



BROOKMILL ROAD CONSERVATION AREA SOCIETY AGM 13 JUNE 2023
Held online via zoom

Chair's report covering period 15 March 2022- 13 June 2023

It has been a relatively quiet year. Alongside responding to planning applications, we responded to LB Lewisham consultations and questionnaires, cooperated with local societies on issues of shared concern and attended relevant Council meetings.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

As an official consultee of Lewisham Council, we review and comment on all planning applications in the area and beyond, where these may set precedents of concern. Applications are circulated monthly to members for comment, discussed by the officers, and responses submitted to Lewisham planning.

All responses submitted by the Society to Lewisham's planning department are in accordance with conservation law. The Society encourages appropriate development and good design. All responses seek to conserve the key characteristics of the area as highlighted in the Conservation Area's Character Appraisal and our constitution.

The following applications were reviewed and commented on:

2 applications for installation of bike stores;
1 application for a roof extension and dormer windows;
2 applications for window installations.

CONSULTATIONS AND QUESTIONNAIRES:

- Siting of electric charging points;
- The Deptford Neighbourhood Forum boundary review;
- Local democracy review.

We analysed the rail timetable changes affecting service at St Johns station, communicated these to our local Councillor and added our voice to local objections in reduction of services.

Following the retrofit webinars we hosted in 2021 in association with South East London Community Energy and Historic England, we have continued to consult the technical team at Historic England regarding developments of interest to CAs, for example in relation to the review of RdSAPs and any impact this might have on requirements for traditional buildings in terms of energy efficiency.



LOCAL LIAISON

We liaised with the team at Blueprint for All about rubbish bin management on the pavement on the bend of Brookmill Road near the footbridge and Blueprint's entrance.

In February, we met with Cllrs Penfold and Lahai-Taylor as part of their series of meetings with local amenity societies. We had an opportunity to discuss our conservation priorities, including lobbying for a new pedestrian crossing on Brookmill Road and rebuilding of the damaged small wall outside Blueprint for All.

LEWISHAM AMENITY SOCIETIES MEMBERSHIP

We are a member of FOCAS - the Forum for Community and Amenity Societies in Lewisham - which offers a valuable forum for discussion of council accountability and issues of shared concern. We attended the Lewisham Community Forum in February.

PLANS FOR THE COMING YEAR

We look forward to LBL being able to move forward on the character appraisal review.

This would include review of the CA boundaries in relation to Brookmill Park. A query about the possibility of extending the boundaries to cover the whole of the park was raised by the Society with the Conservation Officer at a meeting in 2020. We understand this decision depends on whether there is a heritage justification. It's possible the embankment of the defunct Croydon to Greenwich railway, in the area of the park currently outside the CA, might justify this.

We plan continuing communication with Historic England and others on evolving retrofit guidance and opportunities for Conservation Areas.

This report will be available on the Society's website.