



THE WEST CHISWICK & GUNNERSBURY SOCIETY

Ms Sophia Connolly
Gunnersbury Park Project Officer
London Borough of Ealing
Perceval House 1st Floor SW
14-16 Uxbridge Road
Ealing W5 2HL

Mr Terence Thorn
28 Thorney Hedge Road
Chiswick
London W4 5SD
23 February 2012

Gunnersbury Park Regeneration

Dear Ms Connolly,

I am writing on behalf of the West Chiswick and Gunnersbury Society (WCGS) to express the Society's support for the current regeneration project for Gunnersbury Park being managed jointly by the London Boroughs of Hounslow and Ealing. As our name suggests, we are keen to put Gunnersbury on the map. Sharing that name with a vibrant, regenerated park and museum would be a real source of inspiration and pride. Many of us love the park and have been saddened to watch its deterioration over the years. We welcome this real attempt to restore it to its proper status as a valuable public amenity and realize the full potential of its unique combination of historic buildings and landscape, its natural habitats and its municipal park and sports facilities.

WCGS is a democratic non-party political organisation whose aim is to act as a voice for the residents of West Chiswick and Gunnersbury (within the London Borough of Hounslow). The Society aims to protect and, where possible, enhance the quality of life of the residents of the West Chiswick and Gunnersbury area. The Society is just over 10 years old and currently has about 120 members. Its public meetings are open to both members and non-members. Our website provides further information:
<http://www.westchiswick.org.uk>.

Many of our members live fairly close to Gunnersbury Park and the Society takes a keen interest in the park. It was one of the subjects of discussion with our MP, Mary Macleod, when she attended our public meeting in September 2011. This was followed up by an invitation to me to meet both Mary and Angie Bray, the MP for Ealing, at the Houses of Parliament. This meeting took place in October and was attended by Marie Rabouhans, on behalf of the Society, and by James Wisdom, Chairman of the Friends of Gunnersbury Park. Both MPs pledged their support for the restoration
<http://www.chiswickw4.com/default.asp?section=info&spage=common/congunnsprk033.htm>

More recently, Richard Gill and Jan Anderson gave a presentation on the regeneration project and answered members' questions at a well-attended AGM on 13 February. Marie Rabouhans, WCGS Vice-chairman, is an active member of the Gunnersbury Park

Community Advisory Panel (established last July) with a particular interest in nature conservation and landscape. She provides an important channel of communication between the regeneration team and residents within our area.

We understand that the complete regeneration will need to be phased and that, while certain repairs and restoration are urgent, other aspects will need to wait. Provided the regeneration is guided by the overall vision of a robust Master Plan, managed by a dedicated team and fully supported by both councils, we are confident that it will succeed in delivering a wonderful end result. This first phase of the regeneration will produce very significant improvements which will, in turn, generate enthusiasm and support for later phases.

I am sure that as the regeneration gets under way members of the Society and other local residents will be keen to get involved in different aspects of the project. Gunnersbury Park has evolved over centuries — like it, we are in it for the long haul.

Yours sincerely,

Don Osborne
Secretary
West Chiswick and Gunnersbury Society

Copy: Richard Gill, Gunnersbury Park Development and Regeneration Manager
WCGS Terry Thorn, Chairman; Marie Rabouhans, Vice-chairman