



THE WEST CHISWICK & GUNNERSBURY SOCIETY

Public Meeting: 6th October 2025
Held at Age Concern Hall, Chiswick W4
At 7.30 pm

MINUTES

In Attendance:	Marie Rabouhans	(Chair)
	Adam O'Neill	(Vice-Chair)
	Charlotte Aldridge	(Treasurer)
	Kate Vicic	(Secretary)
	Paul Hayler	(Management Committee)

Together with Councillor Joanna Biddolph and 14 members and residents.

1. Apologies and Welcome:

- The Chair welcomed the members, residents and councillors. Apologies were received from Jan Hewlett, Robert Eagle, Don Osborne, Robert Hare and Ruth Mayorcas.

2. Minutes:

- The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Monday 10th February 2025 (available on website: www.westchiswickgs.org) were reviewed with no requests for amendment and will be formally adopted at the next AGM.

3. Matters Arising (not elsewhere on the agenda):

- The Chair noted that we had held a very enjoyable Summer Social at the Pilot Pub in August.

4. Update on current planning issues

The Chair raised the following:

- **250 Gunnersbury Avenue:** This large storage unit has now been approved and a proposal for a large (25m from ground, 2m high and 20m long), high level illuminated sign on three sides of the building has been submitted (P/2025/2775). There is concern about it being visible from residential areas nearby. Councillor Biddolph asked whether the proposal includes the sign being switched off late at night. The Chair will check planning application details.
- **496-498 Chiswick High Road:** This is a proposed dog “wellness” centre. The original signage proposal for large dog images as big as the windows (P/2025/1731) was withdrawn and one for a more appropriate and subtle design submitted (P/2025/2692). The centre has gone ahead with adding the designs before approval of the application. Councillor Biddolph brought up concern from residents in

Chiswick Road, behind the centre, about noisy air-conditioning units. Parking is another potential problem as there is no legal space by the centre. We will follow this to see if there are issues in the future.

- **Chiswick Business Park: Roof plant:** The park is now 25 years old and is consequently doing some remedial and refurbishment work. New decking has been installed and the roof plant is due to be replaced by “greener” machinery. There is concern from Silver Crescent residents about the noise level of the plant as the assessment shows that, even new, the plant is just within or is at the limits. As it ages it could get noisier. The Chair will send the WCGS comments to Cllr. Biddolph asking for this application to be called in.
- **Local Plan:** The Local Plan has now been submitted to the Secretary of State. The Chair has said that she would like to participate in the Examination in Public for which no date has yet been set although it is expected to be early next year. She will raise the issues around Gunnersbury station. Another major issue of concern in the Local Plan is the de-designation of Hatton Fields as Green Belt land to allow the building of logistics (storage) facilities. Hatton Fields is close to Heathrow Airport; it is a valued green space much used by local residents. The Friends of Hatton Fields are very active.

5. Gunnersbury Station/Chiswick Tower:

We sent our comments in June and they are available on our website. It seems that progress has been made in identifying the land required for station expansion and an outline solution to providing both stairs and lift. TfL and National Rail are not making encouraging sounds about funding and timescales. Their comments are posted under the application. TfL is expecting the developer to carry out a detailed feasibility study and require more information before they can fully assess the requirements. National Rail only says there is no available funding for the foreseeable future. The Chair has sought help from our London Assembly member, Gareth Roberts. Having a ballpark figure for adding a lift and a staircase to the station would be very useful. She has also asked Matthew Rees and Rob Heslop for an update as there are no more comments from statutory consultees posted on the application. She has asked when they expect the application to go to Planning Committee. An assessment in 2021 of the costs of building the widely promoted West London Orbital Line was between £430 million and £610 million. The Chair suggested that improving an existing station rather than embarking on a hugely expensive new project makes more sense. Meanwhile the “back-up” Prior Approval application (PAC/2025/0749) to convert the building to provide 181 residential units was approved in May and the developer has now submitted an application (P/2025/2545) to change the cladding and the windows. There was a question from the floor about the status of future work on the two car parks. The Chair said that some of the space there will be used during the work on the Tower and potentially the station improvements. Once work on the Tower (Phase 1) is completed the developer will presumably want to go ahead with a plan for the car park spaces (Phases 2 and 3). This would require new planning applications. Our concerns include the continuing access to the back entrance of the station and illumination on

the paths which, for the path that runs along the eastern car park, come from car park lights. The developer has asked TfL for a loading bay on Chiswick High Road. TfL consider that this will be difficult to impossible to accommodate together with the bus stops in front of the Tower.

6. **Conservation: Local List:** We have enthusiastically contributed to previous calls for suggestions, one in 2019 and one in 2024. The latest List has been published but doesn't have the entry identifiers (area letter(s) plus consecutive number) that the previous, much smaller, one had. There are 79 pages of Chiswick entries and without reference numbers it is very hard to find a specific item if one needs to for checking the status of a building or for promoting our heritage. A request for information about this elicited the response that reference numbers aren't necessary.
7. Nearly all the items we nominated have been included. Indeed, items suggested by other contributors for items that are not only recent but hard to imagine as heritage assets are also included. The Chair had queried the inclusion of the advertising towers on the M4 elevated section above the Chiswick Roundabout, and these have been withdrawn. The Vice-chairman suggested that the collators of the Local List are very aware of making the List relevant to younger people so that they feel that it is not just about Victorian or Edwardian architecture. Cllr. Biddolph asked the Society's view on the use and importance of the Local List. She said that even if planners should take inclusion on the List into consideration many developers can go ahead with plans without reference to it. The Vice-chairman said that if an application gets to appeal stage inclusion on the List can be a useful reference but Cllr. Biddolph asked whether, if conservation guidelines are being ignore, why would anyone take notice of the List? Planners are know to overturn conservation concerns for "public benefit".
8. **Weed control:** The second round of weed control is due to be carried out in our area later this month. The Chair encouraged residents to keep their roads weed-free. Areas without weeds will not be sprayed with glyphosate and there is no longer a requirement to let the Council know in advance of spraying.
9. **Met Police:** There is a new online platform called Met Engage which both disseminates and gathers information useful to the local community about crime and other police matters. Information about it and a link to the site will be sent to members. On the subject of police, it was noted that our MP, Andy Slaughter, is very concerned that if the Hammersmith police station closes there will be one in Acton but no other for miles.
10. **The next public meeting:** This will be the AGM in February 2026. The exact date will be notified later by email. In the meantime, there will be a Winter Social at 7.30pm on Tuesday 9th December 2025 at the Gunnersbury pub on Chiswick High Road. A message will be sent to members a little nearer the time.
11. **AOB:**
 - A member asked about how to best mobilise against the potential third runway at Heathrow Airport. The chair referred her to the most active and effective group which is HACAN of which we are a member. They are experienced and

have clout. Our current and former MPs are both very active against the scheme.

- The Chiswick Area Forum (CAF) will meet on Monday 13th October. The venue has changed from the Town Hall to St Michael and All Angels in Bedford Park. Subjects on the Agenda include the Chiswick Flower Market and e-bikes.
- It is understood that Gunnersbury Park Café is due to open soon. The Chair also told us about a new memorial to humanitarian aid workers that has been located in the park.
- There was a question from the floor about the status of Chiswick Town Hall. It is very run down and has an air of neglect. Cllr. Biddolph said that she and others are trying to get repairs done. It is Grade II listed and requires considerable work but there is not much money available.

Signed by the Chair:

Date: