



The Heath & Hampstead Society

NEWSLETTER

May 2007

Vol 38 No. 2



The Vale of Health - Society victory upholds planning law

photo courtesy: Nigel Sutton

Chairman's Report

by Tony Hillier

Garden House Judicial Review

The big topic to report in this edition is the Society's success in having Camden's wrongful approval of the Garden House planning application overturned by judicial review in the High Court. This indeed ranks as one of the high achievements in our long and successful history.

A remarkable feature of this victory is the tremendous generosity and principled commitment of so many of our members in pledging over £40,000 to make possible our defence of private Metropolitan Open Land (MOL) on the edge of the Heath in the Vale of Health. Without your support, we could not have undertaken the financial exposure that losing might have entailed, and which any citizen must accept in order to fight the occasional arrogance and ignorance of planning authorities. I have written to you individually to give our heartfelt thanks.

Also notable is the resounding certainty with which Mr Justice Sullivan delivered his verdict (a former Hampstead resident, who having declared this interest then gave a judgement endorsing the Society's stance). In refusing the developers leave to appeal, he stated that the Officer's Report and oral advice to the Development and Control Committee in early 2006, which persuaded those Councillors to allow the original application, was an 'egregious misdirection'. His verdict repeated pretty well word for word the advice given to that Committee by the Society's representatives, led by Martin Humphery, at the original meeting, during the three minutes at our disposal (contrasted with the limitless time at the disposal of the officers).

The point, which is of national importance, is that any residential replacement building on

MOL or the Green Belt must not be "materially larger", however beautifully designed or cleverly situated. Without this protection, which the law is rightly drafted to provide, MOL and the Green Belt would rapidly disappear. The offending proposed Garden House replacement would have been by various measures between two and a half and five times the size of the present house.

I would like to thank our legal team of David Altaras and John Hunt, both members and long-standing advisers of the Society, who so ably led us to this important victory, despite our original application for judicial review having been turned down by the court.

School Run

This is a particularly difficult problem for Hampstead, because we have so many schools, because so many of them are private and therefore serve wider catchment areas, and because so many are for younger children, who need to be escorted to school.

Before criticising our local authority too much for failing to solve the ensuing problems of traffic and parking congestion, we need to recognise those areas where Camden has been facing an uphill battle. In trying out the parking voucher scheme to address these problems, Camden has been a pioneer.

It is not simply a matter of applying rules and regulations. A culture change on the part of most schools and parents is also needed, and that is really a national problem. Most but not all (which shows it can be done) local school managements and parents, particularly fee paying ones, have failed to acknowledge that the problems in NW3 are particularly acute. They have therefore failed in their civic duty to us their neighbours by not organising and

Chairman's report (cont)

paying for alternative, comprehensive collective methods of transport. They have also failed to set a good example to their children.

The Guidelines on school runs issued by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) are promoted by Transport for London (TfL) who make substantial grants available mainly to the state sector and only for non-fossil fuel solutions. Culture could be changed a lot more quickly if they were legally enforceable against all schools. They are not, and Camden does not appear to have either the powers or the resources actively to promote compliance among all local schools and parents. It is as clear as it is regrettable that the political will to bring about the changes necessary both to prevent and to avoid traffic and parking congestion is not yet to be found either locally or nationally.

The powers at Camden's disposal are really confined to parking control, which is a symptom, but not the root cause. The cause is a combination of lack of adequate public transport and lack of road-use rationing in North West London, which are down to some combination of TfL and the Department for Transport.

Where we can reasonably criticise Camden is that they have allowed schools to issue more parking vouchers, against their own stated current policy, and to increase pupil numbers. They have failed to engage the majority of schools to come up with proper green travel plans: across the Borough 39 schools have compliant plans; 115 do not. A majority of those residents who live near schools complain that the restrictions are not adequately enforced.

We say: 'Faced with the uphill struggle, it is all the more important for Camden to enforce and make effective those regulations and guidelines,

where they do have the necessary powers and a role to play'. The school run lobby appears to say: 'Since it is difficult, don't try to do it at all'. That is clearly irresponsible.

Following your response to the Society's questionnaire we have reported your collective views to Camden. (See the Town Report for more detail). We emphasised the following points:

- although it appears that there has been a small reduction in the amount of traffic since the introduction of parking vouchers, it is not enough and our members want to see further reductions.
- it is clear to us that the schools in general, have been uncooperative in implementing the policy. Most have not produced adequate green travel plans; they are not encouraging their parents to take alternative travel modes; they have continued to issue vouchers to new parents (contrary to policy recommendations), and they have not given accurate travel information to new parents. We believe Camden Council should therefore be tougher in this area.

It is to be hoped that Camden will take note of your views, as expressed through us and individually, and through the various resident associations.

It is clear that Camden needs stronger powers in dealing with the schools, and that simply enforcing parking restrictions against parents, while absolutely essential, is not going to be enough.

I am also hopeful that the new Education and Inspection Act 2006, which became effective only in April, will give Camden greater scope in bringing the schools and parents more in line with their civic duties. Part 6, Chapter 76 is

devoted to this very topic. Please encourage your Councillors to push for greater dialogue between the interested parties.

For example, would it not be possible for Camden to hold Panel Hearings for each school annually over the next two or three years, along the lines of the Licensing Panels? There are significantly fewer schools in Camden than there are licensed premises. In this way the representations of schools, parents and residents for each school premises (about vouchers, scratch cards, designated bay times or whatever) could be submitted, and a binding but fair adjudication made and agreed until the next year, by which time the parking concessions would have been further reduced, and other viable alternatives to the single family car agreed on.

Camden could also seek more ways and funding through GLA or central government to support some positive steps e.g. pooled transport arrangements.

Camden's policy objectives are complex and call for equity between schools, parents and residents. My view is that these can only be hammered out at local street level. Balancing the safety of children with all the other environmental, resident amenity and parental lifestyle concerns, where parking is the only controllable element, needs to be looked at on a school by school basis. The School Travel Consultation Steering Group, in which the Society is a keen participant, has been doing an excellent job in bringing together the interested parties at the level of discussing principles. Camden now needs to go beyond this and facilitate a series of local dialogues, where the outcome must be made - as far as possible - binding.

Democratic Consultation and All That

Assisting our membership, generally on a delegated basis, to get well-informed and sound recommendations put to our local authorities, is of course, one of our core responsibilities. As we commented in our last edition, this is getting more complicated because Camden is increasingly resorting to direct consultation on issues like the school run and dog control in parallel to consulting the Society on your behalf.

We keep a number of points in mind, when deciding how to react. We assume you generally open your mail from Camden. We assume you always read this Newsletter and our flyers, and at least the headlines of the local press. The chances are therefore that you will not fail to be informed about important current topics, where registering your opinion is important.

The officers and committee members certainly do see it as our job to try and make informed and detailed responses to the local authorities on relevant Hampstead-wide issues, often taking the initiative ourselves and not waiting to be asked. If, as happened recently over the school run, we believe that the weight of the postbag is important, or that the issues need more sophisticated comment than simply answering a questionnaire and that our experts' views are useful to get across, we will email and tell you. Please make sure to send your email addresses to heathhampadmin@pipemedia.co.uk, if you did not receive our recent missive on the school run.

