

IN FOCUS

ROYAL DOCKS

June 2011

COMMUNITY MUST BE HEARD

Royal Docks councillors are determined that the views of forum residents and business will be taken into account when decisions are made about what roads and routes will be affected by the 2012 Games.

Transport for London (TfL) have published plans for the Olympic and Paralympic Route Networks, with key roads closed to general traffic to ensure athletes, officials and the media get to sporting events on time.

The plans will not just impact on residents and businesses around the Games venues, but on people across the rest of the borough as well as on the council in delivering vital services.

“The Olympic and Paralympic Games are a once in a lifetime opportunity and we know there will be challenges in hosting them, but we feel let down by TfL over the way they have involved residents and businesses.”

The ORN will mean diversions



Community lead councillor Steve Brayshaw said: “The Olympic and Paralympic Games are a once in a lifetime opportunity and we know there will be challenges in hosting them, but we feel let down by TfL over the way they have involved residents and businesses.

“We have asked for lots more information about how Royal Docks will be affected. With little more than a year to go, we need a picture of the road impacts so that we can begin

to plan our daily lives and business continuity in good time and at minimal cost. We want to enjoy rather than endure the 2012 Games.”

Council officers have been dealing with TfL staff for many months but have become increasingly frustrated by the absence of detail.

Councillors are demanding a public meeting in each of the nine community forum areas. Details will be published in future editions of In Focus and the Newham Mag.

FIND OUT MORE

Go to www.newham.gov.uk/orn



Successful networking event held



Royal Docks community groups and organisations attended a networking event organised by local councillors.

The event took place on 6 June at the Fight for Peace Academy in North Woolwich. Residents and other representatives from the community attended.

Community groups and organisations had an opportunity to inform each other about what they are doing in the area and look at ways they can work together better. Information about the 21st Century Pleasure Garden and Royal Docks Floating Village was also available.

Councillor Steve Brayshaw said: "This was a very useful event and we hope to hold more in the near future. We thought it was important for local residents to network to help build and strengthen relationships within the community and share information. It was also a good opportunity to promote councillors as community leaders and facilitate local problem solving."

Another event has been planned for 20 September starting at 6pm. Further details will be available in the July In Focus.



Nordic walkers in the Royal Docks

Nordic walking comes to the Royal Docks

A pioneering way of keeping fit known as Nordic walking has arrived in the Royal Docks and all residents are invited to participate.

Nordic walking is an enhancement of ordinary walking but with the use of specially designed poles. These poles mean the upper muscles are used as well as the legs, giving the participant a full body workout.

To introduce residents to the activity, Muscular Therapy, a health and fitness group who arrange the sessions, held a picnic at Thames Barrier Park. Thirty people came along to the event which started

with a Nordic walk to Lyle Park, where a boot camp session took place. This was followed by an afternoon walk round the west section of the docks.

Organiser Tug Wilson said: "The day epitomised everything about Nordic walking. It is all about fitness and fun. It would be great to see more Royal Docks residents getting involved."

For further information about Nordic walking contact Tug Wilson on 07932 879 786 or visit www.musculartherapy.co.uk to book a taster session for £5.

NEW WEBSITE PROMOTING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN ROYAL DOCKS

Regeneration of two major sites in the Royal Docks has opened to international investors with the launch of a new website.

The website, www.royaldockslondon.com, has been set up following the designation of the Royal Docks as a new enterprise zone. This is a key milestone in the regeneration of the docks and is part of a strategy to encourage investment, growth and prosperity.

As part of the campaign to attract investors, two videos identifying the key sites are now available to view on the website. These videos provide a bird's eye view of the area surrounding Newham Dockside and opposite the ExCeL exhibition centre.

For further information and to view the videos go to www.royaldockslondon.com

MULTI-USE GAMES AREA COMING TO BRITANNIA VILLAGE



An example of a multi-use games area from Monster Play who will be constructing the one in Royal Docks

Work has started on new sport facilities for residents of Britannia Village.

