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NEW CENTRE FOR TEENS

★ A new £3.5 million youth centre is to be built in Sydenham equipped with state-of-the-art facilities including a training kitchen, recording studio, youth theatre and a dance studio. The England-wide government scheme 'myspace' awarded funding for the centre from a bid submitted by local teenagers and backed by Mayor of Lewisham, Sir Steve Bullock. The scheme exists to improve the lives of young people through positive activities. Lewisham was one of three London boroughs to win funding.

When built, the new youth centre will open from 9am to 10pm seven days

a week, and will provide a safe place for young people to do activities such as horticulture, graffiti art, football, basketball and skateboarding. It will also offer help and advice on issues such as finance, sexual health and housing as well as opportunities into education, employment and training.

Partners working with the Council to help deliver the project include the Rio Ferdinand Foundation and the Stephen Lawrence Centre.

Sir Steve Bullock said: 'I was very impressed by the passion and dedication of the young people from Sydenham

who asked me to support the application. The fact that they worked so hard with the Council to produce a successful bid that will help strengthen their community is testament to that.'



Dancing and other youth activities will be available

FOREST HILL POOLS UPDATE

★ A planning application for the redevelopment of Forest Hill Pools should be submitted by May by the design team, led by architects Roberts Limbrick. The team is currently consulting with the Forest Hill Pools stakeholder group, as well as local schools and disabled users. Work will begin in 2011 with the aim of reopening the pools in late 2012. For the latest information on progress, see www.lewisham.gov.uk/foresthillpools or join the Forest Hill Pools email group by emailing foresthillpools@lewisham.gov.uk.

REGEN PROPOSALS WAIT FOR APPROVAL

★ Well over 1,000 residents and businesses visited an exhibition between October and December showing the Council's proposals to rejuvenate Sydenham's high street (from Cobbs Corner to Mayow Road). It also showed the options for redesigning Sydenham Station Approach. The aim of the proposals is to create a more pleasant environment for pedestrians and shoppers without adversely affecting the flow of traffic.

The designs, as well as the proposals for funding, will be considered by

Lewisham's Mayor and Cabinet and if agreed the next stage will be for the Council to approach Transport for London for over £3 million to implement the scheme. The Council also intends to use its own funds of £300,000 to upgrade Station Approach, and is currently in discussion with Transport for London, Network Rail and London Overground about the proposals.

Feedback from the exhibition and the business survey are available at www.lewisham.gov.uk/sydenhamhighstreet and can be seen in Sydenham Library.