



# BULLETIN

July/August 2010

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## Ofcom publish mast output report

Telecommunication regulator, Ofcom has published its report following an audit of the mobile phone masts output on Weir Estate which has now been received by Executive Officers at Weir Estate Residents Association.



The report will form a fundamental part of an inquiry into the future of the masts and base stations situated on two estate blocks and the prospect of any future installations of telecommunications masts on Weir Estate in the future.

The WERA inquiry is considering all the evidence and facts available in order to make an informed recommendation to residents on whether they should remain and the level of impact or threat on residents long term health. The report has indicated low levels of signal output. The report will be concluded by another external body, the Health Protection Agency responsible for the safety and wellbeing of the public.

This follows years of speculation that the mobile phone masts cause long term adverse health effects in people. However, the WERA inquiry will specifically consider whether the masts pose any risk to residents. The contracts on some of the masts have expired and these will not be re-negotiated until after the WERA report is published in the next few months.

WERA will publish its findings at a meeting open to all residents later this year where the subject will open for in-depth discussion before a verdict is decided by members and residents. The Ofcom report is available on both the Ofcom website, and the WERA website at [www.wera.org.uk](http://www.wera.org.uk)

The six sites across the estate are listed as Play Area Outside Quennel House, Atkins Road Outside Glanville House, Outside The Weir Link Nursery, Weir Road Outside Dan Bryant House (the site of one of the mast locations), Grass Area behind Jewell House (the second location of masts on Weir Estate) and Outside The Weir Link Reception.

**Our latest news and updates can always be found on our new-look website, at [www.wera.org.uk](http://www.wera.org.uk)**

**If you'd like to join our email list, let us know by emailing [info@wera.org.uk](mailto:info@wera.org.uk)**

### WERA appoints Vice Chair

At the WERA meeting held last month, Rohema Khanom was elected as Vice Chair.

Rohema and her family have lived on Weir Estate for many years, and seen the many changes to the estate throughout this time. Rohema would like to encourage other residents to attend the monthly meetings saying "I'd really like to see more residents coming to the meetings and getting involved, after all this is our estate, nobody else's."

### Next WERA Meeting

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010, 7-9pm at The Weir Link.**

**This meeting will be attended by Cedric Boston, Director of Housing Management at Lambeth Living.**

You will be able to put your questions to him and hear about the future of Lambeth Living as it undergoes a restructuring.

# Three way funding gets Weir Fencing Fixed

**Damaged and buckled railings on Weir Estate, are getting vital repairs and being replaced, following a three way funding agreement between Weir Estate Residents Association, Lambeth Living and the Breyer Group plc.**

The works to the value of an estimated eighteen thousand pounds have got under way this week following works to resident's homes and now the efforts to continue to improve Weir Estate has turned it's focus on the communal area railings. Three sums of Six Thousand Pounds have been committed to the improvement works provided by Lambeth Living, the Arms Length Management Organisation responsible for housing in Lambeth, Breyer Group plc the contractor responsible for the major works which are now coming to an end, and Weir Estate Residents Association.



WEA Chair Dave McEvoy is delighted with the deal, saying the railings, which were put up in the mid 1970s, are in desperate need of changing following years of damage caused by careless motor vehicles crashing into them as well as rust caused by the weather "This work is about WERA and Lambeth Living's commitment to improving the appearance of the estate so residents can take pride in the area in which they live. We have achieved this to residents homes and now we are delighted to be able to improve our communal areas too. We want Weir Estate to be the best looking estate in Lambeth, and for other resident associations to aspire to be like us. We are grateful to Lambeth Living and Breyer Group plc for supporting us in this"



The works are being carried out by a sub contractor R&B overseen by Breyer Group plc. It's expected to be complete by mid-August, by which time members of the Youth Offending Service will move onto the estate to paint the old railings as part of their community payback. This is expected to start throughout the summer holidays every Tuesday supervised by officers from the Lambeth team. For this, Breyer is also kindly donating the paint and painting materials in order for them to carry out the paint job.

Missing original metal works on the front of the estate will also be reinstated and then be painted.

Dave added "This is a real combined effort by us as the estates Association and our external partners to bring a new better look to our estate."