The quality and soundness of these consultations varies widely. English Heritage has launched a petition (and held a meeting to which we and other local groups were invited) to influence the Camden Licensing Panel over the conditions to apply to future Kenwood concerts. The whole approach of English

Chairman's report (cont)

Heritage unfortunately risks continuing to be biased and tendentious, placing commercial pressures above statutory and public duties to avoid (i) causing public nuisance through excess and unnecessary concert noise and (ii) ruining the look of the lake for most of the summer by mooring a large and ugly platform, which again is unnecessary and merely amplifies the sound. We have again written to the senior management asking them to get it right and we await developments.

The City's new Management Plan

The City of London on the other hand is about to begin consulting more widely on its Strategic Management Plan for the Heath and in due course on the dangers and discomfort to pedestrians from a possible extension of the network of paths shared with cyclists. We have already been given ample opportunity, along with many other interested organisations, to give our specialist views on many aspects of the Plan, including (in sharp contrast to English Heritage) on how the public consultation could best be conducted (see the Heath Report for more detail). The CoL consultation on the new Plan is likely to be fairly and professionally conducted and we strongly encourage all members to participate.

New Website

We have been extremely fortunate. Over the last few months three of our Committee members have been able to put together a team of two serious IT specialists, both of them members, who have been working to revamp our website. We aim to make it much more interactive and to have the facility to update it with news, comments and topics, such as the latest consultations and competitions. We hope to be ready for launch at the time of the AGM on

June 21st. We hope it will be an attractive gateway both to Hampstead and to the Society, and encourage new and younger members to join and locally network.

Committee news

Jo Konrad and Michael Welbank have decided to stand down from the General Committee and Frankie de Freitas retires by rotation. All have given immense service to the Society as active committee members over many years.

Frankie joined the Committee in 1996 and served as Hon. Secretary from 1999 to 2001. During that time she re-organised and streamlined the distribution of the Society's newsletter and has continued in charge of this onerous task ever since. She also gives much time as a valuable member of the Newsletter proof reading team. Frankie has very kindly agreed to continue with these vital tasks.

Michael joined the Heath Sub-Committee in 1999 and came on to the General Committee in 2002. For several years he organised the Society's regular Heath Walks and also served as the Society's representative on the City of London Heath Consultative Committee.

Jo Konrad was a member of the Town Sub-Committee for many years and joined the General Committee in 2005. She has been the driving force behind our social calendar, organising many brilliant events for the Society which have greatly enhanced what we are able to offer members. She also worked closely with Ann Eastman on our highly successful Hampstead Card scheme.

I thank them all most warmly for all they have done for the Society.

Annual General Meeting 2007



The Annual General Meeting

will take place on

*Thursday 21 June 2007 at 7.00 pm,
at Rosslyn Hill Chapel*

Rosslyn Hill, NW3

Agenda

1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 20 June 2006.
2. Election of President.
3. Chairman's report.
4. Accounts and Treasurer's report.
5. Election of Auditors.
6. Subscriptions for 2008.
7. Committee reports
 - (i) Heath: Tony Ghilchik.
 - (ii) Town: Gordon Maclean.
8. Election of Officers and Members of the General Committee.
(See notice on page 6)
9. Any other business.

Guest speaker

Sir Simon Jenkins

Wine and light refreshments after the meeting

Elections to the General Committee 2007

Officers

The following are candidates for election having been duly proposed and seconded.

President: Lord Hoffmann

Vice Presidents: Martin Humphery
Helen Marcus

Chairman: Tony Hillier

Vice Chairmen Tony Ghilchik
Gordon Maclean

Hon Treasurer: John Smithard

Hon Secretary: Janine Griffis

**Representative on the City of London
Hampstead Heath Management Committee:**
Tony Ghilchik

**Representative on the City of London
Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee:**
Jeremy Wright

General Committee Members

Maureen Clark-Darby, Peter Tausig, Nigel Steward and Jeremy Wright continue the terms for which they were elected.

Jo Konrad and Michael Welbank have decided to stand down from the General Committee. Frankie de Freitas retires by rotation having served two 3-year terms and is not eligible to stand again in 2007

John Weston and Frank Harding having served as members of the Town Sub-Committee, and Marc Hutchinson as a member of the Heath Sub-Committee, now offer themselves for election to the General Committee, having been duly proposed and seconded.

Note to members: Any other nominations for election as officers or committee members should be notified to the Hon Secretary in writing not later than 1 June.

Notes on the candidates for election to the General Committee

Frank Harding

Frank Harding joined Thomson McLintock (now KPMG), Chartered Accountants, in London in 1955 and became a general practice partner in 1967. He was involved in the development of the firm's international connections and clients throughout his career. He was a member of the UK board of KPMG and of a number of its committees, both in the UK and internationally. He retired from the firm in 1996.

Since his retirement from practice, Frank has served as a director of a number of companies. He is currently chairman of KLM Cityhopper uk Limited and a director of Sitka Health Fund VCT. He serves as chairman or trustee of a number of charities including Paintings in Hospitals and the

National Hospital Development Foundation.

Frank was a member of the Councils of both the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland (1980-85) and of that in England and Wales (1990-92). He was a member of the Executive Committee of UEC (the European Union of Accountants) and represented, from 1987 to 1997, the United Kingdom on the Council of the International Federation of Accountants (IFAC); he served as the President of IFAC from 1997 to 2000.

Marc Hutchinson

Marc Hutchinson is a solicitor and has been a partner in the London office of Slaughter and May since 1996. He is currently head of the firm's debt capital markets practice.

Treasurer's report for 2007

by John Smithard

The Accounts for 2006 are satisfactory. Expenditure was approximately the same as in 2005. Receipts were down in comparison with 2005, as in that year a very generous legacy was received. However the Society has, in 2006, received donations towards legal costs. As will be seen under Expenditure, these costs were substantial in 2006, arising from the Society's activities in reviewing licensing applications and in preparations for the Garden House court case.

Every effort has been made to keep routine running expenses at a minimum. Unfortunately administration, printing and postage costs

continue to rise. It has been the Society's policy to cover standard operating costs from membership fees, while being able to draw on Reserves for special eventualities. Therefore, although the Reserves are in good order, the time may have come when membership fees will have to be reviewed.

As always, the Society wishes to thank Mr Neville Pollard, Mr Vic Dimitri and Mr Robert Ward of Fisher Phillips, Chartered Accountants, for carrying out the independent examination of the Accounts.

Notes on the candidates (cont)

He was born in 1954 and educated at King's School Rochester, University College London and the University of Sydney.

Marc was the judicial assistant to Sir William Deane, a Justice of the High Court of Australia, between 1982 and 1984 before becoming a partner at Freehills, a leading Sydney firm of solicitors, in 1987. He subsequently worked as Vice-President in the money markets division of Merrill Lynch in London.

His interests include history, music and swimming. He is a founder of the Hampstead Heath Winter Swimming Club which, following a decision in the High Court in 2005, was established to enable swimming in the Mixed Pond on Hampstead Heath at times when the City of London does not provide lifeguards.

John Weston

John Weston has worked as a writer and creative director in advertising in London and Hong Kong for 20 years.

Born in 1964, following his schooling at a state comprehensive in Buxton, he read history at Oxford University.

