



# Churchfield Community Association

## ANNUAL REPORT 2017

### Chair's overview

The CCA has had another good year with membership staying stable and plenty of events and activities for members to enjoy and/or participate in. Since the AGM last November we have continued our involvement with ward forums and neighbourhood forums, and have also continued to represent the CCA in responding to alcohol licence applications. In addition, we hosted a well attended hustings before the surprise General Election in the summer and were pleased that all the candidates attended to answer questions.

The CCA's involvement with issues of public concern, as well as an appreciation of local successes, has shown the value of having an identifiable community group.

The great value of our association lies in bringing people together with a sense of belonging and commitment, and in providing a forum in situations where the community can act as one. Bringing this about has been hard work, but we have also held a range of social events which have been great fun and well attended. Many people have expressed their appreciation of having such a group.

We continue to see many positive developments along Churchfield Road which makes the area more attractive to potential residents and businesses, especially when they discover that we have such a strong engaged community represented by this association.

I would like to thank members old and new, especially those who serve on the Executive, for putting so much effort into improving our part of Acton. Special thanks go to Linda Taylor for her role as Newsletter Editor and to ex committee member Joanna Barrett who stepped down from our organisation to spend more time with CAN Forum. We have a number of vacancies on the committee at present and

would welcome anyone who wants to get more involved. If you are interested in joining our exec committee, please contact me, Chris Hurley, on [actonhurleys@aol.com](mailto:actonhurleys@aol.com).

## **MEMBERSHIP**

As at 31 October 2017 our membership was 203. This includes individuals, households and businesses in Churchfield Road. If your neighbour is not yet a member why not ask them to join? They can do so online here: <http://www.churchfield.org/how-to-join>

## **CONSULTATIONS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**

### **Air Pollution**

After a member contacted us to ask us to take up the issue of cars idling at Acton Central level crossing we contacted the Council in April. Others have been in touch with them too, including parents of children at Ark Byron School. Money has now been found from the Ward Forum for new signs and council officers are obtaining quotes, with the preferred option being electronic signs to go in a more prominent position and come on when the barriers go down.

We also commented to the council on their draft Air Quality Action Plan, welcoming the importance given to making a healthier borough, supporting the achievement of Clean Air Borough status, noting that monitoring showed Acton has some of the most polluted areas in the borough largely transport-related, asking that plans for new development, especially along transport corridors, give detailed consideration to pollution in planning applications, housing construction and in the design of surrounding areas and strongly supporting policies to tackle idling with suggestions of ways these could be made more effective.

### **Licence applications**

We continued this year to monitor alcohol and late night food licence applications in the town centre, making representations to the Council, when appropriate, to encourage responsible licensing practices and reduce alcohol-related anti-social behaviour (ASB). Maureen Colledge continues to lead for the CCA on this, with help from Joanna Barrett and Chris Hurley on a couple of cases. We make representations and attend pre-hearing negotiation meetings and speak at licensing sub-committee meetings on behalf of members, throughout liaising with the police and other local community associations.

Since last November we made eight representations and provided support to another association on two more. The following list gives the premises, what they applied for and the outcome: Belvedere Pub, High Street (applied for very late hours – withdrew application); Lidl Supermarket, Churchfield Road (new alcohol licence – agreed conditions); Maanki News (off-licence hours extension – refused); Shell Garage, The Vale (24 hr alcohol Licence – we failed to get it turned down but restrictions on methods of sale imposed); A to Z Newsagents, Horn Lane (new off-

licence – conditions imposed); Sainsbury's, two new branches in South Acton (new alcohol licences – conditions agreed); McDonalds, Western Avenue (late night food licence – agreed conditions); Sandflames, North Acton (late night food at Restaurant – agreed conditions); Hello Pizza (late night food deliveries – conditions agreed); Churchfield Food Stores (new alcohol licence – conditions agreed). In most cases, we ask for the core hours from Ealing's licensing policy to be applied, and for conditions, such as no sales of cheap high-strength beers and ciders, no single cans or spirit miniatures, safe storage of alcohol, adequate staffing and training of staff.

Overall, we have been largely successful in getting most of our requested conditions accepted and hours limited to core hours or, where evidence warranted it, applications turned down. The whole process has been greatly helped in the last few years by the active position of the police who have involved us in negotiations with applicants and who have been pro-active in clamping down on the street drinking problem in the centre of Acton. This has been successful in reducing problems on the Mount, but the downside has been some displacement of street drinking and drug dealing problems up Horn Lane and into South Acton. For this reason we consider and make representations on applications from a wider area than Churchfield Road. We have been helped throughout by the advice and co-operation that we have had from the local licensing officers in the Metropolitan Police and from Ann Brennan of the Mill Hill Park Residents Association (MHPRA) who monitors applications and makes representations for the MHPRA.

