



# CCA Newsletter

Issue 53, Winter 2021

The Churchfield Community Association (CCA) welcomes people living and working around Churchfield Road, Acton, who are interested in making a difference to our area

## Cap the towers

*Stop the developer expanding the height of the towers on Friary Park and making a grab for common land*

Paul Webster

The 6+ year project to build high tower blocks next to Acton Main Line station is well underway. There have been some recent surprises from the developer though.

One is that they say that the approved plans (against strong local objections) for towers of 24, 22 and 18 floors are not financially viable unless they can go higher. They now want to raise two of the towers – to 37 and 29 floors.

Another surprise is that they want to use the plot of common land next to their site for the duration of the building works.

While the latter proposal might seem attractive (for example by providing a play area and bike storage), this grab of land that is not theirs appears to be because they cannot make the space for it within their site while the building work is underway.

Hundreds of objections to this, including from the CCA, have been

raised on the council planning web site. For the increases in height, they will have to submit a formal planning application in the coming weeks.

So you need to get your views to them and the council now, while they are in active discussions with the council planning department and prior to submission.

At least one local councillor, Dan Crawford, has spoken out opposing the increase in height of the towers.

He was also against the proposal to put up the towers in the first place but, as passers-by and local residents can clearly see, the lower section of the site has been cleared and a building is starting to appear above the hoardings.

If you want that building to stop well before they reach their proposed 37th floor, then you need to join the 600+ people who have already contacted the developers and the council to object.

These are not the 'genuinely affordable' properties that are needed by families in the area.

The proposed increase in height will not increase the number of 'affordable rent' properties. Indeed, the developer's agent has been spotted actively marketing these towers to investors in the Middle East.

If this is not curtailed now, then expect more – for example next to the existing blocks near the police station. And it is already happening near Acton Town station.

In an on-going local consultation over their 'enhancements', the developer has hidden the proposed increases in height, long after their desire to add Bee Bricks and Hedgehog Highways! Take a look for yourself at:

[friarypark.consultationonline.co.uk](https://friarypark.consultationonline.co.uk)

More details about the proposals and what you might be able to do are on <https://capthetowers.org>

## CCA Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will take place on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022, starting at 7.30pm on Zoom**. Connection details will be sent out by email beforehand.

After a short formal AGM, we have invited Cllr Peter Mason, Leader of Ealing Council, to tell us about the Council's plans and to answer your questions.

Love them or hate them, local councils have an enormous impact on our lives, through housing, parking, roads, refuse, planning, schools, parks, etc.

We'll be asking for questions in advance, so put your thinking caps on and come and participate on the night to help build a better future for Acton.

# Charged up

Paul Webster

Recent problems with fuel delivery that resulted in long queues along Horn Lane did leave one group of car owners with a contented grin. Drivers of electric cars were immune to the problems.

People often talk about 'range anxiety' when explaining why they don't want to buy an electric car – thinking it won't be possible to travel very far because of running out of battery power. The recent problems over supplying fuel stations meant that drivers of conventional vehicles had their own taste of this problem.

Also, now that London ULEZ charging has started, there are even more reasons for drivers who have an old vehicle to consider switching to electric power.

But significant problems remain. They are relatively expensive to buy and charging the batteries might not be that easy or cheap.

Our bit of Acton is largely residential and has a lot of terraced properties with no garage or drive. This means that charging at home is difficult.

Charging on the street seems to be tolerated by other residents and the council, provided the cable is safe, in place temporarily and is well covered to prevent tripping and allowing pushchairs and wheelchairs etc. to easily cross the cable without damaging it.

However, if you have access to power, you might find that you cannot park near enough to your house to stretch a cable to the car. And this is not practical if you are living in an upper floor flat.

So what are the other solutions? One is to charge at your destination or while on the way to it. This might work if your workplace provides a charging station, or you can find a charging point in a car park while shopping.

Stopping en route at a powerful charger for fifteen minutes or so to gain 100+ miles of range might be a solution. But visiting a friend and asking to charge your car might require more than flowers and a bottle of wine!

There is another solution: public access to small charging stations on local streets. There are a few

locally: for example in central Acton there are charging points on Crane Avenue, Goldsmith Avenue, Stuart Road, Newburgh Road, Derwentwater Road, Chaucer Road, Essex Road, Alfred Road and East Acton Lane.

Many of these are hidden inside lampposts and are relatively low powered (5kW), which means a resident might be charging their car for a long period.

