



Winter 2022

Welcome to the Winter edition of the Earl's Court Society Newsletter

The Society represents the interests of all residents of Earl's Court and works with the Council and other bodies on all issues affecting our community.

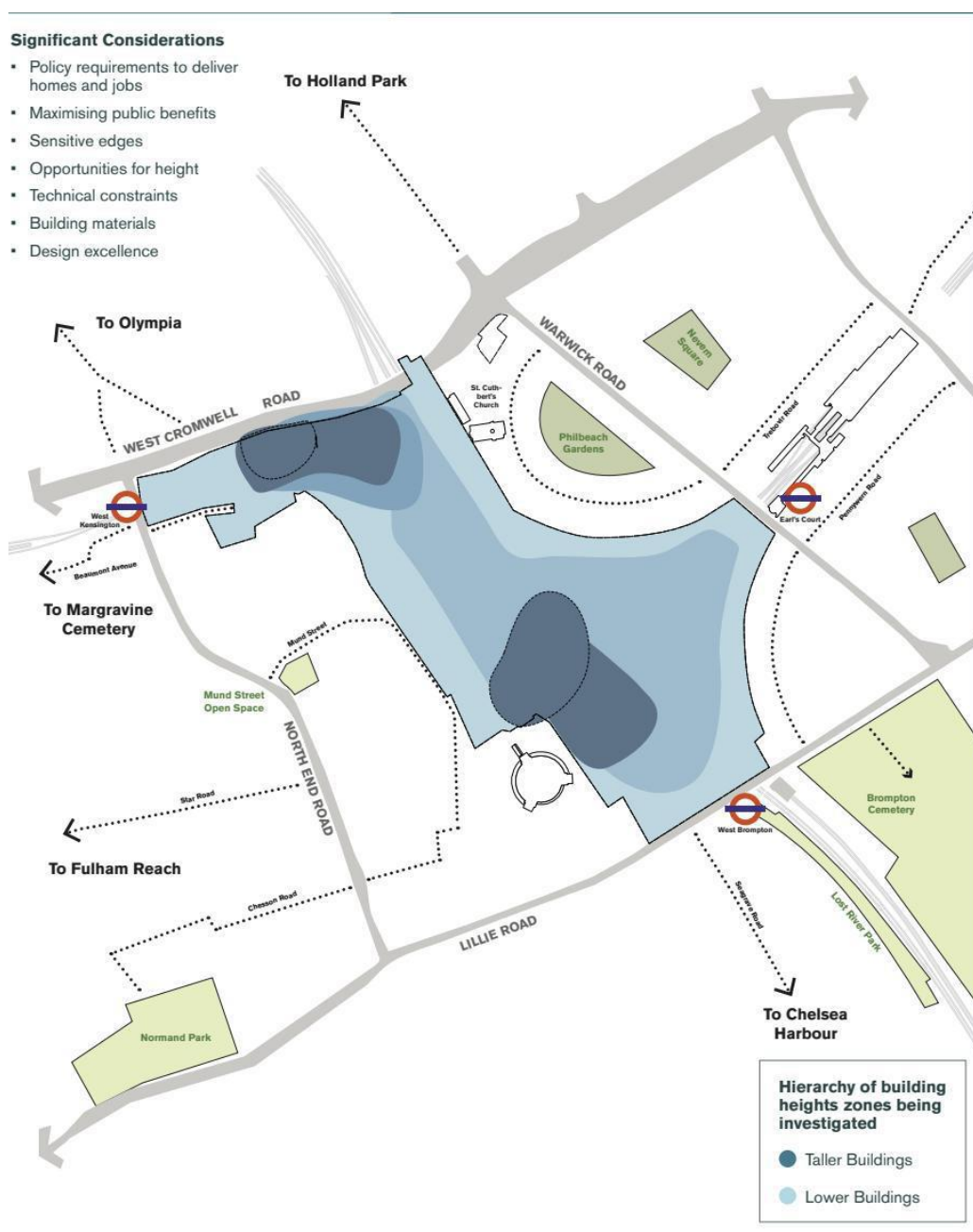
Planning and Licensing

Exhibition Development Site: The new owners of the Earl's Court Exhibition development site, (ECDC) are embarking on a one-year consultation programme to learn more about local residents' ambitions and hopes for the site. During the autumn they ran a series of site visits for various local groups and residents' associations, as well as several drop-in events to find out more about their plans, all of which were well attended. ECDC is currently hosting a series of workshops to look in more detail at elements of the early masterplan. To find out more or get involved, please email Info@EarlsCourtDevCo.Com.

