



CARA

Canbury & Riverside Association

Working to protect and enhance our local amenities for everyone

Newsletter, Summer 2017

CARA to become a Charity

At the CARA AGM last September, it was agreed that the Association should become a registered charity, a "CIO" (Charitable Incorporated Organisation)

This is to help us organise projects and raise funds to well established rules. Your Committee has prepared the submission to the Charity Commission and given answers to 30 pages of questions about CARA. We are confident that the Association satisfies the requirements, but as we go to press we await the Charity Commission's response. Details of the Constitution and Rules are on CARA website at <http://www.carakingston.org>

Changes to membership arrangements agreed at the AGM (to satisfy the Commission) mean that a member can no longer be a household but must be a person. This will have little impact on the benefits of

membership. CARA CIO membership rules, to be adopted from 1/9/17 to simplify membership administration if CARA's charitable status is not confirmed by then, are outlined below.

- Annual membership will be £5 for each subscription year, from 1st September to 31st August the next year. This rate can only be changed by a vote of members.
- A member resident in the CARA Area may bring members of their household to CARA events at the member's entry rate.
- A member resident outside the Area will be entitled to receive CARA Newsletters and other communications in electronic form only.
- The Trustees may vary the arrangements for membership applications and the collection of subscriptions.

Ever wondered about the origin of the old brick wall on Lower Ham Road?



It was built some 210 years ago as the river wall to the splendid villa 'Point Pleasant' by architect John Nash (responsible for much of Regency London). The great English landscape designer Humphry Repton

designed the 16 acres of gardens for the son of the Viscount St John. The wall, sometimes known as "the wavy wall", originally started at Bank Lane and ran along much of Lower Ham Road.

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www.carakingston.org

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Albany Park Road Parking Decision - "...it is outrageous"

A proposal to suspend the controlled parking zone (CPZ) in Albany Park Road (APR), for 12 months recently approved by the council, is to test the effect on parking in the roads to the east of Richmond Road. The CPZ in APR, with Bank Lane and Albany Park Mews, was introduced some 18 months ago. It has resulted in commuter and other long term parking moving east.

Naturally residents in those roads have complained and asked for their own CPZ. However a council poll in those roads narrowly rejected controlled parking – 52% to 48%. This has persuaded our local councillors to carry out the test to measure parking pressure in streets on both sides of Richmond Road if APR is decontrolled.



APR residents are extremely upset by the decision. Letters received by CARA call it "outrageous", "undemocratic" and even "crazy". Penny Stott, CARA Street Rep. in APR, carried out a survey of residents (those in the APR flats were not included). 89% of the homes responded, of whom 98% disagreed with the plan

We are told by the council that no date has been set and before the traffic order is issued residents will be consulted.

We have not been given the cost of this test but have been told that the new meters (see picture) have been installed in case control is reintroduced.

As we go to press...

...we learn from Council Officers that there will be a discussion of an alternative proposal at a council meeting on - 5th September.

Flats on Barge Dock plan rejected ...

Many CARA residents objected to a development building flats over the Barge Dock in Canbury Gardens. The plan to close over the dock with a restaurant and flats above was thrown out by the council. The application was refused because the River Thames Boat Project (RTBP) vessel, the "Thames Venturer", would lose its mooring. Furthermore, the plan did not enhance the river's potential for sport and recreation nor did it avoid a negative impact on wildlife. Importantly the design, scale and massing would be oppressive at the entrance to the Gardens. Your Committee's support for the objection was noted at the council meeting.

Canbury Gardens Working Party News

CGWP which includes CARA, council officers, the local police, Quadron (now idVerde), the Pavilion, our local sports clubs (rowing and tennis), the Thames Landscape Strategy, met with Chair, Cllr Hugh Scantlebury, in April.

We welcomed the news that capital funds are being applied for in the council's 2017/18 budget to restructure parts of the riverbank to counter erosion, including strengthening the bank with stone-filled gabions, beaching and sensitive planting.

There is also funding of £50k for a council managed "activity zone" between the Pavilion and the Tennis Club. A study group is looking at a training sports pitch, some outdoor gym equipment and spectator benches.

