



Old Chiswick Protection Society

Summer 2010 Newsletter

Chairman's message

It's terrific at last to be able to admire the Chiswick Riviera after so many months of the coldest winter we've had for a very long time. They say that an ill wind blows nobody any good, but I bet I wasn't alone in savouring those few glorious days of quiet following the eruption of the Unpronounceable Icelandic Volcano. It was really a gift that showed Londoners how tranquil their City could be were it not for the constant sound footprint of planes landing at Heathrow. We still had the traffic noise, but you could hear the birds in full song out on the Eyot. Now that the third runway has been removed as a threat, we will need to be vigilant about BAA trying to stop alternation, by which we get an occasional rest. As ever, I remain hopeful that Boris Island will one day become a reality, even if there is no money left.

We are hoping to get the slipway at the bottom of Church Street refurbished. As ever it's a question of funding but our local councillors have shown an interest, so we will continue with our efforts to get this done. We are proposing cobbled setts, which aren't slippery when wet, with a metre strip for informal planting at each side.

I'm afraid I have nothing positive to report on the re-opening of the Corner Shop, and after eight years we can be forgiven for wondering if it will ever re-open. We lost a real community asset when it closed.

Our various sub-committees have, as ever, continued with their work so that this beautiful and unique part of London retains its charm for visitors and residents alike. That's not an argument for fossilising it, but we are always keen that any development must enhance the area. We continue closely to monitor the Chiswick Lodge site, courtesy of the Planning sub-committee. I see signs in Netheravon Road promising the completion of resurfacing, due in large part to the efforts of our Traffic and Roads sub-committee. We have a new CCTV system in the Hogarth subway and you will notice how much cleaner the subways are, too. This has only happened due to constant nagging on our part. The River sub-committee has been responsible for ensuring the replanting of trees along the opposite River bank, and OCPS made a donation towards this.

All in all, another busy time for us. I look forward to seeing many of you at our AGM on 17th June.

Heathrow

The arrival of our new Coalition Government, both parts of which are opposed to the Third Runway, seems to ensure that there really won't now be a Third Runway, at least for the length of time that the Coalition lasts. The only nagging thoughts are that this somehow does not look like a final solution to the long-term future of air travel from London. Our thoughts remain with Boris Johnson who advocates an airport in the Thames Estuary, although David Cameron good-humouredly slapped him down recently with the observation that this was a decision for Central Government and not for the Mayor of London.

The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009

It was a pleasant surprise to learn that our part of the riverside had recently become a coast line. In broad terms, our understanding is that the Act applies to tidal estuarial waters below Mean High

Water Springs. Therefore it applies to the Tideway downstream from Kew. There are ‘marine’ provisions, relating to policy, planning, conservation and inshore fisheries which we may need to look at in the future.

The Coastal Access provisions of the Act only apply downstream of the first foot crossing above the mouth of the River (i.e. below Dartford).

For further details members should consult the Act itself (ISBN 978-0-10-542309-6) and the Explanatory Notes published with it (ISBN 978-0-10-562309-0). The Government Department responsible for the overall operation of the Act is DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs).

Eyot cleaning

The Eyot is covered with flotsam from the river, mainly plastic, and the OCPS has been planning to organise a clean-up. We have now agreed with Thames 21 that the Eyot clean-up will take place on 12th December this year. If you are willing and able, then you can help. The Port of London Authority (PLA) will provide a skip on the island and you will need to bring gardening gloves and stout footwear. Look out for more details closer to the date.

Trees on the towpath

The Old Chiswick Protection Society spearheaded the effort to raise funds to assist the PLA with the replanting of trees on the wooded towpath on the Barnes riverside. The final sum raised by the Society, together with contributions from many riverside residents in Hammersmith and Chiswick, was over £5000. As a result the PLA increased the original number of 18 trees to 38. The trees have now been planted, and views from this side of the river - as well as the towpath itself - will be enhanced as a result. This cooperative effort has led to much improved relations with the P LA.

Thames Tideway Tunnel

Following the public meeting at the Wetlands Centre, OCPS arranged for John Ramage, recently appointed Director of Tunnels, Thames Water (TW) to come to Chiswick to discuss site selection methodology, view the sites which we believe meet the criteria and update us on the underlying engineering matters.

John viewed the sites and considered the local issues that each would involve. He confirmed all four alternatives previously reported were possible.

