

The Hammersmith Mall Residents' Association

www.hamra.org.uk

Caring for The Mall Conservation Area
(Designated 1971)

NEWSLETTER JULY 2020



Dear Supporters

We wrote to you in early March explaining that we had decided to cancel the AGM which was due to be held at Linden House on 25th March. As things turned out the official lockdown would have forced its cancellation.

At that stage we hoped we might be able to reconvene the AGM in the summer. But the pandemic has changed all our lives immeasurably and a traditional AGM looks out of the question for the foreseeable future.

In the circumstances the Steering Group have instead compiled an informative update on HAMRA activities and life in the Mall Conservation Area. We hope you find it useful.

On a practical note, it would be helpful if members renewed their £5 subscriptions if they have not already done so. A subscription form is attached. Please would you pay by Standing Order or send/deliver your money to Georgina Williams at Emery House (full address on the form). Emery House is the green double gates opposite the Black Lion and there is a letterbox in the gate.

With best wishes,

Mike White
Chairman

HAMRA Accounts 4th March 2019 – 25th March 2020:

As at 25th March 2020, HAMRA had £7,581.42 in the community account. There was a total income from donations from film production companies of £6,000, or which £1,000 was donated to West London Welcome during the year to support their work with refugees and asylum seekers.

The community account balance as of 4th March 2019	£2374.10	
INCOME:		
36 Subscriptions @ £5 per household	£180.00	
Donations from Members	£115.00	
Donation from 30-38 Digby Mansions	£100.00	
Donation from Trig Filming	£500.00	
Donation from Bond Filming	£2000.00	
Donation from Next Productions	£1250.00	
Donation from Lethal Productions	£750.00	
Donation from KE3	£1500.00	£6000 total from filming
TOTAL INCOME	£6395.00	
EXPENDITURE:		
Hammersmith Society	£15.00	
Website and email	£100.68	
Linden House Hire	£72.00	
Donation to West London Welcome	£1000	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£1187.68	
The community account balance as of 25th March 2020	£7581.42	

HAMRA Donations to H&F Food Bank:

Since the beginning of lockdown, HAMRA has donated £3,000 to the Hammersmith and Fulham Food Bank to support their work within the borough. This money comes specifically from the donations we have received from film crews using locations within the conservation area last year. We now have a balance of £2,000 from filming money which we hold in reserve.



The Food Bank have been experiencing unprecedented demand during the Covid-19 crisis, with the number of people who benefit from their food parcels rising from an average of 250 people per week to over 200 people every day. Their operational base has moved to the National Hall at the Olympia Exhibition Centre. This space, along with a small army of willing volunteers, means that they are now able to safely pack and deliver more than 150 food parcels each day, with the capacity to pack up to 250 parcels per day if demand increases.

Impact of the Covid 19 crisis on the Mall.



We are fortunate to live in a beautiful area, but its attractions have not been lost on the many other people who have thronged to the area during lockdown and since to exercise, relax and enjoy the riverside.

Most people have observed social distancing and been respectful of the Mall and its residents – but, regrettable, others have not.

During lockdown, the Council instigated segregated north/south pedestrian/cycle lanes on Hammersmith Bridge and enforced a ban on running and cycling along the riverside in the daytime, which made the bridge crossing and river walk much safer for pedestrians. The segregated lanes and marshals on the bridge remain, but since lockdown was eased the river walk running/cycling ban has been widely ignored.

There have been numerous other instances of anti-social behaviour: lack of social distancing, crowds gathering, mountains of litter, bushes and gardens being used as public toilets, drug taking and illegal 'raves' in Furnivall Gardens. It is hard not to feel sorry for young people forced to stay at home in lovely weather, but some have misbehaved since being let out.

Residents living close to Furnivall Gardens and the Upper Mall Open Space between the Old Ship and Black Lion pubs have suffered most. Problems have been exacerbated by the pub re-openings for take-away sales only.

HAMRA have been in regular contact with the Council during the crisis and kept officers informed of issues which have come to our attention. They have deployed extra personnel to the riverside to deal with them, ensured an increased police presence when necessary, and continue to monitor the area. Matters do seem to have improved recently and we continue to keep LBHF informed of any difficulties that arise. Your local Councillors can be contacted (details on the LBHF website) if there are any specific issues which concern you.



Hammersmith Bridge:



The LBHF Highways team working on Hammersmith Bridge are in frequent contact with residents and local interest groups, including HAMRA, and provide regular progress updates.



Investigation and restoration work to the bridge continued as far as possible during the Covid-19 crisis, with appropriate safety precautions in place.

The exploratory works on the eastern pedestals were completed in June and nothing of any substance was found. There are currently over 300 sensors and strain gauges which remain in place on the bridge, providing a continuous alert monitoring system.



The results of the exploratory investigations are being used to help inform the final plans for the repairs to Hammersmith Bridge, as well as the detailed design for the stabilisation works. Details are currently being finalised by Consultants.

More information and photographs of the works can be found on the LBHF website.

