

# Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage

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

## Bulletin Winter 2016



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## **The Canons Lottery project – progress so far**

We asked Merton Council's Project Manager for the £4m Lottery bid for The Canons, Ganesh Gnanamoorthy, to provide a project update. Here's what he said:

*In December 2014 a bid was made to the Lottery for a project involving The Canons – including both the house and surrounding open spaces. This was successful and £315,000 of a total of nearly £4m that was bid for was made available to develop detailed proposals. The deadline for the submission of these proposals, the "Stage 2" bid, is mid-December 2016.*

*A Project Manager and Community Engagement Officer have been appointed and consultants Southern Green have been contracted to produce a Conservation Management Plan. This will explore the historic importance of the site, how it has changed over time, and what needs to be considered for its future use. It will be ready by the end of April 2016.*

*We have also been trying to gain an understanding of the current use of The Canons buildings and open spaces. Volunteers have been involved in conducting a user survey. The support and involvement of the community is vital in a project like - thank you to all who took part. There will be plenty of other opportunities to assist!*

*Over the year there will be community events where you can say how you would like to see The Canons in the future. A contracted Design Team will turn ideas into plans. The Canons house needs to generate sufficient income to cover the costs of looking after The Canons, and we are exploring ideas for this at present.*

As we write no decision has been made on the planning application to build flats on the former **Kwik Fit** site on London Road. Things may have changed by the time you read this, but please check the planning application at Merton Council's web site - [bit.ly/1Opmtg5](http://bit.ly/1Opmtg5) - and if no decision has been made consider making your own comments.

The application is for up to four stories of flats which we feel is too high and overbearing for the site and inappropriate both to the location in the Cricket Green Conservation Area and to the size of nearby housing.

Merton Council is refusing to release documents relating to **contracting out of the maintenance of green spaces** despite a promise to do so.

We sought to obtain the documents using a Freedom of Information request but were told that disclosing them at the current time would be detrimental to the public interest.

Our concern about the contracting out remains, and we continue to pursue this, including through participation in a new green spaces forum that's been set up across the borough in response to the plan.

## **The Canons survey completed**

During October and November 2015 volunteers from Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage, Friends of the Canons and Mitcham Society undertook a survey of The Canons area to learn more about how people use the open spaces.

Twenty six volunteers, including nineteen from MCGC&H spent time walking a pre-designed route to record the activities they saw happening. A total of 36 hours of information was collected. What we learned will feed in to all the work that is being done on The Canons Lottery project that you can read about elsewhere in this Bulletin.

## **When is a pub not an Asset of Community Value? When it's in Merton!**

Our application for the White Hart pub in Mitcham to be recognised as an Asset of Community Value was rejected by Merton Council despite the fact that pubs are the most commonly recognised Assets of Community Value with over 850 registered according to the Campaign for Real Ale (<http://bit.ly/1INmpKu>).

Asset of Community Value status is important for buildings the local community cares about because if those buildings come up for sale the owner must give the community 6 months to put together a bid to purchase them.

Interestingly, the White Hart pub was recently bought a property development company called Mendoza. We don't know what's in store for the White Hart – or the large car park behind it, but you may wish to read an article about other pubs the company has bought - <http://bit.ly/1INnlhM>.

## **Burn Bullock and cricket pavilion update**

The Burn Bullock has been so neglected it is now subject to an official "repairs notice" and we are also concerned about the future of the cricket pavilion which has the same owners.

To address the issue we have joined up with Mitcham Cricket Club and Merton Council to access independent support and some funding to help find a way forward. We remain committed to protecting the existing pavilion and restoring the pub. The owners may have other plans and the issue is now so serious that it may require compulsory purchase powers to be used.

## **Mitcham Local Care Centre update**

Merton CCG has selected the Wilson Hospital to become the new Local Care Centre for Mitcham. We expect activity on community engagement and design of the new centre to begin imminently. The façade of the existing Wilson Hospital should be retained.

We understand the CCG plans to apply to build housing on the strip of land along the Wilson's boundary with Caesar's Walk as part of the development. The future of the CCG owned Birches Close is still unclear. We will work as much as we are able with the CCG to ensure the community is involved in shaping the plans for both sites.

## **About Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage**

Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage is the civic society for Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation Area and its environs. Mitcham Cricket Green Conservation Area was among the first to be designated in Merton, in 1969. 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.

**You are welcome to join us on the last Tuesday of every month (except December) for our open meeting at the cricket pavilion on Cricket Green. 7pm start.**

Check [www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](http://www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk) for additional diary dates and for all the latest news about our work.

## **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 you can email us or write to us at our registered office (address below)
- Send your views on issues in this Bulletin to [info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](mailto: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 (except December). Everyone is welcome. Meetings start at 7pm.
- Follow our lively and informative twitter stream - @MitchamCrktGrn
- Like us on Facebook <http://on.fb.me/1mLDIQL>



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