He has lived in Hampstead since 1993 and takes a keen interest in local activities. He is Vice-Chairman of The Gayton Residents' Association and of the Hampstead Safer Neighbourhoods' Panel. He also serves on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee, Kenwood Landscape Forum and Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee;

As a member of The Heath and Hampstead Society, he joined the Town Sub-Committee in 2006.

The Heath & Hampstead Society accounts for 2006

Receipts and Payments Account for the Year ended 31st December 2006

	2006	2005
	£	£
Receipts		
Subscriptions	13,746	15,095
Gift Aid tax refund	-	2,533
Donations and legacies	1,789	17,551
Donations (Heath Walks)	303	166
Special events	4,579	4,618
Dividends & interest	4,403	4,474
Publications	163	163
Designated Income		
Lighting	-	9,680
Garden House legal costs contributions	2,588	
Total Income	<u>27,571</u>	<u>51,747</u>
Expenditure		
Secretarial & membership expenses	6,656	5,681
Heath expenses	319	75
Town expenses	3,881	2,329
Newsletter expenses	6,564	6,461
Special events & meeting expenses	6,812	5,326
Grants and donations	5,588	2,889
Subscriptions	480	460
Hampstead Card	274	814
Designated Expenditure:		
Lighting	700	11,512
Springett Memorial Fund	323	1,224
Garden House legal costs	5,144	
Total Expenditure	<u>36,741</u>	<u>36,772</u>
Excess / (Deficit) of Income over Expenditure	<u>(9,170)</u>	<u>14,975</u>

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31st December 2006

	2006		2005	
	£		£	
Assets				
Investments				
300 M&G Charifund Income Units (valuation as at 31 December)		4,834		4,157
COIF Charities Deposit Account		87,665		97,453
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		92,499		101,610
Current Assets				
Current Account	3,971		1,850	
Sundry debtors	1,105	5,076	176	2,026
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Assets		97,575		103,636
Current Liabilities				
Deferred subscriptions received relating to next period	2,333			934
Accrued expenses	1,033	3,366		
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
Net Assets		<u>94,209</u>		<u>102,702</u>
Financed by				
Reserves at 1 January 2006		102,702		87,243
Surplus for the year		(9,170)		14,975
		<hr/>		<hr/>
		93,532		102,218
Add: increase (reduction) in unrealised gain on investments		677		484
See note 1 (page 10)		<hr/>		<hr/>
		94,209		102,702
Tony Hillier	John Smithard	<hr/>		<hr/>
<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>			

16 April 2007

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Centenary

From our Archives

As the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust prepares to celebrate its centenary we delve into our archives where we find the first mention of the potential threat to the Heath from tunnelling for the new tube line to Golders Green, by the Hampstead Tube Company, in the Society Annual reports of 1902 and 1903:

'In the last report the danger which threatened the North-West Heath, from the probable sale for building purposes of the Eton College Fields was pointed out. The Committee are delighted to report that this matter has been taken up energetically by Mrs Barnett, and a strong Council has been formed for the purpose of acquiring 80 acres of these fields adjoining the Heath for the use of the public'

The Barnetts were members of the Society. Together with Emily Field, the Secretary of the Heath Protection Society, (as the Society was then called), Mrs Henrietta Barnett formed the Hampstead Heath Extension Council.

By the AGM of 1904 we find that: *'Your Committee desire to express great satisfaction that the appeal inaugurated by Mrs Barnett for subscriptions to purchase the eighty acres of grass lands adjoining Wildwood Farm has been successful. This extension has always been considered by the Society as a matter of the greatest importance to the amenities of this most charming part of the Heath, which would have been greatly prejudiced by the erection of dwellings close to its borders consequent on the opening of the new tube railway.'*

In 1906 *'Your Committee resolved to subscribe the sum of ten pounds to the Hampstead Heath Extension Society'*.

Thus began the illustrious story of the creation of the Garden Suburb that now celebrates its Centenary with a varied programme of events.

We congratulate our friends and neighbours and wish them an enjoyable summer of celebrations.

Notes on statements as at 31 December 2006

Note 1. Analysis of reserves

	Kate Springett Legacy	Garden House Legal Fund	Total Desig- nated Funds	General Funds	TOTAL RESERVES
Balance at 1 January 2006	29,472		29,472	73,230	102,702
Receivable during year		2,588	2,588	24,983	27,571
Notional interest	1,474		1,474	(1,474)	
Expended in year	(323)	(5,144)	(5,467)	(31,274)	(36,741)
Transfer deficit to general fund		2,556	2,556	(2,556)	
	30,623		30,623	62,909	93,532
Add: increase in unrealised gains on investments				677	677
Balance at 31 December 2006	30,623		30,623	63,586	94,209

The Kate Springett legacy fund is for the protection of wild bird life on Hampstead Heath

Judicial Review update

by Martin Humphery - a signal victory for the Society in the High Court

This story starts in January 2006, when Camden's Planning Committee, in the face of the strong objections of ourselves, the City of London, other local bodies and dozens of individuals, gave planning consent for the demolition of the Garden House and its replacement by a vastly larger and very obtrusive house.

The Garden House is an unobtrusive house, built in a garden on an idyllic site overlooking the Vale of Health pond on the fringes of the Heath. It has been designated by Camden as Metropolitan Open Land (MOL); MOL is the urban equivalent of the Green Belt and is stringently protected by law against any 'inappropriate' development, the principal objective being the preservation of its openness. For the purposes we are concerned with, the legal definition of 'appropriateness' is that a replacement house must not be 'materially' larger than the one knocked down.

Together with the Vale of Health Society we have long been active in opposing past attempts to develop on this treasured land. It was, therefore, with horror that we first saw the details of what was now proposed, which would seriously have damaged the character of this little bit of open land, which is so much a part of the charm of the Vale of Health. Moreover, the view from across the pond has to be one of the finest on the Heath.

A bizarre interpretaion

It was at once decided to mount a deputation to the Camden planning committee which I was asked to present on behalf of the Society, the Vale of Health Society and the Hampstead Conservation Area Advisory Committee (which I chair). We approached this meeting with a good deal of confidence as it seemed to us that the case against the developers was unanswerable. By any method of measurement you care to

use, the new house would have been between 200 and 300% larger than the existing one. How could such an increase not be "materially larger"? But we, simple souls that we are, had not reckoned with the ability of planners to interpret the English language in bizarre ways.

I will not burden readers with the details of the tortuous arguments deployed to defend the proposals, but what it boiled down to was that Camden officers thought they could interpret 'materially larger' to include considerations of visibility, design and the wider impact on the Conservation Area, so as to say that two to three hundred percent was not a material increase. We could only gasp! Once a deputation has used up its allowance of three minutes, there is no opportunity to challenge arguments against, except in reply to any members' questions. This we were able to do but, nevertheless, the committee accepted the officers' recommendation and granted planning consent.

Difficulties of appeal in planning law

Now we were faced with the dreadfully inadequate provisions for appeal in planning law. Whereas a disappointed applicant can appeal swiftly and cheaply to the Government's Planning Inspectorate, 'third parties' (that is to say the poor unfortunates who will have to live with a bad development) have no such right. The only route available is by way of the hugely difficult and expensive process of an application to the High Court for Judicial Review. The great risk is that, if you fail, you are faced with the Council's cost as well as your own. This, we realised, could amount to tens of thousands of pounds and we clearly could not risk the Society's charitable funds in this way.

