



Churchfield Community Association

The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA) Issue 36, Summer 2014

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

Crossrail at Acton Main Line: Consulting with Residents

Nancy Duin

Acton Main Line (AML) is one of the five Crossrail stations in Ealing. Discussions are now beginning on how the station itself will be situated and designed, and what will happen to the surrounding area.

AML finally made it on to the agenda at a meeting of the Ealing Acton Transport Action Group (EATAG), chaired by Angie Bray at the House of Commons on 3 July.

According to Nick O'Donnell, Ealing's director of strategic transport, plans are at a very early stage. The positioning of the station (keeping it where it is, placing it on a platform over the tracks or putting it nearer Acton House) and which direction it will face have not yet been determined.

The design of the station itself is even less developed. However, we were assured that four trains an hour will stop there, which is double what we have now.

There also seems to be a chance that the industrial estate north of AML will be redesignated (all or in part) as commercial/residential. This has to be kept in mind so that the station is designed for the appropriate number of passengers. In addition, AML is in line to receive about £2 million from Crossrail for improvements to the immediate area outside.

In May, designer Stuart Croucher of Crossrail came to talk to the CCA exec about their initial plan for the roads around the station. This would include a roundabout, plus



Acton Main Line station, 1960 & 2012



lowered kerbs and narrowed roadways, which would give both vehicles and pedestrians equal right of way.

He showed us a good example of traffic management in Poynton, Cheshire (<http://bit.ly/1mBTJXe>).

At the EATAG meeting, Nick O'Donnell was quick to remind us

that Stuart's ideas are only ideas at the moment. He insists that both the council and Crossrail are very keen to consult with residents and other interested parties.

How much 'consultation' will make actual inroads into design decisions remains to be seen. We will keep you posted.

Leafy Acton High Street

Helping to create a sustainable community in Acton

Tatiana Collins and Susanne Hickmott

Imagine strolling along Acton High Street under a canopy of trees: providing shade from the sun, protection from traffic fumes, shelter from rain and improvement to the air and landscape.

The installation of more trees in Acton Town Centre would be a huge bonus for the area. Acton is lagging behind other local areas such as Ealing and Chiswick, which have already invested in their high street environments.

The public and environmental health benefits of trees are well documented, particularly in highly populated areas. They create a distinctive soft landscape which is pleasant to look at and helps create a sense of community.

Tatiana Collins and Ann Brennan of Mill Hill Park Residents' Association have invited Churchfield Community Association to join them in their 'Proposal to Plant Trees on Acton High Street'.

Ealing's Tree Service Department has already applied for funding from the Mayor of London's tree fund (the LEAF programme)—only available on a match fund basis.

Ten thousand pounds from this budget can be allocated to Acton Town Centre. Additional 'match funding' would be required from Acton wards.

The proposal suggests a 50/50 share between Acton Central and South Acton wards for fifty trees in Acton Town Centre. Tree planting will concentrate on Acton High Street, Gunnersbury Lane and Horn Lane. Southfield ward will be funding a further twelve trees for Acton Vale in a separate proposal.

The budget for twenty-six trees for the High Street and the match funding is already approved in principle by Acton ward councillors.

The LEAF Programme has committed six million pounds to plant ten thousand trees in London by March 2015, with the aim to



Photo: Tom Doran

More trees are needed in our town centre

improve the appearance and air quality of local neighbourhoods.

The initiative to plant trees on Acton High Street is part of the regeneration of Acton Town Centre—to support local businesses and improve the environment.

The 'proposal' refers to objectives in the Acton Town Development Framework: "To create an attractive and good quality public realm; to improve the accessibility, movement and linkages to and within Acton Town Centre; to maximise the regenerative potential and coherence of Acton." (Acton Town Centre Development Framework: Summary)

Large trees provide a sense of history and permanence; they create space for relaxation, relieve stress and enhance emotional wellbeing. They aid the reduction of the incidence of asthma and breathing difficulties by providing cleaner air. As well as this, they provide much needed shade in hot weather, which can reduce the potential risks of skin cancer.