In October, members of the Society attended a site visit and briefing with ECDC. Once kitted out in full PPE they were taken up onto the "Table" (the platform over the railway tracks), which offers a sweeping view of the vast 43 acre cleared site. After the site tour they attended a briefing with ECDC officers, although few details regarding the developing plans were available.

The Society has formed the ECDC Development Group, consisting of members of the Planning Committee and the neighbouring residents' associations to liaise with the developers. The Group holds regular monthly meetings to discuss the latest developments and agree its approach, and is meeting with ECDC every two months to hear their latest plans and express the Society's views.





Now that the “Summer of Love” RBKC Arts Festival is over, ECDC are seeking further suggestions for a meanwhile use for the Warwick Road forecourt. Please send any bright ideas through their website at <https://theearlscourtdevelopmentcompany.com/the-site/the-vision-for-earls-court>.



Shopfront Improvement Scheme: The Earl's Court Road Shopfront Improvement Scheme working group has had another successful intervention. When an application for a new metal and glass shopfront was submitted, we met with the owner of Kings Mediterranean at 308 Earl's Court Road to discuss the design. After sharing archive photos and the RBKC shopfront guidelines SPD the owner changed the design which has now been installed. This new version is sympathetic to the Victorian host building and includes a traditional timber stall riser which hides the mechanics of the refrigerated display case.

Transport and Highways

Eardley Crescent and Kempsford Gardens: The promised traffic data gathering has not started due to financial reasons. We need another meeting with residents about the reversal of the one-way in Eardley Crescent and the blockage of Kempsford Gardens, which residents have requested.

ULEZ Expansion: Now that the GLA Mayor, Sadiq Khan, has introduced the ULEZ (Ultra Low Emission Zone), cars in the borough, which do not meet EURO 6 standards (most Diesel cars made since 2017 or most petrol cars made since 2007), have to pay a charge of £12.50 each day they drive it. EURO 6 means. If your vehicle is older, it will probably be non-compliant, although it does depend on the make and model. You can check the compliance of your vehicle at <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/check-your-vehicle/?intcmp=53526>.

Motorbike Courier Deliveries: Hamish, Linda and Malcolm all met the Director of Deliveroo last year at a site meeting in the ward, which they invited him to attend to see some of the problems first-hand. He promised that if we could provide photographic evidence that any of his drivers caused a nuisance or broke the traffic laws, he would not renew their contract.

We have also held meetings with Nando's about the motorbike parking hub outside their restaurant, where regularly 30 motorbikes cram into a space designed for 10, and overspill onto the other side of the road, creating a traffic hazard and accident danger zone.

Linda and Malcolm have proposed various solutions to Nando's and to Council Officers; these include extra motorcycle parking bays in nearby streets, active management by Nando's, new signage, better enforcement by wardens, better regulation and professionalism by riders (e.g., full driving licences only, extra licensing by borough).

The three ward councillors have also supported residents in the Earl's Court Village area who have experienced problems caused by the new Getir delivery warehouse in the former Police Office in Kenway Road.

Since then, we have seen a proliferation of motorcycle delivery services and bicycle couriers, including Deliveroo, Getir, Uber Eats, Just Eat, Foodhub and Nando's.

The motorbikes seem to be nearly all learner drivers, who regularly flout the road systems, the traffic laws and the Highway Code. The bicycles do the same, and ride dangerously on the pavements.

We think this is a growing market, developed during lockdown, and regulation has not yet caught up with the problems. Malcolm is meeting the relevant Council members and officers to discuss this issue.



Spear Mews: The Earl's Court Road entry has been blocked and signage has been installed.

Earl's Court Road: We are lobbying RBKC & TfL for removal of the bus-stop pavement build-outs on **Earl's Court Road**, put in by TfL without consultation, as they cause huge pollution-generating vehicle-tailbacks and create dangers for cyclists.

Earl's Court Village: Getir continues to be a nuisance for residents due to electric motorbike operations, and blocking of Kenway Road due to deliveries.



Kenway Road: A mini-open air food location has been created here with the Government's new Pavement Licences, and by suspending a few Pay & Display bays (**not** residents' parking) so that tables and chairs can be put out in fine weather and covered over with canopies for wet weather. This allows social-distancing, and is helping to restore trading numbers and reassure residents that, with sensible precautions, some normal life can be carried on.

