

AMENITY COMMITTEE REPORT 2008

For year ending 31st December 2007

Presented at the Annual General Meeting 6th March 2008

The Amenity Committee met bi-monthly last year at St Mary's Community Centre to discuss issues that affect Eltham and make considered contributions to the Council and other forums.

Planning

We continue to make representations on planning applications both in writing and to the Area Planning Committee. In 2007, these included:

- The Grove Market Place proposal, which was felt to be a poor design, too large for the site, overlooking the Eltham Palace Conservation Area and impeding long established views of the Parish Church. We hope that the developers bring forward a better proposal in 2008.
- The Eltham Centre opened in November and December with swimming pools, refurbished library (open 7 days a week), café and offices. The entrance on the High Street was agreed to be opened for a trial period after representations by us and other groups.
- The Society appeared at the appeal for the Gaelic Sports Centre, which was turned down by the Inspector – but this hasn't finished as there is an appeal to the High Court.

We were also active in opposing unsightly advertisements on buildings, and the free-standing ones proposed on our pavements in shopping areas that would so obstructive.

Transport

The Amenity Committee is represented on the South Greenwich Forum Traffic Group. Many issues that affect our lives are discussed, including:

- Two presentations by Greenwich Council and Transport for London on how they manage roads in the borough, which gave us further insight into the working of those two organisations.
- The new parking control regime around the Eltham Centre has been introduced and we have been keeping an eye on the traffic situation in the area.
- We have also offered our views on changes to bus services through Eltham

Eltham Town Centre

The Amenity Committee is represented on the Eltham Town Centre Management Committee, which discussed topics such as:

- The Greenwich Council consultation licensing in the borough. Eltham Town Centre has been designated a 'Stress Area', where there was concern that new restaurants may not be allowed licences.
- The proposal to create a new support facility for doctors' surgeries at the former Cottage Hospital by the Primary Care Trust as Eltham has a higher than average number of single doctor surgeries that cannot offer the services of larger surgeries.

Eltham Society and Brighter Eltham Awards

Unfortunately the Amenity Committee has again not been able to recommend an award for the past year. The Committee will soon be considering nominations for both Awards for any improvement that was completed in 2007, and if anyone wants to suggest something for consideration please let me or a member of the Amenity Committee know.

Parks Friends Groups

Amenity Committee members are actively involved in the Shooters Hill Woodlands Working Group, which has now been going since 1995, and in the Friends of Well Hall Pleasaunce. We also take an interest in other Friends groups such as those for Avery Hill Park, Eltham Parks and the newly formed Tarn friends.

In November we joined with the Shooters Hill Group for a fascinating visit to work on the Castlewood Reservoir, which was reported in the latest Newsletter (and can be seen on our website).

In conclusion

The Amenity Committee is successful because it is lucky enough to have a group of skilled, committed and concerned members who all play an important part in our discussions.

We welcomed our newest member Pat Tilly in May and I would like to thank him and all other members for their keenness in helping the committee do its work: John Towey, John Kennett, Francis Lee, David Sleep, Margaret Skinner and Alan Ring.

The Amenity Committee always welcomes new members. Anyone interested can speak to me or any other committee member.

Chairman, it gives me pleasure to submit the Amenity Report to the meeting for consideration and approval.

Laurie Baker
6th March 2008