The proposal reflects a strong endorsement from Acton residents, supported by the Tree Service Department. It is hoped that it will be positively received so that planting can commence in Autumn/Winter 2014.

The CCA is looking forward to further collaboration with Mill Hill Park Residents in the future.

EVENTS

See: www.churchfield.org
Social Secretary: Susi Kirkwood
susi.kirkwood@btinternet.com
Find us on Facebook

REGULAR CCA EVENTS

- ◆ **'First Wednesday' Socials:**
From 8pm (see website for details)
Informal meetings for those who live or work in the area—ALL welcome
6 August: *The Rocket* (providing no football match is being shown)
3 September: *L'Oriental*
1 October: *George and Dragon*
5 November: *The Rocket* (providing no football match is being shown)
If you've never been to a CCA social and would like to go with someone, Jill Williams could meet you beforehand (email: jme@aijk.org)
- ◆ **Graffiti paint-out:**
The council is now getting rid of graffiti quickly; if you spot any, contact Sara: 0777 564 4134

SPECIAL EVENTS

- ◆ **Pass On A Poem**
Wednesday 3 Sept, 7.00–9.30pm,
At Sarah Hamilton-Fairley's home
Read a poem or just come and listen
Contact Linda for more information:
lindataylo@yahoo.co.uk
- ◆ **CCA Autumn Supper Quiz:**
At *L'Oriental*, 94 Churchfield Road
A fun quiz and delicious Lebanese supper—likely to be on a Saturday evening in October. Keep an eye on the website for the date!
- ◆ **CCA Christmas Party & Buffet:**
Sunday 7 Dec. 7-10pm at *The Rocket*
Please save this date! Check the website for further information and booking details nearer the time.

ACTON HISTORY GROUP

Details: David Bays 020 8992 0287
Free to members; non-members: £2

ILLUSTRATED TALKS

- ◆ **Roman Brentford:**
Wednesday 10 September; 7.30pm
St Mary's Church Hall, The Mount
Bob Cowie, senior archaeologist at the Museum of London
- ◆ **West London Suffragettes:**
Wednesday 8 October; 7.30pm
St Mary's Church Hall, The Mount
John Grigg

CCA Hosts Hustings

Sara Nathan

Despite all the other enticing things to do of an evening, more than eighty people attended the first ever CCA's Hustings in May.

In the debate, both candidates and audience were engaged with the issues and spoke compellingly.

All political parties, standing in the four Acton wards, came, plus the one Independent, Dan Meskell. This was a better turnout from both audience and candidates than we had expected.

Each candidate made an initial statement of up to five minutes, setting out their main priorities. The discussion was then opened up to the audience.

Local issues were focussed on. One of the most contentious subjects was the proposed redevelopment of The Oaks shopping centre.



From left to right: Dan Meskell, Independent; Yvonne Johnson, Labour; Gary Malcolm, Lib Dems; Sara Nathan, CCA Chair; Phil Taylor, Conservatives; Bob Little, UKIP; Nicholas Chapman, Green Party; Sharon Dixon, TUSC

Both Cllr Gary Malcolm, for the Liberal Democrats, and Cllr Phil Taylor, of the Conservatives, said they opposed the current plans.

When Cllr Yvonne Johnson (Labour) said the development would be going ahead, the audience reacted negatively.

A majority of the audience seemed supportive of the proposed conversion of the old Acton Library building into an Arts Centre. But Cllr Johnson said that, although she enjoyed the arts, the council had to put the library on the market.

The issue of street drinking was the final topic discussed. The Conservatives, in particular, pledged to get rid of it from Acton.

The point was made from the audience that it was not that easy to eradicate. It was felt that the reasons behind street drinking needed to be addressed.

Sharon Dixon, the TUSC candidate, called for compassion for street drinkers, as did an audience member.

It was a vibrant and informative evening. The CCA plans to hold a similar event in the run-up to the General Election in 2015,

This is an exciting prospect. It would seem to be one way in which a community association can really contribute to local democracy.

CANForum Helps Create Neighbourhood Plans

Nancy Duin

The Central Acton Neighbours' Forum—CANForum—has emerged from a series of meetings held since last July.