The wonderful spirit of HHS members

Here we come to the wonderful spirit of

Judicial Review update (cont)

Hampstead people and their absolute determination to defend their beloved Heath, for whose protection the Society was founded. Within a few weeks of our appealing for pledges of financial support we were promised some £40,000 from members all over London and further afield! The sums pledged ranged from a few pounds to thousands, showing how widespread our support was. Thus emboldened, we roped in the help of two Society stalwarts, barrister David Altaras and solicitor John Hunt. You can find any talent you need in the HHS!

Overcoming legal hurdles

At once, we were warned that we were embarking on dangerous waters. Seemingly, every possible rock is placed in the path of applicants for Judicial Review and the Court is very reluctant indeed to interfere with the powers of Local Authorities.

The first such rock was the need to submit the papers outlining our case to a High Court judge asking for his permission to go forward to trial. To our dismay the learned judge refused our application, saying that we had no arguable case. Quite rightly, our legal team once more warned that, although we could re-apply in open court before a different judge, this might well be throwing good money after bad. However, by this time we were well and truly narked and decided to go ahead, despite the depressing prospects.

Came the day of the hearing and, to our great relief, Mr Justice Collins agreed wholeheartedly that there was a case to be answered. So far, after a lot of work, worry and expense, we still had no answer to our application and this shows how cumbersome, difficult and expensive it is for citizens to get perfectly reasonable objections heard, once a decision to

grant planning permission, however perverse, is taken by the Local Planning Authority.

Vindication

Eventually, the case was set down for hearing before Mr Justice Sullivan on 2nd April and after a final conference with counsel off we all trooped to the Royal Courts of Justice. The hearing lasted all day and it had not been going long before we began to get a warm feeling that the judge was with us, and so it turned out, for as the day came to a close, he said that he would deliver his judgment on the following day, but that he would be finding for the claimant (that's us folks).

Sure enough, we had the satisfaction of hearing, at some length, that the judge agreed with what we had maintained from the very first; that is to say that Camden were in the wrong in failing to reject the application on the ground that it was very much larger than the house to be replaced. All the other arguments in favour of the proposals were irrelevant and should not have been considered. As a final shaft, the judge declared, in rejecting the site owners' request for leave to appeal, that 'there was a most egregious misdirection' by the Camden planning officer in her failure to direct the committee properly on this point. We were relieved to be awarded costs of £18,000 against Camden, even if it's really our own money!

So we came to the end of a long and difficult road and made our point in defence of this important green site on the edge of the Heath. Even more importantly, we had established a precedent which, hopefully, will deter the many other developers who would love to build on such a tempting site. For myself, I do not feel triumphant so much as relieved and saddened to think that all this time and money was required in order to establish a pretty simple point of law. There must be a better way!

Heath Report

by Tony Ghilchik

It now seems an age since the January storm that caused significant damage to about 100 trees including 30 blown down – one of the largest being the magnificent beech which grew just inside the garden of Manor Cottage in the Vale of Health and now lies on the grassland outside. Much has happened since then.

The new Heath Management Plan

Consultation on the City's new Strategic Management Plan for the Heath continues. The plan is being developed in three stages of which the first, 'Hampstead Heath Management Plan Part I – Towards a Plan for the Heath', sets out the vision of what the plan aims to achieve over the next ten years. Part II will detail the management techniques required to conserve and enhance the natural resources (e.g. coppicing, hedgerow management, mowing, dead wood management), and Part III will be the most detailed, setting out how these techniques will be applied in the various areas of the Heath (e.g. the Heath Extension, Sandy Heath etc.).

Part I, the draft of which has now gone out to public consultation, contains two key statements in the Executive Summary which, I believe, summarise what the document is about:

The actions needed to realise the vision of Hampstead Heath are set out under eight section headings. In all cases accessibility, inclusivity, biodiversity and sustainability need to be taken into account. There are potential conflicts and overlap between the actions and aspirations across, and at times within, the sections. Priorities will need to be set and conflicts resolved within the overriding primary objective of managing and preserving the Heath as an open space and of maintaining its unique wild and natural aspects and its ecology. The plan

concludes with an impression of what the Heath might look like in years to come. (paragraph 1.7)

At the heart of any new management plan for Hampstead Heath there must be a conviction that it is the natural qualities of the Heath which are its richest asset. Any changes to the fabric or management regime of the Heath should be undertaken with this in mind. (paragraph 1.9)

You may have seen this draft, either in full or the summary version, at one of the consultation stalls set up at various locations around the Heath during April and early May; if not both the whole document and the summary are available on the City's website at:

www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/hampstead follow the link to 'Find out more and download the draft plan'. This will also allow you to comment on the draft, either in detail or in very broad terms, on the principles behind it.

We, as a Society, have been very much involved with other local organisations in helping the City develop this plan. Now that it is out for general comment, I hope that each of you will reinforce our efforts by giving your own views. If you haven't already commented on the plan, please go to the City's website before the public consultation ends on 20 May and add your comments.

One of the possible conflicts alluded to is the extension of cycling on the Heath. This is outside the scope of this first part of the plan, but will be covered by a separate consultation later in the year. Data on the numbers and highest flow rates of people (and cyclists) will be collected over the summer, paths examined, and only after then will the consultation be undertaken. In the meantime, the Camden Cycling Campaign are encouraging their members to add a comment about the need

Heath Report (cont)

for more cycle paths into their individual responses to the current consultation on the plan – so please do make your own views known.

Dogs in Camden and on the Heath

There has been a lot of anxiety, made worse initially by poor communication of proposals, about control of dogs in Camden and on the Heath. Like many control orders where the objectives are sound, many consider some of the detailed proposals to be wrongly targeted and thus likely to be counter-productive. After an outcry against their initial proposals, Camden has extended the consultation period and will then reconsider the form and scope of their orders.

So far as the Heath is concerned, only a Local Authority is empowered to use the Cleaner Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 for enforcing fixed penalties against litter, waste offences, irresponsible dog control, graffiti, fly-posting, abandoned and nuisance vehicles and highway obstructions. Thus the City cannot use this Act in respect of the Heath. But if Camden brings in a set of suitable orders, the City can arrange to act as their agent to enforce chosen parts on the section of the Heath within Camden. A similar arrangement would not be possible on the Barnet parts of the Heath as Barnet is not currently proposing to introduce any Dog Control Orders.

Concerning the three parts of the Camden Orders which the City originally proposed to enforce with fixed penalty notices, most people agree these are appropriate for *failing to remove dog faeces*, and *permitting a dog to enter the fenced children's play area*, and there is agreement that all dogs need to be under control. Some, including about half of the Heath Sub-Committee, agree this can be done by restricting the number of dogs a single person

may take on the Heath. Others, and I am firmly amongst them, believe there is no correlation – some people cannot control a single dog whilst others have no problem with many. I believe any measures, to be effective, must be targeted at the real problem and be based on principle, not on arbitrary rules. I hope that Camden's final orders will take this on board but, whatever that outcome, the City should only adopt principles.

