

Rosemary Gardens: The Saga has Finally Ended!

At a meeting of the Islington Planning Committee on 24 January, the latest planning application for the redevelopment of the land between Downham Road and Rosemary Gardens to create a new Greenspace depot was approved, but with a number of conditions attached.

- Safety - 24-hour CCTV cameras will operate at all boundaries of the site.
- Noise - a 5-metre buffer will be provided at the rear of 8–14 Park Place, consisting of a locked "copse" area which will be grassed and planted. (The residents of Park Place are to be involved in the choice of planting.) The planned storage units will be positioned there, offering a further 6-metre noise buffer.
- Pollution - Most of the vans and trucks will be stored towards the Downham Road entrance thus limiting pollution problems for the residents of Park Place.
- Hours of business - limited to weekdays 7:45–4:30 and 8:00–13:00 on Saturdays. No access to the site on Sundays or public holidays.
- Impact on children in the playground should be fairly limited as the new maintenance department will replace the current workshop area that now opens onto the playground. The new building should provide a better sound buffer and will be higher than the current one. It will also have a "green roof" which should be aesthetically more pleasing.

As the original application (which proposed a new road running through Rosemary Gardens, requiring the removal of several mature trees and shrubs) was thrown out, we have a result. Community action pays!

Do you have an internet connection? If so, have you seen our website at <http://www.debeauvoir.org.uk>? There you'll find all the latest news about what the DBA is up to, along with useful links as well as images and pdf files that we don't email out because they're too big.

Do you use email? Do you want to know more about the activities of the De Beauvoir Association? If so, email info@debeauvoir.org.uk with your email address so we can add it to our ever-growing database. That way we can keep you informed about our activities and campaigns and alert you when there's something new and important to look at on our website.

Are you a local business? If so, would you like to sponsor the next issue of the DBA newsletter? We deliver to 3000 households in De Beauvoir so it would be money well spent. Email us or call **07962 422149** to discuss prices and publication dates.

The De Beauvoir Association

www.debeauvoir.org.uk

info@debeauvoir.org.uk

07962 422149

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NEWSLETTER MARCH 2006

This issue sponsored by
North One Garden Centre, Englefield Road

WELCOME to the fourth issue of the De Beauvoir Association Newsletter and many thanks to the North One Garden Centre for sponsoring this issue. Your **new DBA committee** was elected on Monday 7 November 2005. It consists of Hilary Mandelberg (Chairperson), Kathryn Moore (Deputy Chair), Paul Bolding (Secretary), Marc Hauer (Finance), Shane Lincoln and Carol Lee (Planning), Kirsty Norman (Environment), Lynda Sparks (Lockner/Kingsgate Estates) and Julia Porter, David Throstle, Rupert Palmer and Oliver Schofield (all without portfolio). For more details visit www.debeauvoir.org.uk

Planning News

There has been an application to convert the Boris Limited site in Hertford Road, stretching through to Mortimer Road, into 62 flats and underground business storage. The site includes the semi-derelict Boris factory and the former Mission Hall to St Peter's Church. The closing date for submissions has passed but we understand the application is to be refused by Hackney Council planning officers under delegated powers, meaning that it is so poor that it will not even go to committee. The applicant could appeal but more likely will submit a revised application.

Protesters have occupied the **Dalston Theatre** to save it from demolition by Hackney Council. Details on <http://opendalston.blogspot.com/>

Dates For Your Diary

- **Tuesday 14 March 7.30pm:** DBA general meeting at Rose Lipman Community Centre (Environment and the police's SmartWater property-marking initiative)

- **Saturday 25 March 7.30pm:** GRAND AUCTION in St Peter's Crypt in aid of the crypt refurbishment. (To donate items for auction, please contact Julia Porter on 020 7254 5670 or call in at St Peter's Vicarage next door to the church.)

- **Sundays in May 12–2pm:** SUNDAY BRUNCH at St Peter's Church - coffee, croissants, bagels and pastries with Sunday papers, live music, crèche and stalls. (To hire a stall, please contact Julia Porter by telephone as above or e-mail: juliap@freeuk.com)

- **Thursday 15 June 7.30pm:** DBA general meeting at Rose Lipman Community Centre (unless it's being refurbished, in which case, we'll meet at the Crypt) (MP Meg Hillier)

- **June/September:** proposed DBA summer event (suggestions please for what to include / volunteers wanted, especially professional face-painters, fund-raisers, people to run e.g. the bouncy castle.

