



THE WEST CHISWICK & GUNNERSBURY SOCIETY

Residents Meeting: 13th November, 2017

MINUTES

In Attendance:	Marie Rabouhans	(Chairman)
	Adam O'Neill	(Vice-Chairman)
	Don Osborne	(Secretary)
	Charlotte Aldridge	(Treasurer)
	Rob Hare	(Webmaster)
	Bud Murryweather	(Management Committee)
	Nic Atkinson	(Management Committee)
	Veronica Hunt-Lewis	(Management Committee)
	Sarah Thorn	(Management Committee)
	Terry Thorn	(Management Committee)

1. Apologies and Welcome

Apologies were received from Anna Rumian, Felicity Proctor, Ruth Mayorcas, Lin Sagovsky, Moyna Leithead, Marie Kerr and Dave Lewis

2. Guest Speaker

Chris Sumner, former Chairman of the London Parks & Gardens Trust, gave an illustrated talk on "Some West London Gardens and the Work of the LPGT".

Members much enjoyed the visual reminders of how many wonderful parks and gardens we have in West London and learning more about their history and development.

The Chairman thanked Chris to applause from the audience.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Residents Meeting on 3rd July, 2017 were accepted as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters Arising (not elsewhere on the Agenda)

• Empire House

New proposals for a neighbouring site on the High Road (396- 400 CHR) were to be discussed at the Chiswick Area Forum on 14th November.

There is a lot of speculation about the development of the wider area, but nothing concrete has emerged.

• Football Stadium

The reduction in size and redesign of the stadium is accompanied by some design changes to the residential units. It is not clear what difference this will make to the harm that will be caused to the surrounding heritage and residential communities by the height and mass of the tower blocks. It appears from the information we have that there may be slightly less harm or, at least, no significant increase in harm. The Chairman would be submitting Society comment shortly. [Comments were submitted and applications are to be presented at Planning Committee on 7 December.]

5. Update on Planning Issues: Building Development

- **Chiswick Curve**

The Public Inquiry on the appeal will start on Tuesday, June 12th, 2018 and is likely to take up to three weeks. The Society, together with other resident groups, is working with the Council to support the Council's case. The Chairman emphasised that it would be important for there to be a good attendance by Members at the Inquiry. More information would be made available in due course.

- **8 Power Road**

Comments had been sent indicating that the Society was pleased that an existing business wished to remain and expand and that it therefore supported their wish to renovate and extend their current premises in Power Road. While we would not object, in principle, to the addition of a two-storey roof extension, such a significant increase in the height of the building required very careful attention to the design, especially of the front elevation and the materials used. The current proposals were insensitive to the surroundings and would have a negative impact on the building and on the street scene.

- **The Building (office block next to the Gunnersbury pub)**

There is an application for change of use of the ground floor of this building from office to retail. A Co-op local store is proposed. Members welcomed this possibility but agreed that attention should be given to the aspects of access and deliveries. Members were aware of the heavy peak-hour pedestrian traffic along this section of pavement and across the access road shared by the Building and the Gunnersbury pub and its associated flats and houses. They hoped that satisfactory arrangements could be made.

6. The Local Plan

- **Great West Corridor**

As noted in the paper circulated to Members, there is an ongoing consultation with a deadline for replies of 10th December. Some of the key issues were discussed and, while the Chairman would be submitting the Society's response, residents were urged to send in their comments. It was agreed that major development should not be permitted unless the provision of the necessary infrastructure, especially public transport, was guaranteed. The proposed policies would be the subject of a Public Inquiry and would eventually be incorporated into the Local Plan, so it was important that residents made their views known.

- **Brentford East**

Members noted that, as the Great West Corridor Local Plan Review was at a relatively early stage in the plan making process, interim guidance was being proposed as a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) for the area from Kew Bridge station to, and around, the Chiswick Roundabout; it included Power Road. It envisages a "Gateway Building" on the triangular site at the junction of the A406 (North Circular Road) and the A4/M4.

It is not clear why we need a "Gateway", but it was noted that the draft SPD specified a maximum height of 60 metres which was approximately half the height of the Chiswick Curve.

The deadline for comment on the draft SPD was also 10 December. Members agreed to examine the documents and send in their comments, supporting the Council, where appropriate. The draft SPD was available on the Council's website.

8. Green Up Gunnersbury Campaign

The Chairman introduced the Committee's proposal for a campaign to encourage residents and businesses to take pride in their neighbourhood and become more actively involved in making Gunnersbury a greener, healthier place to be. It was intended to launch the campaign next year.

One element of the campaign would be a **Green Up Gunnersbury garden competition** designed to reverse the trend towards paving over front gardens and encourage residents to make their front garden green instead. There would be two categories of entry – individual front garden and community/shared front garden (eg blocks of flats or street) and entry would be open to any individual, family or group living within the WCGS area. 1st and 2nd prizes would be awarded in both categories. It was intended to launch the competition in Spring 2018. Members welcomed the initiative and agreed to spread the word.

Terry and Sally Thorn offered to donate a prize. The Chairman emphasized that the competition was intended to be a fun project that everyone can take part in, not only keen gardeners. If it focused attention on our front gardens and led to a more attractive and biodiverse street scene then everyone would be a winner.

Other elements of the overall campaign would include encouraging local businesses within our area to green up their frontages and working with the Council, Hounslow Highways and other organisations on the greening and improvement to the public realm. As an example, officers had recently made a bid for some local CIL funds for some street planters and had met with TfL to discuss tree planting on Gunnersbury Avenue once the Power Road Bridge works were completed. A new section of the Society's website would be devoted to the campaign. Members were invited to discuss the initiative with friends and neighbours and provide the Committee with any ideas.

9. Any Other Business

- **Air Quality Action Plan** is out for consultation by 17th December. Details on the Council website under Consultations.
- **Locally Listed Buildings.** In the New Year we shall be asked to nominate buildings and structures in our area that we consider to be worthy of local listing. A preliminary review by the Committee had shown that there were many such buildings within our area of interest. We would need to provide details and justification for each nomination. This would require research. The Chairman called for Members to volunteer to help in this important work. She suggested that an informal working group of such volunteers could meet early in the New Year.

- **Cycle Super Highway 9 (CS9).** Members were aware of the strength of feelings (both for and against) the CS9 proposals within Chiswick. In light of discussion of earlier traffic-calming proposals for Wellesley Road and Stile Hall Gardens, Members appreciated why no Society response had been submitted to TfL on CS9. Once TfL had considered the consultation results, modified proposals might well be made that would resolve some of the issues raised. Any such modified proposals would be brought to Members' attention and, if appropriate, a Society response prepared.

- **Tree-dressing Day. December 3rd.**

Marie invited people to meet her outside the new cafe in Gunnersbury Park to celebrate Tree Dressing Day. [An invitation with details has been extended to all members by e-mail.]

- **Society Social Evening.** Members were invited to join the Committee on Monday 11th December, at 7.30 pm in the Gunnersbury pub.

10. Next Meetings

Annual General Meeting: Monday 5th February, 2018 7.30 pm

Signed by the Chairman:

Date: