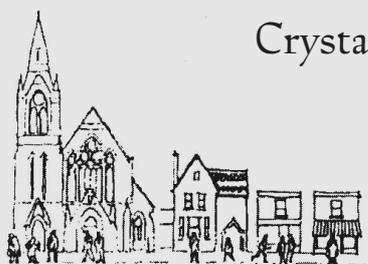
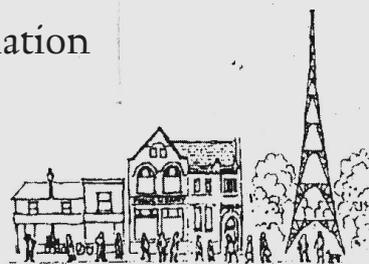


Crystal Palace Community Association



CPCA

NEWSLETTER



Spring 2013

Registered Charity No. 261790

Free to members

Crystal Palace Community Association High Court Hearing

At an oral hearing in the Royal Courts of Justice on 31 October 2012, Lord Justice Lewison granted the CPCA permission for appeal to be heard in The Court of Appeal before three Judges. The date has now been set for one and a half days between 22, 23 and 24 April 2013.

Their Lordships will consider the CPCA legal challenge against the decision of the Secretary of State to grant permission to the London Development Agency Crystal Palace Park Masterplan, which includes sale of protected public parkland, on two grounds: firstly that it was unlawful to give effect to the Masterplan by way of Outline Planning permission and that secondly that the sale of public parkland for private housing is not an "imperative reason of overriding public importance" that justifies potential damage and disturbance to bats under the Habitats Directive.

***THE OUTCOME OF THIS HEARING WILL IMPACT
ON THE FUTURE OF NOT ONLY CRYSTAL PALACE PARK
BUT ON ALL UK PARKS AND GREEN OPEN SPACES***

The CPCA will have further information on times, dates and the court number after 3pm, Friday 19 April and ask that you call our office (0208 670 4395) after this date for confirmation.

This hearing is vitally important for the future of Crystal Palace Park and all UK parks and green open spaces. We urge you to attend if you possibly can.

Multi-million pound 10-point plan for Crystal Palace Park

At February's Park and Sports Working Party Meeting, Colin Brand, Bromley's Assistant Director for Leisure and Culture (Renewal & Recreation Department), revealed a little more detail of Bromley's and the Greater London Authority (GLA) plans for the Park.

A '10-point plan' has been produced with the GLA providing £2 million of capital funding. It is expected that this money will help 'lever-in' additional funding from organisations such as the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF), English Heritage (EH) and, according to Mr Brand, "...a number of people to see if they would like to contribute financially. The discussions are ongoing so that the actual application may grow in size and bring more to it". It was not made clear who these 'people' might be and whether they represented commercial interests that they would want to bring to the Park.

The HLF's contribution would be in the region of £5 million and they have made an allowance for the Park in their budget and are, according to Mr Brand, "...keen to see something happen in the Park". They are particularly interested in increasing visitor numbers, activities, training and learning.

EH concentrates on the historic elements of the Park - with particular regard to the beautiful Paxton subway that lies under the A212 Crystal Palace Parade. Bromley are also expected to provide some capital funding with the total figure amounting to between £7 and £8 million.

The estimated costings for the improvement work, taken from a power point presentation by Fiona Fletcher-Smith, Executive Director, Development and Environment Greater London Authority, is as follows:

1. Revive Subway, and pop-up activity to 'draw-in' Upper Norwood and undertake basic stabilisation works to allow public access to venue, along with a pop-up uses to engage with businesses in Upper Norwood to animate and promote the Park.

Outline budget: £ 340,000

2. Improve entrances at Sydenham Hill and Upper Norwood, Making the access from the two high streets at the top of the park much easier and inviting, with a range of measures that draw pedestrians into the centre of the Park.

Outline budget: £1million

3. Rationalise parking and remove cars from centre of Park. Undertake a parking and vehicle access strategy for the whole Park; then implement parking controls and remove tarmaced areas in Park, and large amounts of redundant fencing and associated weeds.

Outline budget: £1.52 million

4. Improved grounds for the National Sports Centre, and better access to and from the railway station. Rationalise the boundaries and security issues around the NSC boundaries, allowing improved pedestrian access to station, and make new parking area adjacent to the centre on current remote control track, to be relocated to a more suitable site in the Borough.

Outline budget: £1.01 million

5. Improving the central park axis working with the podium, make better connections from upper Park to lower Park; improve and unify look of whole axis from the NSC to the upper terraces once the parking is removed, with new top surface; provide 'pop-up' activity on the central axis, to reveal and celebrate the history of the park

Outline budget: £780,000

6. Archaeological revealing on upper terraces and ecological stabilisation. Undertake survey of tunnelling, make safe then install access and interpretation; mark

palace structural grid so that Palace 'rooms' can be identified, interpreted, and visited; Stabilise lower terraces sufficiently to remove fence line on middle terraces.

Outline budget: £490,000

7. Repairs to concert platform to deliver functioning concert venue. Undertake basic improvements to the platform (replacing flooring, provide disabled access), and procure an events manager to get programme up and running.

Outline budget: £99,000

8. Replace café by Penge gate with café and visitors centre, bringing together a range of facilities in a new, high quality café/visitors centre/exhibition space. The operating model would be a café service provider.

Outline budget: £2.11million

9. Improve Penge gate and parking area, hand in hand with the new café and visitors centre. The demolition and reuse of the land currently occupied by the toilets, café and visitor centre. Improve the access from Penge gate and adjacent parking area.

Outline budget: £550,000

10. Restoration of the Paxton fountain basin in lower Park, remove fencing, then restore and replant the area to make the last remaining Paxton basin accessible for community and educational use.

Outline budget: £ 150,000"

Bromley are leading the bid for funding from the HLF under their Parks for People programme and will also be applying for an HLF development grant to assist in the detail design elements and initial costings of the scheme. Bromley are also submitting a pre-application bid along with a stage one bid to secure funds within the 2013 HLF funding round.

The outcome of the bid should be known by December this year. Bromley will try to establish additional external funding

sources for 'specific' projects and will be working to a likely 2013 to 2016 time-frame.

Most of these proposals are taken from some of the more positive proposals in the LDA Masterplan. However, more will be known when details become available. The CPCA has been pressing for some basic improvements such as the replacement of the gravel paths, constructed under the previous HLF funding scheme and that have failed so spectacularly, and an increase in the number of secure litter bins, signage and other furniture that is now common to most parks. Bromley agree with the CPCA on these matters and also that it would be pointless to invest in all the other improvements without correcting the state of the paths leading to and from them.

As previously mentioned, the GLA have provided £2 million towards the Park but much of this money will actually be spent around the NSC that lies within the Major Developed Site (MDS) area of the Park. The MDS is land owned on lease by the GLA and already the responsibility of the GLA. The CPCA consider that this could be a case of giving with one hand and taking with the other.

The CPCA find it most encouraging that these modest but largely worthwhile improvements will be introduced without the need for sale of any protected public Parkland for housing development.

CPCA AGM Friday 24 May

Our Annual General Meeting
will take place at 7.30 pm,
24 May 2013 at the
Goodliffe Hall, Christ Church
Gipsy Hill SE19 1DP.

Park's future remains uncertain

The CPCA continues to seek inclusion in the Crystal Palace Community Stakeholder Group (CPCSG), a group appointed by Bromley to represent community stakeholder interests. Recently, John Payne and Mike Warwick for the CPCA, accepted the invitation of Martin Tempia, Chair of the CPCSG, for an informal meeting to better understand each other's position. Martin Tempia was most friendly, and generous in acknowledging work that the CPCA had done and agreement was found on many points. It is hoped from this that, in the future, the important contribution to stakeholder consultation that the CPCA can provide is recognised by its appointment to the CPCSG.

Community stakeholder consultation into future plans for the Park remains with eight selected individuals, of whom little is known and who appear to have no delegated authority, and three 'community groups' with, apart from one, uncertain delegated authority. This structure was imposed by the leader of Bromley Council, Cllr Stephen Carr, at an Executive Committee meeting, in stark contrast to the original proposal which was part of a consultation process that included the CPCA and other accountable stakeholder groups.

The first of these 'community groups' is the Park and Sports Working Party (PSWP), co-chaired by Peter Austin and Ray Sacks* which publishes no minutes. The PSWP has tasked itself with overseeing meetings of groups and individuals who have an interest in the future of the Park. Mr Sacks played a major role in excluding the CPCA from earlier PSWP meetings and recently tried to have us excluded again, following the article in our Newsletter over animal welfare issues at Capel Manor College, which were referred by the CPCA to the RSPCA.

**Mr Sacks is also Chair of the non-membership Crystal Palace Campaign that was originally established to fight commercial development on the Park although he now fully supports the LDA Masterplan. The Crystal Palace Campaign has no constitution, AGM, published minutes nor accounts.*

The second group is the Crystal Palace Triangle Planning Group (CPTPG), a relatively new group formed as an offshoot of the Picture Palace Campaign, an ad hoc body established specifically to campaign for a cinema in the former bingo hall in Church Road. The CPTPG was formed to monitor and respond to planning applications in the Upper Norwood Triangle but little is known of its work as its website shows only limited detail of recent activity. No notes or minutes of meetings, AGMs or accounts are recorded. However, it is understood that the CPTPG fully supports the LDA Park Masterplan.

The third 'community group' is the Friends of Crystal Palace Park (FoCPP). This group was established by the CPCA in order to provide a dedicated voice to those who use and value the Park and its future. The FoCPP have an active membership, a written constitution, a minuted AGM and published accounts. Their representative on the CPCSG is Vicki Papworth, wife of Cllr Tom Papworth, a Bromley LibDem ward councillor for Crystal Palace.

The CPCA is concerned that democracy, fairness, openness and transparency are not priorities that Bromley recognise when deciding just how 'community stakeholders' voices and interests are to be heard in deciding the future plans for our Park.

Note: The Crystal Palace Community Stakeholder Group currently has three vacancies for 'individuals'. It is not known how these vacancies are to be advertised and filled.

PLANNING ARMAGEDDON

"No one who loves our idyllic and precious English countryside wants to see the sword of Damocles hanging over it. Myself included."

Eric Pickles, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government

Although some historians say that the repeal of the Corn Laws (1846) was perhaps the most important parliamentary act in English history, planning reforms that came into force on 26 March 2013 may prove to be even more significant, and have already resulted in 25,000 extra homes being granted planning permission in the past year.