Kingsland Basin – Update from Shane Lincoln

London and Quadrant's architect, Judith Tranter, presented the KAAC and the DBA with an update on the proposed development for Kingsland Basin on Wednesday 8 February 2006. This followed an earlier presentation to the De Beauvoir Tenants' Association and the canal-boat residents. The project will be submitted for planning shortly and, should the application be successful, will lead to a quick start on site with a circa three-year build.

The development will comprise 290 residential units, variously for rent, shared ownership and sale. There will be 1, 2, 3 and 4-bed units occupying the blocks which will rise from 4 storeys towards Downham Road to 8 storeys to the south. The Ivy pub will be retained together with the neighbouring historic property facing the new Norwegian Wharf which will house the relocated De Beauvoir Surgery with extended group practice facilities. This new square will be bounded to the south by the old stable block which will house artists currently resident on the site. To the east across the basin there will be good views of the restored Quebec Wharf.

Two further squares will be formed, both gated, but the architect will endeavour to provide views to the basin across these squares from Hertford Road.

There will be 80 car spaces provided in an underground car park, accessible from the southern part of the site.

The buildings will be made from a mixture of yellow stock and engineering (blue) brickwork, with metal windows and, at high level, metal cladding panels. Each block will have setbacks at high level to reduce their apparent mass and extensive glazing will be used to light inner 'streets' within the complex.

At present the basin has been left untouched but L&Q have set aside space at the end of it for an ecological area, details of which have yet to be finalised.

The project has been carefully considered, consultations with local groups have been extensive and well managed and the resulting scheme will knit back the missing urban fabric of this part of De Beauvoir in a positive manner.

We are sad to report that Diana Weir has resigned from the DBA committee and would like to thank her for her unstinting work both on the newsletter and on the DBA responses to the Dalston Area Action Plan and to the November 2005 Plans by Transport for London, the London Development Agency and the London Borough of Hackney for the Development of the Dalston Junction and Dalston Lane South sites. **If there's a lawyer out there who can spare some time to help us on the committee to cover similar matters, we'd love to hear from him or her.**

HIGHWAYS AND ENGINEERING (comes under Environment and Planning)	PLANNING (comes under Environment and Planning)
<p>Responsible for planting and maintaining street trees, verges and street planters.</p> <p><i>General enquiries:</i> 020 8356 2897 Robin Thurayarajasingham, Team Leader John Jacobs, Team Manager</p> <p><i>Planting and maintenance:</i> Currently running a tree-planting programme in the borough: you may have seen some of the new trees in De Beauvoir. Rupert Bentley-Walls, Tree Officer. 020 8356 8437 rupert.bentleywalls@hackney.gov.uk</p> <p><i>Pollarding of street trees:</i> Andrew Cunningham, Head of Streetscene andy.cunningham@hackney.gov.uk Trevor Rawson, Streetscene 020 8356 6657</p>	<p>Responsible for giving permission for the cutting down or major pruning/pollarding of preserved trees, or trees in Conservation Area: these automatically have a higher level of preservation.</p> <p>Considers requests for Tree Preservation Orders from the public, for notable trees outside the Conservation Areas.</p> <p>NB Planning only deals with trees in <u>gardens</u>: pollarding of street trees is covered by Highways.</p> <p><i>General enquiries:</i> 020 8356 8062</p> <p><i>Tree maintenance/pollarding, or felling:</i> <i>Nick Jacobs, Tree Preservation Officer</i> 020 8356 8078</p>

WAYS IN WHICH YOU CAN USE THESE SERVICES AND IMPROVE OUR AREA

- Ian Graham, the Parks and Open Spaces Arboriculturalist, will give advice on the choice of trees to plant in gardens
- If street trees have been damaged, or if you would like to volunteer to help with watering, please contact Rupert Bentley-Walls, the Highways and Engineering Tree Officer.
- If you want to 'adopt' a neglected planter, or plant anything around a tree on the street, contact Rupert to discuss what would be most suitable.
- If you hear of plans to cut down trees without permission, please contact Nick Jacobs in Planning.
- If you are concerned about pollarding or other work on street trees, contact Andrew Cunningham in Highways (Streetscene).
- Trees not in Conservation Areas can be nominated for Tree Preservation Orders, via <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/index.htm/ep-tree-preservation-orders-508.htm>

At the next DBA Meeting on 14 March
ENVIRONMENT MATTERS FORUM: Trees and Planting
Rupert Bentley-Walls will report on the Highways tree planting programme
Ben Zimmerman will talk about planting and maintenance issues on the estates
Michael Dixon will report on work in De Beauvoir Square, and more general issues for parks in the area
Please come with your questions and requests.