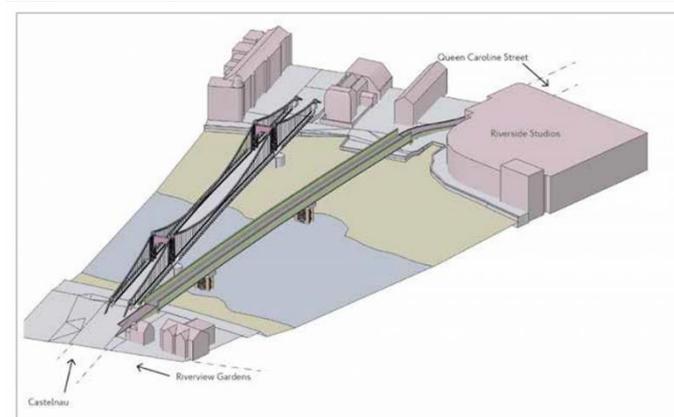
<https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/articles/news/2020/02/good-progress-work-repair-hammersmith-bridge>

We understand that a funding request has been passed to TfL who are applying for government funding. The contractors' site is remaining in place to ensure that the works can start immediately when funding is secured. The repairs can then be treated as a 'shovel ready' infrastructure project if and when government funding becomes available.

The segregated one-way north/south pedestrian/cycle crossings remain in place.

Temporary Cycle and Pedestrian Bridge:

TfL propose to construct a temporary pedestrian and cycle bridge downstream of the main bridge, to allow the works to the main bridge to continue as swiftly and safely as possible. The design was shown at a public exhibition/consultation in March, but further exhibitions were then cancelled due to lockdown.



The highways team have informed us that the temporary bridge design is now complete and TfL are consulting and expecting to have planning permission submitted very soon. However approval from key stakeholders is subject to having funding in place for the main bridge works. Obviously the enormous cost of the pandemic puts a question over all public spending projects. Further details of the temporary bridge can be found at: <https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/articles/news/2020/03/new-temporary-bridge-cyclists-and-pedestrians-across-thames>

Riverside Studios:



Riverside Studios no sooner partially re-opened than it was forced to close again by the Covid-19 crisis. During lockdown they have been running a programme of virtual events and activities.

The Bakery, Bar and Sams Restaurant have now re-opened and the cinema is due to re-open at the end of July. More information can be found on their website.

<https://www.riversidestudios.co.uk/home>

Outdoor exercise equipment, Upper Mall Open Space



In December last year, HAMRA learnt that the Parks Department had decided to install a set of outdoor exercise machines on the upper lawn of the Upper Mall Open Space.

Having fairly recently succeeded in getting the lawns re-turfed and cyclists prevented from using them as short-cuts, HAMRA felt it would be entirely inappropriate to now fill the upper lawn with machinery

We met with the Parks Department on site and it was agreed that the fenced area adjacent to the children's playground would be a more suitable location. The machines were installed there in the Spring but have had little use as the playground was subsequently locked.

Bollards in Dove Passage

Also towards the end of last year, the council replaced the bollards in Dove Passage with three pairs of parallel railings, to see whether these would make the passage safer for residents and pedestrians by encouraging cyclists to dismount.

The experiment proved unsuccessful, with cyclists simply weaving through the railings.

Furthermore, the style of the railings used was entirely inappropriate and completely out of keeping with the appearance and heritage of the passage.

A group of Dove Passage residents met with Council officials in January and it was agreed that the railings at either end would be replaced by lockable bollards in keeping with the appearance of the passage, as previously used, with an additional set being installed in the middle of the passage to protect the entrances to the Dove pub and No 17 specifically.



Town Hall redevelopment and new Civic Campus:



Work to soft-strip the interior of the old Town Hall to protect and preserve all the historic features and artefacts continued where possible within government guidelines during lockdown.



Demolition of the modern Town Hall extension commenced in June. The concrete stairways in front of the old Town Hall have been removed and the building is gradually being dismantled from the roof down.

For further information and progress updates see: <https://www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning/planning-applications/major-planning-applications/civic-campus>

Heathrow 3rd Runway Update : Good News



Victoria Timberlake writes:

On 27th February, the High Court found in favour of the No3rdrunway Coalition appeal against Heathrow's 3rd runway application, on grounds of ecological unsustainability.

In an extraordinary precedent, Lord Justice Lindblom ruled that Heathrow Airport owners' planning application was bound to comply with the terms of the Paris Agreement and it failed to do so. The news went global immediately. It was the first case, worldwide, in which a country's legal system acted on the basis of the Agreement.

Is this the end of the 3rd runway? No, but it is a major step against. The government is not challenging the court's decision but, of course, Heathrow may*.

That said, preliminary work on the site has been stood down for the time being. The longer this whole process is dragged out, the more financially disadvantageous the project becomes for their shareholders. It remains to be seen what decisions Heathrow will make post-Covid-19 about its expansion plans

Meanwhile, a survey conducted by the No3rdrunway Coalition during lockdown concluded that thousands of people from across London and surrounding areas have enjoyed the positive effects on their quality of life arising from the drastic reduction in flights.

For more information, please see www.No3rdrunwaycoalition.co.uk