

IN FOCUS **FOREST GATE**

August 2011



ARRESTS FOLLOW MAJOR SWOOP ON DRUG DEALING

Seven people have been remanded in custody until 16 September accused of drugs offences following a series of raids on 20 July.

Forest Gate ward councillors Akbar Chaudhary and Leanora Cameron were on hand as Newham Police, supported by the council's street scene and community safety teams, 'locked down' a section of Romford Road as part of Operation Target, a major clamp-down on street dealing.

The junction with Sprowston Road was temporarily blocked for the safety of the public and to preserve evidence as officers swooped on suspected dealers. Traffic was diverted while police made arrests.

Six commercial premises, mainly food convenience stores, were raided during the operation which involved 120 police officers and council workers.

The 'lock down' in Romford Road



The premises were alleged to have been involved in the supply of drugs to individuals selling on the street. Police seized quantities of substances believed to be heroin and crack cocaine.

The shops are being further investigated by the council for alleged breaches of planning, hygiene and multiple occupation regulations, which could see their licences reviewed.

Councillor Chaudhary said: "We will continue to work with police on long-

term solutions to stop the crimes that blight the lives of those who live and work in Forest Gate."

Det Chief Insp Kevin Baldwin, who led the operation, said: "We targeted the area on behalf of the local community and have worked closely with the council to stop these types of crime creeping back."

It is hoped the arrests will have a knock-on effect on other crime in the area, including prostitution, robbery and burglary.

CONTACT US

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



Decision to block plans for home extension upheld

An appeal against a decision by Newham Council to refuse planning permission to extend a property in Claremont Road, Forest Gate, has been rejected by a planning inspector.

The council had in April refused proposals for a two-storey extension, a rear garden building and a new front wall at the end of terrace home.

An appeal was lodged but the Planning Inspectorate decided that it should be dismissed because of the effect of the proposal on the character and appearance of the building and the Woodgrange Estate Conservation Area.

The inspector decided that the spaces between buildings and gardens in the conservation area, including those at the end of terraces, contribute towards the special character of the area. It was also decided that scale of the extension and its design would not complement that of the dwelling.

Community lead councillor Kay Scoresby said: "It is important that we all understand and protect the character of our neighbourhoods."



SAVE YOURSELF SOME MONEY – GET RECYCLING

Last year, Newham residents saved £370,000 by recycling – and now's the time to save even more.

If you're not sure what can and can't be recycled in Forest Gate, the postcode locator on the Recycle for London website has all this information in one handy place.

Simply visit www.recycleforlondon.com and type in your postcode for a full list of materials you can recycle

in your recycling bin or orange bag, as well as details of your nearest recycling banks. Use these banks to recycle things like glass, textiles and batteries.

You can also find all information about our free bulky waste collection service; green garden waste service and Jenkins Lane Refuse and Recycling centre at www.newham.gov.uk/recycling



BAND PUTS ON A SHOW

Talented band Tyson did Forest Gate community forum proud when they competed in front of thousands of people at the Mayor's Newham Show.

The group took to the main performance stage at East Ham's Central Park to represent us in the final of the Newham Talent Quest. It was the culmination of contests in each of the nine community forums.

The winners from each went on to battle it out to become the borough's hottest talent. Newham's Young Mayor supported the quest and he and his youth council members had the tough choice to choose an overall winner.

While the band just missed out on the big prize they did receive an engraved glass trophy to reward their efforts. Community lead councillor Kay Scoresby said: "Tyson did a great job in representing us and their superb performance on the day really had the crowd rocking."

Website aims to get people talking

A website has been created that aims to inform, consult and engage people of the Woodgrange Estate and wider Forest Gate community in conversation.

The site at www.woodgrange.org.uk is not aligned to any particular group or cause. It provides information and news on events and has an active discussion forum where people can comment.

Leaflets have been circulated across the community forum area to boost use of the site. Recent postings have involved a poll on establishing a controlled parking zone and a gallery of photographs from the Forest Gate Festival.

Resident John Walker who helped create the site said: "We also have a Twitter account and Facebook presence where people can follow developments and see when matters of interest pop up. We welcome any suggestions about how we can improve the site."

Councillors Kay Scoresby, Paul Brickell and Ellie Robinson are supportive. Cllr Robinson said: "The site is a good way for people to share thoughts and opinions."



SHOWING OUT IN NEW SCHOOL HALL



Cllr Vaughan, second left, singer Roy, second right, and Mr Collings, right, help open the hall



The school choir put on a show

A new larger school hall at Maryland Primary School in Stratford is providing pupils with a much improved space in which to put on a show.

The project to create a larger hall was the idea of school governor Chris Collings and he was joined by Forest Gate South ward councillor Winston Vaughan and former Maryland pupil Roy Carter, singer with pop band Heatwave, to open the new space.

To celebrate the occasion the school in Gurney Road put

on a show featuring youngsters from the school's choir and dance troupe and other talented pupils.

The larger hall has been created by joining two smaller ones together and building better support for the internal structure.

Singer Roy said: "It was so cool to be back at the school. So many memories came flooding back." Councillor Vaughan added: "This is a great new facility which everyone can enjoy."

Spotlight on... Newham People's Panel

If you've got a lot of opinions on local issues, there is now an even easier way to have your voice heard. The Newham People's Panel is a new way for residents and visitors to make an impact on how the borough is run – and you won't even need to leave your sofa to get involved!

Visit www.newhampanel.com to find out more. Register as a member and the rest is plain sailing. We'll send you surveys on a range of topics; some surveys will include the opportunity to be entered into a prize draw.

Most surveys will take about ten minutes to complete. There will also be polls where you can log on and simply answer a quick question.

We want your thoughts on hot topics. This can be anything from employment to the cleanliness of your area, what leisure facilities you need, to what you want to see from the 2012 Games legacy.

Anyone aged over 16 can become a member of the panel

and you could be a resident or a visitor to Newham.

There may be some topics you're more interested in than others, so you can pick and choose which surveys you want to take part in. You will receive a summary of the results from each survey you complete and may be invited to give your opinion in future group interviews or focus groups – where you will probably be paid or receive vouchers for your help.

Become a member of the Newham People's Panel

To sign up to the panel, visit www.newhampanel.com and fill in a short registration form.



WHAT'S ON FOREST GATE

Forest Gate play days

Ages six to 14, every Thursday to 1 September, Forest Lane Lodge and Park, Magpie Close. Sessions 10am to 4.30pm. Pack a picnic and enjoy a great day out. For more information email playservice@newham.gov.uk

The Writers Group meets in the library at The Gate

4-20 Woodgrange Road, E7, on the last Tuesday of every month from 5.45pm to 7.45pm. It is an informal creative group for people to share work, offer and receive feedback and learn about new styles of writing. Next meetings are 30 August and 27 September.

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 1540 or email syed.haque@newham.gov.uk
To email your local councillor write firstname.lastname@newham.gov.uk e.g. shama.ahmad@newham.gov.uk



Shama Ahmad



Paul Brickell



Ellie Robinson



Akbar Chaudhary



Leanora Cameron



Winston Vaughan

Forest Gate North Ward
Every Saturday (alternating)
10.30 - 11.30am
Durning Hall
Earlham Grove
Forest Gate, E7

Forest Gate South Ward
Every Saturday (alternating)
except Bank Holiday weekends
10.30 - 11.30am
The Gate, 4 - 20 Woodgrange Road
Forest Gate, E7

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.