

Blackheath Conservatives

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At no cost to local residents



Council Failure to Protect Glebe Trees Causes Major Threat to Blackheath Conservation Area

A key tenet of council policy has always been that building on gardens of existing houses should be prohibited in conservation areas. If this principle is abandoned then Blackheath and all the other valued conservation areas in the borough will be easy prey to developers.

This issue centres on Stephen Conway, Galliard Chairman, who is trying to force through the building of houses or flats on a front garden in a prime conservation area site against the wishes of the entire local community.

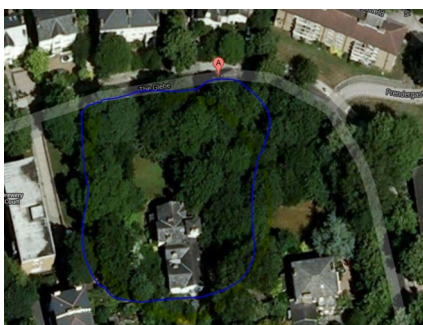
The site, at 8 The Glebe, in London's first conservation area, was owned by an elderly couple, the Suttons, who died a few years ago. It is an Italianate villa which has a large front garden which had many trees. The Suttons family arranged for some trees to be chopped down and then sold the property to a company called Handspan Ltd. Handspan is 100% owned by Zestplan Ltd. which is in turn 100% owned by Conway. So far **29 mature trees have gone** and applications have even been made

to chop down the remaining mature, protected trees at the roadside.

Applications from Handspan to build flats or houses on the front garden were rejected by Lewisham Council as being in contravention of their policies following protests by residents and the Blackheath Society. Conway's people have now appealed to the Planning Inspector and a planning enquiry is set to decide the outcome in early 2018.

Simon Nundy, Chairman of Blackheath Conservatives, says, "It would have been bad enough that the trees were allowed to be removed in the first place but the implications are far worse. A wealthy developer with an army of expensive lawyers and 'expert witnesses' has been given an open invitation to drive a cart and horses through Conservation Area policy. It's imperative that we fight this one all the way."

To make an objection please go to www.lewisham.gov/planning and search for '8 The Glebe'.



Aerial view of 8 The Glebe before



Current view of the front garden



Before ... and After
Persistent lobbying by Blackheath Conservative Nicola Peers has finally paid off. The ugly and defunct phone box in Tranquil Vale is gone.

Loan Repayment Eating up to 30% of Lewisham's Council Tax

Debt Resistance UK figures show that Labour run Lewisham Council owed £112 million in 'lender option borrower loans'. This means that over 30% of resident's council tax is used to service this debt, equating to £710 per person per year. The average amount of council tax each London borough spends on debt servicing is around 23%.

Jonathan Lee, a member of Blackheath Conservative's Action Team says 'It concerns me that the Labour dominated council is borrowing millions of pounds a year with no concerns to the debt burden this will create for future generations. There is no effective opposition with all but one council seat being held by Labour. I am concerned they are more interested in political infighting than focusing on proper financial management'

Latest High Rise Proposal is for 'Tesco Tower'

After recent attempts to increase the height of Lewisham Gateway were successfully opposed by Blackheath Conservatives there is now a new threat to the skyline.

A new 34 storey 'Tesco Tower' has been proposed on the site between the store and the train station. Meyer Homes' proposals have caused concern amongst nearby residents and across the borough due to the impact on the station, parking, schools, GP practices and other local services. Meyer Homes have increased their offer of **affordable homes** from 12.5% to 18.1% for the new tower, however, Lewisham Gateway was supposed to build affordable homes and in the end there aren't any. As is often the case the developers managed to wriggle out of it by claiming they wouldn't make enough profit. Blackheath Conservative campaigner **Nicola Peers** says, "The Council must not fall for this 'get out clause' again as finances can always be manipulated to decrease reported



profits."

There will be no parking so it is likely that, despite permits being disallowed, residents will still park elsewhere increasing the pressure on parking spaces. It will be primarily one and two bedroom flats whilst the demand locally is for family housing. **Nicola says**, "We cannot continue to build flats as a tick box exercise without the amenities to make Lewisham an attractive place to live."

The impact on **Lewisham Station** is a particular concern as it is already chaotic in the rush hour. There are serious doubts that it can cope with the projected vast increase in passengers. Meyer

Blackheath Assembly Reaches Out for Issues

Traditionally the Assembly has had an agenda set largely by council officials and local councillors. It has been suggested that more input from residents would be helpful. If there any local issues that you feel should be discussed at the Blackheath Assembly please e-mail us at info@blackheathconservatives.org and we will be happy to pass your suggestions on to the steering committee.

Homes are offering a £0.5million sweetener for Lewisham station improvements but there is concern that their proposals simply will not work.

Perhaps most alarmingly local homes will be completely overshadowed by a 125m tower, 50% taller than anything we have already in Lewisham and almost as tall as the Barclay's building in Canary Wharf.

Proposals can be viewed on the Lewisham Council website reference: [DC/17/101621](https://www.lewisham.gov.uk/DC/17/101621)

Fly Tipping on the Increase in Blackheath Village

Fly tipping has become a daily problem in Blackheath. **Nicola Peers** has been chatting to local shops and says, "It has become embarrassing how awful the village looks. We need to discourage fly tipping and would welcome readers' views on this issue"

Richard O'Toole of John Payne Estate Agents commented that, ... "the recent increase in refuse bags and low level fly tipping is really causing us concern. We are regularly having to pick up items from the pavement, and place them in unsightly, broken wheelie bins that are simply not designed for commercial waste. Dumping

of rubbish has also left dramatic staining on the pavement outside our office and I have seen several people slip and stumble either on leakages or tripping over the bags. Refuse, over the last few months has become a real issue in the Village and it needs addressing urgently.



New Lewisham Refuse Collection Scheme – Does It Work For You?

Lewisham Council have reduced the weekly black bin collection from weekly to fortnightly and have introduced a new food waste collection that is supposed to be weekly. We've been talking to local residents and many feel that fortnightly is not often enough and that the food bins are too small. There are also concerns about the likely smell in summer.

Please let us have your views on how well it is working where you live.

Please fill out our Blackheath Survey @ <http://tiny.cc/yourviews>

You can also e-mail us at info@blackheathconservatives.org



Conservatives

