

The Charlton Society

Newsletter October 2023

SOVAP (Save Our Village Action Plan)

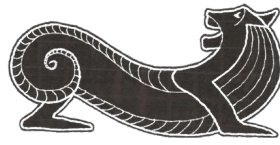
The Charlton Society has been in touch with the beneficiary of the estate of the late Viscount Gough, and the estate managers, and they are looking at necessary repair work to the properties on the south side of the Village owned by the estate. Charles Garland is extremely interested in the work of The Charlton Society is involved in and fully supports the work being addressed by the Society in the Village, and takes his responsibilities as landlord very seriously.

The Charlton Society has been very active over the last few months with SOVAP, a considerable number of areas of concern are being addressed. Issues include:

- Empty units falling in to disrepair, the Committee is currently establishing a clear directory of ownership of all units. RBG has recently been undertaking an inspection of various vacant sites to establish viability of use.
- The CS is currently working on establishing a Traders' Association to respond to concerns in the Village; the Village Greengrocer and Old Cottage Cafe are the driving forces for this representing the traders and businesses. Also some good news for the Village, there is a new kebab take-away open, taking over the site of Meat Revolution, run by the same company who run the International Stores. It's pristinely clean and is doing decent trade since opening. Also, a welcome additional to the Village, Smiley Scoop is hoping to become a permanent fixture and have applied for a licence accordingly.
- Ongoing concern with next steps for Charlton House; CS is trying to establish a clear outline of the covenant of responsibility between RGHT and RBG. CS is in regular contact with RGHT acting CEO, Janet Denne, who is keeping the Society abreast of plans for CH. Unfortunately at the moment there is no movement on the replacement of the lift which is still out of action.
- Liaising with other Residential Associations across Charlton in terms of concern of the number of applications currently being presented to RBG to convert retail sites to residential. Additionally The Charlton Society is very involved with the Greenwich Planning Alliance, which meets regularly with the RBG Planning Officers to discuss SDPs across the Borough.
- The Charlton Society attended a recent CABAHS gardeners' question time and sought advice on the choice of planting for the planters. The Society is now liaising with RBG Parks for 2024 planting in the Village.

The White Swan

The saga continues! As discussed last month, over the summer, RBG received a planning application by the Freeholder, Mendoza, to convert the ground floor to a retail space, with the addition of 7 dwellings above. This has obviously caused grave concern with local traders and residents alike. The Charlton Society submitted a robust objection to this, along with many others, over 200 objections have been received. The opportunity to submit objections was extended to allow for a response to the viability study for use of the site to be used as a public house. This study was commissioned by Mendoza and deemed the site not viable as a public house. This recommendation was posited without a site visit, just a drive-by assessment! The case officers are now reviewing the application and objections to make a decision as to whether it will go to Committee. The decision is expected early November. The ACV still stands, held by The Charlton Society, as well as the site now on the Local Heritage List with RBG. Following on from the success of the Local Heritage Listing, CS is also looking into applying for National Historic Listing as an extra safeguard to protect the site.



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The White Swan contd

The White Swan community group is continuing to work on the Levelling Up fund application to set up the proposed community ownership consortium and have presented a petition to RBG with over 1,000 signatures. Additionally there have been many recent incidents at the site, not least the discovery of evidence of cannabis manufacturing, illegal occupation and further damage to the site. Both the police and RBG have been involved in managing the latest developments with Mendoza. The Charlton Society has a dedicated page on the website for up-to-date information.

Planning & Council Business

Antigallican: The conversion and extension for the top floors to be converted to residential units was to include still having a public bar on site. This is clearly not the case. This has been raised with the RBG Enforcement team who have assured The Charlton Society work is progressing to challenge this. The Society continues to chase this.

The Heights: Notification has now been circulated to local residents from Pocket Living that the site on The Heights has now commenced again, after it was suspended for a number of weeks over the summer.

Thames pedestrian/cycle ferry crossing: a meeting was held last month with Arup, who have been commissioned by the Port of London Authority, to undertake a study to understand the benefits of low-cost/zero emission pedestrian and cyclist ferry crossings across the Thames. The Charlton Society attended with Councillors. Other consultation meetings are to follow.

Local Plan: RBG received a large number of responses to the recent consultation. The results and proposed actions will be circulated in November. The majority of respondents were businesses, the Tall Buildings Assessment a particular focus.

West/East Greenwich Traffic Management Plan: A public consultation recently closed (October 5th) regarding the traffic management proposals in West/East Greenwich. The Charlton Society presented a response to raise concerns about the impact these proposal could have on SE7, especially regarding the north-south routes, including Eastcombe Avenue, Victoria Way and Charlton Church Road. We will keep you posted.

Greenwich Heritage Centre & Archive

The future of the home of the Borough's archive has long been a cause for concern, having been moved to a storage facility at Anchorage Point in 2018 on a temporary basis where it remains with very limited access by the public. This has recently come back in to focus, led by the Greenwich Planning Alliance, with a formal open letter being lodged with RBG. This will be discussed next week at the Borough's next Regeneration, Transport & Culture Scrutiny Panel (Thursday 26th October, 6.30pm). The Charlton Society will be attending. The Society is also delighted to say we have been offered match funding by The Rothschild Archive for the papers it holds, which are currently stored in a variety of places. We are looking forward to housing all the material securely in one place. The Society was also recently bequeathed a substantial amount of material on SE7 by Mary Corr, a lifetime resident of the Borough and a very active member of the Eltham Society. The Charlton Society is enjoying working through the extensive archive of material.

Charlton (London) Neighbourhood Forum (CNF)

Designated 2022, a number of the Society Committee members are also on the CNF Committee. The aim of the Forum is to implement a Neighbourhood Plan for SE7. A Plan is written by local people and businesses and must be considered when the local planning authority makes decisions on applications for new developments in the area. The first workshop was held last weekend with the subject of Green Spaces the focus. It is proposed the Forum will develop a NP in 2024.

Next Meeting

- Saturday 18th November @ 2.30pm @ Charlton House Old Library). British Home of Mothers and Babies in Woolwich presented by Lynne Dixon.