

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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LAMPAG OPEN MEETING MONDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2019

**Lambeth Town Hall
Brixton Hill, SW2 1RW
Room TH1-16
12.00 pm to 2.30 pm**

HOUSING IN LAMBETH

Speaker: Cllr Paul Gadsby, Cabinet Member for Housing.

A big issue of interest and concern to people and especially in an ageing population, is housing. Lambeth Council has a statutory duty to provide decent, affordable and safe homes for its diverse communities. Older people have identified and raised a number of issues regarding their housing which they say need to be addressed urgently. These range from their involvement in decision making regarding planning and provision, Specialist Housing for older people, advice and support with adaptations and relocations, the impact of regeneration on older people, the lack of social housing in the borough, Housing Associations, homelessness and older people in private rented accommodation. The LA has a duty to manage and monitor the LHS programmes and we have the right to know the outcomes. These issues affect us all directly or indirectly one way or another. We need a Labour Council which reflect the concerns of the people who elected them. They need to respond to and act on collectively with people who call for change nationally and locally.

We have invited Cllr Paul Gadsby, Cabinet Member for Housing to come and address us on Housing issues here in Lambeth and to provide answers to our pressing questions. The voice of tenants, leaseholders, homeowners, and the homeless need to be heard. So come along and be part of what will be a serious debate on Housing here in Lambeth.

Tea, coffee, biscuits, raffle

Dignity Action Day

Thanks to members who helped out at the LAMPAG stall on Dignity Action Day. We were not only able to talk to the public about the importance of the treatment of older people with dignity and respect in hospitals, care homes and all other settings, but we managed to highlight the unfairness of social care funding. A big thank you goes to St Thomas' Hospital Patient Experience Team which provided the space in Central hall and which pulled out all the plugs to set up a number of stalls demonstrating the strategies and methods, advice and information at St Thomas' which ensure dignity and respect for their patients. I am looking towards many more LAMPAG members participating in the day next year.

Post Office, ATM, and Bank closures and their effect on Older People.

Post Office, ATM and Bank closures have been happening consistently across the country and there is more to come. The UK has lost almost two-thirds of its banks branch network in the past 30 years, leaving a fifth of households more than 1.8 miles from their nearest provider. More than 200 communities in Britain already have poor ATM provision. The number of free to use ATMs are on the decline. Although there is an increase in the use of technology and cashless services to access their money, there are still millions of people who still rely on hard cash for monetary transactions.

Many older people prefer in-branch banking with face to face services allowing the chance to talk to people- an important component of tackling loneliness. In-branch banking also offers peace of mind and the security of seeing bank transactions taking place and receiving a paper record to prove it.

The closures will have an impact on people with mobility, physical or mental health problems who might find it hard to use services or get access to them. Debt management issues may increase as budgeting is often easier with cash. The post office has failed to meet one its 6 access criteria that 95% of the population of every postcode are within 6 miles of the nearest outlet. Not enough banks are considering the needs of current and future populations of older people. Furthermore, the Post Office recently announced the plan to 'franchise' 74 Crown Post Offices- affecting some 800 jobs. The Communication Workers Union believes that franchising is simply privatisation by the backdoor and opposes it.

LAMPAG AGM.

The AGM will take place on Monday **18 March**. The AGM is important because it provides us with an opportunity to elect a full, committed and proactive team of officers and committee members who will ensure that we meet our objectives and build a viable and sustainable action group ..A group is as effective as its committee and the participation and support of its membership. LAMPAG has done well so far in holding well attended monthly meetings led by effective speakers, in dissemination relevant information and in being visible on national and local campaigns and demonstrations aimed at defending the Welfare State, Public Services, an end to Austerity and calling for social justice.

AGM documents will go out early in March. Please do read them carefully and consider volunteering to take up a position on the committee. We need your support.

SAVE THE OVER 75's TV LICENCE

Join the demonstration on

Thursday 7 March at 12 noon

100 Parliament Street, London (nearest tube Westminster)

Followed by a meeting in Portcullis House.

Whether you are over 75 or not, you need to join the demo. Remember if we lose the over 75s TV licence, it will be gone for good. You will have lost it at 75, if you did not fight for it. Try to be there. Meet on the steps of Lambeth Town Hall for departure at 11.00 am.

Committee Meeting: Monday 25 February, Lambeth Town Hall, 11am to 1pm.

