



www.willowlane.org.uk

Welcome from Dave Dadds

Welcome to the first of our Newsletters which will be issued three times a year.



The Newsletter will aim to keep businesses on the estate informed of what is happening with the BID but also any wider issues that could have an impact on you and your employees.

The Willow BID has now been up and running since July 2009 and as you will see in more detail in the articles below, work is progressing in achieving the objectives that were part of the BID Proposal.

One of the key areas identified in the survey of the businesses prior to the BID vote was the ongoing issues of crime and fly tipping on the estate. To address this problem, the largest single investment by the BID has been in updating and improving the CCTV system and to continue to work with the police and local council enforcement officers to help address these issues.

The Willow BID Board will continue to strive to improve conditions on the estate and would welcome any suggestions or proposals that could assist us in achieving this.

CCTV

Since the BID was established, the old CCTV system has been extended and improved. This has been funded from the BID levy, and a £15k grant from the London Development Agency.

There are now 16 cameras in total, and this includes 2 Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras covering the exit and entrance to the estate.



New monitoring and recording equipment has also been set up in the office in Connect House.

The Police and the environmental enforcement officers regularly ask for CCTV recordings of incidents that happen and we are able to download these onto a disc which can be used as evidence in any prosecutions.

Estate Signage

An ongoing problem for some visitors to the estate has been confusion and lack of direction in identifying their destination on the Willow Estate. This is due to many individual estates and the set up of the addresses.



In an effort to make it easier, Willow BID has agreed with the Council to take over the large sign at the entrance to the estate and install a map dividing the estate into 4/5 areas, with a different colour for each one.

Coloured signs will be put up on buildings and lampposts to show the borders of each area. This should help in identifying where businesses are located.



Willow Lane Bridge Closure



As most of you are aware, this bridge has now been

closed since 2004 due to a structural weakness. The Willow Action Group, and now Willow BID, has consistently lobbied to get this bridge repaired and the access road opened. The reason for the delay in getting this matter resolved has been that the ownership

has been in dispute between Transport for London and Network Rail. It centres around the fact that the bridge stands on land owned by TfL, but the structure was not transferred over when the line was converted from a railway to the tramline.

Recently, the BID has had meetings with Council Officers from LB Merton, our local Councillor and MP in an effort

to get their support in getting this matter resolved.

A legal mediation meeting was held in May between both parties, and a further meeting has been planned to take place with our Member of Parliament, which will also include representatives from LB Merton and Willow BID.



News from Merton Chamber of Commerce

GO GREEN PLUS is delivered by Merton Chamber of Commerce

and sponsored by six South London boroughs to assist businesses to help reduce energy costs, increase recycling and reduce waste going to landfill. There are now six businesses on Willow Lane benefitting from this free environmental business advice - Autobelles, Aztec Event Services, D T Moving, Farmiloes, Setsquare Staging and Shelley Engineering.

If any other business would like to find out more information, please contact: Mark Parker - **020 8947 0055** or email mark@mccbussolutions.co.uk

THE FINANCE BROKERAGE service, delivered by Merton Chamber of Commerce, has now raised over £250k for local business. Charles Noyce, Director of CN Recruitment in Wimbledon Park, said "I would recommend the service from Merton Chamber of Commerce. They were able to structure a viable finance proposal from the information I provided and put me in contact with a local bank manager who understood my business and quickly agreed and arranged the finance I needed."

Finance Brokerage is a free service part funded by the European Regional Development Fund. Call our helpline **020 8619 0700** to get started.

Events

Fire Warden/Marshal Training
28th September

Awareness & Introduction to ISO14001
6th October

Emergency First Aid at Work
12th October

To book, call **020 8944 5501** or visit www.mertonchamber.co.uk

Police Safer Neighbourhood Team

The new base for the Cricket Green and Figges Marsh Safer Neighbourhood Teams are now located at 246/248 London Road, Mitcham, opposite the White Lion Pub.

To report a crime contact 0300 123 1212. The Cricket Green number is 020 8649 3576 or in an emergency 999.

At the recent SNT meeting, the crime figures for the Ward had been reduced in the areas of burglary and thefts from motor vehicles, however these issues will still remain a priority for the ward.

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