

On Kew

Latest news on Planning

The largest development application awaiting a decision in Kew is for the **Inland Revenue** site on **Ruskin Avenue**. The developers lost their appeal at a public enquiry last Autumn but before that decision was made, they had already submitted a new application. Their plans include 97 flats, a 4600 sq.ft. care home and 1388 sq. ft of commercial space. That application, which was slightly amended in January, is likely to go to the planning committee in March. It is not so different from the earlier application. We and the KRA have objected as it would constitute a gross overdevelopment of the site. Details can be found on the Council website (http://www2.richmond.gov.uk/PlanData2/planning_caseno.aspx?strCaseNo=10/1526/FUL) and the application no. is 10/1526. Objections may be lodged up until the hearing date in March.

Apart from the Ruskin Avenue Site, most development proposals in Kew have been fairly small scale in recent months. However, across the river in **Brentford**, St. George's eight storey block beside **Kew Bridge** is beginning to rise up from the ground and the developer is hoping to extend this project into the adjoining **Thameside** office complex which St. George now own. If they succeed – and a planning application is expected in the Spring – new homes for several hundred people will be created. The Society is concerned as given the existing traffic bottleneck on both sides of Kew Bridge, the situation can only get worse if Hounslow Council allow the Thameside commercial complex to be replaced by yet more blocks of flats on the river.

Brentford Football Club's plans for a new stadium on **Lionel Road** behind the Fountain Leisure Centre are now on ice as Barratt Homes, the developer behind the scheme, has recently withdrawn due to the downturn in the economy. Their plans would have involved two 24 storey blocks of flats between Kew Bridge and the flyover. Brentford FC is reviewing its options, which include the right to purchase the site.

Meanwhile, back in Kew, apart from Ruskin Avenue, most new development seems to be on or close to the busy Sandycombe Road:

175 Sandycombe Rd (Tin Building) Developers have now withdrawn their proposal for 8 one bedroom flats after the application received a number of objections.

267 Sandycombe Rd Car Garage Site An application for B1 space and 5 flats was validated on 08.12.11, to which we objected. A decision is due soon.

South Avenue An outline application for a mixed use commercial and residential scheme was validated on 31.08.11, to which we objected. No decision has been made yet.

Elsewhere in Kew, on **Cambridge Road** a proposal for a modern house on this site was approved by the planning committee on 4th February.

On **Kew Green**, where the grass continues to show the effects of overuse, yet another pub has erected illuminated signage and then applied for consent retrospectively. The latest establishment is the Greyhound which wants consent for an illuminated menu board which is so well lit that it can be seen from the other side of the South Circular. We have objected, along with a number of local residents.

One other topic to mention: **the Stag Brewery Site, Mortlake.**

Whilst this is again not in Kew, it is the largest development site in the borough and we are being asked to consult. We are currently engaging with the process. You can view the brief on LBRUTs website at www.richmond.gov.uk/home/council_government_and_democracy/council/consultation_and_feedback/council_consultations.htm

We supported local residents in objecting to the application for a new extension to the Coach & Horses for 13 new guest rooms to be built on their car park. The Council's Planning Committee supported the views of local objectors and refused the application, against the recommendation of the planning officer, at the meeting on 3rd March.

Kew Gardens licence application

We were very pleased to be given a presentation by representatives from Kew Gardens on their planned licence application at our December committee meeting.

Having reviewed the application itself, Michael Glazebrook then wrote on behalf of the Society to lodge concerns on a number of fronts. While he recognized that Kew residents are very privileged to have Kew Gardens, a World Heritage site, as our neighbour he summarised our concerns over:

- No effective controls on noise
- No effective controls on departing or arriving crowds or traffic
- Such controls would be impractical to implement for a site-wide licence
- No parking facilities
- Change from one week per year of major events to all year round
- Massive increase in numbers of public events and attendees – over threefold combined
- No limits to private events in numbers or size
- Possibility of new venues within the Gardens being used
- Daytime events could disturb visitors to the Gardens
- Outdoor private events now possible, including temporary marquees anywhere in the Gardens
- Unnecessary fireworks
- Later hours unacceptable in a residential area

Michael has now received the following update in respect of the application:

- Richmond Licensing received a formal request from the applicant to adjourn the hearing, which was due to take place on 7th February.
- The Licensing Sub-Committee has agreed to grant additional time and felt it was in the public interest to do this rather than allow the application to lapse, which would have meant a new application, rendering all existing submissions by interested parties (185 of them) invalid.
- Licensing has decided to give the applicants a deadline for revising their application with new noise and transport policies and making any other changes they decide to make. This deadline has been set for end February.
- The RBG will endeavour to circulate the revisions to the new premises licence application one month prior to the hearing date to all interested parties.

- The hearing date is now fixed for 6th April
- Interested parties will then have the option to revise their objection, withdraw it, or do nothing, in which case their objection will still be considered at the hearing.

Kew Pond

The Kew Society has long been proud to maintain strong links with the volunteers who look after the ancient Kew Pond. In this edition, we therefore turn the spotlight on the Pond and its history.

