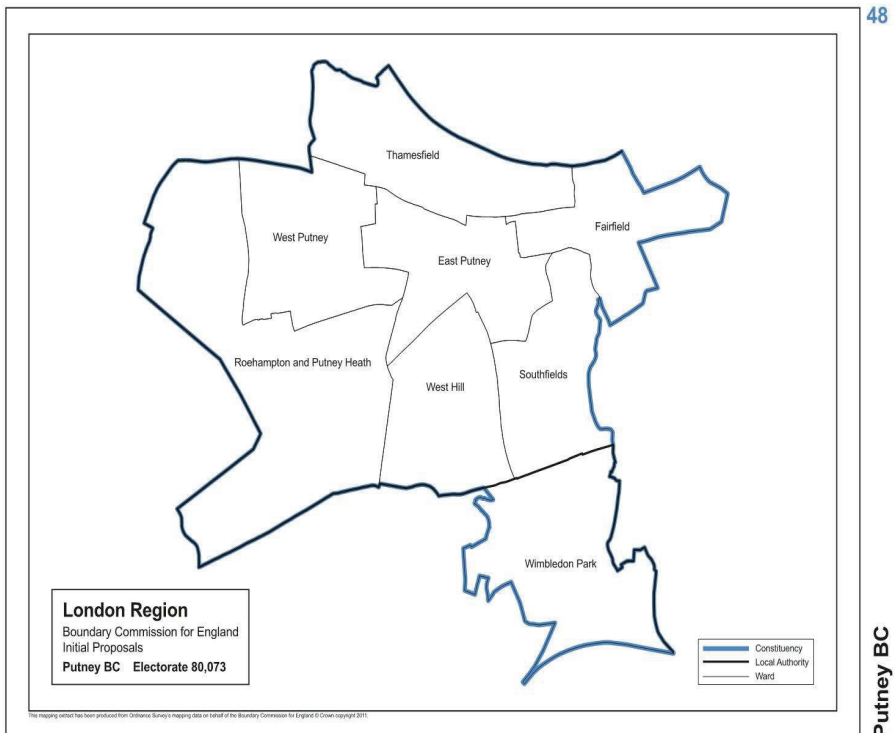


Autumn



2011

AGM
Thursday 20th October
8.00pm



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Autumn edition 2011
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Editorial help needed. Contact Iain Simpson on 020 8947 1301
email: iainsimpson@imi-consulting.com

Chairman's Report

Wimbledon Park Hall – and the current financial environment.

Since the last report there has been no activity. I contacted the developer, Shaukat Hussein, very recently and he confirmed that Banks are still reluctant to lend on new developments. The development of Park House is finished and work is now underway on Ibex House. Perhaps when this phase of work is completed there may be an opportunity to review the situation with the Banks. Also, I understand that efforts have been made to find a joint venture partner. Discussions with a number of parties have taken place but nothing concrete (no pun intended!) has emerged so far. We naturally share the frustration of Mr Hussein who would like to be able to commence the project given the significant time and money he has already committed.

In normal circumstances we could expect the property market to be a little more encouraging at this stage of a cycle, after the collapse of prices in 2007. However the collapse of Banks and financial institutions in 2008 and lack of mortgage money since then have created a situation that is extremely complex and hard for most of us to really comprehend.

We are all aware of the increasing uncertainty in financial markets over the last few months with a major focus on the possibility of certain countries in the EU defaulting on their loans. Greece in particular. Markets generally seem to be reacting to what can only be described as a lack of positive leadership and direction from the leaders of the major EU economies and are very volatile. Until there is an acceptable agreement on the future of the EU, in terms of managing the accumulated debts, this seems likely to continue.

Although there are some signs of increases in the availability of mortgage money, in general the terms offered still require a high level of deposit which most first time buyers cannot afford – except with some help from the, often quoted, 'Bank of Mum and Dad'. Therefore the market for selling properties in the lower price ranges is extremely limited.

All these factors constitute to provide a very negative environment. Let us hope that, in the next 12 months, calmer markets and a more positive environment prevail which may offer an opportunity for our, long awaited, new facility to materialise.

Proposed change to the Planning Rules.

Many of you will be aware of the Government's proposals to make a radical change to the planning rules in order to encourage faster building of houses and thereby 'stimulate economic activity'. The proposal is to replace approximately 1000 pages of existing rules with 52 pages. There has been a considerable amount of comment in the press about this with a lot of posturing by both sides. What is really mystifying about this proposal is the supposition that the reason more houses have not

been built over the last few years is somehow entirely due to the planning system. This seems at best naive and ill informed, and at worst a cynical attempt by the government to score political points by appeasing constituents of the economy who would like us all to roll over and make way for their building plans and jumbo profits – particularly those who hold large land banks.

If press reports are correct that several of the government advisers on this paper were major developers, this merely reinforces suspicions about motives.

If one looks through the content of the consultation document it reveals a 180 degree turn away from planning rules that have been drafted over many years and seek to create an important balance between avaricious and mindless development and a strategic approach to local and national development which considers such important factors as local needs, environment, neighbourliness and conservation.

Whilst we may find the planning system at times laborious and frustrating, we at least can see the rules which apply and understand their intent. What is proposed will open the floodgates based on what is termed 'a presumption of sustainable development'. Of course, 'sustainable development' is not clearly defined.

I commend you to a very thoughtful article on this subject on pages 30/31 by a local resident and Architect

Local Government Ombudsman (LGO) Report.

As indicated in my last report, the next stage was for the Council to consider the report and tell the Ombudsman what action it has taken or intended to take. This period has now passed and we have both received a cheque for £1500 from the Council and subsequently a letter from the LGO stating that they were satisfied with the action that the Council had taken on this matter. This means the matter is now officially concluded.