Breyer's Managing Director, Tim Breyer who has authorised the financial support of the works from Breyer has now been invited to visit Weir Estate in order to see the major improvements being made following the works carried out by his staff. Lambeth Living's Director of Property Services has also backed the projects with their on going investment into improving the estate.

## Trustees wanted for The Weir Link

The Weir Link is a vibrant and highly successful Community and Children's Centre established in 2008. The centre has already been recognised as a centre of excellence and has recently been awarded a significant grant to expand its provision in the area of community health.

Due to the growth in the centre's activities, we are seeking up to 4 individuals with the following experience, knowledge and/or professional skills: community involvement and leadership; financial planning and stewardship; community health-care provision; service level agreements and contracts; strategic leadership in the charity or not for profit sector; supporting the well-being of Children and Young People and Business Development and Fundraising.

Previous Trustee experience is not essential – full training and support will be provided. It is important to us that the Trustee body fully represents the diversity, cultures, experience, and skills from across the borough of Lambeth.

We are therefore seeking applications from local residents, parents/carers and community groups, as well those with relevant professional or voluntary experience and skills.

To find out more, or to receive an application pack please contact: Rachel Bellini at Abbeville Associates tel 020 7720 1830

The closing date for applications is 25<sup>th</sup> August 2010. Interviews will take place during September 2010.



# Bus route extension plans hit delays due to TfL cross borough talks

Long anticipated plans to extend a single Decker bus linking Streatham and Balham shopping districts have run into delays following concerns raised by Wandsworth Council and objections from residents on one road in the area.

Residents will now have to wait even longer while talks with both Lambeth and Wandsworth Council's are ongoing with Transport for London (TfL) who carried out a consultation throughout both council districts with a large number in favour of the extension of the 255 bus which currently terminates at Streatham Hill Station. The extension would run along Weir Road and terminate at Balham Station under the plans. Residents on a road in Wandsworth which would also form part of the new route submitted a petition to TfL against the proposals amid safety and loss of parking fears.

TfL are currently in talks with both London Councils to find a solution to seeing the bus route implemented, though there is no indication as to when this is likely to be. In a statement TfL said 'We are still planning to introduce the service but the scheme has been delayed, however we are working closely with both local authorities to progress the scheme to implementation. Once we can release further information, we will do.'

With concerns by residents in Wandsworth and Wandsworth council this has stalled the plans which local Lambeth ward councillors campaigned for following appeals by residents particularly in the Lambeth side of the planned route such as in Thornton Ward, which sits in between both shopping areas with practically no transport links immediately close by. Many elderly and disabled residents have told how they are cut off from local town centres due to the lack of accessible public transport. TfL published its findings into the plans earlier this year.

Thornton Ward Councillor and Lambeth Cabinet Member for Housing, Lib Peck who had lobbied for the extension spoke of her dismay at the delays "As local Lambeth councillors we are dismayed by the delay to this service. As a borough we have been supportive of the scheme and we hope that Wandsworth will resolve its problems soon so that the bus project can get back on track and a new service can come to Thornton Ward soon." Many Weir Estate and local residents had hoped that the bus would be introduced this summer as earlier indications had suggested. The route may now not be introduced until next year at the earliest.



# Ribbon cutting ceremony sees estate 'unleashed' back to Weir residents

Residents have celebrated the end of works to their homes last month, with a ribbon cutting and repossession ceremony, following a year of essential major work to replace run down and rusted windows and old doors.

Nearly one hundred and Twenty Five Properties have undergone a huge transformation to replace the old metal Crittel windows and wooden doors to new warmer, safer and secure by design double glazed windows and triple locking security doors.

The work which was carried out by Breyer Group plc on behalf of Lambeth's ALMO, Lambeth Living has taken over a year.



The event attended by newly elected Streatham Constituency MP, Chuka Umunna who cut the ribbon accompanied by WERA's Chair Dave McEvoy. The three Ward Councillors were also present on the day.

Residents were handed back control following the cutting of the ribbon by Chuka Umunna in front of Weir House. WERA had battled with Lambeth Living to improve the outdated windows and as part of the LHC5 programme.