There's been work on the rose bed, and the swathe of daffodils will be refreshed in the autumn. Some diseased trees have been replaced by a mix of oaks and broad-leaf poplars, and largely well-received.

The issue of some vehicles (eg for deliveries) driving on the grass was raised, and this will be monitored. The perennial problem of the barrier to the tow path at the north end of the Gardens being left unlocked continues. (see police report).



CARA Late Summer BBQ, Sunday 24th September, 1pm.

Following last year's success, we are delighted to hold the Late Summer BBQ social event at the Kingston Riverside (tennis) Club again. Our local butcher, Bevan's, will be supplying and cooking the food. We look forward to seeing you there. Invitations, details and booking forms will follow shortly.

... and a new RTBP mooring agreed

Permission has been granted to create a second mooring downstream of the Barge Dock for a new, second River Thames Boat Project boat due to be delivered shortly. Railings on this stretch have to be upgraded, the riverbank smartened up and a disabled person's access created.

Tennis Court Lighting

The replacement lighting at the KRC tennis courts was approved by the council. The new lighting is very contentious. A number of residents (including some Committee members) were very much against it as they felt that wildlife would be affected. However many more locals wrote in support of the club's application and the council concurred.

A detailed report tabled at the meeting showed that the lights were less intrusive than those previously knocked out by a storm last year. Your Committee supported the application with the proviso that there was additional screening to limit the light spread. The council agreed that a "dark corridor" should be maintained between the tennis courts and the river.

A 'Public Use' Defibrillator to be sited in Canbury Gardens

The life-saving equipment if someone has a heart attack will be available for public use this autumn. Alan Pettit, a CARA resident, has inspired your Committee to front this plan. Greene King (owners of Boaters), the Rowing Club, KRC tennis club and the Pavilion Trustees have joined us in this project. The cost of the equipment, installing it and training a number of volunteers in using it will be nearly £1,600, plus VAT, to be shared between all. CARA has obtained funds kindly donated by Berkeley Homes to cover our share. Full details of the location and what residents need to do in an emergency will be issued when the work is completed.

Police Report

Tudor Ward is generally very safe from crime. There have been more burglaries in our area, but the police say the increase is from a very low base. Bicycle theft continues to be a problem. The police and your Neighbourhood Watch team advise vigilance and urge us all to phone 101 if we have a suspicion of criminal activity.

Canbury Gardens does attract problems however. The frequently open barrier at the north end does not help. Recently a resident sent to our police team, a video of a "stock car" race in the Gardens. One other thing CARA is pressing the council for, a secure system for locking the towpath barrier.

CARA Nature Watch

If you like butterflies...

Leave those nettles alone! Though this year's warm spring and summer have been good for butterflies, numbers have been declining in recent years and they do need our help. Nettles are an important food source for the caterpillars of some common garden butterflies. More at butterfly-conservation.org.

Trees need our help too If you live near a young street tree that starts looking droopy in hot dry weather do please give it a drink. Trees do a great job of cleaning and oxygenating our air and screening us from the noise and pollution of busy roads - the least we can do in return is try to keep them alive.

The seat so nicely carved last year out of a chopped down plane tree in Canbury Gardens is sprouting healthy leaves, however, and demonstrates how sometimes nature is very resilient (see picture left).

Canbury Community Garden held a successful Open Afternoon in July and hopes for a few more regular gardeners as a result. Volunteers have achieved wonders in what was a bramble patch and rubbish dump a year ago, and have been harvesting and eating runner beans, potatoes, courgettes, baby carrots, radishes, rocket... There is now a flourishing herb spiral covering some unsightly concrete-filled oil-drums, and, thanks to a team from McDonalds who worked hard one July morning constructing it, we have a pond in the wildlife area.

New volunteers at the weekend gardening session are always welcome - the main rules are to wear sensible clothes and shoes, and that those that do the work get the harvest. See Canbury Community Garden Facebook page for details and updates.



Litterpicking

In May Leander Sea Scouts put out a boat to help CARA volunteers clear litter from the riverbank along Lower Ham Road and Canbury Gardens, collecting an assortment of unsightly rubbish. There will be another opportunity for you to help keep the riverbank tidy on Saturday 14th October.