However, given that most electric cars can travel for over a hundred miles (some over 250) on a single full charge, charging is not a daily requirement for the majority of drivers. A recent spot check of nine local points found four being used overnight and five unused.

Finding charging points is easy; some cars have the capability built in and there are also mobile phone apps and web sites (see <https://www.zap-map.com/live/>).

For more about council plans for local charging points see 'Electric Vehicles and Charging points' at:

<https://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/201173/transport-and-parking>

## Ealing ward and constituency boundary and name changes

David Wootton

The Ealing May 2022 local council elections will see major changes for a lot of us in Acton, as many Ealing Council ward boundaries are changing their names, coverage area or being abolished completely.

Our much-loved Churchfield Road and roads surrounding Acton Central Station will find themselves in South Acton Ward, as Acton Central Ward is done away with completely.

The Overground railway from Uxbridge Road to Western Avenue will no longer provide a natural boundary to East Acton Ward. In future, it will include the Grafton

Road, Friary Road, St. Dunstons Avenue triangle of roads.

A new North Acton Ward will have a boundary of Uxbridge Road and Twyford Avenue in the south, extending to the canal at Willesden Junction and the Brent local authority border.

Furthermore, the independent Boundary Commission published the first round of its consultation process in June 2021 to amend the 'Ealing Central Acton' parliamentary constituency area to include two wards, which are currently in Hammersmith and Fulham local authority, in 2023.

To find out more, see ActonW3.com article and links to the Boundary Commission consultation, by scanning the QR codes below with your smart phone camera:



BCE Consultation Portal  
[www.bceinterview.org.uk](https://www.bceinterview.org.uk)



Acton's Local Web site  
[www.actonw3.com](https://www.actonw3.com)



<https://boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/2021-06-08-London-Initial-Proposals-21-Ealing-Central-and-Acton-BC.pdf>  
boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk

## ActOne cinema — final stages of transformation

Maureen Colledge



Almost a hundred people toured the old Acton Library building on the Open House weekend of 4th and 5th September.

The building was entering the final stages of its transformation from library to cinema. Visitors were able to see all three storeys of the building and hear its history.

It was designed by Maurice B. Adams, a noted architect of libraries and other public buildings. His magnificent English Baroque Revival façade has been preserved.

The original library opened in 1900, made possible by a generous donation from the Victorian philanthropist John Passmore Edwards.

The inside has undergone a radical transformation, with café-bar, lounge, exhibition space and the cinema box installed on the ground floor where bookshelves and library desks once stood.

The cinema seats up to 72 people (60 under Covid restrictions). It is sound-proofed and raked, with comfortable padded seating.

ActOne cinema is now entering its third month. It has enjoyed a fantastic response from Acton residents, both to the films and the excellent café-bar run by Bears Ice Cream Company.

An Annual Membership programme open to all is a great way to support the project. Along with Steven Spielberg's highly anticipated remake of the classic musical *West Side Story*, December's programme will include some special seasonal movie treats and events.

More details: [actonecinema.co.uk](http://actonecinema.co.uk)

## Reimagining The Mount

*A collective conversation about the heart of Acton*

Chris Hurley

The CCA recently co-sponsored an event called World Café, to discuss possible changes to The Mount, an area outside Morrisons and St Mary's Church.

It's a thriving space when the market is operating; at other times it seems a bit bleak. We were keen to get ideas for improving the area to make it more welcoming.

The event was organised by a social capital building organisation called Mutual Gain. This was stage one of their supported delivery.

The CCA, along with other local organisations such as Acton Homeless concern, sat on the steering committee in the months leading up to the event.

We wanted to understand what questions needed to be asked and how we could get all cross-sections

of the community to the table for discussion.

World Café took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> September, both as a gathering of people in St Mary's Church Hall, and online. All members of the Acton community were invited to attend. The questions which were discussed were:

- ◆ What does The Mount area mean to you?
- ◆ How would you like to see it improve?
- ◆ What would you be willing to do to make change possible?

Once information has been collated from this meeting, local people will be invited to pitch for an available £15K of funding to help address the ideas that emerge.

Watch this space for further updates!