Since the introduction of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in March 2012 the number of home applications granted approval has risen by 25%, whilst they have fallen in Wales and Scotland, where the new changes do not apply. A loophole in the planning framework requiring councils to make more greenfield sites available for development is being exploited by developers in forcing councils, under the new rules, to remove uneconomic scrubland areas from five-year housing plans in favour of greenfield sites. Clive Betts, Chair of the Commons communities and local government committee has warned that *"The danger is that we end up leaving brown-field sites empty where people would welcome development and build on greenfield sites where people would be unhappy about it."*

The CPCA and the Norwood Society have been vigilant in objecting to inappropriate development in the area, whilst Sir Simon Jenkins, Chairman of the National Trust has warned that *"...the countryside was in a state of warfare because locals*

were constantly having to fight developers." Neil Sinden, Policy Director at the Campaign to Protect Rural England said that changes introduced this week were likely to lead to *"...an upsurge in planning permissions being granted, an increasing proportion of which are likely to have damaging environmental impact."* and that *"...the planning system, already creaking before the recent reforms, is set to come under intense pressure once the full force of the NPPF is brought to bear this week."*

The Planning Inspectorate, which adjudicates on contentious applications, is warning, off the record, of a shock to the system from the new reforms and is making provision for a huge increase in appeals this summer, and although the Daily Telegraph Hands Off Our Land campaign was instrumental in the government back-peddling on changes to the NPPF, the CPCA believes councils and those they represent will be largely powerless to resist damaging and unwanted development on precious land that will be lost for ever.

The unwelcome uncertainty on the future of Crystal Palace Park began with the introduction of the LDA Masterplan six years ago, since when there has been a Local Public Inquiry in 2009, increase in the Masterplan time-scale from 10 to 20 to 30 and even 50 years, and in estimated costs from 20 to 30 to 60 and now

even £130 million plus, and the Park Masterplan applicants, The London Development Agency, now no longer even exists.

Shared concern in this respect comes from an unexpected source, with Communities Secretary Eric Pickles, who approved the LDA Masterplan application, writing in *The Telegraph* *"I KNOW Telegraph readers don't want land grabs and free-for-alls. I understand your concerns. No one who loves our idyllic and precious English countryside wants to see the sword of Damocles hanging over it. Myself included."*

A fulcrum of Government policy is its favour for local decision-making, which in the experience of the CPCA, has been negated by actions of councils to obstruct formal objections by failure to respond in time, or in some cases not at all and by 'rigging' committees to exclude councillors who might support objection.

Whilst Planning Minister Nick Boles has said *"The system is working. New rights give communities a bigger say on development than ever before through neighbourhood and local plans."* the CPCA believes evidence is compelling that this "bigger say" by communities on local development, will be listened to by councils, only if it is YES!

Mike Warwick

Crystal Palace Park Nature Conservation Area

Some of you with longish memories may remember the children's adventure playground on the eastern fringe of the Park. Like so many things in the Park, it fell into disrepair and was eventually removed. The area that it occupied and the land behind it became a small designated Nature Conservation area and wildlife haven, which was not open to the public. Bromley have decided to 'improve' this land and have funded the 'thinning' of the trees, provision of wider gravel paths (for wheelchairs and push chairs) and an enlarged pond, which required the use of heavy machinery and chainsaws.

Following this preparatory work, community groups and schools will be invited to design and plant areas with wild flowers, fruit trees and allotment plots. A sensory garden, wildflower meadow and beehives are also planned.

Bromley say that a programme of community and corporate conservation workshops will ensure that the area is managed to fulfil its biodiversity potential and that the project will manage the area, enhancing the habitats within it while providing a learning environment where nature workshops, clubs and forest school activities can take place.

The aim will be for groups and schools to participate in nature workdays and activities throughout the year, ensuring that woodland, meadow, orchard and allotment management is completed, reducing the need to pay contractors to do the essential work.

There is scope for corporate groups to fund conservation work in the area, throughout the year, with the future maintenance of the area being assigned to groups such as Friends of Crystal Palace Park.

However, the CPCA and others have concerns over the lack of

consultation on the scheme, the effect on flora and fauna consequent to human disturbance in this last remaining 'natural' area of the Park.

The CPCA is aware of the requirements for woodland management and understand the biodiversity and symbiotic ecological issues. We also understand that for flora and particularly fauna to thrive, there must be limited human intervention, presence and disturbance in this relatively small area of 'natural' woodland.

The CPCA have asked for sight of all surveys, including those of bat and tree condition that have been carried out pre-work, the conclusions of these surveys and the total cost of the work.

The CPCA questions that money can be found for this project while, for example, more pressing issues such as the Park's main pedestrian gravel paths are not being replaced with more practical, safe and long-lasting surfaces.

BUILDING APPLICATION NOTIFICATION - A Developer's Charter

Whilst there is legal requirement to notify those living near to or likely to be effected by proposed development, Croydon Council has decided as an 'economy' measure to no longer provide notification by post, but by affixing notices to adjacent lamp-posts. Such notification of development application, fixed to a lamp-post in Stambourne Way SE19 was removed in two hours, and which to date, Croydon have not replaced.

Future of National Sports Centre events

With new sports facilities at the Olympic Park in Stratford, there has been much speculation over the future of the NSC and its role in athletics in South London.

Some clarification was provided at this year's February meeting of the Crystal Palace Park Working Group where Russ Barnes, General Manager of Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL), explained that events would continue to be held at the sports centre and stadium.

