

APRIL 2017 NEWSLETTER

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**OPEN MEETING
MONDAY 24 April 2017
THE OLD LAUNDRY
STOCKWELL GARDENS ESTATE
20 EASTCOTE ROAD, LONDON SW9 9BY
12.00 pm to 2.30 pm**

Central Hill Estate, Lambeth Regeneration

Speaker: Nicola Curtis. Central Hill Tenants Association

On 25 March, Lambeth Council took the decision to demolish the Central Hill Estate in the name of regeneration rather than repair after the estate had suffered years of neglect. Instead of spending council taxes and service charges on estate management as is their obligation and responsibility as landlords, the council has spent the money elsewhere and allowed the estate to fall into disrepair.

Tenants and leaseholders have strong views about the regeneration proposals. They are unhappy about the consistent lack of their involvement in decisions taken and access to information. They are concerned that contractors had been hired and surveys carried out even before the final decision was taken. Residents feel that their voices had not been heard in a democratic way and that not only will their homes be bulldozed but so will their rights, opinions and their lives.

Come and hear the residents' views and concerns about the regeneration of the estate and the impact on the lives of the residents and on community cohesion.

Monday 1 May - May Day Rally

May Day is a celebration of International Workers' achievements. The day celebrates what was won by workers campaigning over many years - like the NHS, good, free education for all, living pensions, affordable housing, - all now under threat by the austerity agenda. The fight is for the interests of many against the interests of the rich and powerful, for the unity of the young and old, women and men and for those of different ethnic and national backgrounds. The call is for Trade Union rights, Human Rights, equality, social justice and international solidarity.

Assemble Clerkenwell Green 12 noon. March to Trafalgar Square 13.00. Meet on the steps of Lambeth Town Hall 11.15 am. Leave for Clerkenwell Green 11.30 am. Come to Trafalgar Square if you cannot do the walk. Look for the NPC banner.

NHS cost cutting and rationing.

NHS bosses are introducing cost cutting and rationing practices that will cause even more pain, misery and suffering to the lives of patients. They have announced cost cutting measures to NHS services like non-emergency operations. It will mean that patients will have to wait months longer for certain operations like hip and knee replacements and cataract surgery. When people are in pain, or unwell they rely on the NHS to provide the care they need and not languish in discomfort. Furthermore, GPs will longer be able to prescribe some items like blood pressure drugs and some pain killers. This will hit people on low income hard and may exacerbate their illnesses.

30 Charities – including Teenage Age Cancer Trust, National Aids Trust, and Motor Neurone Disease Association have raised the alarm about rationing treatment because of underfunding especially for patients with rare and complex conditions. This is often done without patient involvement. Plans are due to come into force in April. Charities are urging Theresa May to stop the NHS rationing treatments for seriously ill patients and to find more money for their care. The Kings Fund has said that plans to come into force in April may even affect cost- effective treatments. Cancer, Diabetes and Asthma patients could all be hit by the new affordability criteria which means that drugs that cost the NHS more than £20m in total each year could be subject to restrictions. Where will it end?

Social Care underfunding. Is it fair?

Though Councils have been authorised to increase council tax by 3% to fund social care, and many have, they are struggling to get to grips with meeting costs and delivering adequate care. They have resorted to passing on funding costs to those who pay for their own care. The Commons and Local Government Committee (CLGC) found that 96% of those who pay for their own care were being charged 43% more on average than state funded residents in the same home.

Private providers are battling to cover costs and have been “pushed to the brink of financial viability”. This has led to a postcode lottery where those needing care in poorer areas are less likely to be subsidised by richer residents. There is a deepening concern that in more than a quarter of care homes services provision is inadequate, with poorly trained workforces and 24% of carers administering medication despite not being trained to do so. Some 27% of the workforce had no Dementia Care training. The CLGC has called on the government to consider ring fencing levies from income tax or introducing a compulsory social insurance scheme. We oppose this. The NPC position on funding social care is clear. **Social Care to be funded through general taxation and free at the point of delivery as in health care delivery.**

Age UK Lambeth intergenerational project.

In recent years Age UK Lambeth has developed links with two primary schools (Rosendale and Lark Hall) and has established pilot intergenerational projects where school children are regularly visiting and interacting with older people’s groups and have opportunities to share their experiences and skills e.g. playing board games, arts and crafts and joining in with gentle exercises at The Healthy Living Club and Peabody Community Centre for over 60’s Club. Both schools are also keen to share their skills and get involved with different school clubs. If you have a skill which you would like to share with school children or want to be a volunteer primary school reader please **contact Cathi on 0207 346 6800.**

Date for your diary: Committee Meeting, Monday 8 May, Manor Court