ENVIRONMENT MATTERS: Trees and Planting

by Kirsty Norman (Environment Group)

If you are interested in this issue, you will find that the people in Hackney Council to whom you need to speak are scattered across four departments: Parks, Council Housing, Highways and Planning. I have therefore pulled together as much of the relevant information as I can, below, to make our lives easier. It's important that we all get involved in the neighbourhood, by showing interest, asking for advice, and giving support when good work is done, as well as complaining and chasing people up when necessary. Please keep it for reference, and do your bit to get involved where you feel you can help.

Hackney Council website: <http://www.hackney.gov.uk/>

Hackney Council central switchboard: 020 8356 5000

PARKS AND OPEN SPACES (comes under Environment and Planning)

Responsible for planting and maintaining De Beauvoir Square and Ufton Gardens. N.B. The corners of the park i.e. outside the original circular railings of De Beauvoir Square are technically under the remit of Highways, but Parks have the contract to do the maintenance.

General enquiries:
Parks Department 020 8986 9674

Arboriculture:
Advises on overhanging trees/neighbour disputes, tree planting and maintenance, tree health (pests and diseases), subsidence, overgrown hedges, employing a good tree surgeon from the Approved List. Liaises with the Tree Musketeers and Park User Groups for programming the planting and maintenance of trees and for raising the profile of trees in the borough. Ian Graham, Arboriculturalist
020 8525 0477
ian.graham@hackney.gov.uk

Planting and Maintenance:
Michael Dixon, Area Parks Manager, Shoreditch and Dalston.
020 7739 6288
michael.dixon@hackney.gov.uk

COUNCIL HOUSING (comes under Housing)

Responsible for planting and maintaining all trees, tubs and beds on the 330 Hackney estates. In our area, these are the De Beauvoir, Lockner and Kingsgate Estates.

General enquiries:
Estate Environment administration office:
020 8356-1726

Strategic Development
Strategic Development is the section which looks at community relations, and education, which are important in encouraging the care of the environment
William Wong, Head of S. Development
020 8356-1724

Planting and Maintenance:
Ben Zimmerman, Tree Inspector
0797-6342263/ 020-8356-1724
benjamin.zimmerman@hackney.gov.uk
Wayne Hibberd, Area manager for grounds maintenance
07961 854077/ 020 8356-1724

Conservation Area or Large Lorry Rat Run?

Have you noticed a recent increase in the number of large lorries that use De Beauvoir as a cut-through to avoid the junctions of Dalston and Southgate Rd / Balls Pond Road? If your house is shaking from their rumbling through, we'd like to hear from you. Only by working together will we be able to urge the Council to put in some deterrents. Please register your complaints with the Council by e-mailing steve.walker@hackney.gov.uk, copying in info@debeauvoir.org.uk. Alternatively, telephone us on 07962 422149.

De Beauvoir Football League News from Clare Elson

Did you even know that we have a kids' De Beauvoir Football League? It's being run by Marlon Gayle from SKY projects and he now has a new volunteer, Rick Jones, to work alongside him.

The De Beauvoir Sports Programme began in February 2006 at the Britannia Leisure Centre. There were four days of afternoon sessions over the half-term week. The remaining school-term dates are as follows:

- * **Open Sports**, Thursdays 5–6pm (2 March, 9 March, 16 March, 23 March, 30 March)
- * **Football**, Fridays 4–6pm (3 March, 10 March, 17 March, 24 March, 31 March)
- * **Free Girls' Football Coaching Sessions** at the LION CLUB, Mondays 6–7pm

For more information about the sports activities in De Beauvoir, please contact Marlon at: SKY Partnership, Unit 2, 222 Kingsland Road, London, E8 8AX
Tel: 020 7729 6970, Fax: 020 7729 9588
marlongayle@skypartnership.org.uk

NEWS FROM THE DE BEAUVOIR TENANTS' AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Would you believe it, we're still campaigning to get rid of the **old waste-disposal units** in the flats (originally reported in this newsletter in August 2005!!)?