Mr Barnes said that the Grand Prix Athletics would move to the Olympic Stadium this year on the 26-28 July – the anniversary of the Olympic Opening Ceremony. However it is expected that this major event would return to Crystal Palace in 2014, 2015 and possibly 2016. Mr Barnes said the GLL were doing everything possible to secure a major event in the CP stadium in 2013, but the possibility of this was unlikely, as the planning and delivery of it would be 'unrealistic'.

The good news is that the London Youth Games, Harris Academy's games and other more local and smaller meetings will continue to be held at the NSC stadium.

It is expected that, following the Olympic stadium conversion for other Sport and Leisure use including Athletics, the NSC stadium will, along the lines of the Masterplan proposal, be reduced in scale to become a regional facility.

Greenwich Leisure's contract with UK Athletics expired at the end of 2012 and it is understood that they are in talks to negotiate a new contract.

Note: Russ Barnes of Greenwich Leisure has now been transferred to manage The Aquatic Centre and The Copper Box at Stratford. The new General Manager of the NSC is Mr Gregg Holland.

Beneath Your Feet in Crystal Palace

Community group moves one step closer to re-opening the Paxton Subway

It is over 20 years since this amazing brick vaulted 'subway' was regularly open to the public. Built by Italian crypt builders in the Victorian era, it now lies nearly forgotten under Crystal Palace Parade.

This wonderful structure formed an underpass that linked the old Crystal Palace High Level Station to Paxton's wonderful Crystal Palace.

A community group and over 1000 Twitter followers and Facebook friends have spent the last two years working with a variety of local authorities and interested parties to re-open this 1865 structure to the local community and wider public.

The Friends of the Subway have submitted a planning application to Southwark Council for the re-opening of the subway.

The application includes removal of the infill brick wall that was built after the station was closed and which currently blocks the western staircase. A metal gate would be installed in its place, modelled on the listed Victorian railings on the eastern side of the Crystal Palace Parade.

In addition to the new gate, safety railings and vandal-proof locks will be installed. This brings the possibility of a magnificent

Victorian creation, still in its majestic glory, restored to public use for a range of small scale community events and historical tours.

This community initiative to re-open the subway has captured the imagination and support of local residents and community groups. It is also supported by local authorities Bromley and Southwark and the Greater London Authority.

The project demonstrates how collaboration between community groups and local authorities, combined with a common interest and constructive approach, can unlock resources and support from local residents as well as charitable organisations involved in community projects.

Well over a thousand local Friends of the Subway, some of whom caught a glimpse of the subway in September 2012, are eager to see it open again and for it to play an active part in the lives of Crystal Palace people.

For more information about this initiative, see www.cpsubway.org.uk, follow the Friends of the Subway via Twitter @cpsubway, or show your support by liking their Facebook page www.facebook.com/cpsubway.

CRYSTAL PALACE PARK COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDER GROUP AGM

The CPPCSG AGM, held on Thursday 4 April 2013 at 7pm in the Paxton Suite Crystal Palace Park was attended by eight members of the Group and three members of the public, when quite clearly, even with allowance for the atrocious weather, this level of public attendance confirms that the activities of the CPPCSG are not effectively publicised.

Martin Tempia, reappointed as CPPCSG chair, made references to the CPPCSG Annual Report 2012-2013, and said he was genuinely surprised that some of his assumptions on the way the CPPCSG was liaising with community organisations had proved to be wrong. Mr Tempia emphasised that recent experience had shown the pivotal role community groups play in driving forward proposals, as one of the first things prospective funding bodies consider, is the extent of community engagement.

The CPCA believes the Crystal Palace Park Management Structure, with a labyrinth of six boards and one team, some with inter-accountability but ambiguous objectives, each reporting to an Executive Board, does little to facilitate local community engagement.

Within Bromley's Vision Statement Management Structure, the Crystal Palace Community Association is given as an 'Existing Community Stakeholder' in a box connected to another for the Crystal Palace Park Stakeholder Group, clearly suggesting the CPCA is part of it, when in fact the CPCA has been excluded from participation.

Martin Tempia has also said, most perceptively "*...local groups are absolutely key to the future of the Park.*" and the CPCA will continue to seek appointment to one of the three current CPPCSG vacancies, soon to be advertised.

IMPORTANT NOTICE CPCA PUBLIC MEETING

The CPCA proposes to call a public meeting later this year to consider the future of Crystal Palace Park and the opportunity the community stakeholders may have in contributing to Bromley's future policy on the Park's regeneration and possible development.

The current situation regarding the CPCA and community stakeholder participation is addressed elsewhere in this newsletter.

The meeting will be an opportunity to recruit new members and explain the history, background, work and aspirations of the Crystal Palace Community Association.

A date and venue have yet to be decided but it is most likely to be on a Saturday afternoon in June or July.

DESTRUCTION OF OUR LIBRARY SERVICE

Your local Upper Norwood Joint Library is likely to look very different from next month as staff cuts come into effect. Although the library was saved from closure last year by the efforts of campaigners including the CPCA, the 20% cut imposed by Lambeth and the draconian 60% reduction by Croydon (with the Council's own savings being only 30% and spread over 4 years) may result in little more than a 'skeleton service' for Upper Norwood.

