



## THE WEST CHISWICK & GUNNERSBURY SOCIETY

*[www.westchiswickgs.org.uk](http://www.westchiswickgs.org.uk)*

### Annual Report for 2022

#### 1. Meetings

This year we were able to hold an in-person AGM in February and one public meeting in October when we were pleased to welcome a speaker from the American University in London. Management Committee meetings were held in January, April, August and November.

#### 2. Activities of the Society

The Society is active in a number of spheres affecting the quality of life of Members including **planning** (building development and planning policy), and **environment** (streets, traffic and public transport) and **citizen engagement**. We respond to Council consultations or, alternatively, we initiate activities. We also regularly encourage our Members to get involved in these consultations.

The Society is an active participant in the Residents' Association Forum, alongside other residents' organisations, civic and amenity societies within the Borough many of which, like WCGS, are members of the informal grouping G15+. We work with fellow G15+ members on issues of mutual concern. We attend meetings of the Chiswick Area Forum and also participate in specific-issue groups such as the Gunnersbury Station Action Team (GSAT) and the Brentford FC Community Group (BFCCG) concerning the Brentford Football Stadium. Most of these groups held meetings during the year which we attended. We attended, and will continue to attend, quarterly meetings with Chiswick Business Park to discuss events and other issues of concern to local residents.

Our Management Committee scrutinises the Council's list of new planning applications and its Pending Decision List week by week and takes action, submitting comments etc. on relevant items. We work with the Council's planning officers, other interested bodies, residents and amenity groups and, when possible, with the developers themselves. The Society is also represented at various meetings of the Hounslow Planning Committee, Inspector's Inquiries, etc. when matters affecting our Members' interests are being decided.

As well as watching out for residents' interests in these planning matters, the Society is also active in promoting the more positive aspects of life on our patch, such as a sense of place and history and in improving those amenities which make life here more enjoyable.

### **3. Planning Issues**

We keep an eye on relatively small developments such as house extensions including basements, shop fronts etc. and respond on those that would have a negative impact on our Conservation Areas or on residents' quality of life. In addition, there are always some very large developments that could have a profound impact on all our lives. Planning issues that we have been monitoring during the year are:

- **2 Thorney Hedge Road**

We have objected to three applications to build in the garden at this residential address. The third application was refused in 2022 and a robust Planning Officer's report published. This is a good example of how inappropriate building can overcrowd and disrupt a residential area. We hope that no appeal will be made.

- **Gunnersbury Close, Oxford Court and Beaconsfield Close**

A 'Small Sites' plan has been adopted by the Council to develop Affordable housing on parking and garage sites on council-owned land. These three sites are in our area. We continue to monitor the applications for these sites. An application has been submitted for part of the Beaconsfield Close development and small changes made to the Oxford Court one. We will continue to monitor these projects for quality and to try and ensure that current residents are not seriously disadvantaged.

- **Holly House**

This is the latest application on this site at the Chiswick Roundabout following The Pinnacle, The Citadel, The Octopus and The Curve Holly House is a 90 metre (24-storey) building. The Chairman submitted comments on behalf of the Society in February. There was no progress on the application until November when new documentation from the developer was published on the Council website. This included amendments to the plan such as a change to the façade but for the most part there were no major changes. There remain concerns about the quality of the accommodation, especially the serious shortfall in, and poor quality of, the amenity space. Further Society comments were submitted. The application has been recommended for approval by council planners and will be submitted to the Planning Committee in January 2023.

- **266-270 Gunnersbury Avenue Shurgard site**

The Chairman submitted comments on the size and unsightly nature of this building which failed to respect the relatively fine grain and intricate character of the Power Road industrial estate. Despite our objections this application was approved and demolition/construction is underway.

### **4. Planning: Policy**

- **Local Plan Review: Great West Corridor (GWC)**

There have been no further sessions of the Examination in Public of the two Local Plan Reviews started in November 2021. The Council has consulted on the submission version of the Local Plan Review of the Great West Corridor and it is clear from letters from the EiP Inspectors that the Council is a very long way off being able to adopt either of the Local Plan Reviews.

- **Local Plan Review: West of Borough; Greenbelt**

The Council is looking to de-designate Greenbelt land in the west of the borough to provide land for housing and for logistics for Heathrow Airport. The Society, has joined with other interested groups to oppose these proposals and a joint letter has been sent seeking support from our local MPs.

## 6. Street Environment

- **Green Up Gunnersbury Campaign**

We organised a litter pick in May and although the turnout was disappointing a good deal of litter was collected along the High Road in our patch.