Interesting engineering matters were discussed:

1. Strong preference to bore uphill and we can expect the westernmost shaft will be the exit shaft.
2. In view of its relative simplicity we questioned why this shaft is programmed for most of the eight years of tunnel construction. Apparently the actual operational time on site would be considerably less. It might suit the contractor to sink the shaft, close and landscape, and then re-open when the boring machine arrives. The programme reflects the whole of the possible period.
3. Tunnelling engineering systems are advancing exponentially world wide and the final design will be based on the recommendation of the contractor chosen for his most up to date experience. The present methodology is based on old systems and there may well be changes in store. “Never underestimate the ingenuity of a tunnelling engineer”.

On request for an update in early May, TW told OCPS that they were on programme but subject to any possible delays as a result of the election.

Subways and Roads

Potholes in Netheravon Road South (NRS)

This road takes an enormous amount of heavy traffic and is often on our roads repair agenda. The original road surface fillings following frost damage this winter were deemed inadequate and at our

request London Borough of Hounslow (LBH) marked out the areas for full treatment in April. The majority of this work has now been completed.

Replacement of Roads and Pavements

The LBH Election Special publication 'Local Matters' reported that, 'We are keen to fill potholes as quickly as we can and can't wait for the highways maintenance scheme that kicks in 2013 which will see every road and pavement replaced'. If this happens OCPS will apply for early re-classification of NRS in view of the exceptional weight of heavy traffic it supports.

CPZ Questionnaire

LBH has recently surveyed local opinion by questionnaire as to the effectiveness of CPZs. With the possible exception of the status of Mawson Lane, we are satisfied with the way it is working and haven't requested any changes.

Advertising Vehicles Stored on Mawson Lane

The CPZ triple use parking in this road has never been implemented. Consequently five vehicles had been enjoying long term free advertising, one of which was actually supporting a large hoarding. We pointed out to LBH that these vehicles were stored in contravention of the Road Traffic Acts and Planning Code. Consequently LBH served notices and four of the five original vehicles have departed but two more have arrived. We understand these are all being dealt with. We are monitoring the situation.

Homefield Park Railings

In the light of the considerable funds allocated to improvements in Homefields Park north, OCPS requested replacement/repair of the railings, gates and dwarf brick walls on the south side park boundaries. Laings are the appointed contractors and they are seeking authority to replace the gate on Netheravon Road South. We are invited to refer to our local councillor if this is insufficient and we are considering doing so.

Chiswick Lodge

We await a meeting with the developers of Chiswick Lodge to be taken through their proposed amendments to the scheme and a date has been unconfirmed for 7th June.

Thanks to the London Borough of Hounslow

We would like to extend our appreciation to the Council for its efficient complaints procedure, including the removal of graffiti.

Hamra

Inspired by the recent political shift, OCPS is determined to push forward with consensus policies and the recent formation of [The Hammersmith Mall Residents Association](#) presented just such an opportunity.

We have recently given their Chairman a synopsis of Thames Water's proposals as they affected us and put him in touch with our contacts including Mr Ramage. This was acknowledged in their recent newsletter.

As the Netheravon Road South subway is out of our area, it may be possible for them to persuade London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham to install CCTV in that subway.

OCPS Books on Old Chiswick

The books on the history of Old Chiswick and the Thornycroft Works continue to make a steady sale to the benefit of the Society. Copies are on sale at Chiswick Library, Waterstones and WH Smith or can be obtained from Grania Munro at Eynham House, Chiswick Mall.

Neighbourhood Watch

Neighbourhood Watch coordinator Robin Marris is providing us with news on his Watch and this continues to be invaluable. Just to remind you, if you observe any suspicious activity, please contact

the CPO (Crime Prevention Officer) on 07900 65 66 95. If you are not successful and you believe it needs immediate attention please try to call the local station.

In emergencies 999 is the phone number, non emergencies can be reported via 0300 123 1212, and remember the SNT can be contacted on 0208 247 6415 or 07900 656 695, anytime.

If you have any queries or would just like some advice the contact details are as above and via e-mail on **ChiswickHomefields.snt@met.police.uk**

Names and addresses of OCPS officers

Sir A Munro, President, Eynham House, Chiswick Mall
P Langley, Chairman, Riverside House, Chiswick Mall

J Stitt, Treasurer, 8 Eyot Green

A Nissen, Secretary, College House, Chiswick Mall

Newsletter Editors: Liza Bray and Cliff Clifton, OCPS committee members

The OCPS can be reached at **oldchiswick@googlemail.com**