

## ***SOVAP ACTION PLAN Progress to date 2024***

The Save Our Village Action Plan was first drawn up in 2017 in tandem with the Village being listed as 'At Risk'.

The basic premises for the Plan were to protect Charlton Village as a living entity and go-to place; to encourage full use of the shops providing a wide range of services and provisions for the neighbourhood; to work against the Village being swamped by through-traffic; together with Charlton House, St. Luke's Church, The Assembly Rooms and the Summer House maintain the historic roots of the Village and its links with the Thames and the Charlton Riverside Masterplan.

The original plan was reassessed and updated in 2020, 2022 and latterly in February 2024. The 2024 Have-Your-Say session, widened the discussion to encompass the whole Charlton neighbourhood.

This ensures the SOVAP document remains an active plan of aspiration and achievement.

### ***Legal Restrictions on Charlton Village.***

#### ***Conservation Area:***

The Village is a formal conservation area which places a number of conditions on redevelopment, including a design advice strategy controlling shop fronts and guidance for colour choice, and protected views.

#### ***Documents:***

RBG Conservation Area Management Strategy & map (2016).

Draft Strategy including planning controls (2015/2016).

***Historic England 'At Risk'*** – Charlton Village was listed as 'At Risk' October 2017.

### ***Historic England Listed Buildings:***

Charlton House: Grade I / 1291892 / Oct. 1951.

The Assembly Rooms: Grade II / 1452263 / Oct. 2018.

St. Luke's Church: Grade II / 101358934 / Oct. 1951.

The Bugle Horn: Grade II / 179068 / Oct. 1951

***Local Listing:*** The White Swan, July 2023.

***ACVs:*** The White Swan: Granted 14 July 2020; expires 12 July 2025.  
The Bugle Horn: expired 22 June 2020.

### ***Parking Restrictions***

Fletching Road is now limited to 2 hours with no return within the following 3. Also, Torrance Close – to be checked?

Charlton Village car park is now a pay and display. No longer free.

Charlton House has pay and display facilities for limited periods.

These are mentioned as we have received comments that they restrict the businesses.

### ***London / Greenwich wide Planning Documents:***

The London Plan

Royal Greenwich Local Plan

Charlton Riverside Masterplan.

Charlton Neighbourhood Plan?

### ***Charlton Neighbourhood Forum***

The Charlton Society is a member of the Charlton Neighbourhood Forum working to establish a legally binding Local Plan.

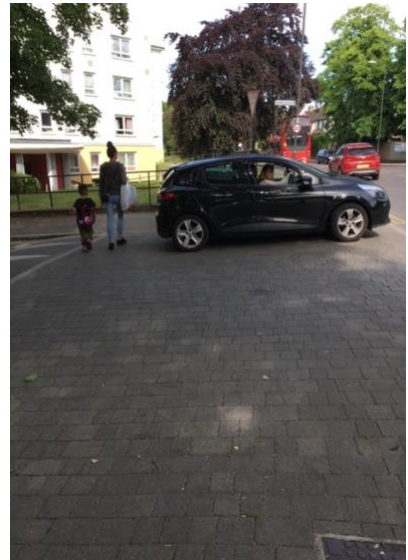
## SUCSESSES

### Charlton Village Conservation Area Management Strategy

Between 2015 and 2016 the Charlton Society worked with Greenwich Borough to develop the management strategy which had been outstanding for several years. This was published in 2016.

#### 20 mph zone

CS worked with Cllr Linda Perks, who stepped down in March 2022, to establish the 20mph limit through Charlton Village, between Cemetery Lane in the east to the Blackheath Standard in the west. The improvements included a **pedestrian priority pavement** along the northern boundary of the road, raising the roadway to pavement level at street junctions, a measure that is not altogether clear to either pedestrians or motorists.



*The zone is only partially successful with vehicles, including buses ignoring the speed restriction and ‘delivery boys’ the worst culprits.*



## ***The Charlton Village planters***

After many discussions with Greenwich Borough's Parks Department, the planting style of the Village Flower beds was agreed to be changed for the Spring of 2023 and will see the generic geraniums and floppy flowers replaced with taller, denser shrubs and grasses including lavenders and herbs to give some protection to pedestrians. **This new planting scheme will now be planted out when the current Spring system is replaced. 2024**

## ***Earle Place***



The planter outside The Greengrocer and The Baguette were partially planted up by Bee's volunteers in 2021. This needs to be extended to include the tree outside the florists.

**Earle place was selected for a litter clean as part of the 'BIG Help Day' May 8<sup>th</sup> 2023**



## **St Luke's Church, Charlton**

*The improvements to the church & grounds that have quietly been completed are an inspiration for the Village as a whole.*

**Charlton Village Drinking Fountain** Helped by Rebecca Duncan, RBG, the roof was replaced in 2023.

**The aspiration to revive the fountain as a working fountain is unlikely to be achieved due to the cost. It is recommended this be removed from the SOVAP list.**

## **Village Shops:**

**Bowes Shoe Shop:** Following the International Supermarket owner's proposal to demolish the Shop, refused by RBG, Mr Serkan Boyraz contacted the Charlton Society to discuss revisions to the original application. A revised application was submitted in April 2024 but refused.

