

## **Councillor update for Tanner's Hill TRA, Cllr. Sophie McGeevor, 27.11.17**

Tonight's meeting clashes with the Brockley Labour Party hustings where members will vote for the Labour Party candidates for next year's local elections. Thanks to all the residents who have got in touch with me about various issues in the last couple of months. I'm sorry I can't be with you tonight.

### **Cockroaches Pitman House**

On Saturday 11th November, with the help of local Labour party members, Vicky Foxcroft MP and I, spoke to residents on the Tanners Hill estate and neighbouring streets about issues that they were concerned about. In Pitman House a couple of residents raised the issue a cockroach infestation which was believed to have stemmed from one flat which was kept in a very poor state and from which the tenant has now been evicted/left of their own accord and which is now boarded up. Residents felt that it was unfair of Lewisham Homes to charge them for extermination, in light of the above.

I wrote to Jon Kanareck at Lewisham Homes about this issue. He noted that:

*'Lewisham homes only carry out treatment to the whole block when the majority of properties are affected. The first report we received in respect of Cockroaches was in August this year so to determine the level of infestation, we instructed the Councils Pest Control Team to carry out a survey of each property on 29 August.'*

*The survey was completed on 25 September and of the twenty five residents who responded, only seven properties had a problem.'*

The above shows the importance of responding to such surveys.

In response to my request another survey will run from the beginning of this week for four weeks. If you have a cockroach issue please respond to this survey and encourage your neighbours to respond too.

### **Opus Energy: poor communication of new system and higher bills.**

When we spoke to residents on the 11<sup>th</sup> November they complained that the new system of energy bills had been poorly communicated. Residents now have to pay the energy provider (Opus) directly for their energy, rather than via Lewisham Homes through their service charge. I raised this issue with Lewisham Homes and asked them to clarify the new system with residents and make sure that it actually worked. Since that time there have been complaints that the bills sent to residents are much higher than previous bills. I understand that all effected residents should receive a letter in the coming days from Adam Barnett, Director of resources at Lewisham Homes who advises *not to pay any bills* from Opus Energy until this matter is resolved by Lewisham Homes and Opus Energy.

### **Antisocial behaviour**

There are ongoing issues of anti-social behaviour on the Tanners Hill estate, particularly drug dealing and open drug use. I know that drug paraphernalia (needs and spoons) were recently found in the Pitman