(See Dates for your diary on back page.)

CARA Committee

Penny D'Souza (planning applications; liaison with Canbury Gardens Working Party; liaison with the Council), 14 Chestnut Road; 020 8549 5331; pennydsouza@blueyonder.co.uk

Clare Francis (liaison with Conservation Area Advisory Committee; planning applications), 16 Chestnut Road; 020 8549 4581; clarefrancis@gmail.com

Nic Lewisohn (social events), 23 Grosvenor Gardens; 07710 971917; nic@lewisohns.com

Richard Mobbs (newsletter distribution; river and riverside, Thames Landscape Strategy liaison, CARAFoG), Chestnut Road; 07762 598 309; richard@statacom.net

Des Noble (liaison with police and Neighbourhood Watch), desnoble@blueyonder.co.uk

John Parrish (chair, parking), 108 Lower Ham Road; 020 8546 1235; john.parrish1080@gmail.com

Jonathan Rollason (vice-chair, fundraising), 10 Lower Kings Road; 0208 541 0808; Jonathan.rollason2@me.com

Charles Roscorla (membership, treasurer), 12 Ulster Court, Albany Park Road, KT2 5SS; 020 8546 0202; charos100@hotmail.co.uk

CARA 2016 AGM

**At the Pavilion, Canbury Gardens
Thursday 26th October 2017, 8.00pm**

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies for absence
2. 2016 Minutes, matters arising, if any
3. Highlights of 2016/17.
4. Finance and Membership report
5. Special Resolution - CARA Membership Rules*
6. Election of Committee 2017/18
7. Any Other Business

Guest Speaker: to be advised
Refreshments will be served

All welcome, but only CARA Members may vote (Renewals are due from 1st Sept; you may join/renew at the AGM.)

* The Special Resolution is as follows: "From 1 September 2017 CARA memberships shall be governed by CARA CIO Rules, as agreed at the CARA AGM on 15 September 2016."

Note: CARA may not be registered as a CIO by that date because of high volumes of work at the Charity Commission, but this resolution allows us to be ready to seamlessly convert to a CIO from the date of registration. The relevant extracts from CARA CIO rules are set out in "CARA to become a charity" on the front page.

Dates for your diary

■ Sunday, 24th September Late Summer Party, 1 o/c

Meet your neighbours at our BBQ at the Kingston Riverside Club. BBQ by Bevans the Butcher with salads and puddings and a subsidised bar (first drink free). Full details available on our website, door to door leaflet or from Nic@lewishons.com

■ Saturday, 14th October Riverside Litterpick, 11.15 am

Please come along to the slipway at the northern end of Canbury Gardens to help tidy up the riverbank.

CARA will provide grabbers, gloves (you may prefer your own), rubbish sacks, high-visibility vests and guidance on health and safety. Families are welcome as long as children are with a responsible adult.

■ Thursday, 26th October AGM at the Pavilion, 8 pm.

(see Agenda in left hand column)

Street Reps

Albany Mews, Maria Netley -
maria.netley@btinternet.com;

Albany Park Road, Penny Stott -
penny_stott@hotmail.com;

42A Albany Park Road, Frances Bailey -
francesabailey@hotmail.com;

Grosvenor Gardens, Nic Lewisohn -
nic.lewisohn@kantarworldpanel.com;

Lower Kings Road, Jonathan Rollason -
thinkkingston@yahoo.com;

Waterman's Close, Susannah Rose-Innes -
susannahroseinnes@gmail.com;

Woodside Road, Jan Howard-Williams -
janinglis11@gmail.com

Jenny Langridge is moving and Des Noble (see CARA committee) is to take over from October 1st

CARA NEEDS YOUR HELP

The association is very successful. We are strong financially, with a very good number of paid up members in our 800 homes. We are well respected and listened to by the council, the police and local businesses. We have initiated and raised funds for many important projects in our area, so we've applied for charitable status.

But, and it is a very big "but", we are seriously short of help. Could you be interested? We need community minded residents to share just a little of the work, and bring expertise or ideas, big or small or just plain common sense.

Please contact john.parrish1080@gmail.com