



# CCA Acton Newsletter

Issue 54, Summer 2022

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

## Hands Off Our Green

Juliet McDonald



St Dunstan's Gardens under threat from a developer

Acton's community sprang into action in February this year when yellow planning notices went up around the triangular green known as St Dunstan's Gardens.

Sketchy plans were for a 52-bedroom care home unit with 22 parking bays covering most of the green. This despite the fact that no developer can build on it because the current registered proprietor's ownership is only of the underlying

soil, since control and management is held by the Council on statutory trust for the public under section 10 of the Open Spaces Act 1906.

With a deficiency of local green space, especially as 900+ units are going up at Friary Park, and because green spaces in urban areas are needed for carbon capture, mental well-being and habitats for birds and bees, it was vital the gardens be saved.

This was a good example of neighbours coming together and stepping up to the plate, said CCA member Juliet McDonald. A meeting of over fifty people at the Rocket pub was followed by a Zoom call with the Planning Department.

Eighteen volunteers delivered 1500 leaflets locally and, with local professional help, a website was quickly set up and legal arguments assembled.

Street WhatsApp groups set up during Covid passed information around and mobilised support. A whopping 798 objections were sent to the Council and, with solid support from local councillors, the application was rejected on 8th April 2022.

The developer has six months within which to appeal, so please keep in touch by signing up to emails on the campaign website: [handsoffourgreen.co.uk](https://handsoffourgreen.co.uk).

CCA emails will also cover any alert as we strongly support this local action.

### CCA Membership

Having an active membership is what keeps CCA going. Your participation in events, especially now after the extended periods with Covid restrictions, is something that can improve our community.

If your membership has lapsed, for example through changing your

bank account, or your email address has changed, then please get in touch to get things restarted.

If you have friends who you think could enjoy being a member, and perhaps also bring additional benefits to CCA, then do encourage them to join.

Refer them to:

<https://www.churchfield.org/how-to-join/>

Or email:

[membership@churchfield.org](mailto:membership@churchfield.org)

# Your Acton BID

Natasha Patel

Established in 2018, the Acton Business Improvement District (BID) is a not-for-profit company funded and run by Acton local businesses. The Acton BID vision is to make the area cleaner, safer and more welcoming for visitors and to ensure that businesses are given every opportunity to succeed, trade and grow through representation, support and investment.

'Your Acton BID' levies all businesses over a five-year period, to fund programmes, schemes, and events to help support and promote your individual business and ensure Acton thrives with a vibrant high street and industrial estate.

Acton is a unique and wonderful area; our objective is to build on this and to support the levy paying businesses by delivering initiatives under our main four project themes:

- ◆ To make Acton a cleaner and safer place to do business
- ◆ To make Acton more accessible and attractive
- ◆ To promote Acton as a place to shop and do business
- ◆ To provide strong voice and support for businesses in Acton



Natasha Patel (BID manager) and Veronique Proulx (Town Ranger) run the day-to-day management of the BID, ensuring all projects are delivered. The BID is also run by a board of directors from local Acton businesses who volunteer their time to ensure that the BID delivers initiatives that benefit the BID businesses from the industrial, commercial, retail and service sectors.

As we move into the final year of our first term, 'Your Acton BID' team has delivered tangible benefits to the levy paying businesses, and facilitated substantial projects across the BID.

Businesses were able to gain greater benefits and save money by reducing their business costs with Place Support Partnership as well as with Biffa Waste Management discounted rate for BID members.

We also provided various training courses (e.g. Emergency First Aid, Health & Safety, Fire Safety, etc.) and helped brighten up our Town Centre by adding new flower baskets and by beautifying the flower beds in the South Acton Industrial Estate.

Going forward, we will be continuing to deliver our cost saving initiatives as well as our recurring projects, such as street cleansing, security meetings and our Christmas lights. However, this year we will be facilitating ambitious and transformational projects across the BID, benefiting its members.

We are planning to beautify the roundabout on the High Street and expand our portfolio of events, implementing security radios and adding CCTV cameras in the Town Centre and the South Acton Industrial Estate. These measures will help drive footfall and encourage local spend, as well as increase safety measures across the BID footprint.

