other ideas that we may be able to try out this time?

Please let us know, by calling us on:
07010 700610
or emailing us at **info@st-johns-soc.org**

We look forward to hearing from you!

Warm winter clothing needed for good cause (hats, gloves, coats jerseys etc..)

Call Sarah on 07985 037 198, or email her at pennell@pennellr.freemove .co.uk

Traffic calming

We have now seen and experienced for some months Lewisham's road calming scheme in our local area. (Bumps, lumps and posts)

Our concerns to local government prior to these measures were the increased problems of rat – running through our residential streets. We did not want just to slow these rat runners down – we needed to reduce their numbers to ensure our residential street are safer – This was our aim.

Do you feel that the calming measures have worked?

Do you have any ideas on how these could be improved?

One of our major concerns was the danger of St Johns Vale used by many drivers, commuters and children (pointed out personally to our MP Joan Ruddock). At present cars park on both sides of the road (mainly commuters I stress) this causes a bottle neck and drivers tend to then speed down St Johns Vale, and due to the gradient of the road it then creates a blind spot close to Ashmead Rd and the start of the railway bridge. We needed some solution to this problem, which was never addressed. If yellow lines are imposed – will these commuters then park in other nearby residential streets?

Do you feel that St Johns Vale is a still risk? Do you have any ideas on how any problems can be addressed?

All your views on the traffic calming measures and its effects would be most welcome and passed on to the relevant parties in local government.

Useful Numbers:

Community Beat Officer (PC Craig Knight)	020 8284 8554
Anti Social Behaviour Officers	020 8314 6233
Noise Nuisance (daytime)	020 8314 9035
Noise Nuisance (5pm on)	020 8314 6000
Abandoned Cars	020 8314 2057
Graffiti	020 8314 2019
Housing issues/neighbour disputes	020 8314 6923
Confidential Drugs Hotline (24 hrs)	020 8314 3656
St Johns Society	07010 700 610

sebastian▶roche

Sales, Lettings and Property Management
Free market appraisals
Competitive Sales and Lettings Fees
Knowledge of the local area!

£300 Cash back

For every sale reaching a successful conclusion (subject to conditions)

Speak to Roger, Robert or Daniele

020 8291 9441



The issues I would like to raise are:

Please give your name and address or a contact phone number if you would like us to get back to you with a response.

Please cut off this slip and send or leave at Cranbrook Road Post Office

If you wish to advertise your business in future issues of this newsletter then please telephone 07010 700610 or e-mail us at: newsletter@st-johns-soc.org