Kenwood Concerts

I am saddened by English Heritage and IMG's decision to cancel this year's Kenwood Concerts, and also by English Heritage putting the blame on Camden and 31 local residents. Our own objection was on behalf of well over 31 residents. EH then launched a petition on their website urging '*Camden Council to review the licence conditions and work with English Heritage and all other interested parties so that the concerts can return to Kenwood in 2008*'. When I signed the petition, which was at 12,500 when I last looked, it was with the comment: '*Please bring back the concerts, but at the sound levels of the first 50 years*'. It is comforting to see how many of the other objectors have based their objection on fond memories from these earlier days.

Since IMG became involved over the past five years the concerts have been changing, and few recent ones have any resemblance to those of the first 50 years. Tastes change. We have never sought to alter the programme, nor have we sought a reduction in the number of concerts, but we do believe that the music chosen should not be so loud that it overflows the site, and we have been talking with English Heritage and IMG to try to achieve that.

continued on page 14

Town Report

by Gordon Maclean

Two major issues have dominated our attention in recent months; the Garden House Judicial Review, and the School Run Traffic Review.

The Garden House

This landmark case is covered very thoroughly by Martin Humphery in his separate article; all I will add is to say how absorbing it was to sit in Court, hear the evidence presented both by our brilliant team and by Camden, and to hear the Judge's forthright verdict. It was a good day for Hampstead and the Heath.

We don't yet know whether Camden (as opposed to the site's owners) will appeal; we believe that they would have minimal chances of success in view of the categorical nature of the terms of judgement.

It would perhaps have been an instructive day in court for Camden's Planners. We certainly hope that in future the way in which cases are presented to Committee will be more objectively considered, members' questions will be answered more straightforwardly, and above all that comments and objections from the public (i.e.: us!) will be given greater weight.

The Planning process has become more and more remote from where the public wants it to be, especially on conservation and heritage issues, and this decision, confirming the importance of Metropolitan Open Land, can, we hope, help to close that gap.

The School Run Traffic Review

Camden's current Review of their 2003 Policy on school run traffic management has been given wide publicity, both by Camden and us. This is a matter of very great importance to all of us, wherever we live in Hampstead or whatever our individual mode of personal transport. Traffic congestion of our streets

during school term times remains chronic, and is damaging to all of us in terms of travel delay, intrusion into our parking spaces, noise, pollution and energy waste.

You may recall from our January 2007 Newsletter that we believed that the forthcoming Review was of great significance, and that we wanted your opinions on how we should respond to Camden's consultations. The questionnaire enclosed with the Newsletter produced a good response; 191 forms were returned, representing 215 individual opinions - around 10% of the membership. 73.2% of you voted in favour of retaining the existing policy of reducing parking permits to zero by 2008; 22.5% thought that reducing parking permits at a slower rate might be acceptable while alternative transport was put in place; there were a few undecided. A decisive 79% wanted strengthened enforcement of parking regulations in school areas.

These views have now been passed on to Camden in the Society's response documents, together with a variety of further suggestions, many of which derived from the additional opinions you gave us with your questionnaires. Amongst these were: the need for further encouragement to schools to cooperate more willingly with the Policy; the development of various forms of school bus systems; "park and ride" systems; car sharing and other ways of reducing car dependence. Most of these suggestions had already been introduced and discussed at the advisory committee on which we have been represented from the start in 2003.

We were encouraged by your response and support, but we also knew that individual responses were vital; once again Camden were

indicating that they would be influenced by “opinion-poll” results, and that numbers were crucial. They continue to imply that group responses to consultations are regarded as partial, even if plainly representing large numbers of members. We consequently had, again, to email members to urge you to respond. We don’t like to do this, not only because this is an unwanted intrusion, but also because we can only reach a proportion of you by email.

This trend towards referendum policy-making is, we believe, pernicious. It puts special-interest groups, such as the well-organised school parents lobby, at an unfair advantage. The views of the silent majority can be ignored; we are not all activists, or have the time to be active.

We do not yet know what Camden’s decisions will be. We can only hope that their present imaginative and unique policy of alleviation to the effects of this problem can emerge relatively unscathed.

Other Matters

The unremitting flow of Planning applications continue to be examined and where necessary commented on. Our schemes for the refurbishment of Hampstead plaques, the improvements at Whitestone Pond, and the restoration of our distinctive tiled street nameplates are all progressing well. We continue to participate in committees or liaison groups on highways, policing and community safety, the Royal Free Hospital and similar issues.

Our regret is that IMG refused to arrange for concerts which fit into Kenwood. Instead, they insisted in asking Camden to allow a 5dB increase (roughly a doubling) in the sound overflowing into neighbouring residential roads. Camden's compromise (some increase in the sound level but offset by every third weekend without a concert) was upheld as a reasonable one by the Magistrate on appeal last year. We would have preferred more, but quieter, concerts and will continue to work to achieve this end.

New floating stage

Before making their decision to drop the concerts for this year, IMG put in a planning application to float the stage. It received many objections, including from The Friends of Kenwood, the Highgate Society and ourselves, and has now been withdrawn. More recently English Heritage and IMG have been looking at siting the stage in front of the Wood Pond, directly in front of the house. When this was mooted at a recent meeting to find a way to bring the concerts back, not enough information was available for the suggestion to be given serious consideration. Virtually all non-English Heritage/IMG people at that meeting wanted the concerts back on a basis that satisfied the old (ie pre-last year's) licensing conditions, and we await fuller proposals. Much as we look forward to a return of the concerts, we will only support their return in a format which once more fits in with Kenwood.

The Hampstead Card List of Traders



***is enclosed
separately with this
Newsletter***

It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark

by Julie Brownbridge Ecologist, Hampstead Heath

Many Society members are keen to learn more about the findings of a Hydrology Study of the Heath, produced last year by Haycock Associates. As the final draft is over 200 pages long and very technical, readers need to be aware that what follows is a layperson's much simplified account of the Study's findings.



Sandy Heath was completely denuded by sand & gravel workings in the 19th century

Photo courtesy of Hampstead Museum, Burgh House

Three of the Heath's ponds are classed as reservoirs so the Hydrology Study was mainly commissioned to assess flood risks. It also provided advice on bathing water quality.

The Heath's unusual geology gives rise to its many streams and ponds. A mixture of sand and gravel on the higher ground sits atop clay on the lower ground. The photo of Sandy Heath in the 19th century gives us a glimpse of 'what lies beneath'. The clay on lower parts of the Heath is largely 'impermeable'; it can soak up very little water. Rain falling on the upper sandy layers will quickly drain down through the ground, only to be squirted out again when

it hits the plasticine-like clay. You can see this effect clearly on the topography map on the next page. Nearly all the streams rise near the edge of the clay. Nearly all our ponds were created by damming natural streams, so the ponds in each valley are linked and flow into each other.

The hydrologists collected data about the Heath's soils, topography, past rainfall, land cover and footpaths; and used it to build a computer simulation of what might happen when it rains heavily on the Heath. The computer model allows you to estimate the success of different measures to reduce the risk of flooding. So for example, it can simulate the flood control effect of changing vegetation cover.