Half the library staff may lose their jobs resulting in drastic reductions in opening hours and an end to current provisions which local residents value so highly, including special events, reference facilities, local history and information services. In fact, so severe are the cuts which may be imposed on our independent library that it may struggle to function at all, raising fears that Croydon - who considered attempting to sell off the building last year - have deliberately created a 'set to fail' scenario.

This dire situation follows last year's public consultation exercises by both Croydon and Lambeth. In the former, 90% of respondents said that they wanted Croydon to continue to fund the library at existing levels and least favoured cuts in staffing (from a list of possible options for 'savings'). Croydon have ignored the wishes of the UNJL users and have withdrawn £114,000 of their current £189,000 funding for the Joint Library, whilst at the same time finding an extra £200,000 for the Fairfield Halls, as well as thousands of pounds for a privatised borough library service that nobody wants. Lambeth have already

imposed a 20% cut in their 2011/12 funding of £211,000, reduced to £170,000 for both the current financial year and 2013/14. It is accepted that the UNJL was already under-funded by about £100,000 per annum as of 2010 before this latest round of cuts. Therefore, instead of the annual £500,000 that the library needs, it will now have to operate on £249,000. This will result in serious problems for both the long-suffering staff and the proposed Upper Norwood Library Trust, which hopes to take over management of the library later this year.

Croydon have 'justified' these drastic cuts with misleading 'value for money comparisons' between the UNJL and branch libraries. This exercise is blatantly manipulated by excluding back-office overheads of their own branch libraries averaging around £260,000 per Croydon library, but including the equivalent, pro-rata costs of the UNJL which pays for all its own support services. This exposes that total expenditure on the larger Croydon branch libraries is in fact double that of the UNJL.

The CPCA believes that from this April, while Croydon residents of Upper Norwood will be paying the same amount of Council Tax as other council taxpayers in the borough, less than £4 per taxpayer funding for the UN library, whilst other taxpayers will continue to enjoy library service funding of around £20 per head in their borough libraries.

This is not only most unjust but discrimination against the people of Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood.

Croydon's Housing Crisis

At a closed council meeting, Croydon officers agreed to borrow an initial £20 million from the Public Works Loan Board to buy hundreds of properties in Upper and South Norwood to help reduce the number of homeless families living in bed and breakfast in the borough.

If the scheme were successful a further £20 million would be applied for with operating costs and interest on the loans being met from rental income.

The effects on the infrastructure of the area are likely to be severe; not least the impact on local schools where Croydon have shelved plans to expand school provision in the area.

Currently the entire SE19 area has many more children than there are school places due in part to the proliferation of new residential developments that the adjoining authorities have approved on their borders and other large-scale developments of flats planned for the area.

Croydon Council plans to introduce to the area large numbers of its most vulnerable families.

At an Emergency Full Council meeting on 18th March 2013, refusal by Croydon's preferred bidder John Laing Integrated Services to commence operation of Croydon Library services on 1st April 2013, citing concerns over previously undisclosed costs of pension liabilities for Croydon Library staff, was the subject of acrimonious exchanges.

Network Rail vandalise local railway embankments

The first evidence to those living close to the Tulse Hill/Norwood Junction railway line of Network Rail's 'Vegetation Clearance Works' was waking to the unmistakable sound of multiple chainsaws and strimmers, followed by the heart-rending thud of tree after tree crashing to the ground.

Although NR sent letters in advance of the work, few would have been aware of the extent and devastating effect this work would have. The 'clearance', scheduled between January and March this year, was incessant and included Sunday working.

NR claimed that these were 'essential works' because the 'vegetation on the lineside created a significant safety hazard to operational infrastructure'. That apparently also related to the leaves of trees falling on the lines. Well not any more! Barely a blade of grass remains as all vegetation fell before the onslaught. Any remaining tree stumps had herbicide applied to prevent regrowth. Needless to say the effect on wildlife habitat has been devastating with anything larger than a bug or beetle being displaced.

When approached by the CPCA, NR was difficult and evasive and when they finally responded, the mantra was always the same – health and safety! Well of course they would say this wouldn't they?

Such work should be done with nature conservation in mind. The Network's railway cuttings and embankments are important nature highways that allow wildlife to migrate freely across the UK. The CPCA considers that NR's blitzkrieg approach has far more to do with cost savings and the removal of any need to properly manage the trackside habitat for wildlife in all its forms.

Regrettably, it is all too late now – not much chance of seeing even a sparrow in the future!

'Improvements' at Paxton Green roundabout

The Paxton Green roundabout has been in existence for many years. It is a complex layout that interacts with a number of well-used junctions. Despite being extremely busy, especially at peak times, road accidents are relatively low for this type of junction.

The CPCA understands from Southwark's 'Public Realm' department, who are overseeing the several hundred thousand pound proposed 'improvements' to the Paxton Green roundabout, that the proposals resulted primarily from statements and claims made by Kingsdale School, concerning the safety of their pupils crossing the roundabout, which are not corroborated.

The accident statistics provided at Southwark's recent consultation event, show just 15 incidents over a 3-4 year period. Of these only four occurred on the roundabout itself with 11 occurring in surrounding roads. None involved pedestrians or buses. The statistics also fail to identify

any specific design issue for the roundabout that have resulted in the accidents that have occurred.

