

Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage

For the benefit of Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation Area
and its environs

BULLETIN: Winter 2014



We're moving the horse trough!

The historic horse trough on the corner of Cricket Green has been hit by traffic on more than one occasion. So, as one of a number of projects funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund we have arranged for it to be moved further back on the pavement.

When you see it in its new location you'll notice that the horse trough has also been cleaned. We've also arranged for the mile stone on London Road and the Tom Ruff Memorial stone just inside the cricket green boundary to be cleaned. Look out for these newly gleaming local landmarks.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE ● Adding to the local list ● Canons to get glaring floodlights till 9.45pm ● The future of the Fire Station ● We're working with SITA to reduce lorry traffic on Church Road ● Make Mitcham bloom in 2014

Floodlit pitches at Canons to 9.45pm get go ahead

We have lost our battle to prevent a floodlit games area being built on the site of the old tennis courts at the Canons. We initially raised the idea of refurbishing the courts as a free public access sports facility with the Council. Officers ignored our proposal and developed their own plans for a flood lit Multi Use Games Area (MUGA).

This has been granted planning permission which includes floodlights operational till 9.45pm every night of the week. Despite the multi use designation we understand the two pitches will be mostly used for football. They will be managed by the Canons Leisure Centre and hired out at commercial rates. There is no condition on the planning permission to provide affordable access for local people.

As well as causing serious light pollution building these new pitches will mean the loss of a part of the nearby copse and disturbance of a valuable habitat for bats.

We were very disappointed that none of our three ward councillors stood up to defend Cricket Green Conservation Area against this development even though it is recognised to be a breach of local planning policies. We have challenged our councillors on this and you can read an ongoing open discussion at our web site. At the time of writing our ward councillors have failed to respond to our request for them to recommit to protect the Conservation Area and resist all development which damages its special qualities. Follow the debate at www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk.

News in brief

Adding to the local list. We've been successful in getting the crucifix memorial in the Parish churchyard and the cart dip at Three Kings Pond as provisional additions to the local list. This will give them protection in the future and recognises their local, historical importance.

London Road Playing fields update. Our efforts over the last two years to get London Road Playing Fields designated as a Queen Elizabeth II Field have failed.

We did all the groundwork for the Council and prepared an exciting community project with guaranteed funding and a partner organisation. Despite supporting our plans in writing many times the Council unexpectedly and suddenly decided to pull the plug.

We have not been given any substantive reasons for this action. We're sorry that local people have lost a golden opportunity for community activity and that this important local space does not now benefit from legal protection.

SITA Lorrywatch

We are working with partner community organisations and local people to influence how heavy lorries from SITA's waste recycling facility at Benedict Wharf use Church Road. During a walkabout with senior SITA staff and the Benedict Wharf site manager there was a lorry crash and another lorry mounted the pavement as the road was too narrow for it. These are far from rare events on Church Road!

SITA has agreed to consider using route monitoring technology in the vehicles it owns, work with its haulage contractor (which runs the big blue lorries) on ways to reduce traffic on the narrow part of Church Road, and ensure vehicles park inside the facility rather than on Hollowfield Way overnight.

Email us to join the 'lorrywatch' email list so we can keep you updated on progress.
info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk

Mitcham is bloomin' marvellous

We achieved a 'Developing' award in the London In Bloom It's Your Neighbourhood competition 2013. We were told "The involvement of several groups is leading to a much more pleasant environment and better managed green spaces."

This is very much the result of a team effort, so well done to everyone who planted something, tidied something or generally looked after where they live. It was a bloomin' marvellous outcome for Mitcham. We've plenty to aim for in 2014.

Fire station future

We are working with Merton Council and the arts charity Theatre 6 to secure a future for the fire station at Cricket Green after the fire brigade moves into new premises on London Road near Mitcham Tram stop during 2014.

We are seeking a planning designation for the site which will mean it cannot be used for housing or as a supermarket. We are keen to see the building become a local arts and community facility and spoke at a planning enquiry looking at this proposed designation in January.

This planning enquiry is part of a much wider exercise covering the whole Borough which will identify sites for development between 2014 and 2024 and provide broad guidelines on their prospective uses. You will find all the relevant information and documents at Merton Council's web site - <http://bit.ly/1hS74H0>

About Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage

Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage is the civic society for Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation Area and its environs. Cricket Green has great historical importance, including a really interesting sporting heritage that's about more than just cricket. We work hard to protect Cricket Green, maintain its much valued village character, and encourage everyone to enjoy its open spaces and take pleasure in its history and diverse local community.

We are part of a national network of hundreds of civic societies through our membership of Civic Voice.

Dates for your diary

7 February 2013 Annual Dinner. This will be our second annual dinner. All members and their guests are invited to attend. Further details will be sent to members by email

26 February 2013 Monthly Meeting. Our regular monthly meeting at the Cricket Pavilion on Cricket Green starts at 6pm. All are welcome.

Join us and make a difference

As a local charity and voluntary group we rely on your support. How you can help us:

- Join us. Annual membership costs £10. You will find a joining form at our web site or send an email to info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk
- Give us your views on issues in this Bulletin (info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk)
- Ask us for more information about anything in this bulletin
- Come along to one of our meetings. We meet on the last Tuesday of every month at 6pm in the Cricket Pavilion (except December). Everyone is welcome.
- Follow our lively and informative twitter stream - @MitchamCrktGrn

Keep in touch

Email and membership enquiries:

info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk

020 8640 3879 (answermachine – please leave a message)

Web: www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk

Twitter: @MitchamCrktGrn

