

IN FOCUS **MANOR PARK**

June 2011

Dodgy landlords dealt a blow

Five landlords who failed to obtain a licence to rent out their properties have been fined a total of £4,500 and ordered to collectively pay £2,200 towards council court costs.

All private landlords in Little Ilford are now legally required to apply for licences as part of a drive to improve rental accommodation in the area. Landlords who fail to obtain a licence could face a fine of up to £20,000 if they're found to be operating without one.

To gain a licence, landlords will have to meet certain criteria, which include providing information about their management arrangements.



...while scenes like this should be a thing of the past



Good homes - properties in the NIZ should look like this...

The pilot is under way in Little Ilford's Neighbourhood Improvement Zone (NIZ) which aims to improve many of the problems residents are concerned about in the area.

During the past year, all landlords, letting agents and tenants have been contacted about the new arrangements. To date, of the 240 private rented homes in the NIZ, currently only 160 properties are licenced.

The council is continuing to target and take action against landlords

who have failed to comply with the licensing requirements.

Community lead councillor Kay Scoresby said: "Licensing properties forces landlords and their tenants to comply with their responsibilities and imposes conditions that must be abided by.

"The licence conditions also cover issues including fire, gas and electrical safety, as well as ensuring that properties are kept visually decent and well managed."

To find out more about the NIZ visit www.newham.gov.uk

CONTACT US

If your group has an activity to promote please contact us on: 020 3373 2684 or email infocus@newham.gov.uk



Beware of Council Tax scam



Bogus telephone callers claiming to be from the council are fooling residents into handing over their bank details.

The scammers have been informing people that they are due a Council Tax rebate and need bank details to deposit the funds.

Customers who are legitimately due a rebate are informed in writing. The council would never ask for bank details over the phone and residents are urged not to provide this information to callers requesting it.

If you receive a call you're unsure about asking for bank details note down as much detail as possible and call Newham Council on 020 8430 2000 or contact the police on 0300 123 1212.



ABREAST OF THE MATTER

Ex-pupils from Plashtet School returned to their classrooms to tell the next generation of students and their families about the life-saving importance of checking for breast cancer.

The project, funded by NHS Newham and led by local charity Community Links, aims to increase awareness of the disease, as well as teach women how to check for signs and the importance of going to the doctor if they suspect something is wrong.

The volunteers – many of them now medical or biomedical students

– have got involved because they are passionate about the project and their former school.

Local councillor Firoza Nekiwala went to Plashtet School and attended the coffee morning to answer people's concerns and questions about the area.

She said: "Education and women's causes are very close to my heart. Being aware of breast cancer will mean local residents will have that extra helping hand in being able to understand the importance of their health."

FROUD CENTRE GET TOGETHER

A celebration event was held at the Aston Mansfield Froud Centre to acknowledge the funding it had received from the Big Lottery Fund (BLF) to help build a children's play area.

The playground based in the centre's old car park opened in November 2009 and includes a climbing frame, slide and see-saw. The recreational area was based on the play needs identified by children and young people.



Highlights of the event included willow weaving, rock climbing and face painting.

Local people could also test their hand/eye coordination as well as pitting themselves against their friends at the coconut shy.

Don't miss the Manor Park Summer Festival

Singers, dancers, poets, musicians, actors and dancers who have successfully auditioned to take part in the Manor Park Talent quest will perform at this month's Manor Park Summer Festival.

On Saturday 25 June Plashet Park will be transformed into a community playground with activities to suit all ages and tastes. There'll be traditional sports games like the egg and spoon, sack and three-legged races, as well as a coconut shy, bouncy castle and face painting. The less energetic can enjoy the henna workshop and alternative therapies such as head and shoulders massage and reflexology.

This year's event also incorporates the best auditionees from the Manor Park Talent Quest. Local ward councillors have been visiting local schools including St Winefride's RC Primary School and Kensington School to promote the quest.

The winner of the local heats will compete at the Mayor's Newham Show against other winners from the



Families enjoying the festival

eight community forum areas, with the overall champion receiving a prize valued at £500 worth of studio time.