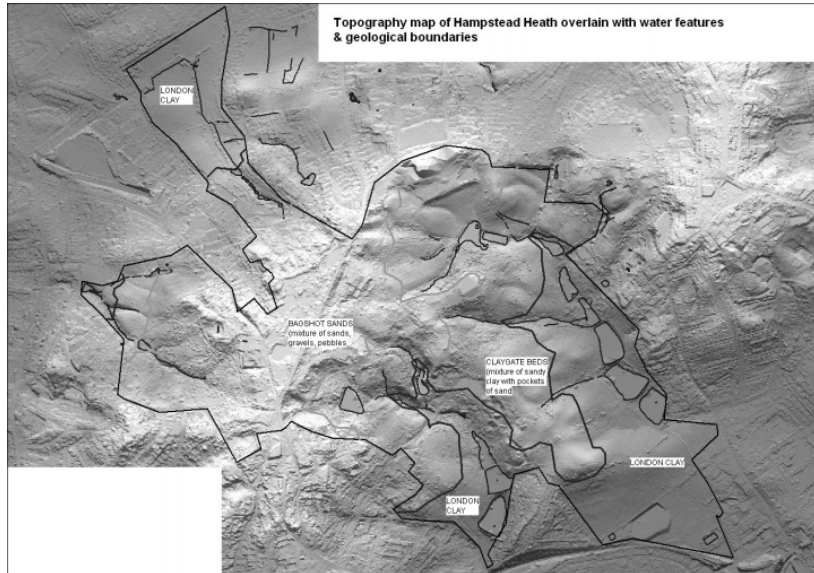
The soil studies highlighted the problems of footpaths and soil compaction on the Heath. Nick Haycock of Haycock Associates estimated there are around 70 miles of paths on the Heath. Their surfaces are compacted from so much use so that when it rains heavily, they become like little drainage channels, directing the water quickly downhill. In many cases, the compaction stretches 30 feet on either side of the path.

To reduce the risk of flooding, we need to look at ways of improving the ground's capacity to soak up the rain. If that's not possible, we need to examine ways of interrupting the path of the 'sheets' of rain, as they skitter down the compacted paths or slide across mown grass on the clay; so that the water moves more slowly, and can soak in gradually.

Nick Haycock, therefore recommended:

1. Improving the "permeability" of our footpaths; and

It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark (cont)



Above: Topography map of Hampstead Heath overlain with water features and geological boundaries

Below: this close-up of part of the Haycock Associates footpath map shows how feverishly the Heath is crisscrossed by many desire line paths



2. Where possible, converting short, mown grass to long grass.

Rain will ultimately end up in the water courses. Once there, we need to slow down its passage along the stream and increase the length of time it takes to arrive at a pond.

Another key recommendation is to:

3. 'roughen the streams', by impeding them in places with what Nick calls 'woody debris jams' (piles of logs and sticks).

And before there is a call to introduce beavers to the Heath, I think their dams would be too watertight.

Once the rain has arrived in a pond by a more, or less, circuitous route, the water level will start to rise. Here the study's recommendations can be summarised as:

4. Ensuring the pond outlets are as efficient and accessible as possible. We need to look at the diameter of some of the outflow pipes (some may be narrowed by iron deposits, for example).

5. Install sensors to monitor the water level.

Once the rain has arrived in a pond, there is also the question of how dirty it is. Our ponds on the Heath are very rich in nutrients which can cause problems with blue-green algae and weed plants. Phosphorus is the element most closely linked to nutrient enrichment and the Study estimated that 95% of phosphorus on the Heath comes from dog mess.

Recommendations here included:

6. Installing more dog bins. There are currently only around 30 serving over 100 entrances to the Heath.

Nick also emphasised that footpath crossings of streams were a pinpoint source of pollution, especially if the area is compacted and bare. His suggestion is to:

7. Create 20m vegetation buffer zones around footpath crossings.

Here is a passage I'd like to quote from the study:

'It must be pointed out that the nutrient fluxes within the Heath,... far exceed the biological capacity of any natural filter (woodland or wetland buffer) and the emphasis on ... controlling the external nutrient sources must lie with users of the Heath'.

I believe this may be largely a euphemism for ensuring more people clear up their dog mess!

However, it must be remembered that some ponds have a catchment which includes much

land outside the Heath. The Ladies Pond catchment for example includes many houses and gardens in the Fitzroy Park area. The Stock Pond, which is extremely high in phosphorus, has a catchment encompassing all the Kenwood House mown grass areas.

Battersea Park managed to reduce lake phosphorus by a factor of ten, by working carefully with fish populations, Canada geese, water supply and vegetation. An impressive achievement which I hope can eventually be replicated at the Heath by looking at all possible sources of nutrient enrichment, including dog mess.



Footpaths crossing streams are a pinpoint source of stream pollution.

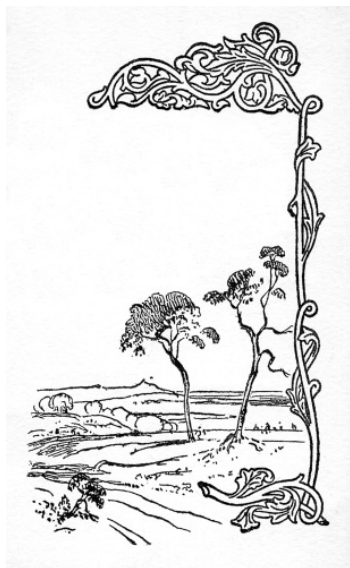
Photo Robin Moore

So there you have it. These are some of the things the Study suggested we might do. More research and consultation will be needed on some of the suggestions before a decision can be made on implementation.

Cataloguing the Society archives

by Mark Collins

Following a request to re-sort and catalogue the archives of the Society, I offered to take on the task as a volunteer. The work was thought necessary not only for good housekeeping, but also to allow current casework to be carried out with a full understanding of the past history of each subject under consideration. Furthermore, the archives constitute the history of one of the oldest conservation bodies in the country, and so we owed it to those who have gone before – and to ourselves – to record properly the contribution of devoted committee members. In addition, a third important dimension resulted from the work: as each catalogue entry was added, a brief history emerged which traced the development of the Heath and changes to the town during the nineteenth and twentieth century.



The front cover of the Society's first AGM report

management of the Heath. On 7th April 1897, the Hampstead Heath Protection Society was

The early years

A short administrative history will help to explain the contents of the archive.

Hampstead Heath was saved for the enjoyment of the public by Acts of Parliament in 1871 and 1886, but the residents of Hampstead nevertheless became alarmed by the subsequent development and careless

formed by local residents. The first president was E. Brodie Hoare, M.P. for Hampstead, and there were originally sixteen members comprising a single committee. During the early twentieth century, it was felt that the streets and buildings of the village should also be monitored and cared for, and in 1933 the name of the organisation was changed to the Hampstead Heath and Old Hampstead Protection Society. Two further simplifications resulted in the current name.

The items which make up most of the earliest documents in the Society's collection, viz 1839 to 1896, are those which relate to the saving of the Heath from building development, together with material relating to the Hampstead Heath Protection Fund, an organisation dating from the 1860s, and the forerunner of the present Society.

