



CARA

Canbury & Riverside Association

Working to protect and enhance our local amenities for everyone

Newsletter Autumn 2021

TKA win £200k Award

One of the Ben Judd Boat day highlights in July, was a design presentation from students of The Kingston Academy for the John Lewis riverside. We are delighted to report these ideas by pupils in Years 8, 10 & 12, worked up by architects WR-AP, won the Mayor of London's Riverside Design award.

Nathan Chan (year 10) told us "Aiming at improving our engineering and architectural knowledge we carefully studied the John Lewis waterfront. Back at school we developed our ideas in our year groups. Those our teachers and WR-AP thought best were worked up by the architects."



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Blank**

"The work we saw on boat day, was presented to Kingston Council who, with the University, Kingston First and the charity Creative Youth, had born were awarded £200k from the Mayor's Getting Building Fund for improving public realm developments."

More riverside improvements

We are delighted to report that the Thames Landscape Strategy has been awarded £500k by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Environment Agency for 'Rewilding Arcadia'. The project will include the riverbank in Canbury Gardens, if other planned changes like moving the cycle path are done. TLS had further good news at their Sept fundraising Garden Party, at Petersham Lodge. Alan Titchmarsh agreed to become one of their patrons, alongside HRH The Duke of Gloucester, Sir David Attenborough and landscape consultant Kim Wilkie. CARA went as well, introducing RBK Cllr John Sweeney who is working on a new byelaw to protect our riverside from illegal mooring and other abuses.

Go to kingstonletstalk.co.uk/river-moorings for detail and to take part in the survey.

Half Mile - Half Dead

The 70 year old Half Mile Tree looks sick. The Council says it is dying. A replacement oak tree has been planted but will take many years to reach maturity. In the meantime we hope the horse chestnut will struggle on marking this ancient location in our area.



Your opinions on Planning Policies for North Kingston

Our last newsletter said your opinions on the North Kingston Forum’s consultation document were essential as they will affect council planning over the next ten years. A modest number took us seriously and we have had sight of the replies. Confidentiality prevents us from knowing who said what. We do know, however, that 1 in 15 homes in our area answered the questions to no less than 34 different policies, many of which would affect CARA residents and businesses. A long read, so many thanks to those of you who wrote in. Ours was a similar response level to all North Kingston.

80% of CARA respondents supported the policy objectives including those for building design, business, community facilities, the environment, access and movement (Chart 1). On the other hand, some site specific policies were not as welcomed. They were criticised by over 25% of respondents, in particular policies for Sury Basin (Sainsbury’s). Residents living nearby called for a low density development with no more than three stories. The Kingsgate development policy had more severe criticism, citing “traffic chaos” and insufficient affordable housing. Other criticisms were more general.

Outside the town centre, public sector site policies pulled more critics. A third found something they didn’t like. General worries were, increased density, particularly in the Canbury Court Garages proposal. Others criticised the Fire Station, St Luke’s school and The Keep policies. All these disagreements, however, only represented 23%. On the other hand 67% agreed (Chart 2)

North Kingston Forum tell us that they are delighted with the large number of responses representing well over 1000 North Kingston residents. They are grateful for the publicity generated by CARA and other resident associations. The Forum is carefully studying all the responses and amendments will be made.



Conservation Area
Area of special character
Transition Zone

Chart 1. Your opinion on the Plan’s objectives

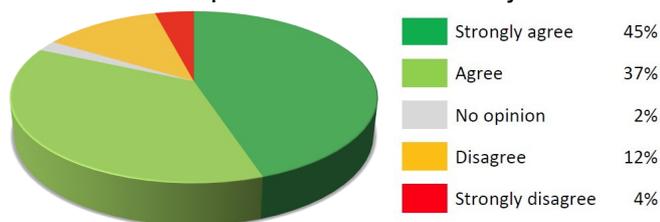
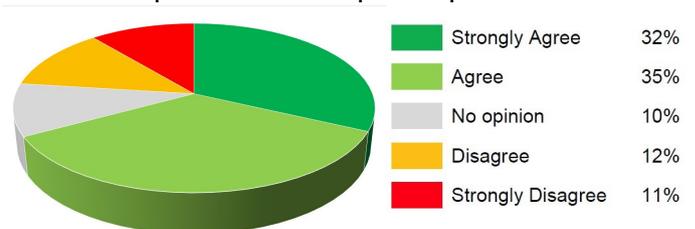


Chart 2. Opinions of site specific policies combined



Planning Updates

The Barge Dock

The developer has gone back to the original plans to build a restaurant over the dock, leaving the dock itself clear for use by such people as the award winning Thames Boat Project. That application was approved subject to the design and other conditions, particularly fire safety. The latest application was to clear up the conditions so that the original approval could be confirmed. The revisions were accepted by the planning officers. What happens next, we do not know at this minute. CARA suspects the owners want to sell an asset with planning permission. They found it difficult to get a restaurant owner or chain to take on the site. Their follow-up planning application for flats was refused. CARA is monitoring developments and will keep members informed. This important site, if redeveloped, needs to be done with sensitivity.