The Pond was originally fed by a creek from the tidal Thames - it is thought to be the "fishery" referred to in Charters of 1205 and 1243. It may even date from a grant made in 996 by the Saxon King Ethelred to the Church of St. Peter and St. Paul in Winchester.

The last recorded reference to the fishpond is in 1533. By then there were houses and cottages at the western end of the Green but by the early 19thC it was almost surrounded by buildings. (The Priory Estate to the east of the Pond was developed only in the 1880-90s.) Householders then had grazing rights on the Green, and the Pond was used for watering their cattle and horses. It was also used for washing carts and carriages and soaking the wooden wheels when their iron rims worked loose.

In 1824 the first King's School was built to the north of the Pond. At first there were complaints about the unsanitary condition of the adjacent creek that was thought to be affecting the children's health (there were several deaths) so part of it was covered over. In 1832 the Pond was fenced for safety and trees planted on the north side, but thirty years later the trees were removed "being prejudicial to the Health of the School Children"! From then on until as recently as 1977 there have been calls to fill in the Pond because of its unpleasant state; even concreting the bottom in 1934 did not quell complaints for long as it was so often left empty.

Nowadays it is filled from the river on very high tides using a system of flaps and valves operated by local volunteers. It is owned by the Crown but vested in Richmond Council for care and maintenance. If you would like to join the volunteers in maintaining this local treasure, please e-mail webmaster@kewsociety.org or write to 25 Chelwood Gardens, Kew TW9 4JG

Kew Winter Events

Despite the early snow and freezing temperatures, Kew village was busy as ever for Kew Sparkle in early December. Our stall featured our increasingly popular Kew Kwiz - a selection of unusual photographs of the Kew area taken by our Committee member Ulrike Bulle. We are gathering an enthusiastic following who see entry to our Kwiz as a natural part of their visit to the event.

The festive season then drew to a close with our now-traditional Twelfth Night drinks. A lively crowd braved the continuing snow and enjoyed the chance to chat over wine and canapés in beautiful surroundings of St. Anne's on Kew Green. The Kew Kwiz winners were announced during the course of the evenings. Our congratulations to the eagle-eyed members of our community!

February saw the staging of our annual Bridge Night. Andrew Daws stepped boldly and bravely into the red-spangled jacket of Mark Hopkins. An evening of intense intellectual activity, helped along by a delicious cold supper, resulted in Leonie Lorimor winning the individuals category and Chris and Jenny Powell-Smith winning the pairs.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Historian and Kew Society member John Moses has arranged to lead a party of members around Osterley House on Sunday 22nd May and talk about its history and architecture. Sir Thomas Gresham, a leading Elizabethan entrepreneur, built the original house. Elizabeth I was the first visitor to the house. In the late 17th century it was acquired by Nicholas Barbon, whose ruthless methods as a property speculator would have embarrassed Rachman. It was acquired by the Child family in the 1713 when they foreclosed on the mortgage. They married into the Jersey family and the ninth earl of Jersey gave Osterley to the National Trust in 1949. Numbers strictly limited.

The Kew Music Festival and the Kew Midsummer Fete will be repeated this year, following their highly successful debuts last Summer. The Music Festival will run from 17th to 26th June and the Fete will be on Saturday 18th June. The Kew Society will be supporting the opening performance of the Music Festival by the Kew Wind Orchestra on Friday 17th June.

On Tuesday 5th July we have arranged an exciting evening at the Ham Polo Club, the last surviving London polo club. Listen for calls of 'Chukka' (a time call for the four breaks of play) and watch the players manoeuvre their splendid horses with skill and grace in this highly competitive sport. The Club has an impressive clubhouse, and members of The Kew Society will be greeted with a glass of excellent wine. We will be given a short introduction to this spectacular sport. The Chef will have been busy preparing delicious canapés. Then it will be time to relax, watching the action! More wine will be available at the cash bar throughout the evening.

Application forms for tickets to the above events are being sent separately to members.

New Member Rewards!

For every new member you introduce in 2011, who subscribes by Standing Order, we will give you a £5 wine voucher, redeemable at the Good Wine Shop. To take up this offer, make sure your name is included on their application form, which can be downloaded from our website. Alternatively, contact Sue May at 60a Leyborne Park, Kew TW9 3HA

Contact Us

We do welcome your comments and your involvement.

We are still seeking an Honorary Secretary and would be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in taking on this role.

Your Committee

Chairman	Michael Glazebrook	chair@kewsociety.org
Vice Chairman	Barney Smith	
Hon Treasurer	Juliet Thompson	treasurer@kewsociety.org
Planning	Giles Dixon and Ben Knight	planning@kewsociety.org
Environment	Simon Owens	environment@kewsociety.org
Membership	Sue May	membership@kewsociety.org
Website	Gillian Horne	webmaster@kewsociety.org
Events	Sally Sutton	secretary@kewsociety.org
Other members	Rob Sheldon, Ulrike Bulle	
Patrons	David Blomfield MBE Sir Donald Insall CBE Baroness Tonge of Kew	

JOIN NOW by visiting our website

You can write to us at:

The Kew Society, 25 Chelwood Gardens, Kew, TW9 4JG