Our Society comprises three main committees: the General Committee, the Town Sub-Committee, and the Heath Sub-Committee. The records of each committee contain reports, casework and press-cuttings. Annual Reports and Newsletters form another major group, and it is from these that a quick year-by-year review of the activities of the Society may be made. The Society Administration section of the archive contains the rules, lists of members and notices of events dating from 1897.

Problems of methodology

In 1972, the archives were deposited with the Camden Local History Library, now the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, at the Holborn Library, 32-38 Theobalds Road, with subsequent additions made from time to time. Brave attempts had been previously made to catalogue the papers, but no formal system had been put in place, and no computerised system had been devised. The papers had first of all to

be comprehensively re-organized and classified before cataloguing could begin. At first, sorting by document date was thought to be the most suitable arrangement, but it would not have aided the retrieval of items for a particular case, so sorting by subject was agreed to be most expedient. Each group of papers has been placed into acid-free envelopes for their continuing preservation, and the envelopes have been labelled.

The Heath was divided into nine geographical areas, together with subject groups such as 'Battle for the Heath', 'Management' and 'Uses of the Heath'. Issues over the years included: 'Heath Extension, including East Park estate and Parliament Hill, 1884-89, with a printed letter from Octavia Hill', 'Landscape Survey, Kenwood, 1990', and 'Noise nuisance'. Footpaths, gas pipe-lines, radio masts, encroachment by building developments, and of course, the care of trees feature down the years. Important reports relating to the ecology and conservation of the Heath have also been produced by the Society.

The Town is divided into about one hundred and fifty subjects, including: 'Control of outdoor advertisements', 'Removal of railings for scrap during the Second World War', and complicated issues such as 'East Hampstead area traffic management, 1996' and the nine month enquiry into the housing development at Oak Hill Park in the 1960s.

Wider concerns are represented by the Society's responses to official reports; for example, the Camden Borough District Plans. Historical notes, personal accounts of tireless conservation activity, intriguing press-cuttings and unique photographs make up some of the most moving and important items in the collection.

A team effort

I must record the kind help of the archivists at the Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre, especially Malcolm Holmes and Richard Knight, who will open our archives to the public on a daily basis once the catalogue has become 'live' on the Local Studies database. Arrangements are in hand to place the catalogue on the Camden website later this year, and it is planned to scan all the photographs and to place them on the web-site as well. David Christie, Janine Griffis and Helen Marcus provided invaluable help by gathering and sorting the material which was until the summer of 2006 stored by current committee members. The entire work of sorting and cataloguing amounted to a three-year task, and a management protocol is to be established for committee members to help organize their current documents before they are deposited in the future.

If you have any items which record the activities of the Society, or which provide an historical record of the Heath or of Hampstead, please let me know, and they may then be deposited at Holborn for posterity.



The Barker Review of Land Use Planning

by Michael Hammerson

This article is not for those of a nervous disposition: this is the most urgent planning issue to have faced local communities in recent years. Many of you may have seen reports in the press on this matter but for something which could have such a major impact on our whole planning system, insufficient coverage has been given to it. You need only read the review (180 turgid but frightening pages) and the Civic Trust's response to appreciate why this report on the future of the planning system by Kate Barker, former Treasury economist, can only be described in alarmist terms, why it must be fought vigorously, and why its chief inspiration may have been Alice in Wonderland.

Most of its 31 recommendations set alarm bells ringing. Their chief focus is on reforming the planning system for the benefit of businesses and development. They appear to be predicated on hypothetical or flawed economic grounds and discount any but economic arguments. While economic development is a perfectly valid priority for local authorities, Barker appears to have no concept of the need to balance this with other community needs and ensure that all receive equal treatment in the planning system.

Democratic rights endangered

Recommendation 10 suggests setting up a new independent Planning Commission which would take decisions on major infrastructure applications such as airports or new roads, 'to improve the framework for decision making for major infrastructure'. The Council for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) is quite clear that this could remove such major planning decisions from democratic scrutiny and reduce people's right to have a say in decisions that affect their local environment.

Potential for corruption

The proposal on Section 106 contributions seems at best naïve and at worst dangerous. It appears to

promote a two-tier system where businesses who can afford it will effectively turn planning authorities from a public service into private planning consultants. The suggestion that it would, in effect, be acceptable to 'bribe' the community into accepting inappropriate developments is inimical to good planning, ethically questionable and likely to encourage corrupt practices.

Talk of 'proportionality' in heritage policy is viewed with huge concern and many think the proposals on Green Belts will ensure that development and urban sprawl will become significantly more difficult to resist.

Astonishing inconsistencies

There are signs that the initial reactions against Barker have made some impact. After the first wave of criticism, Minister Ruth Kelly distanced herself from the Green Belt recommendations and emphasised that the Government did not accept them.

At a recent conference, Kate Barker herself conceded that she may have been wrong to recommend ending the needs test. She said: 'I think it's possible that I and the people who advised me didn't realise the extent to which planners seem to rely on it. I must say it wasn't a point I felt particularly strongly about and the argument is very much up for grabs.' If she admits to not understanding something as basic as this, this must cast doubts on many of the other premises on which her recommendations have been based.

In addition, she said, she did not mean to suggest that there should be a presumption in favour of development in areas not covered by a local plan. 'What I mean is there should be a clear-eyed look at the costs and benefits of a development in the absence of a plan. The actual wording in the report may have been a bit strong, and there will be plenty of negotiation about this.' If she

A stark warning on the new report reviewing housing supply, by former Treasury Economist Kate Barker, commissioned by the Treasury

This article is adapted from the one published by the London Forum's Spring newsletter.

didn't mean it, then, why on earth did she say it? Environment Agency chief executive, Barbara Young, criticised Barker's call for a presumption in favour of development, warning that the 'fine work' on sustainability featured in previous Planning Policy Guidance papers: PS25, PPS23 and PPS1 must not be lost. It would be a mistake to reduce the potency of the planning system which had been successful over the past 50 years. ***A presumption in favour of development has a lot of baggage as a term and I don't think we should use it. We must not go back to the bad old days of the 1980s.*** She added that it was no secret that the UK's environmental infrastructure is 'pretty crap' as a result of underinvestment in water supply, drainage and waste disposal.

A White Paper awaited

A White Paper was due to be published before Easter, but is still awaited. Government seemed to recognise that some form of consultation was required. If it follows Barker's recommendations, it will result in a planning system where in order to speed up major regional and national projects, economic interests take priority over social and environmental ones. They would reduce communities' rights to have a say in the development of their local areas or their ability to protect the built and natural environments.

Although it is difficult to know the extent to which criticisms will be taken on board in the White Paper, the main battleground will be the proposed independent commission for determining Major Infrastructure Projects, to which the Government is committed. New nuclear build and airports are driving the agenda; the need for them, and how that need is established, will be the core issue.

United opposition

Such is the concern nationally about Barker that a coalition group (including the Civic Trust, CPRE,

RSPB, Friends of the Earth, Transport 2000 and the New Economics Foundation) representing some 5 million members has formed to campaign against it.

See the website:
www.planningdisaster.org

It is the most urgent planning issue to have faced local communities in recent years. We must hope that this campaign may result in at least the worst aspects being put into cold storage. If modifications are not secured, then it may not be too much of an exaggeration to say that we may as well all go home, as community ability to have meaningful input into the planning system will be fatally weakened.