Acoustic Cameras: Now that most of the Borough has been approved as being a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) area, we have the legal powers to install acoustic cameras, which are capable of detecting and photographing noisy vehicles. These cameras have proved highly effective around Harrods, catching many noisy supercars and motorbikes.

Residents on Warwick Road, Old Brompton Road, and Cromwell Road have been demanding action for some time; however, we now have the problem of funding these cameras, which can cost several thousand pounds each. The Society is encouraging applications from residents' associations for money from the Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (NCIL) Fund or the City Living Local Life (CLLL) Fund to pay for CCTV and PSPO Acoustic Cameras for supercars and noisy motorbike detection.



Car Charging: As of mid-September 2021, in Kensington and Chelsea there were:

- Three rapid chargers.
- 104 Source London charging points.
- 425 lamp column chargers.

This means that nearly all residents are within 200 metres of a charging point and over 73 per cent of residents are within 100 metres. Full details of charging points within the borough may be found at <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/parking-transport-and-streets/visitor-parking-and-pay-phone/electric-vehicles>.



We think the borough should be doing more to help residents with self-charging points at home, for those who do not have a private garage, drive, or hard-standing. It is not allowed to have cables trailing over the pavement, or slung from upper windows across the pavement, so we would like to see a special type of kerb-stone, designed, approved and manufactured by the Council, which could be purchased by individual residents. This purchase would include automatic planning permission, and installation by the council contractors, all included in the price, so it would be self-financing. The owner would have to wait for their car to be parked within 10m or so of the weather-proof socket, but they would have a controlling switch within their property to prevent it being used by other people.



North-South Shuttlebus: To help residents get around the borough, the Society is lobbying the Council to start its own Community Transport North-South Kensington circular shuttle bus. This would link key points around the borough, such as Old Chelsea Town Hall, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital, The Central Depot, The Town Hall, St. Charles Hospital, plus major local schools. It would be a non-stop circulating shuttle powered by electricity, hydrogen, or fuel cells. There would be a minimal-cost season ticket, with a discount for local Council Tax payers, which would make the service self-funding.



The group are now meeting monthly with a small but engaged group of people and a longer mailing list of interested parties. The group has identified 5 areas it wishes to prioritise organising initiatives and further areas that the group is supportive of in principle providing clarity over future lobbying opportunities. The areas are defined below:

Environment

Counters Creek: The Society is looking into ways to restore the West Kensington Canal.

Air Quality: The Society is prioritising the installation of air quality measurement instruments in the Ward, especially on Warwick Road, Earls Court Road and Cromwell Road. Currently there is only one site on Earls Court Road, which states air quality is below all limits at (practically) all times, which we do not believe to be accurate.

We were successful with our application for a new monitoring node and the group have met the lead from Imperial College London to review the best location. It will measure nitrogen dioxide and fine particulate matter, which are the key types of air pollution affecting people's health.

Platinum Jubilee Greening: We are exploring how to support the area of Earls Court with planting of trees and increasing the amount of plant life ahead of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. We hope to have every corner of the ward looking its best and are particularly keen to understand how we can increase biodiversity promoting interventions.



West Brompton Wetlands and Line Side: The group is particularly keen to support local wildlife by cleaning up and caring for the West Brompton Wetlands and line side. We are seeking access through TfL to arrange a potential community clean up. There aren't many large green spaces in Earls Court, so this area offers an exciting opportunity to provide a much-needed wild habitat for small mammals, insects and birds.

Community Energy Project: We would like to set up a community ground-source heat pump as a trial test pilot. Malcolm proposed use of a garden square or Brompton Cemetery. Ed will connect with Malcolm and the North Kensington Community Energy Project to explore this further.

Rubbish Dumping and Recycling Pilot Scheme: The provision of rubbish bins with regular collection is key to maintaining a healthy, safe and amenable local area. There is a need for recycling bins to be provided alongside general household waste bins.

Graffiti: Graffiti is such a problem at the moment that the Society is continuing to run graffiti cleaning session, managed by Malcolm, the most recent being on Sunday 20 February, when the team tackled the graffiti on the side wall of Ryman's in Trebovir Road. Graffiti may be reported to the Council on <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/myrbkc/report/w/webpage/337BFACB1>.