The Bingo Hall

There is still no progress. CARA and others like NKF and The Kingston Society are also monitoring.

Kingsgate (the station car park)

The latest application is with the GLA. We will publicise the outcome on this key development.

Fire Station

Rumour of its redevelopment has diminished. There is now a planning application for a major upgrade of its wireless system including six new antennae towers instead of the current three.

The Kingfisher Centre

This was closed end of 2019 for safety reasons. There were structural problems with the building especially in the roof. A survey revealed the roof required complete replacement and the cost of all repairs, £5m+ over 18 months. Instead, the Council will be investing in a new, high quality and sustainable leisure centre and swimming pool. A facility fit for the 21st century we are told.

Lots Going on in the Gardens

Somehow Canbury Gardens always attracts good news and not so good news. The good news is at long last we have “man sized” waste bins placed strategically. Also, The Gardening Volunteers, mostly CARA members, are doing a great job getting flower beds back into shape. Trevor Willis who organises this work says there is a need for more volunteers. Please contact Kelly Page at kelly1page@yahoo.com, who runs the volunteers WhatsApp, if you can give an hour on a Saturday morning once in a while. It is very rewarding work and good exercise and for the soul.



More good news is that the Bandstand Concerts are back. The sometimes grey summer Sundays have been cheered up by a variety of talented bands and orchestras. The bandstand Friends group has been formally set up. Please join if you have an interest in musical concerts and would like to help or plan future programmes. Contact belinda.i.paul@gmail.com



The not so good news is that night-time activities disturb CARA residents and vandalism is now a serious problem. The **Canbury Gardens Working Group** of councillors, council officers, contractors and stakeholders, set up by CARA some years back, is getting action on CCTV surveillance and have got our local MP, Sarah Olney, involved. The police are now doing the odd night-time sweep.

The **CGWG** are monitoring the change of gardening contractors due to take place in November to make sure the new and, we are told cheaper, crew will do as good a job as *idVerde*, the current contractors. Also, the long awaited Master Plan to improve the gardens and riverside has been approved awaiting funding. This will get CARA's close attention.

What is CARA? - a personal perspective by Hugh Scantlebury

A long term member and past chair of CARA

“I was very happy to be asked to offer comments in response to ‘What is CARA’ in the Summer newsletter”

The essence of CARA is simple. Since 1990 its long standing objective is to be “a non-political voluntary organisation whose aims are the protection and enhancement of amenities within the CARA area”. Over 30 yrs, it has campaigned on key area issues. CARA right now is highly successful and enduring organisation. It is trusted by a diverse set of local people for being a non-political source of information and opinion on a diverse set issues. RBK, its Councillors and Officers have a high regard for the organisation. CARA simply is THE “go to” for area insight, information and engagement, of which all residents can (and do) play a part. I agree it's not a forum like Nextdoor, which has value but with well noted shortcomings regarding privacy and identity. CARA, through its website, regular eNews and Newsletter, fully respects UK Guidelines and Data Protection Regs (GDPR). Yet communication is key. Many ask CARA to do so “more often and regularly both with members and non-members”. So, room for improvement.

How is this going to be achieved?

In essence I believe the focus should be on assisting the production of outcomes that benefit the many, to make us even more engaged and proud of the place that we live in - the setting, our valued amenities and resources. In particular the people and the future we leave to the following generations. This should involve the membership investing effort and funds raised not just for the running of the organisation but for the general good in line with the group's strategy promoting active participation, neighbourliness, and most especially, awareness. The benefits will be felt by the individual, the community AND importantly the environment in which we are fortunate to live. So I would therefore commend all, where possible and practical, to get involved and to take a role in the continued development of our much appreciated area, one in which we respect all the people around us, residents and visitors alike.