Further information

The full report can be seen on:
http://www.hmtreasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/barker_review_land_use_planning/barkerreview_land_use_planning_index.cfm

The Civic Trust's summary and detailed responses can be read on the Policy and Campaigns section of their website:

www.civictrust.org.uk

Paper copies available from
hummery@civictrust.org.uk

Contribute any ideas or experiences to their PR officer Steve Rackett, srackett@civictrust.org.uk or 020 7539 7910.

What you can do:

- send a letter of concern to Gordon Brown. It is essential to drive home to Government that large numbers of voters are very unhappy with their proposals.

- lobby your MPs. Urge them to sign one of the two Early Day Motions against the report – one (Conservative) by Caroline Spelman and the other (Lib Dem/Labour) by David Drew.

Sir John Boynton 1918 - 2007

by Helen Marcus

We were deeply saddened to hear of the death of John Boynton in January. After an outstanding career in local government as a solicitor and county council chief executive, he retired to Hampstead where he generously brought his invaluable knowledge and experience to the aid of local causes.

Born in Carlisle, John took a law degree from London University and was admitted as a solicitor in 1939, winning the Cliffords Inn and Mellersh prizes.

His distinguished war service with the 15th Scottish Reconnaissance Regiment earned him the Military Cross when in February 1945, as the Allies pushed towards the Rhine, he guided a tank column through the Rhineland town of Kleve under machinegun and anti-tank fire. After the war he served as a military magistrate in Germany.

Returning home he embarked on a career in local government, rising from senior assistant solicitor of Derbyshire County Council to chief executive and deputy lieutenant of Cheshire CC. He was knighted in 1979.

After retirement he successfully undertook the difficult task of supervising the elections for Zimbabwe after the Lancaster House agreement. In 1980 he chaired an inquiry into allegations of abuse of patients at the Rampton psychiatric hospital in Nottinghamshire. The report's recommendations resulted in the Mental Health Act Commission. His legal reference work, *Boynton's Compulsory Purchase and Compensation* (1964), went through seven editions, and in 1986 he wrote a memoir of his time in Cheshire, *Job at the Top*. He was president of the Royal Town Planning



Institute in 1976 - a rare distinction for a solicitor. He supported the campaign to win a pardon for First World War soldiers shot for 'cowardice'.

A man of great integrity, charm and good humour, he always sought to improve relations and bring about reconciliation. He was instrumental in

bringing together the various societies representing town clerks and county and district councils, urging them to prepare for the introduction of the chief executives of new-style local authorities. The result was the founding of Solace, representing Local Government Senior Officers, of which he was the first president in 1974.

It was these emolient skills which he brought to the service of the

Heath & Hampstead Society when in 1992, it went through a difficult time due to disagreements among committee members as to how to handle the enormous pressures of development applications in the conservation areas. The then Chairman of the Society, Peter Gorb, invited him to chair a small working group to review the Society's rules and procedures. This he did with immense patience and good grace. He remained a staunch supporter of local causes and, in particular, gave invaluable help to the project to restore Hampstead Town Hall, becoming a patron of the Friends and arranging for the leading law firm, Nabarro Nathanson, to provide pro bono legal advice to the Hamden Trust during the Lottery bid. This was of incalculable assistance to the project and we owe him a great debt of gratitude.

It was always an enormous pleasure to be in his cheerful and optimistic company and we send our most sincere condolences to his wife Edith. He is affectionately remembered and much missed.

Bulletin Board

The Hampster of Hampstead Heath

a charming new book for children by

Martin Plaut

BBC journalist and producer

illustrations by

Mike Spoor

With a story line all too familiar to Society members, the book tells of the adventures of Hampster and his friend Vole as they foil a plot by a property developer to build houses on the Heath!

Available from local bookshops: £5

The perfect gift for your children or grandchildren

Open House London 15 - 16 September 2007

Project Manager Jeni Hoskin would be pleased to hear from groups and societies who have any suggestions for suitable buildings in their area to open during the Capital's architectural festival.

Buildings range from historic, prefab, Arts and Crafts to modern; from private homes to workspaces to City banks. The guide will be available from mid-August.

***Contact Jeni Hoskin on
020 7383 2131***

email: jhoskin@openhouse.org.uk

website: www.openhouse.org.uk

Seen From the Street



The Scene From the Street team will be in action again shortly looking for attractive front gardens and house fronts (window boxes etc.) in NW3 worthy of a prize.

They would like to receive lots of nominations, which should be sent to

***Christine Winterburgh
14 Farm Avenue,
London NW2 2DY***

or jcwinterburgh@tiscali.co.uk

by 14th June.

Final judging will take place
at the end of June.



***Capital Gardens have again
generously donated the prizes***

and the award ceremony will be in October
when people are back from holiday.

Heath Walks

Walks are held on the first Sunday of every month except January. Most start from Burgh House, New End Square, Hampstead Village. Starting times are either 10.30 am or 2.30pm, depending on season and subject matter. Walks last approximately two hours. They do not necessarily follow made-up paths; you are recommended to wear suitable footwear as conditions may be rough or muddy.

You will be invited to make a minimum donation of £2 per adult, to be collected at the beginning of each walk, to help support future development of the walks programme and to promote the Society's activities generally.

The Society does not organise walks specifically for children but they are always welcome so long as they are suitably shod, can walk reasonable distances and are accompanied by an adult taking full responsibility for them.

Please note starting times and meeting points below. For further information contact the walks organiser, Thomas Radice, on 020 8455 1025 (mobile: 07941 528 034) or email: thomas@radice.clara.co.uk.

2007

3 June 2.30pm (meet at Burgh House) A Spider Foray led by Edward Milner, National Spider Recorder for Middlesex and London

1 July 2.30 (meet at Burgh House)
How the Heath and Kenwood were saved from development, led by Thomas Radice, member of the H&HS Heath Sub-Committee
For optional visit to the Hampstead Museum, Burgh House, assemble in entrance hall at 2 pm

Additional evening event - booking essential:

1 July 9.15pm (meet at Burgh House) Bat conservation on the Heath, led by Cindy Blaney
Advance booking opens 1 June 2007 (see contact details above) **N.B. Group size limited to 10**; Society members have priority

5 August 2.30pm (meet beside the ornamental pond in the Hill Garden) The Hill Garden, led by Ian Greenwood, Head Gardener

2 September 10.30am (meet at Burgh House) Birds of the Heath in Autumn, led by Alix Mullineaux

7 October 10.30am (meet at Burgh House) A Fungus Foray, led by Jo Weightman

4 November 10.30am (meet at Burgh House) Trees of the Heath, led by Jeremy Wright, Heath Ancient Tree Survey Organiser

2 December 10.30am (meet at Burgh House) Artefacts of the West Heath, led by Michael Welbank

2008



3 February 2008
10.30am (meet at Burgh House) Ecology of the Heath led by Dr Meg Game, Ecologist for Hampstead Heath

2 March 2.30pm (meet at the entrance to the Kitchen Garden, Kenwood, off Hampstead Lane N6) Hidden Heath: a look at historical and archaeological features of the Heath, led by Michael Hammerson

6 April 10.30am (meet at Burgh House) Birds of the Heath in Spring, led by Alix Mullineaux