## EVENTS

See: [www.churchfield.org](http://www.churchfield.org)

Find us on Facebook

- ◆ **CCA Online Zoom Quiz:**  
*Saturday 18 December: 8pm*  
Email Paul Talbot if you would like to be sent the link.  
[paultalbot1961@gmail.com](mailto:paultalbot1961@gmail.com)
- ◆ **Poets Corner Community Garden Christmas Carols:**  
*Sunday 19 December; 4 to 6pm*  
With mince pies and mulled wine.
- ◆ **CCA AGM:**  
*Wednesday 5 January 2022; 7.30pm*  
With Peter Mason, new Head of Ealing Council, on Zoom.  
More details to be sent nearer the time. Contact Chris Hurley on [hello@churchfield.org](mailto:hello@churchfield.org) if you're not on the email list.

### ACTON HISTORY GROUP

Acton History Group is re-starting indoor meetings on Wednesdays at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall (opposite Morrisons)

- ◆ **Kyria-Josephine Sewell's Quiz about Acton:**  
*Wednesday 8 December 7.30pm*
- ◆ **Keith Whitehouse on The White City Exhibitions 1908-1914:**  
*Wednesday 12 January 7.30pm*
- ◆ **Paul Lang on Secret Acton:**  
*Wednesday 9 February 7.30pm*
- ◆ **Linda Davis on Mr Gee's Llamas:**  
*Wednesday 9 March 7.30pm*

Supported by

METROPOLITAN POLICE Mutual Gain acton notebook Ealing council Your ACTON

The newsletter of the  
Churchfield Community  
Association (CCA)  
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To contact the CCA secretary:

Email: [hello@churchfield.org](mailto:hello@churchfield.org)

Website: [www.churchfield.org](http://www.churchfield.org)

#### JOIN THE CCA

♦ Vote at meetings

♦ Receive invitations to members' events

♦ Join the CCA email group

**Annual Membership fee** (*standing orders only*)

**Single/Business:** £5 (£2 concessions)

**Household:** £7.50

## Bobbing along

Susan Hauser

We now have our very own seamstress in Churchfield Road.

Edyta opened her shop, The Magic Bobbin, in July this year and is building up her customer base. She's a friendly welcoming lady with vast experience who seems to be able to repair or alter just about anything you bring her.

Edyta has been a seamstress for twenty-nine years. The last nine of those she worked in Fulham at 'Golden Stiches'. She has now taken the plunge to open up her own business here in Acton.

The dress you so like but which seems to have slightly shrunk during Covid (yes, she can make garments bigger as well as smaller!) Or ripped jeans, broken zips, torn cardigans, and favoured outfits that need some TLC.

She even makes swimsuits look good on you again; or that perfectly good winter coat, which still looks smart but could do with a new lining.

I think she chose her shop's name well. Everything she showed me looked like new after she'd finished with it — as if by magic!



Edyta working in her shop, The Magic Bobbin, at 113 Churchfield Road

The Magic Bobbin is a light and airy space, and there is a changing cubicle for getting fitted.

You can see some of Edyta's work if you follow her on Instagram — but it's probably best if you just take her something to mend or alter and see for yourself.

#### Opening hours:

Monday:	12:00 – 7:00pm
Tuesday:	9:00am – 6:00pm
Wednesday:	12:00 – 7:00pm
Thursday:	9:00am – 6:00pm
Friday:	9:00am – 6:00pm
Saturday:	8:30am – 1:00pm
Sunday:	Closed

#### The CCA says 'Welcome' to:

- ♦ **Boulangerie Jade:** 5 Churchfield Rd
- ♦ **Maya Glass Studio:** Stained Glass, 31 Churchfield Rd
- ♦ **Chars Creative:** Curtains & Soft Furnishings made to measure, 31a Churchfield Rd
- ♦ **BodyTech:** motor vehicle accident repair centre, 82 Churchfield Rd
- ♦ **The Magic Bobbin:** Clothing Alterations, 113 Churchfield Rd

#### The CCA says 'Farewell' to:

- ♦ **Laveli Bakery:** 5 Churchfield Rd
- ♦ **Quick & Super Wash:** Self Service Launderette, 51 Churchfield Rd  
(As featured in Monty Python's Flying Circus 'Bicycle Repair Man' sketch)
- ♦ **Heart & Soul:** Florist, 65 Churchfield Rd
- ♦ **Autohaus:** Vehicle Repair, 82 Churchfield Rd
- ♦ **Otto Trading:** Home Interiors, 113 Churchfield Rd

♦ **Keep an eye on the CCA WEBSITE**  
**[www.churchfield.org](http://www.churchfield.org)**

(scan QR code with your smartphone camera)



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