



## Bulletin Summer 2016



### **Future of Queens Head pub uncertain after sale to developers**

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## **The threat of poor quality development**

One of our key roles is to help keep our area special and protect the village feel of Cricket Green. The green itself is surrounded by buildings that represent each of the last three centuries. Many are nationally listed. The 20<sup>th</sup> Century's contribution is the Methodist Church – one of very few Grade II listed post war churches in England. Many more are locally listed, including the cricket pavilion.

New buildings should respect this history and be of the highest quality. Around Cricket Green any new building should be capable of listing within 30 years. This is enshrined in the Cricket Green Charter, published in 2013 after a public event organised with Merton Council. It's what local people want.

We work hard to stave off poor quality, 'could-be-anywhere' new buildings. In recent years we've seen increasing pressure on our lovely area, and sadly some poor quality developments are being built. The overly large block of flats that has been allowed for the former Kwik Fit site is a recent example. Mitcham deserves better and the Queens Head pub is the next opportunity to set the standard for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

If poor development continues the nature of our area will change and the things we love about it will be gone forever. It is vital that local people play their part and voice their opinions on proposed developments in our area. If you want to help us keep our area special, please do consider becoming a member. It only costs £10. You will find a form at our web site – [mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](http://mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk).

The Wilson hospital has been formally selected as the site for the **Mitcham Local Care Centre**. We have published a **community planning and design brief** which sets out the type of development we want to see, what should be protected and how the new building on the site should be designed. This is at our web site <http://bit.ly/1W0X47f>.

**Local listing** status has been achieved after a long campaign for the following: Lower Green West war memorial, Three Kings Pond cart dip, Commonwealth War Graves Commission 'Cross of Sacrifice' in the Parish Churchyard and the monument in the Churchyard explaining the burial area's expansion phases.

We have become founder members of the **Independent Merton Green Spaces Forum**. This group has come together in response to Merton Council's plans to contract out the maintenance of the borough's green spaces. The Forum brings together Friends groups, volunteers and anyone who cares about the borough's open spaces.

Our **Community on the Green** event will take place on the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> July on the cricket ground at Cricket Green. There will be an exhibition, refreshments and a chance to meet local people. More information will be at our web site in due course. All are welcome.

## **Join us on Civic Day**

Please do join us on Civic Day, 18<sup>th</sup> June. This is the day when all over England civic societies like ours put on public events that help people find out more about their local area. We will host a guided walk around The Canons area of Mitcham Cricket Green. There will be lots of new information about the fascinating history and heritage of the area which is currently the focus of a £3.8m Lottery bid.

The walk will be free – and there's no need to book. We will let everyone know the full details at our web site – please check [mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](http://mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk), and put the date in your diary now!

## **Cricketers pub plans sent to design review**

The latest in a long line of planning applications for the Cricketers pub was referred to Merton Council's Design Review Panel in a surprise move by the Planning Applications Committee.

This welcome outcome shows that the Planning Committee has more powers than just to 'approve' or 'dismiss' applications, and can take positive action where they feel design is not up to the high standards an area deserves. We were pleased to hear the strong comments on design made at the Committee. You can listen to a recording at our web site and hear what we said. Go straight to <http://bit.ly/1SD2CyP>. By the time you read this the outcome of the Design Review Panel discussion should be public. Keep an eye on our web site for news.

## **Burn Bullock saga rolls on**

The Burn Bullock is now under new ownership, but the change does not seem to have had a great effect on the future of this locally loved and Grade II listed pub. The new owner is elusive and secretive, refusing to meet with us to discuss plans.

Merton Council has given the owner numerous extensions to the repairs notice it served in 2014 requiring internal and external restoration work. The future of the pub and its surrounding land (including Mitcham cricket pavilion) is, as we write, still unknown. We continue to press for a positive outcome.

## **Will Merton Council remove Kwik Fit site from the Conservation Area?**

We are sad to report that Merton Council gave permission for a poor quality, and overly tall and bulky block of flats at the former Kwik Fit site on London Road. Following the decision we organised a petition to ask Merton Council to remove the site from the Conservation Area. The site is on the very edge of the Conservation Area and so not difficult to remove.

Over 200 people signed the petition, which was presented to Merton Council by Cricket Green Ward Councillor Judy Saunders. She also spoke against the proposal along with us and local residents at the Planning Applications Committee.

## **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.**

**In addition please do join us on: 11 June**, Mitcham Carnival at Three Kings Piece, Mitcham **18 June**, Civic Day walk, Cricket Green and The Canons, **27 July**, Community on the Green, an evening event that celebrates Cricket Green, **17 September**, Mitcham Heritage Day. Full details of these events will be at our web site.

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. There is a joining form at our web site or email us or write to us at our registered office (address below)
- 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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17 East Place, West Noorwood, SE27 9JW  
Tel 020 8640 6015 [info@sepress.org](mailto:info@sepress.org)

**General enquiries: [info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](mailto:info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk)**  
**Web site: [www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk](http://www.mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk)**  
**Twitter: @MitchamCrktGrn**

**Registered Office c/o MVSC, Vestry Hall, 336/338 London Road,  
Mitcham, Surrey, CR4 3UD**  
**Company registration no. 04659164 Charity registration no. 1106859**