Fly tipping

Over the last few months I have wherever and whenever possible taken pictures of any fly tipping I have seen locally. Generally it seems not to have been very extensive but I would be interested to hear from readers about any major problems they have encountered in their own neighbourhood and whether the Council was responsive to requests to have it removed.



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Theft from Motor Vehicles	By suspect unknown causing damage to the vehicle by smashing the 1/4 light window and then stealing property from within.	KINGSLEY ROAD	13/08/2011	1900
Theft from Motor Vehicles	Front number plate stolen	REVELSTOKE ROAD	14/08/2011	1800
Theft from Motor Vehicles	Glass removed from a wing mirror and both windscreen wipers units from the same van	WEIR ROAD	16/08/2011	1530
Theft from Motor Vehicles	Front and Rear number plates stolen	STRATHEARN ROAD	20/08/2011	1200
Theft from Motor Vehicles	Victim was loading shopping into the back of his van when suspect opened up the front passenger door and stole a bag of a quantity of cigarettes	ENDEAVOUR WAY	23/08/2011	1452
Theft from Motor Vehicles	Secure vehicle opened causing no damage. Property taken	BREAMAR AVENUE	23/08/2011	1930
Theft from Person - Snatch	By unknown person removing -snatching Victim property from his wrist and making off in unknown direction	PLOUGH LANE	06/08/2011	1200
Theft in a Dwelling	By persons unknown taking jewellery from drawer	DURNSFORD ROAD	01/07/2011	1200
Theft Not Classified Elsewhere	Purse left unattended whilst/victim was playing tennis. Once the purse was located £100 pounds cash had been taken.	HOME PARK ROAD	08/08/2011	9700
Theft Not Classified Elsewhere	By suspect removing purse from bag outside ride		19/08/2011	1800
Theft of Motor Vehicle	Victim left car parked outside his home address. When he woke up the following morning it had gone.	DURNSFORD ROAD	09/08/2011	430
Theft of Pedal Cycles	By suspects taking cycles from garden	ARTHUR ROAD	03/08/2011	312
Unauthorised Taking Motor Vehicle	By persons unknown taking motorbike from location	HAYDON PARK ROAD	21/08/2011	900
Unauthorised Taking Motor Vehicle	By persons known between the time shown removing the scooter from the small front garden	ASHCOMBE ROAD	21/08/2011	2330
Unauthorised Taking Motor Vehicle	Vehicle stolen	HAVELOCK ROAD	22/08/2011	1945

Allegation	Method	Address	Date from	Time from	Date to
Burglary Non Dwelling	by the susp climbing over garden fence and entering garden shed which was unlocked and taking bike from shed	ASHCOMBE ROAD	27/08/2011	300	27/08/2011
Burglary Non Dwelling	By gaining entry via a small gap at the top of the side gate. Entering the property, conducting untidy searches of each pile of tools and taking a number of power tools	DORA ROAD	28/08/2011	1300	30/08/2011
Crim Dam to M/Veh - £500 to £5000	By suspect unknown scratching the vehicle and slashing the tyres of the vehicle causing damage.	WEIR ROAD	08/08/2011	2350	
Crim Dam to M/Veh - £500 to £5000	Wall of both front tyres slashed	STROUD ROAD	29/08/2011	2300	30/08/2011
Theft from Motor Vehicles	By persons unknown opening vehicle and taking property from within	GORDONDALE ROAD	03/08/2011	2230	04/08/2011
Theft from Motor Vehicles	By suspect unknown taking wallet from vehicle.	DORA ROAD	03/08/2011	1330	04/08/2011 5
Theft from Motor Vehicles	Property stolen from vehicle	ENDEAVOUR WAY	04/08/2011	1330	04/08/2011
Theft from Motor Vehicles	By persons unknown cutting the exhaust pipes to releases the converter section	PLOUGH LANE	01/04/2011	2359	02/04/2011
Theft from Motor Vehicles	By person unknown coming onto the forecourt area and cutting both converters off	WEIR ROAD	07/08/2011	1630	08/08/2011
Theft from Motor Vehicles	Front and Rear number plates stolen	ARTHUR ROAD	11/08/2011	2200	12/08/2011
Theft from Motor Vehicles	An unknown suspect has smashed the rear quarter light window, gained entry and removed a rucksack from inside. Rucksack located a few doors away intact.	CROMWELL ROAD	13/08/2011	1730	13/08/2011
Theft from Motor Vehicles	An unknown suspect has smashed the rear nearside quarter light, wound a window down, gained entry and searched the vehicle. Nothing apparently taken.	KINGSLEY ROAD	13/08/2011	2000	14/08/2011

UNLOCKING THE WANDLE

MAJOR FUNDING TO REGENERATE OUR FORGOTTEN RIVER

By Cécile Bridgens,
Wandle Connect Co-ordinator

The story so far : The Wimbledon Park Residents' Association Wandle Connect Group is campaigning for direct pedestrian/cyclist access (the Wimbledon Park Link) to the River Wandle, and for a riverside extension of the Wandle Trail from the Trewint Street Bridge into Wandsworth. The Wandle Valley Regional Park project aims at unifying the entire network of open spaces along the river under a partnership of central and local agencies. It should be a great opportunity for Wimbledon Park residents to restore the Wandle as an important educational and recreational asset for our area, a wonderful natural and ecological environment and an important biodiversity resource.

The Wimbledon Park Wandle Connect Group is pleased to report some exciting new developments about the Wandle Valley Regional Park.

It is anticipated that just under £2 million of Lottery Fund will be secured to contribute towards improving the river Wandle. This is the first ever successful Landscape Partnership bid in an urban area!