### **Future issues**

We are keeping a watchful eye on a number of issues around Churchfield Road at present - namely new pavements, trees and parking (in no particular order of importance).

### **Acton Central station book swap**

The Acton Central station book swap has now been running for five years! It continues to provide the community with a large numbers of many different varieties of books for both adults and children. Mostly the book swap has been successful and trouble-free, but we do need a steady supply so please continue to donate any books you have spare.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

We continue to maintain the large notice board outside Acton Central station. Members can request that notices be put up for community events such as concerts, walks, charity events, etc. There is a contact phone number on the board. Please allow a few days for us to put up a notice.

### **Newsletter**

The Churchfield Community Association Newsletter continues to thrive and has been published three times this year, in February, July and November. The editor, Linda Taylor, is very grateful to those who help in its production by suggesting items and

writing features, and to those who take photographs. Contributions to the newsletter and ideas for articles are always welcome.

We are pleased to report that a recent issue of the Newsletter is being evidenced by a local Charity to assist them in a grant application for funding of their organisation.

Thanks to Picot Cassidy for producing the address labels for recipients and to Susanne Hickmott for organising distribution, as well as to those who help with delivery.

### **Online newsletter and email list**

Issued about every six weeks or so, the online newsletter usually contains time-sensitive information about CCA events and other activities. Members are automatically subscribed to this when they join, but can easily unsubscribe by clicking on the link at the bottom of each newsletter.

Currently the newsletter has 197 subscribers. This is almost our entire membership of individuals, households and businesses; the only members it doesn't include are those who have not given us their email addresses, whose email addresses no longer work or who have unsubscribed (a total of 9). If you're not receiving the newsletter but would like to, get in touch with the manager, Nancy Duin at [hello@churchfield.org](mailto:hello@churchfield.org) with your current email address.

Unlike the newsletter, which is one-way only, members can use our email list to communicate with each other. This March, after years of irritation with Yahoo!, our previous free list provider (which often wouldn't allow the admin – Nancy – to access it), we transferred over to a paid list: Simplelists.com. It is much easier to administer, although it doesn't have some of the functions that the Yahoo! one had – e.g. you can't click on a button to choose to reply to All or just the sender.

Now known as the 'CCA email group', the new list has 152 members, about three-quarters of the membership. If you're still using a link to 'actoncentralemailgroup', please delete it – it has fewer members listed and is becoming increasingly out of date. Instead, use 'cca.email.group@cca.simplelists.com' as the address to email CCA members en masse.

Please remember to notify us if your email address changes.

### **Social media**

The CCA has a 'public' **Facebook** page, which now has 192 members and links to many other local groups.

## **SOCIAL ACTIVITIES**

The CCA has hosted various informal social events over the past year. These are open to CCA members and their friends as well as to people considering joining the CCA. The aim is to provide opportunities for people to meet others who are living and/or working in our community.

In December 2016, our annual **CCA Christmas Party** was again held at the Rocket pub in Churchfield Road, in the restaurant area, with about 25 people attending. Our thanks goes to Picot for devising a fascinating and fun seasonal quiz for people to ponder over after supper, and to Filip Filipovic and all the Rocket staff for preparing a delicious buffet supper and helping to make the evening a success.

In May 2017, the CCA arranged a relaxed evening at **Putt in the Park**, located in the middle of Acton Park. We grouped into several teams, each consisting of three or four people, and enjoyed putting our way round the 15-hole obstacle course in a light-hearted way. This was followed by snacks and drinks at the outdoor tables next to the bar. It is hoped that this will become an annual CCA event.

The CCA annual **garden party** was held on a warm Friday evening in early September. For the second year running, our thanks goes to Sarah and Rich for generously hosting the party in their glorious Cumberland Park garden. It was a bring-and-share event, with everyone contributing food and drink, to help create a relaxed and enjoyable atmosphere. By way of a thank you to our hosts, a collection was arranged in aid of The UK Sepsis Trust, which Sarah and Rich are involved with.

Our fun CCA **supper quizzes**, created and run by Paul Talbot and Philippe Bruyer, were again held several times during the year, at L'Oriental restaurant on Churchfield Road. As usual, delicious Lebanese mezze food was prepared and served at our tables by Tony and Paola, followed by several general knowledge quiz rounds and various puzzle sheets, to provide plenty of variety and ensure everyone would be included. Like our other social events, these quiz evenings offer a friendly and relaxed way to meet new and existing CCA members.

If you haven't already attended any of our CCA social events, do consider trying them out – you'll be warmly welcomed!

Compiled by CCA Chair Chris Hurley – thanks to Exec members for your contributions