Southwark originally proposed relocating the number 3 bus stops and changing the layout of the cycle lanes. These proposals have now been dropped, following submissions by the CPCA, Gipsy Hill Residents Association, local residents and businesses. However, plans to create 'informal' pedestrian crossings at certain points remain.

The CPCA believes that the current proposals will make the roundabout and associated junctions more dangerous, a view shared by the Dulwich Community Council who instructed the traffic planners to look again at the proposed design.

The CPCA will continue to monitor the situation but consider that greater road safety would result if this money was rather spent on repairing the borough's roads with their thousands of dangerous, spine-jarring and vehicle-damaging potholes.

Rosemary Fost 1925 – March 2013

With great sadness we announce the death of Rosemary Fost, a member of the CPCA since its inception; an ardent supporter and generous donor.

Rosemary lived most of her life in Church Road, with her husband Leo and their four children. She made it a hive of activity for her passionately consuming interests: The National Childbirth Trust, the Peckham Health Centre & Experiment, The Soil Association and many others.

A great supporter of 'causes' and people, she always made time to discuss and debate problems.

When the house became too much for her she moved to Sussex to live near members of her family but never lost touch with Crystal Palace and was always available for conversations and advice. With Jane Carrick of Palace Grove, Rosemary was one of the great Norwood ladies who have recently passed away.

Speaking personally, I felt she was a friend who was always there at the end of the phone and she will be greatly missed.

Our sympathies go to Helen, Leonie, Tim and Rob.

Audrey Hammond - President

The future for policing in Upper Norwood

Upper Norwood is an unique part of southeast London at the confluence of five London boroughs: Lambeth, Croydon, Southwark, Bromley and Lewisham. Nowhere else in London has this anomalous configuration.

Over many decades, the cross-borough composition of the neighbourhood has led to problems in many areas of local government administration, including effective local policing.

There have been initiatives over the years to improve policing in Norwood, the latest being the creation of a Crystal Palace and Upper Norwood Triangle Safer Neighbourhood Team. This cross-borough team has achieved some success and demonstrated the benefits of cross-border policing and co-operation.

Sadly however, it is understood that even this small presence is likely to be reduced under ill-conceived cost-cutting proposals with the 'Local Policing Model' being part reliant on 'contact points' in, as yet, unidentified locations. Additionally, police will be based at centres remote from the Crystal Palace/Norwood area, requiring critical time to travel

between their 'home' base and their assigned working 'patch'.

Regular 'abstractions' already compromise this small team, seriously limiting the ability to deliver a dependable neighbourhood policing service in an area that is suffering significant increases in levels of crime and disorder, as confirmed in the latest 'crime-data' records.

Under current Mayor of London Office for Policing and Crime (Mopac) proposals, there will be NO local police station in the wider Norwood area, where currently Upper Norwood's Gipsy Hill police station is located.

Streatham High Street and Maple Road, Penge, operating under limited daytime hours, will be the nearest police stations for the residents and businesses of Upper Norwood, South Norwood, West Norwood and large areas of Norbury and Thornton Heath. Traditional front desk 24-hour services will only be available in Central Croydon, Central Bromley, Peckham and Brixton, all with the exception of Maple Road, being miles away from Upper Norwood.

Borough or ward policing boundaries are not appropriate in the Crystal Palace/Upper Norwood

area. Currently, Borough Commanders are limited in their vision, particularly in respect of this multi-borough area, concentrating, in the main, on their own 'core' areas, targets and bonus-related remuneration.

The CPCA consider that this 'unique' part of London needs a unique approach to policing operations such as creation of an area police force, that is properly resourced and truly able to operate on a wider inter-borough, cross border basis.

Such an approach would be more cost effective. The purpose-built Gipsy Hill police station is already in place. Existing police units that currently meet at Upper Norwood could be scaled back, with officers being transferred to the new Met force. This arrangement would enable significant improvement in intelligence gathering, resulting in more effective solving of crime and social disorder.

The CPCA has submitted their concerns and Mopac have confirmed that they will be included, in full, in the appendix to their Police and Crime Plan.

FUNDING INITIATIVE FOR ANERLEY

The Anerley Regeneration Project (ARP) - a voluntary group of residents and traders - has worked with Bromley Council's Town Centre Management Department over the past six months on a bid for funding from the £250,000 'Shopping Parades Improvement Initiative' to improve the northern reaches of Anerley Road - an area that has suffered a lack of investment over the years.

Having polled the community as to current problems and priorities for change, and elicited the support of both elected representatives and amenity groups such as the CPCA, the ARP has enjoyed strong support and believes it has success in its sights.

At the time of writing, it awaits final costings and the approval of Bromley's Portfolio Holder for the Environment for its proposal for new pavements, improved waste

collection and recycling facilities, better street lighting, a makeover of empty shops, the opportunity for traders to redesign their business facades and the commission of two murals.

The Regeneration Project's aim is to prompt a renewal of civic pride and engender a sense of ownership, making Anerley Road - one of the gateways to Bromley - a more pleasant place to live, work and shop.

THE FACTS SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES

People, who over the years, have made false and misleading statements concerning John Payne and the CPCA should consider facts which most people accept, but some ignore. John Payne is the democratically elected chair of the Crystal Palace Community Association, a charity established in 1971 and whose status is recognised by the Charities Commission and the High Court.

The CPCA is the largest local amenity society, with hundreds of members.