The successful Heritage Lottery Bid for the Wandle secured a Stage 1 pass of £78,000 in funding to develop plans for a further application needed to secure £1.9 million over the 18 months. The Heritage Lottery Fund has put the £1.9 million aside for the project but we still need to complete a second application to ensure that it is secured.

Various projects put forward by partners as part of the Stage 1 application will be included in the development of the second round application, but the final list of projects to be included may change over the development phase.

A project officer appointed this autumn will work with all of the partners to complete the development of the second round application.

One of the several gaps in the riverside trail between King George's Park and Trewint St will become a new section of the Wandle Trail. According to Wandsworth BC officers, it is expected that the empty MoD warehouse next to King George's Park will be sold in the near future. A condition on the purchasers



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will be to open the riverside path between the Park and Strathville Rd via Riverdale Drive, thus extending access for thousands of local residents.

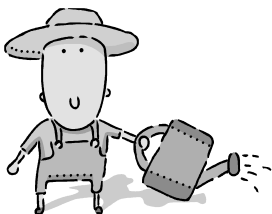
And finally ... A list of the 10 most-improved rivers in England and Wales recently



released by the
Environment Agency (EA)

*includes the River
Wandle, which was
officially declared a
sewer in the 1960s.*

This is all brilliant news for
the future of the Wandle
and it's great to get recog-
nition for all of the work
done so far.



Arthur Road Flower Boxes

I think I am correct in saying that it is 8 years ago when Cécile and I purchased, secured and planted out the Arthur Road boxes. I water them daily, carry an average of 60 cans a week up the stairs in Paresh's pharmacy, depending upon the weather. I feed the boxes once a week and, yes, I will admit to talking to them.

Over the years, I have become used to them being used as an ashtray, somewhere to put empty bottles and cans, and plants being damaged and stolen. I always plant very tightly so that if a plant goes missing, the gap is soon filled by its neighbours, and the space disappears.

But this year has really taken the biscuit! I planted out, as I always do, during the first few days of May. Within a couple of weeks someone had pulled a couple of the boxes off the railing so that they were just hanging on. I wired them up as best I could, hoping they would last the summer.

Then on Saturday 2nd July the “blitz” happened; I went on the Sunday to water and found most of the plants from two of the boxes were missing. On the Monday, I was able to buy some more plants, but, of course, the two boxes will never catch up with their neighbours. During the weekend of 23rd July more plants “disappeared”, but it was not as bad as three weeks earlier.

I know some people will think, when you see what happened in parts of our great city in August, that this is of very little importance, and, of course, to a degree, I will agree with that. But, to me, it is all part of the same problem. There is a very small percentage of people who feel that if they want to do something, they can!

Although next summer is a long way off, at the moment, I do not think I will undertake the job of taking care of the boxes. I am, of course, getting well past my “best before” date, but these attacks have really upset me. After 44 years in the retail trade, I did not think much could hurt, but this has.

I hope that whoever carried out those attacks is proud of themselves. He or she will know who they are. I find it sad that some people want to destroy what is there to brighten up our area. *Michael Moore*

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Eyelash Extensions	£50.00
Back massage 25mins	£24.00

AGM Notice

Date: Thursday 20th October 2011

Time: 8.00 pm

**Venue: St Austin's Hall, Church of Christ the King,
The Crescent , off Arthur Road**

Agenda

- **Minutes of the last meeting**
- **Matters arising**
- **Chairman's Report**
- **Treasurer's Report**
- **Community Safety Panel Report**
- **Guest Speaker**
- **Election of Officers**
- **AOB**

Guest Speaker

**Cllr Oonagh Moulton, Wimbledon Park Ward
Past Mayor of Merton 2010-11,**

also

**The Right Honourable Sir John Wheeler, JP,DL.
Chairman of the Wimbledon Park Ward Community Panel**

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Expansion at Wimbledon Park Primary School

Wimbledon Park families with children under school age may be interested to know about the possibility of expansion at the local school.

Although I am a governor at the school, any opinions expressed in this article are mine only.

The enrolment problem

Wimbledon Park Primary School has traditionally been a two form entry school, which means it has taken up to 60 newly enrolled children each year. For a number of years the level of applications has been around double the places available.

The enrolment criteria for dealing with the over-subscription have been by a straight line of distance from the school gate to the home, with exception for siblings of children already attending the school. The admissions circle has become very tight – only 330 metres from the school gate for the 2010-2011 school year. This has meant that some families living in parts of Melrose Avenue, Ryfold Road, Farquhar Road, Arthur Road, The Crescent, Crescent Gardens, Home Park Road and beyond have not been able to send their children to the school.

Families then had to send their children to other schools. There are comparatively few Merton schools in the north of the borough, and they are all oversubscribed. The nearest available places in Merton in recent years have been south of Kingston Road.

However, the significant and consistent increase in numbers of primary school aged children (which has been a London wide pattern) meant that for the 2011/2012 year, Merton would have been unable to offer sufficient primary school places anywhere in the borough for those Wimbledon Park residents unable to get a place at the local school.

Temporary Bulge Class

In response to the borough wide problem, Merton has introduced what are termed “bulge” classes at thirteen primary schools, including one at Wimbledon Park Primary School for the 2011/2012 year. A bulge class is a single expansion of 30 places for a school year, which goes on for seven years whilst those 30 children finish their primary years of schooling. It provides more places on a temporary basis (ie. for the children starting school in that year only).

New buildings to accommodate the bulge class were installed at the school in July ready for when the new school year opened in September. The buildings are fairly low profile, and although visible from the street, are relatively unobtrusive (see photos).



