



Lambeth Living Chief Executive in shock resignation

The Chief Executive of Lambeth Living, Cathy Deplessis, has resigned at a board meeting held on Wednesday 26th January.

Cathy Deplessis' departure came at the company's board meeting and was announced by chairman Keith Hill.

He said: "I'm sure you will be aware by now that Cathy Deplessis has announced she is standing down from her position. On my behalf, I would like to get on record we are thankful for all the good work that she has done as chief executive."

Mr Hill said the board would be now working to find a replacement. Mrs Deplessis, who was not present at the meeting, had held the post at Lambeth Living for almost two years.

The resignation is the latest setback for Lambeth Living, with Director of Property Services David Thompson resigning with immediate effect just before Christmas.

We are awaiting further information from Lambeth Living with details of the Interim Chief Executive. All the latest information will be published on www.wera.org.uk as we receive it.



WERA Annual General Meeting

AGM
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NEXT Tuesday (8th Feb 2011) 7pm
at The Weir Link, 33 Weir Road, London SW12 0NU



- Presentation of end-of-year report from Chair
- Election of Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and Committee Members.
- Help shape the priorities for the association for 2011

All roles of the association are voluntary, and without the Executive positions being filled and residents being involved, the association will not be able to carry on with its successful work.

There are 167 properties on the estate, and we need YOU to come and get involved for the benefit of where YOU live.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone else for election, or for further information about the positions, visit www.wera.org.uk or contact us via the methods below.

How does WERA affect me?

Without organisations such as WERA, improvements to the estate would either take longer to happen or simply not happen at all. Concerns over issues such as repairs to your home and estate maintenance, would go unresolved and residents would have less say in how council services are delivered. It affects your home, and your family. The association is not exclusive nor is it a club and is open to everyone living on or having an interest in Weir Estate and its future. It makes your community safer and cleaner and a better place to live.

What is WERA?



Weir Estate Residents Association aka WERA, is the residents association for all those living on Weir Estate, whether that be a council tenant, leaseholder or renting privately. The association and its officers are independent, and not part of the council. The association seeks to be an inclusive voice of all those living on the estate and bring about change and improvement, as well as ensuring the voice of residents is heard in all areas of society and action is taken to improve residents homes and lives on a wide range of issues. WERA is run by elected residents in a number of positions such as Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer along with a committee bound by an adopted constitution and list of priorities established every year. Without it we as residents in a borough under threat from massive cuts and battle for community survival would be much worse off.

How is it funded and what does WERA do to improve where I live?

Currently WERA is funded by an annual grant from Lambeth Council and from an income generated from mobile phone masts currently situated on the estate. Residents lobbied to ensure this income is spent on improving and running a successful association. Residents decide where and what this money is spent on such as repairs to the railings, the play park, a community garden and environmental improvements to name but a few of things the association has committed funds to. WERA does not charge residents and does not charge any subscription to residents who are all considered members.

I am a young person, can I get involved and have a say?

Absolutely, we welcome all ages and encourage everyone to have their say on how things should change both on a local and national level and as a young person the association will support the views of younger people who are as equally as important as elder residents.

Major Works update...

Due to the cold weather causing a problem with the painting of floors, Breyer Group plc have taken a brief break from the major works, but are due to return to the estate around March.



The resident liaison officer, Ben Ward can still be contacted by email bward@breyergroup.co.uk or tel 07930 192 879.

How do I get involved?

Every resident living on the estate can seek election for any of the positions mentioned above (over 18 or join the youth committee under 18) and has a vote. Everyone is welcome to attend the associations meetings and share your views, opinions and ideas on how we can change and/or improve our community. Without residents involvement WERA would cease to exist and without the active support of residents we would be unable to deliver the changes for Weir Estate and fight for your housing rights, views, concerns and demands that improvement be made. Your voice and participation is essential to this work and we need this support to continue on a regular basis. If you'd like to join our email mailing list, or get involved, email us info@wera.org.uk

Please attend our AGM on the 8th February 2011, 7pm at the Weir Link and our other meetings which are usually advertised via posters and information sent to every property. WERA is only as strong as those taking part and getting involved and by ensuring our collective voice is heard loud and clear in all areas of society and as part of living on a Lambeth housing estate.