Those who call for large scale commercial development in Crystal Palace Park, claiming that the area is stagnating for want of such commercialisation of the Park should talk to the thousands of new residents in Crystal Palace, visit the flourishing restaurants, shops and coffee-bars, all which suggests it is anything but stagnating. Crystal Palace has amongst the best transport facilities in London, with multi-bus services, newly established over-ground line and a beautifully restored train station, with soon to be completed state of the art lifts.

Located on one of the highest points in London, Crystal Palace has been described as the "New Hampstead" of London with young people starting families, attracted by the area and the abundance of good schools locally.

During the "multiplex" threat to Crystal Palace Park, it was established there were 2.6 million park stakeholders within 30 minutes drive time of the Park, with the vast majority opposed to commercial development in the Park. Recent interviews with Park users by a student preparing a thesis on Crystal Palace Park, established that most knew nothing of the proposed

Masterplan and that none wanted commercial development in the Park.

Those who suggest that bringing Crystal Palace Football Club to the Park as a force for regeneration and maybe a lever for the tram to be extended should ask themselves whether Crystal Palace FC has re-generated the Selhurst Park area and whether a direct link to Croydon is more likely to attract people to Croydon from Crystal Palace, rather than the other way round.

Crystal Palace Indoor Bowling Club

It is not only Crystal Palace Football Club that would like to relocate to Crystal Palace Park. The CPCA was recently approached by the Crystal Palace Indoor Bowling Club, who would like to transfer their Club to a suitable area of the Park. Unlike the football club, the bowls club had the courtesy of seeking the views of the CPCA, and others before making a formal application to Bromley Council.

Representatives from the CPCA met Club officers to discuss their proposals and the level of development that would be required by relocation of the Club within Grade II* registered, Metropolitan Open Land within a public park.

Founded in 1905 by world famous cricketer W G Grace, this private members club was located in the basement of Paxton's Crystal Palace until it was destroyed by fire in 1936.

The Club re-opened in 1937 in new premises located in a 35 m x 50 m purpose-built brick and steel building at 183a Anerley Road, SE20. The building is now showing its age and is in need of extensive refurbishment or replacement.

A housing association has offered to buy the Anerley Road

site, which would provide the club with funds to build a state-of-the-art facility in the Park – subject to planning approval by Bromley and a suitable long-term, low cost, lease agreement.

Designs for the new building have not been finalised, but it is likely to be of a steel construction, larger than the Club's existing structure and similar to the low-rise structures found in commercial centres. Car parking spaces would be increased from the existing 54 to 75.

The preferred location of the Club is the area of tarmac land just north of the central access (the former motorcycle training area), and close to Paxton's bust. There are no plans at present to include an outdoor green.

This proposed building would be outside the 'Major Developed Area' of the Park that is currently the home of the National Sports Centre, placing it clearly in protected public Parkland. With regards to planning considerations it would adversely impact on the Grade II* listed historic terraces, the registered Crystal Palace Park, the Conservation Area and Metropolitan Open Land designation.

The CPCA would welcome the views of members on this issue before we respond formally to the Club. You can email us at cpca@onetel.com or write to our usual address.

Correct email addresses

Although we have mentioned this before, many emails sent to members fail to arrive due to incorrect email addresses on our database. If your email address has changed please send us a quick 'test' email to ensure that we have your correct details. This will help us to quickly send you urgent and up-to-date information from time to time.

cpca@onetel.com

Motorsport at Crystal Palace

26 & 27 May 2013

Motorsport at the Palace has announced the dates for its fourth annual sprint event, which will be held on Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday 26 & 27 May.

Now in its fourth year, the popular sprint/time trial at the world famous South London park has firmly established itself as London's leading motorsport event. The narrow, twisting parkland course has proven a real hit with drivers, and visitors can expect some thrilling action as the competitors push themselves and their machines to the limit to attain 'Fastest Time of the Day'.

Away from the track, spectators and enthusiasts of all ages will find a wide range of attractions and entertainment. Diggerland returns by popular demand, offering youngsters the opportunity to take the controls of some heavy-duty construction equipment, while the more mechanically minded will find much to keep them occupied in the Kit Car Village.

New for 2013, and supported by KitCar Magazine, the Village will host a range of kit car manufacturers and their machines, in addition to numerous aftermarket accessories' suppliers.

The Classic Racing Motorcycle Club will be displaying many stunning examples of two-wheeled exotica, while the Kleers Show and Shine concourse competition also returns; so expect some exceptional cars on display looking their very best, courtesy of Kleers Premium Car Care Products. And as usual, visitors will be able to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere of the open paddock, where drivers and mechanics are always happy to stop and chat.

Maintaining its support for the local community, Motorsport at the Palace will again be raising money for local charities, the Royal London Society for Blind People and St Christopher's Hospice. Last year, Motorsport were able to donate over £3,500 to these deserving charities and, with your help, it is hoped to do even better this year.

Visit Crystal Palace Park this May Bank Holiday weekend and watch some fantastic motorsport.

*Tickets are £10 for adults; children 16 and under enter free but must be accompanied by an adult. Advance tickets will be available early 2013, priced at £8 check the website for more details nearer the time...
www.motorsportatthepalace.co.uk*

St Christopher's Hospice fund-raising FUN WALK Sunday 19 May 2013

This year's sponsored Fun Walk in aid of St Christopher's Hospice will take place on Sunday 19 May. The bi-annual Fun Walk is their largest and most popular fundraising event, which takes place in and around the Keston Common area in Kent, and is suitable for individuals as well as groups of families and friends.