The Schools Adjudicator approved a Merton application to restrict the 30 new places largely to Wimbledon Park residents. This is significant because the school is very close to the border with Wandsworth, and of the usual 60 enrolments, around one third of the places typically go to Wandsworth residents. The reason for this is that approximately one quadrant of the enrolment circle is taken up by the park, railway line and industrial parts of Wimbledon Park. Merton was unwilling to expand the school unless it contributed to solving Merton's shortage of primary school places.

The result is that for 2011/2012, there are 60 places determined by distance from the school as usual, and a further 30 available largely for parts of Wimbledon Park only, which otherwise would not qualify by distance from the school.

What about permanent expansion?

Last year Merton held a public consultation on the provision of primary school places generally in the borough. The topic generates considerable emotion, particularly when it gets down to specifics of building new schools or expanding existing ones. One conclusion is inescapable – primary school provision in Merton will have to be expanded.

At the time of writing the council had not yet announced whether it wants to expand Wimbledon Park Primary School permanently. The council held a public meeting at the school earlier this year to explain the temporary bulge class. Council officers stated that if permanent expansion does become part of the council's preferred solution, a statutory public consultation will be required. The school, the school community and local residents would then have the opportunity to see what the plans are, assess the impact and make representations.

Residents interested in reading more will find various papers on the council website.

Tom Riddell
Crescent Gardens

LIFT FOR WIMBLEDON PARK TUBE STATION ??

Wimbledon Park has many elderly or disabled people, as well as a lot of families with small children. It therefore seems a good idea to have a lift at Wimbledon Park tube station. The Cresidents, experienced fund raisers for local causes, have suggested a campaign to raise money for the installation of a lift, similar to the one installed at Southfields earlier this year.

The Managing Director of London Underground has advised that their emphasis is currently on installing lifts in Central London. The Cresidents believe that local campaigning and fund raising might influence this decision and are considering various fund-raising ideas.

The Cresidents have decided to organise another GERMAN CHRISTMAS MARKET

on Saturday, 3rd December 2011

at Christ the King Church Hall,

The Crescent, Wimbledon Park

from 12 to 3 pm.

To make this event a success and raise as much money as possible, The Cresidents would appreciate some help.

Do you have any Christmas decorations that you no longer want or need?

Would you like to donate some home-made Christmas decorations?

Would you be prepared to bake a cake or Christmas biscuits to be sold?

Would you be willing to help with preparations or on the day?

Can you contribute any other suggestions?

If the answer is yes to any of these, please contact:

Ute and Douglas Dallimer 8 The Crescent, tel. 8946 8141

or Christine and Bob Ball @ christineball@btinternet.com

or Beate Eberhardt @ beate.eberhardt@btopenworld.com.

Should it turn out that the installation of a lift in the tube station is too expensive, any funds raised will go towards the funding of the Wimbledon Park Christmas lights for which Merton Council charges a substantial amount every three years (in 2009 the cost was £3,450). Failing that, any profits will be donated to a local charity.



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Why should I support the Residents' Association?

There has been a Residents' Association in Wimbledon Park since 1906. It provides a forum for discussing important local issues and a platform for action.

Since its inception, the Residents' Association has helped hundreds, probably thousands of local residents, irrespective of religion, race or creed, who have turned to the committee for guidance and support.

We check the planning applications of all local buildings and have been very successful in opposing unsuitable developments. We promote planting and improvements in local parks and green areas. We work with the local police to help you to fight crime in your street by participating in the local Ward Community Safety Panel.

We have led the initiative to redevelop Wimbledon Park Hall – so that once again we can have our own community centre. We have put on fairs and shows and supported numerous local campaigns, individuals and families faced with tragedy.

The Residents' Association has given the Wimbledon Park community a solid and respected voice when dealing with Merton Council. An individual can achieve only so much, but as a team we can and do achieve so much more.

This area is growing and improving all the time. Your Residents' Association is more active than ever and we are happy to put in time and effort on your behalf. But we cannot function without funds. We did extremely well financially from the Centenary Fair last year but that money has been put aside for the running of the new Park Hall – delayed yet again due to the current Global Recession.

We need you to support your local Residents' Association ideally for 3 years, which is only £12. Twelve pounds for a 3 year period will help us pay for printing and stationery to publish this newsletter, computer and IT software to run the website, materials and equipment to organise the next Fair and keep the flowerboxes blooming in Arthur Road.

Please take a moment to fill in the very brief form opposite or join online at www.wimbledonpark.com via PayPal. Click 'About Us' then 'How to join'.

If you are already a member but are not sure of your current status, email to wpsecretary@blueyonder.co.uk and we will check for you.

Thanks in advance for your support. It is hugely appreciated.

DeNica Fairman
Membership Secretary

To Join the Wimbledon Park Residents' Association

Please complete this form and return it to us with your payment:

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Address _____

_____ Post Code _____

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You are welcome to drop your subscription through the door of the Membership Secretary, DeNica Fairman at 3 Strathmore Rd, or of our Chairman, Iain Simpson at 56 Home Park Rd.

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FENCING – ANCIENT ART AND MODERN SPORT

Fencing has its roots in the traditions of chivalry, but is nowadays a very modern and athletic sport which is practised world wide. Since the inception of the modern Olympic Games in 1896, fencing has been an ‘obligatory’ sport, and we are looking forward to seeing the top athletes in action in both the Main games and the Paralympics in the London 2012 Olympics.

In spite of poor media coverage in this country, fencing has a keen following and the sport is alive and well. Fencing provides concentrated physical exercise and mental stimulation, leading to lowering of stress after a good workout. Speed and finesse are of the essence, so that good technique and timing can often overcome brute strength or other physical advantages in one’s opponent. As in most sports, it is best to start young, but many clubs run courses for adults who want a new activity, particularly after giving up more stressful ‘impact’ sports. As one gets older, speed is often replaced by good defence and cunning, and there are many ‘veterans’ still fencing competitively well into their 70’s and over.



