



# CARA

## Canbury & Riverside Association

*Working to protect and enhance our local amenities for everyone*

## Newsletter Winter 2019

### Good Gardens News

It's been a busy few months in Canbury Gardens, with folk making the most of this lovely spot during our (mostly!) sunny summer. The pop-up cinema returned by popular request, and the bandstand concerts were well-received. CARA, Canbury Secret Cafe, The Pavilion and the Rowing Club each sponsored a concert, as they were under threat due to lack of funding. Our local councillors made up the remaining shortfall from ward budgets.

**Intentionally not used**

There was a further public consultation event for the Canbury Gardens Masterplan at the Rowing Club. Canbury Gardens Working Party attended and agreed their own comments and priorities which included:

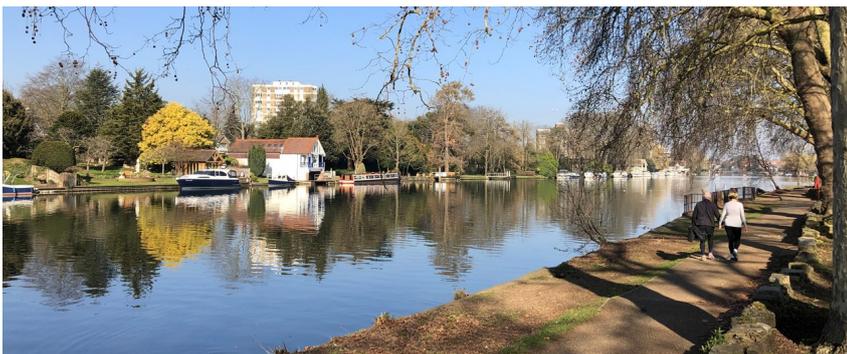
- Naturalisation of the river bank with the note that the priority was to stop any further erosion
- Move the cycle route from the towpath (the surface is unsuitable for cycles and it is used by families to feed the ducks) to the main avenue as a shared pedestrian/cycle route
- There is scope for wildflower planting amidst sections of long, unmown grass
- Keep the Community Garden secure and, rather than spend money on it, retain its environmental ethos of recycling and re-using donated materials
- Moving either the playground or the bandstand was not a good use of money, but we agreed with the proposal to embellish and soften the bandstand with planting
- Further discussion is needed around the proposed flood plain to the north
- There is a need to environmentally test the proposals – there seemed to be rather a lot of hard landscaping
- The perennial problem of illegal car access and the towpath gate being left unlocked at the north entrance needs to be addressed

A response to our comments is expected within days of going to press

Litter in the Gardens continues to be a problem, with no easy solution given the current finances. However, great efforts were made to improve matters, with Idverde, the RBK's contractors, moving bin-emptying times closer to the peak times and by adding extra bins. And many thanks to the students of Kingston Academy for some great posters highlighting the problem of leaving bags for foxes to rummage through.

More good news : the light near the children's playground

has been fixed, and separate funding has been found for cycle racks near Boaters and also near Canbury Secret. The chosen projects to be paid for from CARA reserves, the wildflower meadow and a bench in the children's playground, have been delayed as the Masterplan proposals could affect them. They will be raised with the council, in the hope that as some parts of the Gardens will not be altered in the foreseeable future, we will be able to proceed with at least one of them. We'll keep you posted!



### Recognition for good work

RBK was recognised in the 'Good Parks for London 2019' report as having the most improved parks and gardens this year. The report showed we were given 90% for public satisfaction with similar scores for residents' collaboration, events and health and fitness. Our thanks to the contractors, Idverde, and our councillors, for their contribution to this accolade in which Canbury Gardens played a very important part.

# Local Planning News in North Kingston

## Do we have to go sky high?

The Kingsgate development planning application will come to the council planning committee. The date when the committee will consider this is not yet fixed. The most contentious part of the plan is a 25 storey, 90 metre high skyscraper. It will be taller than the Tolworth Tower and twice as high as the Queenshurst development next door to it. We know that Westminster and the GLA have been pressing Kingston Council to build over 13,600 new homes by 2030 and this development of 445 units will help to meet that target. *However, we have learned that the London Mayor has just published a report recommending the target be cut by 30%.* This means the Kingsgate share of that cut could be 33 stories over the whole site.