New Committee Members: The Environment & Highways Group are a new friendly team of local residents, keen to improve the quality of life for people, plants and wildlife in our neighbourhood, including the impact of roads and traffic. The Group meets on the second Thursday of every month at 5:45 for one hour. They are keen to welcome new volunteers, so please get in touch if you're interested, or know someone who might be. To join or for more information, email Ed Latham at ejolatham@gmail.com.

Police, Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour

Anti-Social Behaviour: During the various lockdowns, it became more obvious that our itinerant street population was growing and causing extra outbreaks of ASB and crime. There has also been an increase in ASB and nuisance problems caused by inappropriate placements of mentally-ill patients, drug addicts, drug-dealers and alcoholics into normal residential housing, or into recovery hostels with inadequate support, control or management.

The local Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel has been petitioning for the release and sharing of ASB data, and we have requested sharing of all crime data and Safer Neighbourhood minutes more widely.

RBKC has now made Earl's Court an enhanced ward with two extra PCs and an emphasis on additional training for RBKC wardens.

Hogarth Road: Hogarth Road has suffered some unpleasant incidents over the summer and lockdown periods. There have been violent shooting and stabbing crimes, uncontrolled ASB, drinking and drug-taking on residents' door steps, noise nuisance, unregulated lettings and illegal estate-agent's boards, speeding traffic, general litter and an influx of unusual housing placements. Five brothels have also been closed down in the road.

We have asked for several measures to mitigate these problems, such as speed bumps, extra mobile CCTV, extra Police and Warden patrols, planning enforcement, a review of housing referrals and new planting schemes. We are also supporting new outside restaurant facilities, have arranged an ASB meeting between residents, police and the Council, and are supporting a new active Residents' Association.

CCTV: We continue to lobby the CCTV steering group on uses, operational issues, and locations for new cameras, including demountable mobile cameras for deployment at hot spots (e.g., Cluny Mews and Hogarth Road). We are supporting the installation of CCTV in at least six places that lack coverage.

Police Briefing: Matthew and Danny from the Metropolitan Police provided the following briefing.

- There were 230 stop and searches in the Ward over the three months to November.
- One male, who was arrested for Possession with Intent to Supply on Longridge Road a few months ago, received 45 months in prison and a four-year Community Behaviour Order banning him from Earls Court and the surrounding area, arrestable if breached.
- There have been plain-clothes robbery patrols around the borough targeting knife-point robberies.
- The police have been working with Getir to resolve traffic issues, and there has been a high visual traffic operation around the Ward and surrounding Wards combatting cycling and e-scooters on the pavements.
- At the east end of Penywern Road, in a niche behind the corner shop, there has been street drinking and drug use. The police have worked with David Cunningham of RBKC, who deals with Domestic Abuse and Violence against Women. This has resulted in erecting a trellis, which has pretty much resolved the problem. Only 2 out of 14 potential offenders interviewed were from hostels, the remainder lived in "normal" accommodation. None were homeless.
- The police have identified three prolific repeat offenders for burglaries in the area, who are now progressing through the criminal justice system, and serving sentences.



Health, Housing & Welfare

Health: We are continuing to press AT Medics, NHS and CCG to improve the rear fire doors from the Earl's Court Health & Wellbeing Centre (ECHWC), so that crime and ASB can be designed-out. Residents have raised concerns about the lack of face-to-face consultations with their doctors. Also, Earl's Court ward had the lowest up take in COVID vaccinations in the Borough.

Housing: We have held subsequent meetings with the Lead Member for Housing (Cllr. Kim Taylor-Smith) and Planning (Cllr Johnny Thalassites) about the long-term future for housing locally. We also held a meeting with senior Housing Officers, and the Lead Members for Policing & Community Safety (Cllr. Emma Will) and Adult Social Care & Health (Cllr Cem Kemahli).

There is the on-going issue of the age of the buildings in the social-rented sector, along with the maintenance and repairs of their stock. There have been several walkabouts with social-housing representatives to try and identify some of the most urgent problems and come up with priority action plans to address some of the problems. Social Rented Housing provides much of the low-income accommodation in the ward, but, as a ward with a high level of private rented accommodation, some of the private tenants are experiencing the same problems without the same safeguards.

Key Worker Housing: The average property price in the Royal Borough is now over £1,000,000. The Society is looking at ways to help our key workers with new affordable housing through promoting more intermediate housing in the borough.