Mens foil

Fencing is equally suitable for men and women, and many clubs provide a friendly but competitive environment, as well as varied social activities. The individual nature of the game often attracts people who don’t enjoy team sports, thus opening up new sporting opportunities for them. Fencing also has the advantage of being held indoors, making it independent of the weather.



Womens épée



Mixed Foil

Wimbledon Fencing Club is celebrating the 60th anniversary of its foundation in 1951, having welcomed and nurtured fencers of widely ranging ages and abilities from the local and surrounding areas. Members fenced for many years in the Community Centre in St George's Road, but after several changes in venue, the Club is now based at the modern, spacious sports hall of the Ursuline High School, off Worple Road.

The Club meets on Wednesday evenings, catering for both juniors and adults. Tuition from the team of qualified coaches is available in foil, épée and sabre. New members are most welcome, and they can choose from a range of courses or individual match play and tuition. Come along and get fit through fencing, which can be enjoyed after a few weeks of learning the basic skills!

Further details are available at www.wimbledonfencingclub.org.uk,

or by telephoning Jill Farmer at **020 8947 6572**.

All the following information is copied directly from the Boundary Commission website.

For more information go to the website at

<http://consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/>

The Boundary Commission for England is the independent public body that reviews all Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England. We are currently conducting the 2013 Review and we would like your views on our initial proposals. This consultation is open until 5 December 2011.

Initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries published

The independent Boundary Commission for England (BCE) today launches a 12-week consultation on its initial proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries in England.

The BCE's extensive consultation, which will include hosting a number of public hearings across England, will enable people to have their say in the design of the new constituency boundaries.

The review of constituency boundaries is being carried out after Parliament decided that there should be a reduction in the number of constituencies across the UK, and that there should be similar numbers of electors in each constituency. The number of constituencies in England is being reduced from 533 to 502.

Further, every constituency must have an electorate (as at the review date) that is no less than 95% and no more than 105% of the UK electoral quota of 76641 electors. Simon James, Secretary to the Commission, comments, "Parliament has set clear rules on what we can and can't do when it comes to developing our initial proposals – BCE was given clear principles and from that starting point we have found a solution that we think best meets Parliament's rules and now we want to know what people think of our initial proposals."

Under the BCE's initial proposals 77 of the existing constituencies are unchanged.

Details of the BCE's comprehensive consultation process are available on its website and it now encourages everyone to consider what has been proposed before getting involved. The BCE has published regional reports and maps, which are available on its website and in a number of local authority offices and libraries around the country. Meanwhile, Simon James says the BCE is now open to feedback. He continues, "Now that we have published our initial proposals we

London Region

Boundary Commission for England
Initial Proposals

Wimbledon and New Malden BC Electorate 77,494



This mapping extract has been produced from Ordnance Survey's mapping data on behalf of the Boundary Commission for England © Crown copyright 2011.

Wimbledon and New Malden BC

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welcome people's participation until the consultation closes on 5 December 2011. People can contribute via our website, they can write in or email us, or come and present their views at a public hearing in one of 36 venues around the country between 11 October and 18 November this year".

Posted on 13 September 2011

London

The 2013 Review of Parliamentary constituency boundaries will introduce substantial changes. It will reduce the number of constituencies in England from 533 to 502 and make sure that each constituency has a similar number of registered electors. [Read more about the Review.](#)

What is changing in London?

The London region has been allocated 68 constituencies – a reduction of five from the current arrangement.

Our proposals leave four of the 73 existing constituencies unchanged. Two of those are in the London Borough of Barnet and two are in the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Substantial change is required, however, throughout London in order to comply with the new rules. Consequently, it has been necessary to propose 38 constituencies that cross London borough boundaries. Of these, 37 contain parts of two London boroughs and one contains parts of two London boroughs and the whole of the City of London. The remaining 30 constituencies are each contained solely within one London borough.

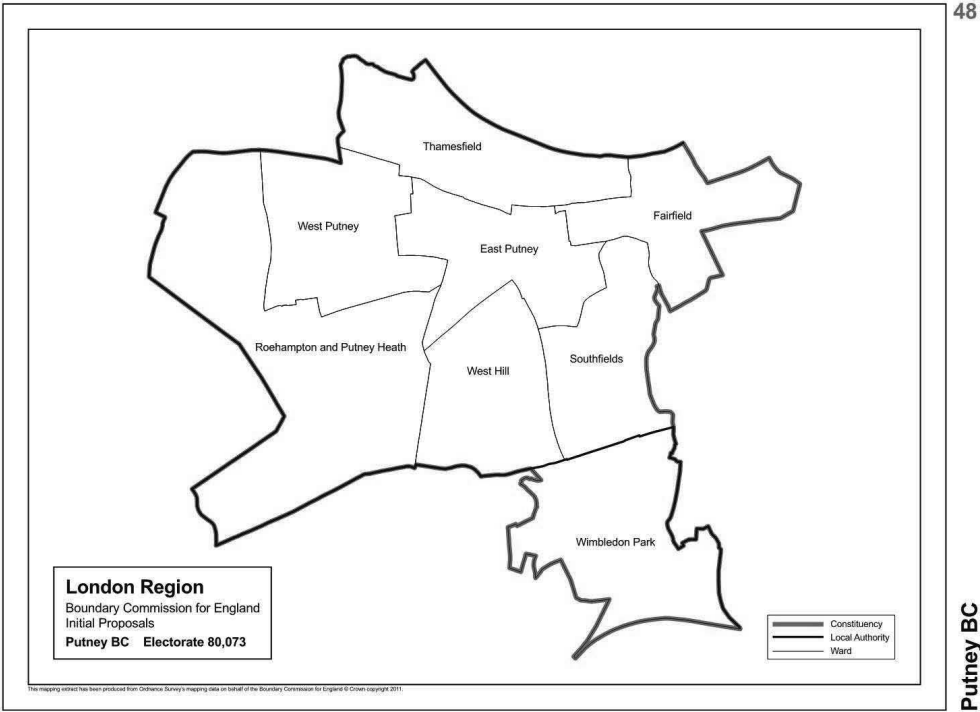
In order to create 68 constituencies wholly within London, we have proposed one constituency (Chingford and Edmonton) that crosses the River Lee and one constituency (Richmond and Twickenham) that crosses the River Thames.