The multi-use games area (MUGA) will be built next to Britannia Village Hall on the green. Residents will be able to play football, basketball, tennis, netball, hockey and volleyball once work has completed,

with opening hours dependent on the season. The design was put together with input from Britannia Village Primary School.

Funding for the scheme was provided by the Veolia Environmental Trust following an application by East Thames who manage 98 homes in the area.

Royal Docks community lead councillor Steve Brayshaw, said: "This is great news for the residents of Britannia Village – many of them have been asking for more sports facilities and we have worked long and hard to bring the MUGA here. Hopefully they should be able to use the facilities very soon."



DON'T FEED THE SWANS IN THE ROYAL DOCKS

Residents are asked not to feed the swans in the Royal Docks, following concerns about a possible cull.

The number of swans in the area has increased over the last six months. Due to their size and flying patterns, the Civil Aviation Authority has identified they pose a safety threat to aircraft, passengers and themselves by being so close to the airport. Because of this, the airport relocated a small flock to a new

location on the Thames near Windsor to avoid the risk of any accidents.

To ensure the swans do not settle again in the docks, airport officials are now asking residents not to feed them. Sharon Preston, Director of Safety and Airfield Operations, said: "Bird strike is the most common cause of aircraft accidents and we needed to relocate this flock as a matter of urgency." Community lead councillor Steve

Brayshaw commented: "Relocating the swans to an environment where they will be safe is the right thing to do, but residents should have been consulted first. At the end of the day, I will do everything I can to prevent a cull of swans in Newham. Unfortunately, relocating future flocks may not be an option so we would appeal to the local community to not feed the swans to ensure this situation does not reoccur."

Spotlight on... Grow your own for the Mayor's Town Show

If you missed the merriment of the Sunday Fun Day, mark Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 July in your diary now for the event of the year - the Mayor's Newham Show.

The two-day extravaganza plans to top last year's event, which saw around 50,000 people flock to East Ham's Central Park to enjoy sun, sand and superb entertainment.

Making a welcome return this year is the Grow Your Own competition where the borough's best gardeners battle it out to see who has the greenest fingers.

The competition categories are:

- > biggest lettuce
- > biggest rhubarb
- > biggest strawberry.

Competitions will be held on both days of the Show. Entries



will be judged by Mayor Sir Robin Wales, with the best producer walking away with a rosette. Produce must be your own. To register your interest email competitions@newham.gov.uk

Gardening tips to help you come top

> For lovely lettuce, crush eggshells and place them around the base of your plants to keep slugs at bay.

> Cover your rhubarb plant with a bucket to create humid conditions. The trapped heat will accelerate growth and the lack of light will create slender, tasty stems.

> For big juicy strawberries add a feed high in potassium, like tomato feed, to the base of your plants at least once a week when in bloom. You can buy this from any good gardening store.

Get a head start from the experts at food growing workshops near you.

**Thursdays 12noon-1.30pm,
Royal Docks Activity Centre,
Albert Road, E16**

WHAT'S ON ROYAL DOCKS

Playworkers in Parks

Every Tuesday during term time, 3.15pm – 6pm at Britannia Village Hall Supervised play sessions for six-14 year olds. Parents/carers are welcome to stay and play with younger children. Outdoor sports and physical activity, arts and crafts and more. For further information email customer.services@newham.gov.uk or call 020 8430 2000.

Bowls taster session

Every Thursday 3pm – 5pm at Phoenix Bowls Club, Royal Victoria Gardens, Pier Road, North Woolwich. Free bowls coaching and taster sessions for all ages and abilities are now available in your local park. No previous experience or special equipment is necessary, just lots of enthusiasm and flat-soled shoes.

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 1705 or email nadine.ford@newham.gov.uk
To email your local councillor write firstname.lastname@newham.gov.uk e.g. steve.brayshaw@newham.gov.uk



Steve Brayshaw



Patrick Murphy



Anthony McAlmont

Royal Docks Ward surgeries

First and third Thursday of the month (alternating), 7pm
Britannia Village Hall
65 Evelyn Road, E16

Second and fourth Thursday of the month (alternating), 7pm
The Royal Docks Learning and Activity Centre, Albert Road, E16

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.