As well as all the festival fun and games, you can meet your local councillor and get information about council services and community groups.

If you are interested in volunteering, you can find out how you can become an Active Community Volunteer and be part of what's happening in your community.



Manor Park Summer Festival
Plashet Park, E12
Saturday 25 June, 1- 5pm
Free

BLOOMING MARVELLOUS

Brighten up your business and the borough with a blooming hanging basket.

The council is working alongside local charity Core Arts to offer shop owners in the pilot area of Romford Road the chance to buy floral arrangements at a discounted rate.

Retailers can buy a display from £25.68 per basket, which includes brackets and installation at the front of your premises. The baskets will be available in full flower from mid-June and you will also receive information on how to care for your floral display, as well as details of competitions and prizes for the best kept display.

To buy a basket or for more information contact Jodie Tiff on 020 3373 7407.



The growing plant nursery

Spotlight on... new look Newham.com

If you don't already know about Newham.com, it is worth a click – and now even more than before, as we've given it a makeover.

Newham.com is the website that's all about the borough, minus the council business. It's a handy hub for all things Newham, and now it's even handier.

No longer will you need to wade through loads of search results for things to do in your area, or remember individual web addresses for local hotspots – you can just add Newham.com to your favourites and it's all been done for you. If you've just moved to the borough it's a great way to get an overview of what's on.

The new-look site has been divided into easy-to-use sections: live, visit, work, invest and business. Under each of these you can find lots

of sub-sites, each of them packed with information about your area.

We've launched a new community page under the 'Live' section where local groups can promote their



activities. If you run a local group, get in touch using the details below.

We're also helping visitors out with information on the tourist offers in the borough, detailing where to stay, things to see, where to eat out and shop.

If you're looking for work we have some information on writing a good CV, job search dos and don'ts and how volunteering can help you.

Local businesses should also keep an eye on the site as we will be adding more and more to this section over the coming months.

If you've got something to add to Newham.com, get in touch by emailing info@newham.com or calling 020 3373 2752.

WHAT'S ON MANOR PARK

Newham Supper Club

Tuesday 14 June, 7-9pm
Froud Centre,
Romford Road, E12
Social networking for local people.
Free
For more information contact
020 8519 3485

Creative Embroidery Sessions

Every Friday, 1-3pm
Hathaway Community Centre,
Hathaway Crescent, E12
Free

Little Ilford School Summer Fete

Browning Road, E12
Saturday 2 July, 1-4pm
To book a stall call Annette on:
020 8928 3516

For even more things to do check out the What's On in Newham calendar, where you'll find listings for more than 6,000 events visit www.newham.com

If your group has an activity to promote please contact us on: 020 3373 2684 or email: infocus@newham.gov.uk

MEET YOUR LOCAL COUNCILLOR

Councillors out and about: If you would like a councillor to visit your community organisation, school, place of worship, meeting or event please call 020 3373 8382 or email glennette.bowles-dove@newham.gov.uk
To email your local councillor write firstname.lastname@newham.gov.uk e.g. jose.alexander@newham.gov.uk



Jose Alexander



Firoza Nekiwala



Paul Sathianesan



Kay Scoresby



Amarjit Singh



Salim Patel



Andrew Baikie



Farah Nazeer



Khalil Kazi

East Ham North Ward

Every Saturday (alternating)
10.30 - 11.30am
Kensington School,
Kensington Avenue,
Manor Park, E12

Manor Park Ward

Every Saturday (alternating)
10 - 11.30am
Manor Park Local Service Centre,
685-689 Romford Road,
Manor Park, E12

Little Ilford Ward

Every Saturday (alternating)
10 - 11am
Jack Cornwell Community Centre,
Jack Cornwell Street,
Manor Park, E12

Need to talk to Mayor Sir Robin Wales? Being an elected mayor, Sir Robin is directly accountable to you. Look out for Question Time times and dates in the Newham Mag, visit www.newham.gov.uk/mayor or call 020 3373 0437.