



Brookmill Road Conservation Area Society AGM 15 March 2022

Held online via zoom

Chair's report covering period 13 January 2021 - 14 March 2022

We have had a productive year. Alongside responding to planning applications and participating in consultations, we forged a partnership with a regional community energy company and worked with Historic England on a series of webinars to improve understanding about reduction of carbon emissions in older housing stock whilst observing conservation principles.

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 the Society's responses are submitted by the Chair to Lewisham planning. The Society has also kept up to date with various consultations and cooperated with local amenity societies on issues of shared concern.

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:

4 applications for single-storey rear extensions;
2 applications for roof extensions;
3 applications for changes to front curtilages;
1 application for installation of a bin and bike store;
2 enforcement notices were requested for Upvc windows wrongly installed to front elevations.

Neighbour concerns regarding felling of a large tree in a private garden were conveyed to the LBL tree officer and responses communicated.

PARTICIPATION IN CONSULTATIONS

The Society submitted responses to the following consultations:

- Lewisham Borough of Culture
- Small sites Supplementary Planning Document
- Creeklink Group's Deptford Heritage Trail



- LB Lewisham's Task and Finish Group on barriers to retrofitting privately owned homes.

MEETING WITH COUNCILLORS

A meeting with Councillors Penfold and McGeevor was held on 17 May to update them on developments and to learn more about LBL's wider retrofitting plans.

WEBINAR SERIES: RETROFIT IN CONSERVATION AREAS

We initiated a partnership with South East London Community Energy (SELCE)'s Future Fit Homes division to host two webinars in October and November on improving insulation in conservation areas. Speakers from Historic England and SELCE spoke about current policy and wider context at the first session. Practical solutions were covered in the second session with case studies presented by an individual householder and a conservation architect. Cllr Louise Krupski summarised Lewisham's progress on the work of the 'Task and Finish Group' in retrofitting public buildings.

Around 100 people attended representing other South East London amenity societies, local residents, architects and conservation professionals.

We received several messages of appreciation from attendees and were delighted the webinars sparked discussion amongst practitioners about the national potential for local community energy companies and conservation areas to team up on the urgent retrofit task.

The recordings are still available online at futurefithomes.org. Donations were raised towards SELCE's fuel poverty work.

Lewisham amenity societies

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.

Members

We were delighted to welcome two new members to the society this year.

Plans for the coming year

We look forward to LBL being able to move forward on the character appraisal review. We plan further discussion with Historic England and others on evolving guidance and opportunities for Conservation Areas.

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