



THE WEST CHISWICK & GUNNERSBURY SOCIETY
www.westchiswickgs.org.uk

Annual Report for 2025

1. Meetings

This year we held two public meetings: the AGM in February and one public meeting in October.

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 networks with 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. 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:

- **Holly House:**

This application was recommended for approval in 2023 and construction was due to begin in 2025 but there is no sign of that, so far.

- **Chiswick Business Park roof plant:**

The Business Park is now 25 years old and some refurbishment and renewal is underway. The roof plant is due to be replaced by "greener" machinery. Our concern is that the forecasted noise level of the new machinery is only just within acceptable limits. The Chair spoke at the Planning Committee meeting where she was able to highlight the potential for noise pollution. Once the plant is in place it will be possible to evaluate the real noise level but it will be more difficult to mitigate any noise pollution by retrofitting of sound insulation.

- **Council estate infill developments:**

Of the four developments of blocks of flats on land occupied by garages adjacent to local authority housing two have been completed but there is, as yet, no action in Beaconsfield Close.

- **Travelodge Hotel:**

This hotel is now up and running and has a parking space for a disabled user. A delivery service plan is in use with specific timings for deliveries.

- **Chiswick Tower/Gunnersbury Station:**

This application and the associated potential for desperately needed improvements to Gunnersbury Station have taken up much of our time this year. After visiting the Tower to meet representatives of the developers early in the year, we submitted our detailed comments on the application in June. **Our focus throughout has been on the station improvements and the Chair has been in regular contact with other stakeholders and with our MP, Andy Slaughter.** The Chair spoke at the Planning Committee meeting at Hounslow in December where the plan for the development of 394 co-living units was approved. Her presentation is published on our website together with a link to the YouTube video of the committee's discussion. While we are pleased that the land needed for expansion of the station has been identified and will be safeguarded within the Legal Agreement, we are dismayed that TfL and Network Rail suggested 25 years as a reasonable time-frame. We recognise that amassing sufficient funding is the main impediment to delivering the necessary station improvements and our plea is that the Council commit to allocating some Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding. Following the planning meeting a "Letter to Shanta" (Shantanu Rajawat, Leader of the Hounslow Council) was sent in the name of the Gunnersbury Groundlings in the run up to Christmas. This was reported in the local press. <https://chiswickcalendar.co.uk/a-message-to-shanta-from-the-residents-of-west-chiswick/> We will keep up the pressure and hope that "Shanta" follows up on our requests.

- **Other Planning**

We have continued to keep an eye on other local planning applications. For example, we sent comments on applications for extended operational hours for a bar on

Chiswick High Road, excessively large window displays for a shop front, also on the High Road.

4. Planning: Policy

- **Local Plan Review:**

The submission, due early in the year, was delayed but finally submitted in the summer. The examination in public, which we will attend, is due to take place early in 2026.

- **Heathrow Airport 3rd Runway:**

The WCGS support the HACAN (Heathrow Association for the Control of Aircraft Noise) pressure group in its opposition to the third runway. We have encouraged members to inform themselves and express their support for HACAN, if appropriate for them, by writing to our MP and to Councillors.

5. Local List

- Having responded enthusiastically to the call in 2024 for suggestions for additions to the Local List we were pleased that most of our nominations were included in the updated List published in July 2025. We had queried some of the odder inclusions (not our suggestions) such as the M4 advertising towers on the Chiswick Roundabout whose inclusion was withdrawn. We regret that the List no longer includes entry identifiers (area letter(s) plus consecutive number); this will make it difficult to find or make reference to entries.

6. Street Environment

- **Green Up Gunnersbury Campaign:**

We encouraged local residents to examine the weed control that Hounslow planned in our area. This led to some residents mobilising to clear weeds themselves so that the chemical glyphosate would not be used in their street.

- We allocated some funds into improving the Meanwhile Garden near the Chiswick Tower. Some interim planting of bulbs, donated by Abundance and with the help of volunteers from the Good Gym, has been carried out prior to a more extensive overhaul.

- **Met Engage:**

We attended a meeting that was advertised by Met Engage, a new police initiative to inform local residents about local issues. A local Councillor and several local police officers attended to discuss local crime and how to report it.

7. Social Activities

- As in 2024 we organised two social meetings this year. There was a well-attended get-together in the garden of the Pilot pub in August and in December another good turnout enjoyed a social meeting at the Gunnersbury pub. We were pleased to welcome non-members to both and hope they will be encouraged to join us.

8. Evolution of the Society

We will continue to seek to recruit new members by means of local actions, publicity, encouraging members to talk to neighbours about how we follow local issues.

9. Society Officers and Management Committee

The Honorary Officers elected at the Annual General Meeting on 10th February 2025 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) |
| Don Osborne | (Arlington Gardens) |
| Paul Hayler | (Stilehall Gardens) |

All the Honorary Officers and Management Committee members will offer themselves for re-election at the AGM on February 9th, 2026.

Our first Chair and very long-standing committee member, Terry Thorn, stood down at the AGM. He was thanked for his service by the Chair, committee and the members present at the 2025 AGM.

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.

10. Membership

Membership currently stands at 51 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 and subscription income has remained steady. Hall hire fees have increased in the course of this year to £35.00 per hour for the Large Hall and £25.00 p.h. for the Small Hall, but these are still below the published rates. We continue to retain a discrete budget of £350.00 for campaign and conservation activities. We have not made any donations this financial year.

Treasurer's Annual Statement for 2025 As at 31st December, 2025

DAY-TO-DAY ACCOUNT

| | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------|
| Opening balance (brought forward from 2025): | | £2397.22 |
| INCOME | | |
| Membership subscriptions | 570.00 | |
| Donations from members | 45.00 | |
| Total Income | 615.00 | |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Venue Hire | 30.00* | |
| Postage/Stationery/ink | 10.40 | |
| Bank charges | 39.22 | |
| Total Expenditure | 79.62 | |
| Closing Balance (carried forward to 2026) | | £2932.60 |

* Additional hall hire expenses of £100.00 representing 2 further hires during the year have been paid out but not yet debited from our account. The debit will show on our January 2026 statement and therefore be reflected in next year's accounts.

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 2026

Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2026 are due by the AGM on **February 10th**. 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.