



The Hammersmith Mall Residents' Association

www.hamra.org.uk

*Caring for The Mall Conservation Area
(Designated 1971)*

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

It is a pleasure to be sending you our first Newsletter, which picks up many of the subjects raised at the Inaugural Meeting at the end of January.

You will be pleased to know that HAMRA has received a welcome from everyone and that a number of residents have asked for HAMRA's support on some matters of concern to them affecting The Mall Conservation Area. Clearly HAMRA is making better progress in becoming established than expected. A welcome profile on HAMRA was recently published in The H & F News.

Membership

Members of HAMRA's Board of Representatives now represent 320 households and HAMRA has 140 individual supporters - 62 Members who have kindly paid the £5 subscription per household for 2010 and 78 Supporters. HAMRA welcomes both Members and Supporters who are key to its ability to "get things done".

One of the best ways you can support HAMRA is to encourage your friends and neighbours to become a Member or a Supporter - either via our Web Site or by contacting me at 10 Hammersmith Terrace, W6 9TS or andrew.hankey@hotmail.com

Board of Representatives.

Nicky Douglas and Rebecca Kateley are welcome additional members of the Board. Nicky is a founding member of the Old Pumhouse Residents Association, which further strengthens HAMRA's representation in the community. Rebecca is a resident of Weltje Road and strengthens HAMRA's representation there and in the Upper Mall area.

The hot topic - the New Town Hall scheme and footbridge over the A4.

HAMRA understands that “The draft planning pack is expected to be completed soon but before the Council agree to the application being submitted there will be a number of public events arranged to explain the scheme. In addition there will be a Stakeholder meeting, including the Friends of Furnivall Gardens and Hammersmith Mall Residents Association, to engage with the usual groups. This is probably going to take place during the latter half of May or into early June but there will be plenty of publicity, etc.”.

The developer will then make a Planning Application to LBHF - about which formal “representations” can be made in the usual way.

There is an outline proposal at www.kingstreetregeneration.co.uk/project.php

This is under active consideration by both HAMRA and The Friends of Furnival Gardens, together with The Hammersmith & Fulham Historic Buildings Group and The Hammersmith Society and others who have formed a working group to address this.

On the face of it, this project does not seem to “preserve or enhance the character or appearance”* of The Mall Conservation Area, judged by criteria set out in guidance on this subject by Government and the LBHF.

Please do not hesitate to tell HAMRA what you think about this project.

*S.72 Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Affiliations

HAMRA is developing affiliations and contacts with other groups and residents’ associations in a broad area not confined to the LBHF. Hopefully, this network will share information, be a source of constructive suggestions and experience and be mutually supportive whenever necessary. This is a priority for HAMRA and it is hoped to develop this further in future. The list of these so far is as follows:

The Friends of Furnival Gardens
The Hammersmith & Fulham Historic Buildings Group
The Hammersmith Society

The Fulham Society
The St Peter's Residents' Association
The Brackenbury Residents' Association
The Bedford Park Society
The Old Chiswick Preservation Society

Planning Committee

After HAMRA was formed, it quickly became apparent from the number of planning applications and issues raised by them, that HAMRA needed to think through how it should respond to them. Accordingly, the Board formed a Planning Committee to do this. Its composition and programme of meetings can be found on our web site and Guidelines for it have also been drawn up which are available on request and will be available on our web site in due course. The first meeting of the Planning Committee took place recently at which 5 planning applications were reviewed.

HAMRA is fortunate to be assisted by four architects who have kindly agreed to form a panel of architectural advisers on a pro bono basis, one of whom will attend meetings of the Planning Committee on a rota:

Professor Hans Heinlein - Hans Haenlein Architects
Stephen Levant - Heritage Architecture
Brian Paver - Brian Paver Architects
Dominic Warren - Raw Space Architects

Toddlers Play Area - What would you like?

As you know LBHF did not proceed with its plans to change this into a play area for 8 to 13 year olds. There have been some suggestions that ideally the toddlers play equipment could do with some *TLC* and that, perhaps, there might be some enthusiasm for a joint scheme to do this by residents and the LBHF.

Thames Path - Upper Mall Open Space - The Riverside Walk

You will remember that the LBHF scheme and a residents' alternative scheme were put on display at Linden House in February, which produced a unanimous response in favour of the alternative scheme and also some useful additional suggestions. The LBHF did not proceed with its scheme and now *seems* to be approaching this matter more cautiously in consultation with HAMRA, but this is being watched vigilantly.

At the moment the junction of Hammersmith Terrace / South Black Lion Lane / The Riverside Walk is receiving attention. At the time of writing this has not been completed and temporary arrangements are in place awaiting delivery of the necessary bollards from the supplier. On completion of this work, consideration will be given to the next appropriate measures to calm cycling on the Riverside Walk.

You might like to know that the LBHF Street Smart report (which seems to have been somewhat forgotten), “will provide a manual for practitioners carrying out work in the borough and also serves as a commitment to our residents that we will raise the quality of design in the borough’s streets”. It refers to the route along the river from Chiswick Mall to Hammersmith Bridge and beyond as *The Riverside Walk* and sets out useful policy on the conservation of this amenity.

Thames Tideway Tunnel

HAMRA has been in touch with the Project Director’s Office (thanks to TOCPSoc and Tony Taylor) which has recorded HAMRA as a consultee on this matter. Proposals are still being worked on and are expected to be made known publicly this summer for an extended period of consultation.

History of The Mall Conservation Area - Can you help?

Georgina Williams, HAMRA's Hon. Historian, is collating an inventory of any historical information about The Mall Conservation Area and its past residents, such as photographs, etchings, maps, books and other histories and anecdotes.

All this will be recorded and it is hoped to stage an exhibition on the history of The Mall Conservation Area in due course.

Anything of this nature which you have or may know about, please let Georgina know at hamrahistorian@hotmail.com

Residents’ local concerns

In addition to the matters already mentioned in this Newsletter, I am pleased to say that several residents turned to HAMRA for support on 10 or so other issues of concern in their immediate locality, on which HAMRA was pleased to give support or is continuing to give support.

These issues have given HAMRA the opportunity to establish working relationships with the Councillors in the Ravenscourt Park and Hammersmith Broadway Wards and other Councillors with particular responsibilities on the Council, Officers in the LBHF Council and the PLA.

HAMRA administration and web site

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting and the Agenda and Minutes of the first Board Meeting held on 11th March can be obtained by Members on request.

HAMRA has received subscriptions of £310. Its expenses amount to £123 (Room hire £70, Subscriptions £30, Web site £23) and its bank balance is therefore £187.

Our web site has been further developed (thanks to Martin Paterson for his continued support). It holds information about The Conservation Area and information of continuing relevance to residents about HAMRA. It will continue to be developed and from time to time, and you will be asked to refer to it on some subjects, if you wish to know more about them instead of receiving lengthy emails.

My thanks to everyone for their help and support.



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