Key workers include NHS nurses and junior doctors, new teachers, emergency-services staff, transport staff, low-paid Council workers, etc. Unfortunately, 90% of our own Council staff cannot afford to live in the Borough.

The results of the Council's consultation may be found at <https://consult.rbkc.gov.uk/housing/key-worker-and-intermediate-housing/>.



Business Forum

The new Earl's Court Business Forum, which supports local businesses in branding, marketing and joint initiatives to promote our area, now holds regular steering group meetings. A rebranding exercise has been completed.



Shop and Business Types: Some strange advice seems to be being given to prospective new business owners and investors, as they seem to think that local residents want or need more massage parlours, betting shops, casinos, fast food take-away joints, motorbike delivery services, estate agencies, coffee-bars, all-night off-licences, nail bars and day spas. Residents tell us they need good, healthy, family restaurants, upmarket restaurants, a good fish & chip shop, banks, stationery, art and book shops, good supermarkets, solicitors, accountants, and clothes stores, many of which have closed down or moved out over the last few years.

The Council-funded Earl's Court Business Forum is about to launch a rebranding exercise for the area to improve business perceptions and guide incoming businesses to be a bit more upmarket. Let us know what you think needs to be done, and what type of shop or business you think should be provided in the area.

Residents' Associations

The Residents' Association in Penywern Road has been reformed with a chairman and committee. Lexham Gardens Residents' Association has joined the Society, and we have supported the formation of potential new associations.



Events

Advent Wreath Making: Thank you to everybody who supported this event in St Cuthbert's church and to Father James for organising it. It went so well that they are thinking of making it an annual event. Wreaths from the day could be seen hanging proudly on many of the doors in the neighbourhood throughout the Christmas period!



St Cuthbert's Heritage Open Day: Father Paul is delighted to invite you to the inaugural **St Cuthbert's Heritage Open Day** on **Saturday 5 March, 11am-3pm**. The Open Day will celebrate the rich heritage of St Cuthbert's church and the Earl's Court community, and showcase it to a wider audience. There will be live performances, demonstrations, displays, children's activities, and food and drink throughout the day. The event is open-entry, so do please feel free to invite friends and colleagues.



Free entry

HERITAGE OPEN DAY

St Cuthbert's Church
50 Philbeach Gardens | London | SW5 9EB

Live Performances **Food and drink** **Activities**

Celebrating the best Earl's Court has to offer, in one
of London's **best-kept secrets**

Saturday 5 March 11am – 3pm

TO REGISTER: <https://bit.ly/3AwgXZL>

Or scan the QR code:



Membership

Thanks to all who have already renewed their membership of The Earl's Court Society; however, many of our friends and neighbours have not yet paid up. At just £5 per year, it is one of the best deals around. Your support enables our committed team of local citizens to continue to make Earl's Court work better for everyone as well as making it more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive. In reading this newsletter, you will have discovered some of the things that our various working groups are currently doing to improve life for all of us in Earl's Court.

As our bank now makes charges for processing cheques, it would be much appreciated if you would arrange payment by standing order – a form is attached to this note and you should fill it in, sign it and give to your bank. Alternatively, for those people who do their banking online, you can set up your own standing order. This would be a great help to the Society's officers who process the payments. If for any reason you cannot set up a standing order, then you can also pay by bank transfer – our account details are:

The Earl's Court Society,
Metro Bank,
Account No: 10213867
Sort Code No: 23-05-80

And as a Reference please state the name of the person to whom the membership relates.

If you really have to pay by cheque, then please send or give this to:

Chris David
Flat 8
25-27 Courtfield Road
London SW7 4DA

Please make it clear for whom the payment is being made if you are paying for more than one person.

Thank you for continuing to support the Society.

Earl's Court Society Membership Standing-Order Form

Send this form to the Manager of your bank

YOUR BANK INFORMATION	
Your bank name and address	
Your name	
Your address and postcode	
Name of your account	
Number of your account	
PAYEE INFORMATION	
Name	The Earl's Court Society
Bank	Metro Bank, 247-249 Cromwell Road London, SW5 9GA
Sort Code	23-05-80
Account Number	10213867
STANDING ORDER INSTRUCTION	
Please pay the amount of £5 or £10 (delete as appropriate) immediately in 2022 and then on the 5th January 2023 and continuing until further notice.	
Quoting reference (write in name of member)	ECS..... (Member name)
Signature (1st signatory)	
Signature (2 nd signatory – if applicable)	
Date	