Cara will be joining the North Kingston Forum in scrutinising RBK's Local Plan scheduled for adoption in a year's time. In fact NKF's plan for Canbury and Tudor wards, if agreed by us, the residents, should be adopted before then. In the meantime we are keeping a close eye on all planning applications that come forward such as the Kingsgate plans. Your committee has written a strong letter of objection to these plans. You can see it at... [tinyurl.com/yyuxdqc3](https://tinyurl.com/yyuxdqc3)

## ... or drop so low.

We have just heard that the owners of the Barge Dock have appealed to the Secretary of State against RBK's refusal to allow them to build 9 apartments on this important riverside site at the south entrance of Canbury Gardens. We are making representations in support of the council's decision referring to RBK's published Riverside Plan which states in table 5.3 *"The building must support the leisure use of the Gardens (including potentially a cafe) associated with increased public access and boat use of the adjacent inlet..."*



## ... and do cyclists need alcoholic drinks at 9 am ?

As we go to press we learn that the Cycle Exchange in the Queenshurst development, Sury Basin has applied for a retail alcohol licence, Monday to Sunday 9am to 9pm.



## North Kingston Neighbourhood Plan (NKNP) update

The NKNP is now well on the way to becoming a reality, and a draft Plan is currently under discussion with the council. Your views will be sought on the final draft in early 2020, followed by Examination early summer. Formal adoption will then follow community consent at a local Referendum in the autumn of 2020. The NKNP policies will be used to manage future growth in North Kingston whilst preserving and enhancing our community, green spaces and heritage assets, alongside increased developer financial contributions to prioritise local projects.

## A reader's letter

The problem outlined below applies to some residents in some blocks of flats, but where it applies it is serious (Ed)

### *Prisoners in your midst*

Unknown to most, there are prisoners in your midst: most of us in our smart apartment blocks are caught in them, without possibility of escape. As leaseholders of our flats, burdened with doubling ground rents, we cannot sell them as banks and building societies have stopped providing mortgages to anyone wanting to buy our flats. Estate agents and conveyancing solicitors failed to point out to us the unsurmountable hurdles to ever selling our flats again, clearly in dereliction of their duties. The original building companies, despite original promises of selling to us the freehold for our flats, have sold it on,

mostly to off-shore companies, often before we even moved into our flats. I am one of those prisoners: My husband, a retired civil servant, bought our flat in late 2014. This April he died, leaving me a flat which is much too large for me alone, with an enormous service charge and the inability to move elsewhere. I still see him in the armchair by the window, hear his voice in the corridor but as parliamentarians acknowledge the problem but fail to pass legislation that would end this exploitative system, I continue to be held prisoner here.

Angelika Pathak (local resident of a riverside apartment)

## What you can do at a place near here....

### Enjoy a good chat at a CARA BBQ

We should not tempt providence, but for a number of years the annual CARA BBQ has been blessed with sunshine. This year was no exception. The Thames Riverside Club gave over their tennis club once more for 60 or so CARA members and friends to eat drink and chat in the afternoon's sun. Our friendly local butcher, aptly named Mr Jolly of Bevans on Richmond Rd, again provided the BBQ and the bar was open all afternoon. We have not fixed the date for Twenty-Twenty, but pencil in the first two Sundays of September if for no other reason than they are bound to have good weather.



### Go Fishing



Our autumn litter-pick along the riverbank collected a lot of rubbish and recyclables, thanks to the Leander Sea Scouts, who put out 2 boats, and a few other keen volunteers. Three interesting finds from the riverbank were 'up-cycled' by the scouts: a rugby ball, a posh water bottle and a big piece of Lego - the hull for a police boat. The scouts won the prize for the best find - a litter bin which they managed to tow to their dock and drag out of the river - it was very heavy as it was full of water! (see photo) The bin was back in use in Canbury Gardens a few days later.

### Laze and listen to a concert

As you read on the front page, with the help of Katrina Lidbetter, a CARA member and local chorister, the bandstand concerts were saved this summer. If any reader who enjoys open-air concerts and would like to be involved in next year's organising of the concerts, please put your name down on the "Help Wanted" section enclosed.



### When there are no cars



You will remember we had a restful car free Sunday. Well a number of streets in Kingston closed the road to traffic and organised events to celebrate, including Chestnut Road. Children were able to come out to play - including some much older 'children'!

### We have competition

There is a new RBK residents' e-newsletter. Sign up at [Kingston.gov.uk/RBKnewsletter](http://Kingston.gov.uk/RBKnewsletter). But for some reason don't expect to get any news before December 12th.

### Or plant a few bulbs or even some trees

CARA has 1200 to plant. Half were bought with Councillor Lidbetter's council funds from last year, and we used CARA reserves to buy the rest. We hope they will be planted as you read this by some very willing volunteers from The Kingston Academy. This will be the beginning of a plan to enhance the northern end of the CARA riverside, starting at the Half Mile Tree which will be the site of the bulb planting and going as far as Teddington lock. Apart from the bulbs we have had a generous offer from a CARA resident to fund the planting of up to 200 young trees along this stretch. The council will advise on the choice of tree variety, the siting and planting. No trees will be sited where they might obscure the view of the river for those residents on the riverside of Lower Ham Rd. Our committee hopes to help in recruiting volunteers not only for the planting but also for the initial watering of the young trees during dry spells.