**The target this year is to raise
£250,000.**

Start and finish will be at the Greyhound Pub, Keston Common, between 8.30 am and 3 pm.

There are four walks to choose from so you can pick the distance that suits you –

3, 5, 8 or 11 miles.

The latest start time for the longest walk is 1.30 pm.

To take part in this most worthy of causes, please call the Hospice's Fundraising Administrator:
Rachel Ward – 020 8768 4500
or email
r.ward2@stchristophers.org.uk
for a FUNWALK registration form.

Events in Crystal Palace Park 2013

May

4 & 5 May - Historic Vehicles London to Brighton run
7 May - Tuesday night cycling, 6.30 – 8.30pm
8 May - London to Paris Cycle start
11 May - Bromley District Clubs Challenge Day
12 May - Deafness Research UK run
14 May - Tuesday night cycling, 6.30 – 8.30pm
18 May - Kingsway International Christian Centre
18 May - Sponsored Walk
19 May - Triathlon
21 May - Tuesday night cycling, 6.30 – 8.30pm
26 & 27 May - Motor Sport at the Palace
28 May - Tuesday night cycling, 6.30 – 8.30pm

June

1 & 2 June tbc - London to Brighton Mini Rally
4 June - Tuesday Night Cycling 6.30-8.30pm
5 June - London to Paris Cycle start
8 & 9 June - Nightrider
11 June - Tuesday Night Cycling 6.30-8.30pm
15 & 16 June tbc - Charity Event
18 June - Tuesday Night Cycling 6.30-8.30pm
19 June - London to Paris Cycle start
22 June tbc - Sickle Cell Sponsored Walk
23 June - Breast Cancer Race for Life
25 June - Tuesday Night Cycling 6.30-8.30pm
27 – 30 June - Crystal Palace Town Festival
(Westow Park/CPTriangle)

Bromley Council has advised us of these events, but please check details with them in advance as not all events have been confirmed.

Forthcoming events

Membership renewal reminder

Membership subscriptions were due on 1st March 2013 and we thank those who have already renewed, whether by standing order, cash or cheque. It is crucial that we maintain a strong membership base and we ask that you ensure your membership is up to date.

The cost of membership remains the same - £8 (£5 concessions) for family membership. Any additional donation to help with postage and other costs is most welcome. The membership form included with this spring newsletter includes a standing order mandate, which you may find more convenient and has the added benefit of saving us administration time.

As an amenity society the CPCA is sustained entirely by its members through their funding by subscription, donations and voluntary assistance. No membership. No CPCA!

As you will see from this newsletter, many important issues face us, not least our legal challenge to the Secretary of State's decision to grant approval to the LDA Crystal Palace Park Masterplan. You will see on the front page of this newsletter that our case will now be heard at the Court of Appeal.

So, please tell your family, friends and neighbours about the CPCA and encourage them to join us in the work we are doing trying to keep our area 'special'.

Friday 24th May CPCA AGM

Our Annual General Meeting will take place at 7.30 pm, 24th May 2013 at Christ Church Gipsy Hill.

As usual there will be a guest speaker and refreshments.

Friday 14th June CPCA Summer Quiz Night

at the Goodliffe Hall, Highland Road, off Gipsy Hill.

Quiz mistress Katriona will again host this popular, fun and friendly event, where she will test our brain cells with a range of questions to suit all.

Organise a team of up to 8 people or be linked up with others, who hopefully might know the answers!

The quiz starts at 7.30pm and the tickets cost £9 for CPCA members and £10 for non-members.

As usual, the ticket price includes a fish and chip supper while vegetarians are offered a vegetable quiche as an alternative.

Please let us know if you prefer this option, when you make your booking.

Bring your own drinks, but if you forget there will be a limited choice available.

27th - 30th June Crystal Palace Overground Festival

Crystal Palace Triangle traders launched the Crystal Palace Overground Festival in 2007. The four day free family-friendly festival is a platform for the many creative and diverse people, musicians, traders and artists of Crystal Palace. It showcases Crystal Palace, its people and all it has to offer to visitors from across London, and beyond.

An estimated 4,500 people attended last year's event, attracted by the huge variety of free events across the various festival hubs which included performing arts, crafts, holistic and sports activities, live music, DJs and food, an ale and cider festival plus antique, craft and vintage shopping throughout the Crystal Palace Triangle and Westow Park.

A number of 'Fringe' events will be held around Crystal Palace in the run up to the big festival weekend and Festival organisers are anticipating an increase in numbers for this year's event.

The Festival is a free event that relies on volunteers, sponsorship, fundraising and the support of the local community.

For more information and to get involved in this year's event, visit www.crystalpalacefestival.org or find us on Facebook: Crystal Palace Overground Festival and follow on Twitter: @SE19festival.

BECOME A CPCA COMMITTEE MEMBER

We are always looking for new members to join our various committees. If you have an interest in planning, policing, arranging events or any of the other activities listed on our membership form then please get in touch.

Committee meetings are always interesting and there is the added bonus of putting something back into your community, and of course making new friends.

If you have some time to spare, please call us, arrange a meeting and come and see what's involved.

CPCA c/o 10 Jasper Road, Upper Norwood, London SE19 1SJ

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