Its origins are in the Localism Act 2011, which allows 'neighbourhoods' (which are flexibly defined) to form groups with the purpose of creating 'neighbourhood plans'. The plans will have the same legal force as the local government development plans that developers must adhere to.

These groups will also have a say in the use of Community Infrastructure Levy money, which is the

successor to Section 106 money that developers have to pay to make up for the disruption caused by their developments. This can run into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

The area that will be covered by CANForum extends in general from Acton Main Line station (and the industrial estate next to it), down to Acton Town Station and South Acton estate (also known as Acton Gardens), over to the Park Club and the allotments near it, and up to the Western Avenue.

CANForum is open to anyone who lives, works or just has an interest

in the area, and we already have more than a hundred members.

The next step is to be 'designated' (i.e. made official) by the council. This is likely to happen in the autumn, when we will be able to elect a formal committee and set up special interest groups, such as 'heritage', 'transport', 'commercial development'. Decisions by the committee and the groups will then feed into the plan.

If you would like to join CANForum—absolutely free—go to the online membership form at: www.surveymonkey.s/P555FS5.

Interested in editing the CCA Newsletter? Contact Linda Taylor—lindataylo@yahoo.co.uk

- ◆ We have an experienced group of contributors and welcome new ideas and input
- ◆ It's easy to learn how to use a newsletter programme; you just need a computer

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To contact the CCA:
Secretary: Susanne Hickmott
Email: churchfieldassoc@yahoo.co.uk
CCA email group:
Actoncentralemailgroup@yahoo.co.uk
Website: www.churchfield.org

JOIN THE CCA

- ◆ Vote at meetings
 - ◆ Receive invitations to members' events
 - ◆ Join the Acton Central email group
 - ◆ Get a free CCA bag—see website
- Annual Membership fee**
Single—£8 (£3.50 concessions);
£5 direct debit (£2 concessions)
Household—£12; £7.50 direct debit



Free CCA bag
See website

Competing against the World Cup

Nancy Duin

It didn't look good. We were going to compete against Wimbledon, the World Cup, Formula One and the Tour de France. And it was supposed to rain.

But we did it anyway. Yes, we got a bit wet, and not as many people came as last year—7,500 according to the police, compared to about 10,000 in 2013. But everyone seemed glad to see us. Our pitch was in a great position, the music wasn't *that* loud and some of it was quite good.

The procession was impressive, the food was varied and, from all reports, pretty tasty and there



CCA tombola and bric-a-brac stall at Acton Carnival

were a lot of craft stalls, so that our end of the park seemed busy.

Many thanks to those who contributed items to sell and to

put in the tombola. And praise should go to all the volunteers on the day: Picot Cassidy, Dinah Walker, Sara Nathan, Malcolm Singer, Susi Kirkwood, Gill Wren, Marcus Tanner, Fiona Sutcliffe, Shamime Lakda, Susan Hauser, Chris Hurley and Maire Lowe.

We didn't do brilliantly financially, making a profit of £247.57, which was down by about £100 on last year. But we have given our funds a boost, and APPLE (the children and young people's charity in the park) will get half of what we made.

And—we all had a good time!

Catching up with Friends and Neighbours

Susi Kirkwood

This year's CCA summer garden party was, once again, an enjoyable and sociable event.

Two kind CCA members generously provided their lovely home and garden as the venue. And a team of volunteers arrived early to put up colourful bunting and a gazebo.

There were about forty-five people, including some who are new to the CCA. Everyone brought food and drink to share. A set of Boules and a Jenga construction kit provided extra activities for children.

We were surrounded by a profusion of glorious plants and flowers, including vivid blue delphiniums and a number of fruit trees.

A few light showers didn't bother us. Although we had to bring the dishes of food indoors a couple of times, the sun soon shone again.

All in all, the occasion proved a great chance to catch up with friends and neighbours who we hadn't seen for a while, and also to meet new people.



Sharing food and drink under colourful bunting



Photos: Tom Doran

Surrounded by a profusion of glorious plants and flowers at the CCA annual summer garden party