Electoral statistics

We have published the 2011 electoral data which we are using in the 2013 Review.

South London

As it has not always been possible to allocate whole numbers of constituencies to individual London boroughs, we have grouped some boroughs into sub-regions. This approach was based both on trying to respect borough boundaries wherever possible and achieving, where we could, obvious practical groupings such as those



dictated by the geography of the area.

The number of constituencies allocated to each sub-region is determined by the electorate of the combined boroughs.

The number of constituencies proposed for the sub-region of South London is 25. There are currently 27 whole constituencies in this sub-region, with one existing constituency (Richmond Park) crossing our South London sub-region and our North, West, and Central sub-region.



WPRA Annual Front Garden Awards Summer 2011



Once again, we are indebted to the keen and willing residents of Wimbledon Park who kindly acted as judges for the awards. Preliminary assessment of gardens visible from the street was carried out in early July by eleven pairs of judges, whilst a panel of three judges made the final selection on 17th July. The awards will be presented at the AGM on 20th July.

*Overall winner of the John Uden Cup ("Judges' favourite") and
Best Summer Interest Garden:
1 Brooklands Avenue*

The formal layout to this garden contains flowing cottage-style planting. The new wall and paving provide a generous structure, which neatly includes a water butt and a recessed space to hide recycling bins. Colourful annuals border the front path and surround the blue hibiscus standard in the central bed. An attractive mix of shrubs and perennials along the boundaries includes choisya, bottlebrush, hydrangea, lavender and roses, whilst hanging baskets and pots frame the front door. The tall pair of cordylines near the house balance the pleasing overall effect.

*Best Container Garden:
26 Wellington Road*

The eye is immediately drawn to the colourful and well-tended array of pots, window boxes and hanging baskets filling this small front garden. The abundant fuschias, lobelias, petunias, begonias, pelargoniums and bacopa provide an attractive mix of colours, which contrast well with the foliage of the pieris, roses, hosta and conifer.

*Best All-Year Interest Garden:
127 Dora Road*

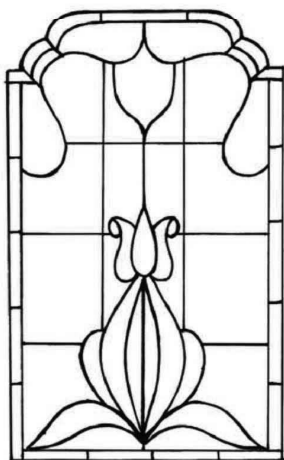
The path to the front door, through a corridor of tall evergreen shrubs, seems to beckon one into the garden. There are lovely contrasts in leaf shapes and subtle colours, including those of a magnolia (still in flower), fatsia, choisya, and cordyline, as well as wisteria, acanthus, sedum, hellebores, viburnum, roses and penstemon. The unobtrusive car parking space on the right of this fairly small area is cleverly screened from the path by the abundant foliage.

*Best Street:
Braemar Avenue*

**Special commendations: Amenity gardens
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Wimbledon Park Primary School, Havana Road**

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WIMBLEDON, YOU AND THE PLANNING LAW.

There has been recently much interest in the media about the Government's announcement to introduce substantial changes to the Planning Law and current policies. It seems that the proposals aim mainly to shift centralised decision making powers to local communities, as well as significantly simplifying the planning process with the premise that new sustainable development will be encouraged.

In the current difficult economical climate, we should be in favour of initiatives that intend to stimulate and secure economical growth.

In summary, the key planning announcements, still in draft, entail the following:

- Local planning authorities should prioritise growth and jobs when determining planning applications.
- The publication by the Government of a short and focused National Planning Policy Framework to replace the current suite of Planning Guidance and Statements, a reduction from over a thousand pages to just over fifty pages!
- In the absence of development plans in place, or out of date, or indeterminate, local authorities will be expected to start from the assumption that planning applications for sustainable development will be permitted.
- Streamlining the planning system including a 12 month guarantee maximum period for the processing of all applications.
- Allowing businesses, as well as residents, to bring forward neighbourhood plans and neighbourhood development orders.
- Proposals to make it easier to convert commercial premises into residential.

All the above sounds very positive, although concerns have already been raised from various quarters that such a simplified system may allow, for instance, for residential growth in areas of inadequate community infrastructure; that there will be no way of securing affordable accommodation; that these will open up sections of the countryside up for grabs by developers, and so on.

Other ideas floating in the construction industry explore for example the possibility for developers to pay supplementary fees to speed up the planning application process when planning departments in local authorities are understaffed and over-worked to process large applications within a reasonable time scale. This may mean a similar process to the one in use in relation to Building Regulations applications dealt by approved inspectors acting independently of Councils' control.

However, for most of us, our interest in understanding the planning system is limited to looking around our neighbourhood and passing a simple judgement as to how the area is changing, how is the neighbourhood coping with the growth pres-

sure; in very simple terms, how does it look?

Wimbledon is, without a shadow of doubt, one of the privileged areas of Merton in particular and of London in general. Nevertheless, Wimbledon is not immune to pressure for a relentless growth and inevitable change that is expressed in the quality of its public realm, infrastructure and new residential and commercial developments.