Your support and participation is essential to continue to deliver change and improvement to our homes and our estate for the future and in what are to be difficult times ahead.

Weir Fencing works completed thanks to partnership investment

Work to restore and repair metal fencing around the estate, has been successfully completed thanks to funding provided by a ground breaking three way funding partnership between WERA, Lambeth Living and Lambeth's Major Works contractor, Breyer Group plc.

Hundreds of metres of fencing have been given a new lease of life as contractor RNB Engineering Ltd worked over a number of months to restore, repair and replace damaged fencing; including that of original art deco metal railings spanning the outside of the estate. Most of the posts and fence panels had to be renewed following years of under investment and damage caused by vehicles.

The fencing works were completed at the end of 2010 and were given approval by WERA's current Chair, Dave McEvoy and Major Work's Senior Programme Manager, Joseph Ajala.

WERA Chair, Dave McEvoy said "We are delighted that these works were made possible and the excellent improvements that the work have given to the appearance of the Weir Estate. This has shown that by working with our partners and contractors, estates can see vast improvement and the benefit of having a strong and active residents association. It certainly has given our estate a much needed boost and of course it's now safer and more secure."

Weir Estate Residents Association contributed extra funds to install new fencing by the entrance to the estate from Weir Road in order to fill a gap that gave access to the grass area from those outside the estate and those walking dogs who do not live on the estate.

Parts of the fencing had been missing and had to be made to match the rest of the estate and other parts had to be straightened and secured.

Lambeth Living's Senior Programme Manager, Joseph Ajala, who oversaw the works alongside WERA said of the improvements "The fencing works at Weir Estate became obviously in need of necessary repairs before the completion of Major Works on the Estate. Now that the fencing works have been completed, the estate has certainly regained its shine."

He added "I am very happy for the residents and many thanks must go the TRA members who were obliging and willing to partnership with Lambeth Living and Breyer Group Plc to see the works done."

The works costing about £18,000 were split between the three organisations which was then invested into making the works possible. The works to the railings and metal work around the estate began after much needed improvement works to residents homes as previously reported on www.wera.org.uk

Part of the railings were also repainted by the Lambeth Youth Offending Service (YOS) however WERA are now considering having the rest of the fencing repainted by professionals, which is due to be discussed at a future association meeting as well as seeking other projects to continue to improve the safety and appearance of Weir Estate.



All the latest news and information can always be found on our website www.wera.org.uk

Community Garden plans grow ever closer

Plans to bring nature and a place for residents to relax and enjoy is setting down roots. We have now had the designs and are in the process of working with Lambeth Living and due to a lack of time a chosen designer, to implement the new Community Garden situated in the corner of Anfield Close.

We are aiming for work to prepare the garden for opening this summer, and therefore works will get underway in the next couple of months in order to allow time for the garden to grow. WERA is funding the garden project as it will be a space for all ages and abilities. We will continue to update you on its progress and hope you will get involved no matter of your gardening capabilities. This will be a community project for the community transforming a disused space into something fantastic for all to use and enjoy!



Activities at The Weir Link

Coach your kids

The programme is designed for children between the ages of 3 and 8 years old, and you, their mums and dads. In active sessions, our qualified coaches will teach simple skills and games relevant to all major UK sports. You and your kids will enjoy learning together and will be fully equipped with good ideas the next time you play together in the park, garden or other recreational space. And don't worry if you're not too sporty, our sessions are designed for everyone.



**Thursdays, 4pm to 5pm at St Stephen's Church,
35 Weir Road, London SW12 0NU**

The sessions are free, but must be booked.

For more information, and to book your place contact Julie on 020 8675 2481

WERA in the news

WERA has appeared in the media several times during 2010, with the most notable headlines below:

South London Press

“No-knocking zone to stop cold callers”

Lambeth Life

“Celebration of Weir Estate Improvements”

Lambeth Living Clapham News

“Weir Estate’s innovative website”

Lambeth Living Clapham News

“Warmer homes for residents of Weir Estate”

The most recent story being in the Winter 2011 edition of Lambeth Living Clapham News

“£18,000 makeover for Weir Estate”