**Action:** CS to contact Mr Boyraz and RBG planning

## **New shops have been opened in the Village:**

**The Village Pharmacy** has been refurbished and now provides a variety of treatments .

**Bowes Shoe Shop** currently operates as 'Smiley Scoop' selling hot waffles and ice-cream.

**Grove Pharmacy** is now The Vietnamese and Oriental Supermarket.

**Inihaw** has been revamped to include in-house eating.

**The Forge** has opened as clinic?

**JNE grill** has reopened.

## **The following shops remain empty:**

The Betting Shop; SOL Properties; The Hairdresser, Olivet Estates.

**Current Challenges** This revised list includes suggestions made at the Have Your Say Day, February 17<sup>th</sup> 2024.

**1. The White Swan:**

The owner Mendoza submitted a planning application (23/3823/F) to turn this valued pub and community facility into a local Tesco adding two additional floors to provide flats. RBG Planning failed to consider the application in the allotted time and the application is now being considered by a Planning Inspector, through written submissions. Results expected June 2024 possibly. The pub has become even more dilapidated over the past couple of years since it closed unexpectedly in March 2020.



Its shabby appearance has a negative effect upon the Village as a whole. We have established a working group of CS members, residents and traders to monitor the situation and take action towards its protection.

March 2024, RBG Enforcement team finally gained access to the pub and agreed that the Manager's Premises - a separate, single-storey building to the rear of the pub could be used to house a family from Croydon.

***How will this affect the outcome of the Planning Inspector's appeal.***

The Charlton Society submitted evidence to the Planning Inspector giving reasons as to why the Appeal should be refused. Results are expected in June 2024.

**2. Persuade trade suppliers to use the service roads of Torrance Close and Fletching Road.**



Currently anyone who stops to unload or collect goods in the High Street causes long traffic jams, preventing traffic movement and increasing air pollution. This problem is made worse by selfish drivers who stop to 'shop' This is a long-term aspiration, but some traders remain unconvinced.

**2a. Rationalise delivery times. What does this entail?**

**2b. Improve the state of the service roads – cleanliness, litter.**

**3. Parking:** Parking related to the Village – car parks, Torrance Close, Fletching Road have been limited either by hours or through charging. This affects the Village businesses.

**4. 20mph zone:**

4a. Improve give way signs in favour of pedestrians.

4b. Rationalise street signage.

**5. Improve the look of the Village**

**5a: How utilise empty shops: \***

- a. Start -ups
- b. Community groups.
- c. Pop-ups.
- d. Exhibition spaces.
- e. A shop-window scheme.



**5b: a. Discuss** problem with Truepenny Estate Agents.

- b. Discuss with RBG Regeneration, Pippa Hack.
- c. Prioritise types of shops: Post Office; Optician. other needs?
- d. Research access to rebates/grants to improve shop fronts?

**5c: List ownership of residential and business properties in the Village.** (This was begun a few years ago but is proving slow and difficult to assemble; what is its purpose?)

#### **5d: Village in Bloom**

To visibly show we care, work with the traders, RBG Parks department and organisations such as Charlton and Blackheath Amateur Horticulture Society and Charlton Community Gardens to plan floral improvements in the village to lift our spirits and achieve a Village in Bloom award.

**5e: Dialogue with Traders to enlist their involvement with improving the Village as a whole.** Good examples include The Village Greengrocer, The Baguette, The Florist, and many more.

**5f: Resist turning empty shops into residential properties,** of particular relevance to the Charlton Church Lane parade.

**5g: The above are common problems** experienced by all small shop parades in Charlton: Charlton Station; Floyd Road; Victoria Way; Charlton Village.

**5h: Paving:** A long-term wish was to improve the southern pavement with York Stone but was dropped, do we resurrect it?

**5i: Christmas Lights.**

#### **6: Rubbish: Litter and rubbish hot spots.**

**6a:** Identify hot spots. Torrance Close – used to dump rubbish.

Fletching Road from bin collections, general litter from cars/pedestrians, especially land at corner with Fairfield Grove.



**6b:** Ascertain RBG rubbish enforcements.

**6c:** Undertake litter picks.

### **7: *Charlton House & The Assembly Rooms***

Community access to Charlton House has become increasingly limited and expensive, requiring the Charlton Society to meet in St Luke's Church, for which we are grateful to their generosity, but which is not necessarily the best venue.

The Assembly Rooms appear to be fully booked throughout the week, which has left provision for community activities very limited in the Village. The loss of The White Swan means there are few alternative and affordable community meeting places left.



**7a:** Insist on Charlton House fulfilling its charitable objects prioritising; community use; reinstate a dialogue with its community users; explore further income generation.

### **7b: *Establish an area in front of the Assembly Rooms***

similar to Earle Place providing a community gathering place. We will need to enlist the help of the Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust.

***Areas of concern outside the Village itself but having an impact.***

1. ***Impact of cycle lanes*** along Woolwich Road.
2. ***Impact of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods (LTNs)***
3. ***Impact of CPZ in Charlton***, introduced in January 2024.
4. ***Reduce school crossings***, needs identification of sites and reasons for the reduction.
5. ***Royal Greenwich Heritage Centre. A current petition to restore the full facilities*** now stands at 2,485 signatures as of 14.04.24. Greenwich Council so far have agreed to revamp the ‘office’ in the current premises at Anchor & Hope Lane Industrial Estate to provide a ‘reading room’ for 4 consecutive days each month.
6. ***Charlton Riverside***: Improve its attractiveness and accessibility.
7. ***Charlton Riverside Masterplan***: Resurrect Charlton Together: to respond to new applications for development and potential rewriting of the Masterplan by RBG. Current application out for consultation from U+I.