W: [www.youractonbid.co.uk](http://www.youractonbid.co.uk)

E: [natasha@actonbid.co.uk](mailto:natasha@actonbid.co.uk)

T: 0208 746 7964

## Railway footbridge issue

David Wootton

The condition of the footbridge between Goldsmith Avenue and Perryn Road over the Network Rail (NR) track has been a concern for many years.

It has often been raised at Ward Forum meetings, and is the No.1 priority for Acton MET Police's Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT). Their OWL surveys identify as issues: anti-social behaviour, lighting, graffiti, condition of the steps, excessive rubbish and fly tipping under the steps.

East Acton Litter Busters Team regularly clean the bridge and footpaths but haven't been allowed access to the padlocked gates area.

Recently the MET and NR had a joint onsite meeting and the issue of ownership/responsibility was clarified and shared with the Police SNT Ward Panel.

An NR team arrived in early April 2022 when much rubbish was removed from under the steps. Plans are being made by 'Design Out Crime' teams.

We now need to get NR to fix their lighting and the poor condition of the trip hazard steps. Thanks also to the LBE GEL team who cleared the shrubbery around the footpath trees, and to LAGER (Litter Action Group Ealing Residents) who provided signage to discourage littering.

The CCA was also instrumental in getting LBE to plant silver birch trees, construct the raised bed planters and surface the footpath leading up to the footbridge from the Goldsmith Avenue side twenty years ago in 2002.



LAGER notice discouraging littering

# A Banking Hub for Acton

Maureen Colledge



Remember Barclays, Nat West, Santander, the main Post Office? They are all gone from central Acton and, with them, access to cash and banking services.

But now, after much campaigning from our local MP, Rupa Huq, Acton is to have a 'Banking Hub'. Banking hubs are a new approach by nine major banks to deliver shared services.

Two pilot hubs already exist (in Rochford, Essex and Cambuslang, South Lanarkshire) with five further sites, including Acton, announced in December 2021, three more in March 2022, and others to follow.

Open to customers of all the major banks, they need a central high street location.

A Banking Hub will have a counter, which the Cash Action Group have appointed the Post Office to run.

This offers basic cash services, while more complex enquiries will be dealt with by a representative from the member banks who visits once a week.

Millions of people across the UK still use cash daily, and many businesses need places to withdraw and deposit cash.

Work to develop the Acton Hub started with a community focus group (two members of the CCA Exec took part) and a survey of Acton's banking needs.

The Cash Action Group is now seeking a site for the Hub and has shortlisted two central locations.

Negotiations are in progress and, if all goes to plan, the Hub will be in existence in Q4 this year.

We welcome this initiative. In parallel we continue to push the Post Office to reinstate their services in Acton.

## EVENTS

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

Find us on Facebook

- ◆ **CCA Summer Party:**  
*Sunday 3 July: 4pm*  
at a stunning local garden
- ◆ **Acton Carnival:**  
*Saturday 9 July 2022*  
The Carnival is back in Acton !

## ACTON HISTORY GROUP

Acton History Group: Wednesdays at 7.30pm in St Mary's Church Hall (opposite Morrisons)

- ◆ **AGM and talk by Kyria-Josephine Sewell on Lady Frances Pierrepont:**  
*Wednesday 8 June 7.30pm*
- ◆ **Guided historical walk around Ealing Common:**  
*Wednesday 13 July*  
*Meet Ealing Common Station 2.30pm*
- ◆ **Talk by Andrew Woodyatt on the History of the Cinema in Acton and Ealing:**  
*Wednesday 14 September 7.30pm*
- ◆ **Talk by Clare Gough on Pitzhanger Manor and John Soane's earlier plans in Acton:**  
*Wednesday 12 October 7.30pm*

# Churchfield Road parking machines - change of strategy

David Wootton



Sign still says 'Display ticket'

Churchfield Road currently has five 'pay and display' parking ticket dispensing machines. Lamp post signage states that the first thirty minutes parking is free, to encourage 'Stop & Shop' locally.

