



The Hammersmith Society

Newsletter May 2011

An invitation: 2011 AGM Wednesday 22 June

This year's AGM will be held at Burlington Danes Academy, Wood Lane, W12 0HR, our last year's Environment Award winner. Doors open for light refreshments at 6.30, and the meeting starts at 7.00. Members are warmly invited to attend and to bring friends and neighbours. It will be a rewarding opportunity to see the new buildings designed by Barnsley Hewett & Mallinson and see how they fit in with the original 1930s buildings designed by Sir John Burnet (architect of the Royal Masonic Hospital). The meeting itself is a good opportunity to catch up on what is happening in Hammersmith. Our annual Hammersmith Society Awards will be announced during the evening.



Burlington Danes can be reached by buses 283 or 220 from Hammersmith Broadway or Shepherds Bush; or there is unrestricted parking after 5.30 in Caverswall Street, Eynham Road and adjacent streets opposite the Academy, or after 6.30 in the Wormwood Scrubs carpark off Wood Lane. Our members and friends are invariably complimentary about our practice of taking the AGM to different and interesting locations around the borough, so we hope you will join us for a convivial and stimulating evening .

Nominations for the Committee should be received by Annabelle May, Hon Secretary, 35 Ashchurch Grove, W12 9BU, by 15 June. If you are interested in joining the Committee and want to know more, do contact either the Chairman, Melanie Whitlock on 0208 743 1391, or Annabelle May at annabelleamay@lineone.net. *(Please note this is the only written notification you will receive of the AGM, but reminders will be sent out to members whose email addresses we have.)*

Environment Award

Every year we ask members and people who live or work in Hammersmith to nominate a new building or urban design scheme for our Environment Award, which is intended to increase awareness of the best of new design and architecture in the borough and create pressure to improve the indifferent and mediocre. Details for nominations are on the attached sheet, so please let us know your favourite urban project of the last year, or your nomination for the now celebrated Wooden Spoon.

Core Strategy Examination in Public

For a fortnight in April the Hammersmith Society took part in the Council's Core Strategy Examination in Public at the Town Hall, where the Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary gave evidence and re-affirmed our previous written evidence on the importance of planning for more open space in new development in the borough, heritage-led regeneration, limits on the height and location of tall buildings, and the risks of taking Metropolitan Open Land status away from Linford Christie Stadium in Wormwood Scrubs and other sites in the borough. If we and the H&F Historic Buildings Group had not been present day in, day out, there would have been only representations by developers and no representation or input at the hearing from local residents or amenity groups, other than on one or two topics of particular local controversy. We hope and trust the Council is aware of the unpaid time and work taken on by the major local groups. This sort of work is more important than ever when a huge expansion of housing and office provision is planned for areas such as White City and Earls Court/West Kensington (see below). The Inspector's report appears in July, and the Core Strategy should be adopted in the Autumn.

Riverside development

In addition to the application for the Town Hall and Cinema site, there are two further major planning applications which if approved would collectively do permanent damage to Hammersmith's historic riverside. Hammersmith Embankment (now rechristened Fulham Reach), just downstream of Riverside Studios, proposes 750 new flats close to the river, in blocks ranging from generic wharfside style to the curved recessed blocks which can be seen by Putney Bridge. At Queen's Wharf an 8-storey block of 91 flats is proposed, the height of which will rise to the highest point of Hammersmith Bridge and will obscure the bridge silhouette which is such a strong identifier of Hammersmith and such a key point of river views. All this comes on the heels of the 14 and 15 storey blocks of the Town Hall development. The Society has responded in detail to the Council explaining how these proposals would contravene local and national guidance and regulation and requesting reduction in height. There is no news on the Town Hall redevelopment, although there are indications that some changes are being considered.

White City and Earl's Court West Kensington

Major outline plans have been revealed for the White City Opportunity Area (north of Westfield), where 4,500 or more new homes could be built over the next decade. and for Earls Court/ West Kensington, where some 7,500 new homes are proposed. At the Core Strategy EiP Andy Slaughter MP referred to a development "gold rush" in Hammersmith and Fulham, and so it seems to be. We will be concerned to ensure there is adequate good-sized open space and that there are curbs on extremely tall buildings and their location. For both areas see the Council website. For White City there are drop-in sessions at Old Shepherds Bush Library, Uxbridge Road, on 11 May 5-8pm and 21 May 10am-2pm.

Archives

The Borough Archives at the Lilla Huset will reopen on 15 June for 2 days a month, supervised by an archivist from the London Metropolitan Archive, supported by volunteers: check the Council website for opening hours/days. This is a provisional arrangement assured only until March next year. It leaves Hammersmith & Fulham the only one out of 33 London boroughs without a local history, heritage and archive resource centre open at least several days every week, and its long-term future is still uncertain.

Subscriptions Due Now if you have not already paid: rates are: £15 for organizations, £8 for families/couples, £6 for individuals, £3 concessions. Please make cheques payable to The Hammersmith Society and send to Julian Hillman, 19 Flanchford Road, London, W12 9ND.. A standing order form can be found on our website, www.hammersmithsociety.org.uk.