

Chair: Ellen Lebeth, 1 Heyford Ave, London SW8 1EA. Tel 020 7582 5063

Secretary: Penny Savage, 61 Hackford Road SW9 ORE Tel:020 7735 7375

Members secretary Amanda Evans, 100 Newpark Road, SW24 LN 020 671 8752

<http://www.lampag.org>

info@lampag.org

LAMPAG OPEN MEETING Monday 20 November 2023 12.00 pm to 2.30 pm Council Chamber

LAMBETH HOUSING STRATEGY

Speaker: Cllr Tom Tyson

Housing is a right not a commodity. How adequate is your home?

- Is it warm, properly insulated and free from damp mould? Our biggest priority is to deliver more affordable housing to Lambeth residents and comfortable to live in.
- Do you have security of tenure which guarantees legal protection against forced eviction, harassment and other restrictions?
- Is your house affordable? Does the cost prevent you from enjoying a good quality of life?
- How safe is your home? Does it provide physical safety both in your home and in the vicinity where you live?
- How accessible is your home with regard to stairs, lifts, and ramps, lighting and are your specific needs taken into account?
- Does your home have all the available services like drinking water, proper sanitation, energy for cooking and heating, lighting, storage and waste disposal?
- Is your home near to health care services, social and civic links?
- Are you able to participate in housing related decision-making at a local level?
- Are you protected from greedy landlords
- Are you aware of your rights as a tenant or a leaseholder
- Are you sofa surfing or in fact homeless? Under International law we all have the right to secure tenancy without fear of eviction. At a domestic level housing is rarely treated as a human right that needs urgent national and local attention.

Residents are invited to give their views on the council's plans to transform the way housing and repair services are delivered in the borough over the next seven years. The strategy is built around three priorities -delivering more affordable homes, delivering excellent housing and repair services and supporting healthy and safe neighbourhoods.

The current plans have not seen changes for 10 years. Cabinet member for Better Homes Mary Kay Said "We will put compassionate approach right at the heart of how we deliver housing and repair services. "

This is your opportunity to report on your own housing experience and to have your say on what decent housing should look like in 21st century Lambeth.

Tea, coffee, biscuits and raffle

Meals on Wheels

According to a report researched and published by Published Services Excellence. (APSE) shows that vital Meals on Wheels services are on the brink of collapse with only 27% of services still in operation across the UK and fewer than 9% in England. This is devastating news when poor vulnerable and disabled people face the threat of malnutrition as a result of the cost of living. It offers at least one nutritious meal, the regular caring contact helps to reduce avoidable health and care costs as well as providing support to carers. Because Meals on Wheels are not statutory, local authorities can remove the service to save money even though malnutrition in the UK costs £19 million per annum. The NACC is calling on the government to enhance councils' crucial funding to directly support the continuation of existing meals on wheels including those lost in recent years, consider meals on wheels as a statutory responsibility, to secure its future, and consider other additional support including VAT relief for service providers and help with food inflation. The government needs to keep to the plan and deliver the right funding for council's so that they do not force choice of long term reduction of services for older people.

NACC Chair Nadia Radia commented ""With the NHS in long term crisis it is obtuse to add to the public health burden by cutting ill health prevention and support services that is of itself a cost effective way of supporting older people."

Pre-payment meters

With the cold weather settling in heating systems will be activated and fuel bills will soon be posted through our letter box. No matter how you settle your bills by cash, direct debit or whether you pay by pre-payment meters your bills will have to be paid.

Pre-payment meters are domestic meters which require you to pay for energy before you have used it. There is news that warrants have been issued to force fit prepayment meters in homes. Energy providers in this case can legally apply for force entry to homes of customers with unpaid electric and gas bills. This is especially worrying for poor and vulnerable households where they are unable to pay food and energy bills as a result of the high cost of living. It punishes people with conditions which require consistent use of specialist equipment and those with small children.

Pre-payment meters are more expensive than other types of meters which means you might not be able to access the different tariffs available. If your prepayment meter has run out of credit your supply will turn off if you are not on "Emergency Credit" or "Friendly Credit". These are just some of the disadvantages of pre-payment meters. On November 8th FPA (Fuel Poverty Action) held a demo against pre Payment meters outside the Department of Energy Security and Net Zero demanding the government ban pre payment meters. Speaker after speaker highlighted the disadvantages and unfairness of the meter and their impact on poor, vulnerable and disabled people. They delivered a giant pre-payment meter to the Secretary for Energy and Security and net Zero

Christmas get-together Advance notice

Our Festive get together will take place on Monday 11th December. As is customary we will spread the Seasonal Cheer with a bring and share afternoon and entertainment. We welcome finger food to share thank you. More information nearer the time.

Committee Meeting Monday 27th November 12.30 Room 1