The alternative to coins is to use an online payment app or to phone the operating company, PayBy

Phone, but none of the five machines has a card option.

Local businesses on Churchfield Road felt that their trade was diminished by the new machines. Dashboard tickets were issued and Enforcement Officers were issuing FPNs (Fixed Penalty Notices).

Since April, the machine outside 96 has been switched off and the one outside 49 is 'beyond economic repair' according to LBE.

Machines outside 136 and 116 were said to be working on 1st April, and the one outside 21, having been repaired earlier. (But not when I checked on 19th April.) The free thirty minute period is now available on PayByPhone, for parking bays outside 49 and 21.

The removal of the machines is a response by the Council to more and more people opting to use the PayByPhone system rather than cash.

They say that the advantages of the phone system include the option of reminder texts, access to cheaper parking rates for most vehicles, an ability to 'top up' remotely if you are overstaying and not having to worry about having cash.

I carried out an inspection of all five machines on 19th April to see if a paper ticket could now be obtained, but, alas, none of the machines were working to issue a ticket to display!

The newsletter of the Churchfield Community Association (CCA) Issue 54, Summer 2022

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**

## Plans for ActOne Cinema

*ActOne in the top 10 of London's independent cinemas according to the Londonist*

James Lewis



8th May — Gala screening of Downtown Abbey: A New Era

It's been a busy time for ActOne, Acton's very own independent cinema. Fundraising for a second screen began with a bang on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May, with a sell-out gala screening of 'Downton Abbey: A New Era', which was followed by a live cast and crew Q&A.

The cinema's café (run by local business Bears Ice Cream) is now open every day from 10am, and the building is hosting two brand new regular events: swing dance classes on the last Sunday of every month, and still life classes every Wednesday.

These are in addition to the cinema's weekly Parent and Baby film screenings (Tuesdays at 11.30am) and Kids Club family screenings (Saturdays at 11.30am). Later this year the cinema will offer tours and talks as part of the 'Open House' campaign, in partnership with Acton History Group

To hear more about what's on at ActOne Cinema & Café, as well as information about the fundraising campaign for a second screen, sign up to the email newsletter on our website [www.actonecinema.co.uk](http://www.actonecinema.co.uk)

## Developer to increase 990 flats to 1,228 at Friary Park

Juliet McDonald

The developers Mount Anvil/Catalyst are launching their latest planning application for Friary Park on 1st June. Residents have until 22nd June to comment.

The application is a hybrid one, which means some parts will be fixed and other parts 'outline'. The outline plans will continue to evolve in future applications, so it is important to keep commenting.

In the current plan, it is proposed that Block B2 be increased in height to 17 storeys whilst 'increased footprint and massing' be applied to Blocks B3, C1 and C2. If the outline plans are adopted, a total of seven buildings will be in excess of 14 storeys (two of which will be 24 storeys).

The proposal also includes two drawings where a MUGA (multi-use games area) spills over into Friars Place Green. This triangular green, which has already been the subject of a much-criticised planning application that was withdrawn by the developer, is common land.

To comment, go to: <https://pam.ealing.gov.uk/online-applications> and enter 221747HYBRID.

In addition, email case officer Chris Maltby: [MaltbyCh@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:MaltbyCh@ealing.gov.uk); and cc leader of Ealing Council Peter Mason: [MasonPe@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:MasonPe@ealing.gov.uk).

You can also write to the East Acton councillors whose jurisdiction includes Friary Park:

- Kate Crawford [crawfordK@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:crawfordK@ealing.gov.uk);
- Steven Donnelly [donnelyS@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:donnelyS@ealing.gov.uk);
- Hitesh Tailor: [TailorHi@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:TailorHi@ealing.gov.uk).



221747HYBRID | Hybrid planning applicat  
pam.ealing.gov.uk

◆ **Keep an eye on the CCA WEBSITE**  
**[www.churchfield.org](http://www.churchfield.org)**  
(scan QR code with your smartphone camera)



Churchfield Community Association  
[www.churchfield.org](http://www.churchfield.org)