## CARA Committee

**Sophie Cavanagh** (liaison with local schools)

[head@thekingstonacademy.org](mailto:head@thekingstonacademy.org)

**Penny D'Souza** (planning applications; liaison with Canbury Gardens Working Party, Leander Sea Scouts and the Council)  
14 Chestnut Road:

[pennydsouza@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:pennydsouza@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Clare Francis** (liaison with Thames Boat Project) 16 Chestnut Road: [clarefrancis@gmail.com](mailto:clarefrancis@gmail.com)

**Nic Lewisohn** (social events; liaison with Kingston Riverside tennis club) 23 Grosvenor Gardens;

[nic@lewisohns.com](mailto:nic@lewisohns.com)

**Richard Mobbs** (newsletter distribution; liaison with Thames Landscape Strategy and CARAFoG; environment) 31 Chestnut Road: [richard@statacom.net](mailto:richard@statacom.net)

**Des Noble** (the police and Neighbourhood Watch);

[desnoble@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:desnoble@blueyonder.co.uk)

**Kelly Page** 19 Chestnut Road;

[kelly1page@yahoo.com](mailto:kelly1page@yahoo.com)

**John Parrish** (newsletter content; parking; liaison with North Kingston Forum; heritage), 108 Lower Ham Road

[john.parrish1080@gmail.com](mailto:john.parrish1080@gmail.com)

**Charles Roscorla** (Membership Secretary; Treasurer; heritage) 12 Ulster Court, Albany Park Road, KT2 5SS;

[charos100@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:charos100@hotmail.co.uk)

## Date for your diary

■ **Wednesday 11th December 19:00 to 21:00**

**Christmas drinks at the Boaters Inn**

All welcome. No tickets, just buy your drinks at the bar. (CARA cards will give 20% off food). For an idea of numbers please email your attendance to [nic@lewisohns.com](mailto:nic@lewisohns.com)

## CARA Street Reps

**Albany Mews**, Maria Netley: [maria.netley@btinternet.com](mailto:maria.netley@btinternet.com)

**Albany Park Road**, Penny Stott: [penny\\_stott@hotmail.com](mailto:penny_stott@hotmail.com)

**The Albany flats, Albany Park Road**, Charles Roscorla  
[charos100@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:charos100@hotmail.co.uk)

**Montague Place, Albany Park Road**, Frances Bailey  
[francesabailey@hotmail.com](mailto:francesabailey@hotmail.com)

**Chestnut Road**, Clare Francis: [clarefrancis@gmail.com](mailto:clarefrancis@gmail.com)

**Eastbury Road**, Trevor Willis: [trevorwillis77@gmail.com](mailto:trevorwillis77@gmail.com)

**Grosvenor Gardens**, Nic Lewisohn  
[nic.lewisohn@kantarworldpanel.com](mailto:nic.lewisohn@kantarworldpanel.com)

**Lower Kings Road**, Jonathan Rollason  
[thinkkingston@yahoo.com](mailto:thinkkingston@yahoo.com)

**Waterman's Close**, Susannah Rose-Innes  
[susannahroseinnes@gmail.com](mailto:susannahroseinnes@gmail.com)

**Woodside Road**, Mirella Docherty  
[mirelladocherty@hotmail.com](mailto: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 Des Noble ([des.noble@virginmedia.com](mailto:des.noble@virginmedia.com))

**Kingston Riverside flats contact**, Deborah Olszewski  
([deborah.olszewski@outlook.com](mailto:deborah.olszewski@outlook.com))

## SUPPORT FOR CARA

Could you put a little time into any CARA projects or activities? CARA needs more people to get involved, or the organisation will fade away. If you are willing to help in any way, however limited, contact a member of CARA Committee (see above).

## CARA MEMBERSHIP 2019/2020

Please use this form, or join and/or pay your subscription on line at <https://carakingston.org/about-us/membership/>

Name:

Address:

Postcode:

Telephone:

Email:

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

I confirm that I support CARA's aims and objectives. (see CARA website [www.carakingston.org](http://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<sup>[2]</sup> for £..... payable to "CARA" for my membership subscription

£5 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 **or**  £10 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021 **or**  £15 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022

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.**

<sup>[1]</sup> A Member should be an individual person. Other residents of a Member's household within CARA Area<sup>[3]</sup> 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.

<sup>[2]</sup> You should **send cash only if it will be delivered by hand.**

<sup>[3]</sup> CARA Area boundaries are:- to the West, the bank of the River Thames; to the North, Lower Ham Road; to the East, the west side of Richmond Road; and to the South, Lower Kings Road and Canbury Place.

*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.*