Wimbledon Town Centre has seen a dramatic change in say the last 25 years – new retail outlets, new office blocks, new cinemas, new road layouts, new residential stock.

Some developments have clearly contributed to the regeneration and quality of the Town Centre. Centre Court to the east of Wimbledon Station for instance remains a very successful retail destination with a group of buildings that combine new and old, clearly respecting and enhancing the character and grain of the area.

Other examples are not at all in that category. Immediately to the west of the Station, the retail and offices building on the junction with Alexandra Road with its poor material selection and over complicated form detracts from the character of the Town Centre to the extreme of making the modest Argos building on the opposite corner almost acceptable.

Some may argue that the High Street, Wimbledon Hill Road and the Broadway are simply a collage of styles developed over the years that are now impossible to recover into a homogenised street scene.

Further away, take, for example, Arthur Road and observe how slowly but steadily a number of those magnificent single houses that characterised the area have been demolished to give way to higher density residential schemes. There is nothing wrong with intensifying the use of the land within a permitted use, but the difference is the quality of the replacement buildings that almost always suffer from lacklustre design, quality of materials and poor detailing.

When one walks around Wimbledon and experiences these examples, one wonders if the local planning system is really protecting our environment. Or is it that the planning and conservation officers are so engaged in running a cumbersome planning system that they are unable to devote time to control the quality of development that Wimbledon deserves?

So, when proposals come out to shake up the planning system, is it best to move towards a simplification of this to the extreme where the market forces alone will dictate the growth and development of our town centres and countryside?

Or should we stay with the current planning law and hope to find that particular planning authority or planning officers that interpret the policies in a creative manner, to allow for sustainable development in your High Street as well as in your road, in a seamless transition to the future?

I would stay with the latter; where do you stand?

Mario Avendano, RIBA

August 2011

Pedal Cycle Thefts

Details of pedal cycle thefts have been re-introduced into the monthly crime figures. These figures will be included every month from now on so that you can see what is happening and where. The burglary and robbery investigation team has in the past suggested that some bikes, especially more specialised bikes, are stolen to order.

Below is advice taken from Crimestoppers on how to avoid becoming a victim:

- **Get a good bike lock (D locks or combination locks are best. Look for 'Sold Secure Ltd' approved locks, or ask for a recommendation at a bike shop)**
- **Lock your bike to something secure, e.g. a bike rack or a lamp post. If there are no bike racks, contact your local council to ask if they can put some in. Always lock your bicycle, even if you are only leaving it for a couple of minutes**
- **Make the lock and bike difficult to manoeuvre when parked – keep the lock away from the ground and keep the gap between the bike and lock small**
- **Lock up removable parts (e.g. wheels); take light fittings with you**
- **Have your bike's frame security-marked or engraved**
- **Take out insurance, either by extending your home contents insurance or through a separate policy. Cycling organisations and bike shops may offer specialist cover**
- **Record and register your bike - register your bicycle model, make and frame number. Contact your local police station for further advice**
- **Take a clear colour photograph of your bike and make a written record of its description, including any unique features**
- **Keep your bike in a secure garage or shed with the door locked**
- **Keep it out of public view**
- **Avoid isolated places – leave your bike where a potential thief can be seen**

Did you know that more than half of all bicycle thefts take place from someone's property?

Lee Roberts
NHW Manager

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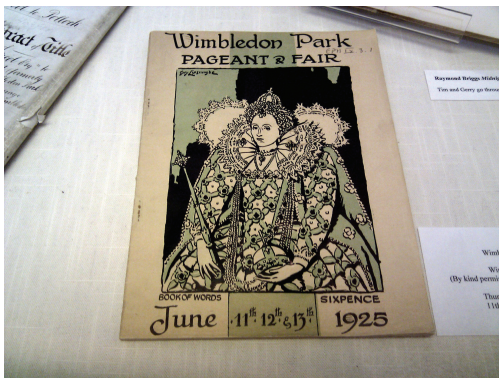
Wimbledon Park Mini-Exhibition

Members of WPRA will be interested in the mini-exhibition currently on display in the Museum of Wimbledon. It features photographs from the 1930s when much of the area resembled rolling countryside rather than today's townscape, some original old maps of the area, two first editions of books by Raymond Briggs (illustrator and author of 'The Snowman' and other books) who was born and brought up in the area, and an original copy of the programme for the 1925 Pageant spectacular held in the Park. All these are items not normally on display in the Museum.

It's also worth noting that the Museum holds a wealth of further information on the Wimbledon Park area, much of which formed the basis of the research which went into the writing of the book 'Wimbledon Park' by Bernard Rondeau. If you don't own a copy of this essential background reading for anyone living round here, it costs £10.00 from the Museum bookshop or online £11.99 including PP.



If you visit the exhibition and have a particular interest in a specific road, house or shop, do ask one of the volunteer staff on duty to look out any archive material. They will be happy to produce items from storage and also to show relevant data from the computerised catalogue.



Alternatively, you can look for yourself on the new Museum website at www.wimbledonmuseum.org.uk which has been redesigned to cover all Museum activities, including an expanded community section and detailed information on all aspects of the Museum collection, including access to the curators of the different sections and a glimpse of the new oral history section where you can download live interviews with long-standing residents.

The new website embraces the SPECTRUM industry standard for Museums and has borrowed ideas from the best museum and gallery sites around the world including New York's Guggenheim.

The Museum of Wimbledon is your Museum

and is open on Saturdays and Sundays from 2.30 – 5pm at 22 Ridgway, SW19 4QN.

Support the Museum and other areas of the Wimbledon Society's work by joining the Wimbledon Society for £10 (individual member) or £15 (family member).