This is a shortened version of Hugh's letter. His association with CARA has been long and active. A member for 25 yrs, a committee member before becoming Membership Secretary 1997-2001 then Chair 2005-11. He stepped back when elected local Councillor 2014-18. He says “working with CARA has been engaging, varied, challenging yet always so very much rewarding” - Ed

CARA AGM: 20th October 2021, at Canbury Pavilion

From 6.30 pm refreshments will be served. AGM business will start at 7.00, for about 30 minutes, followed by our MP, Sarah Olney, who will speak about matters of relevance to our area.

We hope to arrange a **CARA Autumn Event**. We will publicise details as soon as they are finalised.

CARA Committee

Sophie Cavanagh (liaison with local schools)
head@thekingstonacademy.org

Penny D'Souza (planning applications; Canbury Gardens Working Party liaison, Leander Sea Scouts, the Council)
14 Chestnut Road pennydsouza@blueyonder.co.uk

Clare Francis (Thames Boat Project liaison)
16 Chestnut Road clarefrancis@gmail.com

Nic Lewisohn (social events; Kingston Riverside tennis club liaison)
23 Grosvenor Gardens nic.lewisohn@kantar.com

Richard Mobbs (newsletter distribution; Thames Landscape Strategy liaison; CARAFoG; environment)
31 Chestnut Road richard@statacom.net

Des Noble (the police and Neighbourhood Watch)
desnoble@virginmedia.com

Kelly Page (events, litter picking and street rep liaison)
19 Chestnut Road kelly1page@yahoo.com

John Parrish (newsletter content; parking; liaison with North Kingston Forum; heritage)
108 Lower Ham Road john.parrish1080@gmail.com

Charles Roscorla (Membership Secretary; Treasurer; heritage)
12 Ulster Court, Albany Park Road charos100@hotmail.co.uk

CARA Street Reps

Albany Mews, Maria Netley: maria.netley@btinternet.com

Albany Park Road, Penny Stott: penny_stott@hotmail.com

The Albany flats, Albany Park Road, Charles Roscorla
charos100@hotmail.co.uk

Homington Court, Albany Park Road, Mike Simpson
simpsonsplace@blueyonder.co.uk

Montague Place, Albany Park Road, Frances Bailey
francesabailey@hotmail.com

Chestnut Road, Clare Francis: clarefrancis@gmail.com

Eastbury Road, Trevor Willis: trevorwillis77@gmail.com

Grosvenor Gardens, Nic Lewisohn nic.lewisohn@kantar.com

Lower Kings Road, Jonathan Rollason jonathan.rollason2@me.com

Waterman's Close, Susannah Rose-Innes
susannah.amy.black@gmail.com

Woodside Road, Mirella Docherty mirelladocherty@hotmail.com

**If you would like to be a CARA Street Rep for a road or block of flats not covered above, please contact Kelly Page
kelly1page@yahoo.com**

Kingston Riverside flats contact, Deborah Olszewski
(deborah.olszewski@outlook.com)

CARA MEMBERSHIP 2021/2022

To join and/or pay your subscription please go to carakingston.org/about-us/membership or use this form

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

I would like to become a Member/renew my Membership^[1] of CARA.

I confirm that I support CARA's aims and objectives. (see CARA website www.carakingston.org)

Please tick boxes and/or fill in amounts below as appropriate

I have set up a standing order for a payment of £5 now and thereafter annually on 1st September to CARA, Barclays Kingston, sort code 20-46-73, account number 53451518, using my house (or flat) number and street (or block) name as a reference.

OR

I enclose a cheque/cash^[2] for £..... payable to "CARA" for my membership subscription

£5 to 31st August 2022 **or** £10 to 31st August 2023 **or** £15 to 31st August 2024

This payment includes an additional donation I wish to make towards the running of CARA of £.....

I do/do not require a receipt.

Signed:

Date:

Please send the completed form to CARA Membership Secretary, c/o 31 Chestnut Road, KT2 5AP.

^[1] A Member should be an individual person. Other residents of a Member's household within CARA Area^[3] will still enjoy the usual benefits, with the exception of voting. CARA Members resident outside CARA Area will receive only electronic versions of CARA newsletters and other communications.

^[2] You should **send cash only if it will be delivered by hand.**

^[3] CARA Area boundaries: - West the Thames; North Lower Ham Road; East the west side of Richmond Road; South, Lower Kings Road, west of Skerne Road, north of May Bate Avenue to the south end of Canbury Gardens. CARA is administered by volunteers. We will process your Membership form as quickly as we can. New Members should receive a response, at the email or address provided, in under 28 days from when we receive your form.