But, looking on the bright side, the Council are starting to replace the **old open rubbish skips** on the Estate with the more secure refuse chambers with Paladin bins. This work should be finished by March, but they'll have to get a move on! Hopefully this will help stop all the fly-tipping we've been putting up with for years.

And **can anyone tell us what's happening at the Rose Lipman?** We've had workmen in measuring up and rumour has it that there's some re-wiring about to be done. But why on earth have we been told not to take bookings for the summer? Could it be that we're about to be refurbished? If so, great, **but why doesn't anyone ever tell us what's going on?**

NEWS FROM OUR SPONSOR

Beryl Hislop has been running the **North One Garden Centre** in Englefield Road for eight years – and she hasn't tired of serving her customer base yet. "I'm a passionate gardener," she says, "and I love what I do. You have to in this job because it's such hard work."

Beryl worked as a lecturer and an image consultant before acquiring the North One premises in 1997. Despite her love of gardening, the first few months were tough. "I knew nothing about running a business and was driven by sheer terror of failure. I would work until six at the centre, then go home and do the accounts. I survived on about three or four hours sleep – it was incredibly difficult."

North One serves a growing number of customers in Islington and Hackney – and 70 percent of visitors are under 35. Many are young professional couples buying their first property with a garden. "The services we provide are aspirational and inspirational," says Beryl. "We'll show people how to do up their garden so that the value of their house increases."

Above all, Beryl is proud of the team who work for her at North One. "The quality of the personal care and service here really make a difference. Our reputation goes before us – the number of people who've said to me how much they love our shop is amazing."



We've developed a reputation for quality but now we want to give something back to our loyal customers. This spring we have lots of special offers including our 'early bird' bedding promotion. Buy your bedding between 9.30 and 12.00 on any Sunday in April and May and get a 20% discount on it.

Keep looking out for other special offers this season.

The Old Button Factory
25a Englefield Road, London N1 4EU
Telephone: 020 7923 3553

De Beauvoir Ward Community Action Panel (Safer Neighbourhood Policing)

The De Beauvoir Ward Community Action Panel had its first formal meeting on 6 February 2006. This panel has been set up as part of the Safer Neighbourhood Policing initiative. Dan Wakeford, Pete Reddington and Jamie Shaw represented the Metropolitan Police, and the others present – Marlon Gayle (SKY Partnerships), Lynda Sparks, John Howard, Esther Rank, Clare Elson, Karen Reeves (Curate, St Peters Church), Anthony Salau, (Local Youth Project Worker) Janette Collins (Local Youth Project Worker), Michael Jones and Ted Searle – all represented the people of De Beauvoir. Lynda Sparks was nominated Chairperson.

It was agreed that meetings will be held on alternate months and that the panel would act as a link between the community and the police to discuss crime prevention in De Beauvoir.

The meeting discussed problems on the Colville Estate where youths were breaking into the servicing/cleaning cupboards and stealing tools and equipment. They also talked about the problem of youths riding around estates on motorbikes/scooters. It was agreed that many of these young people don't have anything else to do; Marlon took the opportunity to talk about his local football projects for 8–19 year-olds (see page 3) and Anthony Salau said he'd talk to the youths in question and their parents. The group also suggested that Anthony should create a leaflet to give to the youths and their families as well as to the police so that they can be handed out with information on local youth projects. It was also suggested that some of the youths should be invited to the next meeting so they can talk about these issues from their own perspective.

The meeting also discussed the usefulness of SmartWater - a crime prevention tool to invisibly mark personal possessions. Come along to the next DBA meeting on 14 March to hear more about this initiative.

The panel will meet again in early April.

Crime figures for De Beauvoir: November 2005–January 2006

Burglary: 32 total (November 10, December 14, January 8)
Robbery: 25 total (November 6, December 11, January 8)
Motor vehicle crime: 79 (November 32, December 25, January 22)

These figures represent a reduction as follows:

November '05 compared to '06: -19.2%
December '05 compared to '06: -0%
January '05 compared to '06: -9.5%

STOP PRESS: JAMIE SHAW HAS JUST TAKEN A JOB AS A SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER IN ANOTHER PART OF LONDON. HIS PLACE WILL BE TAKEN ON THE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS TEAM BY CHRIS PEARCE