MP Chuka Umunna paid tribute to the work of WERA and the leadership of the association by Chair, Dave McEvoy; who worked closely with both Councillor Peck and Councillor Morris to bring about the improvements, which included a new coat of paint being applied to ten blocks.

Residents are now benefiting from reduced heating bills which had rocketed during the 60 years that the old windows had been in place.

Mr Umunna went on to declare the estate 'unleashed' back into the hands of Weir Estate residents.

Dave McEvoy, Chair of WERA spoke of his delight at residents getting their estate back "This event was to mark the end of a difficult year for residents who have put up with a lot of disruption but has brought much needed change to the estate. We are delighted with the work that has taken place after so many years of waiting and now residents can look forward to warmer, safer and a better quality of living in their homes."

Breyer have now left Weir Estate and all estate works are complete.

# Lambeth's Police Commander praises 'excellent relationship' between WERA and SNT following visit

Lambeth's most senior police officer, Chief Superintendent Nick Ephgrave (Lambeth Borough Commander) has heaped praise on the working relationship between Weir Estate and the officers of Thornton Safer Neighbourhood Team, which has seen massive reductions in crime in Thornton Ward and Weir Estate.



Chief Superintendent Ephgrave visited Weir Estate and the local area by WERA's Chair, Dave McEvoy, to see how policing and community partnership has tackled crime such as reducing anti social behaviour and burglary in the ward.

During the walkabout which was also attended by two officers from of the team, PC Rob Wood and PCSO Karen Rose (Weir Estate Liaison Officer), it was explained how by working together and increasing communication, trust and respect between the community and the local police residents have seen a huge reduction in crime, making Weir Estate and the surrounding area one of the safest in the borough with a near to zero percent crime rate on Weir Estate itself. The partnership has seen a further ten per cent drop in crime compared to same time last year in Thornton Ward.



The top Lambeth cop praised the work to reduce crime saying "I certainly hope to be able to learn from what has been achieved with policing here and promulgate best practice across the Borough."

Chief Superintendent Nick Ephgrave took up post just over one year ago, taking over from Chief Superintendent Sharon Rowe and is transforming the way policing occurs in Lambeth such as ordering that Safer Neighbourhood Team officers remain in the community for a minimum of two years to establish trust and stability in local policing after many community groups like WERA, complained that his officers were not kept long enough to build up relations with local people, he also restored the previously disbanded Lambeth Vice Unit which was scrapped under the previous Borough Commander.

The SNT have worked closely with WERA over the past couple of years by being a regular visible presence on the estate, attending association meetings and have been a regular at the annual fun days on Weir Estate.

WERA's Chair said following the visit "It is important that we highlight the hard work and commitment both the SNT and us as a community put in to making the area one of the safest in the borough. I am honoured and delighted that the Borough Commander came to see this for himself and I hope he can take ideas away from this visit and help other areas grow on the success we have had. We continue to look forward to working with the team here in Thornton Ward and am sure we will continue to see the great level of success."

The Borough Commander further told of his delight at the changes that have been made to lives of local business owners in the parade after being introduced to shop keepers "It was great to talk to the local businesses and to hear about the improvements that they have noticed in recent times, particularly with respect to the new parking arrangements outside the Poynders Road shops."

The SNT is based at Cavendish Road Police Station, and made up of a Sergeant, three Police Officers and four Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs).

During the visit, Chief Superintendent Ephgrave revealed that a new approach to policing will be coming to Lambeth with Neighbourhood Support Teams set to target area's which have high levels of anti social behaviour.

## Contact Details for Your Local Safer Neighbourhood Team

Thornton Safer Neighbourhood Team

Tel: 0208 721 2622 | Mob: 07920 233 840 | Email: Thornton.SNT@met.police.uk

**Always dial 999 in an emergency, or for non urgent calls 0300 123 1212**

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**This newsletter is brought to you by the Weir Estate Residents Association.  
If you would like to suggest something to be added, please let us know.**

## Weir Estate Residents Association

c/o The Weir Link, 33 Weir Road, London SW12 0NU

w: [www.wera.org.uk](http://www.wera.org.uk) | e: [info@wera.org.uk](mailto:info@wera.org.uk)