The Meanwhile Garden has been increased with the help and participation of the Chiswick Flower Market organisers. The garden was kept watered during the extreme heat and the drought of the summer through the heroic efforts of some Committee members and volunteers. Spring bulbs were planted in the autumn and we look forward to that potentially rather bleak section of the high road being bright and welcoming after the winter.

## 7. Social Activities

We celebrated the Society's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Annual General Meeting in February. The Chairman described the foundation and the development of the Society over the period of its existence, from campaigning against the demolition of the parade of shops, the Gunnersbury pub and other buildings on the Chiswick High Road to make way for massive residential schemes to the listing and protection of locally interesting buildings. The information gleaned from our research into local buildings led to the organisation of a local history walk in May to discuss the history of Power Road and look at some of the interesting buildings, especially the two included in the Local List, following nomination by the Society.

## 8. Society Officers and Management Committee

The Honorary Officers elected at the Annual General Meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2022 were:

Chairman	Marie Rabouhans	(Silver Crescent)
Vice Chairman	Adam O'Neill	(Cambridge Road North)
Treasurer	Charlotte Aldridge	(Thorney Hedge Road)
Secretary	Kate Vicic	(Grosvenor Road)

The following Members were elected or re-elected to the Management Committee:

Robert Hare	(Grosvenor Road)
Terry Thorn	(Thorney Hedge Road)
Don Osborne	(Arlington Gardens)
Paul Hayler	(Stilehall Gardens)

All of the Honorary Officers and Management Committee members will offer themselves for re-election at the AGM on February 20<sup>th</sup> 2023.

**Any Member who would like more information about serving on the committee should approach the Secretary. We are especially eager to bring younger people onto the Committee.**

## **9. Membership**

Membership currently stands at 65 paid-up Members.

The Secretary WCGS  
Flat 3, Kenilworth House  
9a Grosvenor Road  
London W4 4EJ

## **Treasurer's report**

The Society continues to be solvent. Subscription income increased over the previous year's level due to the standardisation of the subscription rate at £10.00 p.a. No donations have been made this year. Bank charges are now being incurred from our bankers, both for account management and transaction fees.

### **Treasurer's Annual Statement for 2022 As at 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2022**

#### **DAY-TO-DAY ACCOUNT**

**Opening balance (brought forward from 2021):** **£1503.23**

#### **INCOME**

Membership subscriptions	645.00
Donations from members	(see note*)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>645.00</b>

#### **EXPENDITURE**

Venue Hire	216.00
Refreshments (2022 AGM)	00.00
Postage/Stationery	14.40
Subscriptions (HACAN, London Forum)	35.00
Website	(see note **)
Bank charges	71.54

**Total Expenditure** **336.94**

**Closing Balance (carried forward to 2023):** **£1811.29**

*\*Cash donations (£26,00) from Oct event currently held as petty cash. AGM donations paid into C and C account.*

*\*\*One payment dated 28.11 for £15.00 (website renewal) not yet debited from a/c.*

#### **CAMPAIGNS AND CONSERVATION ACCOUNT**

**Opening balance (brought forward from 2021):** **£288.75**

#### **INCOME**

Cash donations from members (AGM)	80.00
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## EXPENDITURE

Bank charges	60.72
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<b>Closing balance (carried forward to 2023)</b>	<b>£308.03</b>
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## NOTE ON AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

The accounts kept by the Treasurer are reconciled against monthly statements issued by the Society's banker, HSBC, together with other relevant records. The Society's constitution requires that the financial records and the Treasurer's Annual Statement be examined by 2 Members of the Society who shall provide signed statements that they are satisfied as to their accuracy. We are grateful to WCGS members Richard Vinter and Chris Jenks for carrying out this duty.

Charlotte Aldridge, Honorary Treasurer      January 2023

## Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2023 are due by the AGM on **February 20th**. The subscription fee remains at £10.00 per annum.

Cheques should be made out to West Chiswick & Gunnersbury Society (or WCGS) and sent (or delivered) **with a completed Membership Application form** to:

WCGS Secretary,  
Flat 3, Kenilworth House,  
9A Grosvenor Road, London W4 4EJ

Subs can also be paid by Standing Order :

Our bank is HSBC Sort Code 40-02-13

Account No. 51399306 The West Chiswick & Gunnersbury Society

Please give your name as the Reference.

However you decide to pay, please **fill in and return the membership form**. This helps us keep track of Members' contact details.