



Bulletin Winter 2017



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Burn Bullock development plans revealed

At last we have seen development proposals for the Burn Bullock. This is a key site for Mitcham Cricket Green as it not only comprises the Grade II Listed Burn Bullock pub, but also the locally listed Mitcham Cricket Pavilion and a large area of car parking.

It is a significant site, and needs the most careful of treatment to ensure development is of the quality that Cricket Green deserves. We're also very conscious of the need to secure the future of Mitcham Cricket Pavilion and its associated storage building. Without these it will no longer be possible to play cricket on the ground where it has been played longer than anywhere else in the world - since 1685.

We have been working closely with Mitcham Cricket Club to help secure the future of the pavilion, and are also trying hard to work with the developers both in the interests of the pavilion and the wider site.

At the time of writing, plans we have seen include converting the upper floor of the Burn Bullock pub into flats, using the ground floor of the Burn Bullock as a restaurant, building new blocks of flats that rise to four storeys, retaining the existing pavilion, demolishing the cricket club's existing storage room and replacing this with a new storage space that has a flat above.

It is very early days for this proposal, and the situation is very fluid. There are many unanswered questions. Watch our web site for all the latest news and developments.

We have proposed to Historic England that the **war memorial on Lower Green West** is nationally listed. The memorial was unveiled in 1920 at a ceremony attended by 5,000 people. More of this fascinating story is at our web site - <http://bit.ly/2inB0Df>.

Merton Council has completed the process of **contracting out the management of green spaces** to *id verde*. We were instrumental in setting up the Independent Merton Green Spaces Forum, a collective of Friends and other like minded groups and individuals. The Forum continues to keep a watching brief, facilitate engagement with *id verde*, and share information. Contact imgforum@gmail.com.

Last summer we joined organisations across England in a campaign run by Friends of the Earth to **measure air quality** in our local area. We chose three locations round Cricket Green using equipment FoE provided for free. Our findings suggest air pollution at Cricket Green exceeds European legal limits for nitrogen dioxide. Details at our web site - <http://bit.ly/2inrjoo>.

Proposed closure of the **Wilson Health Centre** and GP surgery at the end of March is causing much local concern. We are supporting efforts to keep these facilities open, and are working with the local MP and other groups. There is an online petition at <http://bit.ly/2kHXqBk>.

The Canons Lottery bid – all eyes are on a June decision

The bid for around £4 million of Lottery funding for The Canons, house and surrounding open spaces must be submitted by the end of February.

The bid is the result of more than two years' work by The Canons Partnership, which comprises Merton Council, Mitcham Cricket Green Community & Heritage Friends of the Canons and Mitcham Society. Together the three community organisations have contributed over 500 hours of volunteering time in developing this project in the last two years.

A successful bid will see The Canons house returned to use as a mix of offices and community spaces, a new café and toilets, and a new, relocated childrens' playground and a plaza outside the leisure centre. There will also be work done on the open spaces, the listed dovecote and obelisk as well as the pond. A programme of community activities is also being developed. We're going to be heavily involved – get in touch if you want to be part of an exciting new future for The Canons.

Celebrating 50 years of Conservation Areas

Did you know that Conservation Area legislation is 50 years old? We are celebrating this with national charity Civic Voice by identifying 50 things that make Cricket Green Conservation Area special.

We want to hear everyone's suggestions for inclusion in the list, and we're open to all ideas for things large and small. Views, trees, walls, paths, buildings – or details of buildings, and anything else you can think of!

Suggestions – with a photo if possible - to info@mitchamcricketgreen.org.uk.

New artwork for Cricket Green

When we learned that the Queens Head pub was to be converted into flats, we made contact with the owner and with schools in Mitcham to come up with a way of making the hoardings around the site look more attractive.

We're delighted that as a result the hoardings will be adorned with artworks drawn by local school children. If they're not in place by the time you read this, they soon will be. Keep your eyes peeled!

Cricketers flats get go-ahead

A Planning Inspector has given the green light to demolish the Cricketers for a new block of flats. This follows a long campaign to protect this sensitive site next to the Vestry Hall, and was the third time proposals rejected by Merton Council had gone to a Planning Inspector following an appeal against the decision.

The latest plans are the least intrusive of those put forward, and we thank all those – including Merton's planning committee - who have continuously demanded the best from development at this site over several years.

Brook House flats conversion not quite done and dusted

The conversion of the Brook House office block into flats nears completion, but there may be more to come. An application was made to convert the roofspace into flats, jamming in a further 6 flats in addition to the 46 already being built. Merton Council refused permission, and the owners have appealed that decision.

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.

Everyone is 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 for additional diary dates and news.

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 our registered office (address below)
- Follow our lively and informative twitter stream - @MitchamCrktGrn
- Like us on Facebook <http://on.fb.me/1mLDIQL>



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