Contact the Society via www.wimbledonociety.org.uk.

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What exactly is the Wimbledon Society and what does it do?

Originally established in 1903 as the John Evelyn Club, the Wimbledon Society now has over nearly 1000 members. It is the Civic amenity Society for Wimbledon and the principal aim of the Society is *'to preserve protect and improve the features of historic and public interest in Wimbledon and the local area.'*

The Society is run by about 180 volunteers and is governed by the Executive Committee (Trustees). Its aims are promoted through its two principal working committees.

The Museum Committee runs the Museum.

The **Planning Committee** considers all local planning applications and, where considered appropriate, comments on these and other significant development proposals in Wimbledon. It also publishes its own proposals for sympathetic development and is represented at planning inquiries and on the Council's Conservation and Design Advisory Panel.

Activities and Events include excursions • walks • literary events • lectures • local history group • exhibitions • public meetings.

Members are kept up to date with current and future events through a Quarterly Newsletter and further information updates are available through the **Website**, www.wimbledonociety.org.uk

Why not join the Society now and help strengthen our voice on matters of local importance. Application forms are available from the Museum, our website and the Membership Secretary, Linda Defriez, on 020 8944 6914.



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LECTURE SEASON 2011-2012

There is no need to book for these free lectures. Members and non-members are welcome. Please note that the lectures in October and November are on Saturday afternoons.

Saturday 15th October at the Village Hall, Lingfield Rd at 2 for 2.15pm. “Duleep Singh” with Peter Bance

“Until the lions tell their own history, history will always glorify the hunters”. Sikh historian and author Peter Bance tells the story of Maharajah Duleep Singh, the infant heir to the Sikh Kingdom of the Punjab, who became a favourite of Queen Victoria. As a young man Duleep was resident for a time in Wimbledon, and he became in turn a playboy, English country Squire and finally a tragic Rebel with a cause.

“Sovereign, Squire & Rebel: Maharajah Duleep Singh & the Heirs of a Lost Kingdom”, published last year, is Peter’s fourth book, and traces the Maharajah and his family’s life in over 250 superbly presented images, many in full colour. Peter’s talk will be accompanied by a visual presentation.

Saturday 12th November at Village Hall, Lingfield Rd at 2 for 2.15. The Richard Milward Memorial Lecture

Katherine Frank, biographer of Lucie Duff Gordon and Indira Gandhi, tackles the mystery of the true inspiration and identity of Daniel Defoe’s fictional Robinson Crusoe. In her latest book, “Crusoe: Daniel Defoe, Robert Knox And The Creation Of A Myth” she questions the accepted version that the inspiration was Alexander Selkirk and proposes Robert Knox (1642-1720) whose family owned land in what is now Colliers Wood. See the September newsletter for further details and the link with Richard Milward.

Wednesday 7th March at The Mansel Road Centre at 8 for 8.15. “Cannizaro Beyond the Gates” with author Tony Matthews MA, former Chairman of the Friends of Cannizaro Park.

How did Cannizaro Park come to exist as the glorious place we know today with its rare trees and fabulous plants? This is the story of the extraordinary people who once lived there, how it became one of one of London’s finest gardens, registered 2* by English Heritage, and why it remains a favourite location for art and entertainment.

Wednesday 4th April at the Mansel Road Centre at 8 for 8.15pm. Diana Rimel on “Greenwich”


Diana Rimel has organised local history courses in South East London colleges for over 25 years and has been involved with both the Blackheath and Greenwich Societies. She is the author of a book about the Ashburnham Triangle, the area close to Greenwich Station. Her talk this evening will cover the history and important buildings of this World Heritage Site.

W.P.R.A. Committee 2011

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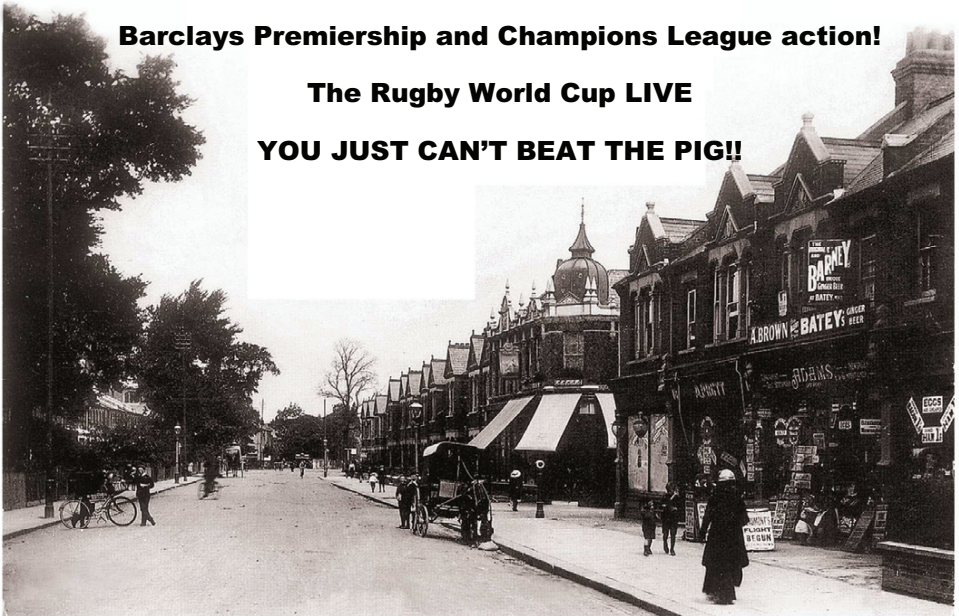
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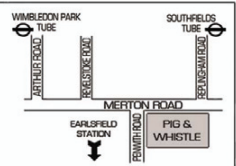
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