

Autumn 2023



# BECKENHAM RESIDENTS

Formerly the Express Review

Copers Cope Area Residents' Association & West Beckenham Residents' Association **working for Beckenham on your behalf**



## Members' Meeting

8pm Monday 30 October, Christ Church,  
Beckenham



War Memorial by Glenys Crane

## **COPERS COPE AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (CCARA)**

Founded in 1935 CCARA covers the Copers Cope Ward including the Town Centre. CCARA organises the Market On The Green, a local community market with live entertainment, and runs Beckenham Green Friends.

Contact Details	Email: <a href="mailto:hello@coperscope.org.uk">hello@coperscope.org.uk</a> Web: <a href="http://coperscope.org.uk">coperscope.org.uk</a> Phone: 020 8058 5557 Twitter & Instagram: CCARA_Beckenham
Association Committee Members	Chair: Councillor Chloe-Jane Ross Vice-Chair: Jen McArthur Secretary: Myra Jeffreys Treasurer: Robert Jeffreys Committee: Marsha Berg, Alan Old, Dee Heatherington, Stephen Parkin

## **WEST BECKENHAM RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (WBRA)**

Founded in 1945, West Beckenham Residents' Association covers the Beckenham areas of Kelsey & Eden Park, Clock House, Penge & Cator wards.

Contact Details	Email: <a href="mailto:info@westbeckenhamra.org">info@westbeckenhamra.org</a> Web: <a href="http://westbeckenhamra.org">westbeckenhamra.org</a> Phone: 020 3732 5260
Association Committee Members	Chair: Vacant (acting chair Marie Pender) Treasurer: Stafford Bunce President Janet Ambrose Committee: Sue Woodward, Arnjali Rowe, Diana Davidson, Michael Manley, Ian Dunn, Eileen Welsh, Tom Robin.

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## FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the autumn edition of our joint newsletter, now renamed 'Beckenham Residents'. We have made the change in order to signal more clearly that the two Associations and our newsletter are about and for residents of Beckenham, and to catch the eye of casual observers in, for example, the library or shops. The new name echoes the strap line of our joint website.



**Chloe-Jane Ross**  
**Chair CCARA**



**TBC**  
**Chair WBRA**

WBRA is pleased to announce that the committee now has four new members, so hopefully WBRA will thrive into the future. At the AGM in July, Marie Pender stood down as Chair to concentrate on planning matters - it is hoped a new Chair will be in place soon.

### **Public Meeting 8pm 30 Oct 2023, Christ Church, Beckenham**

We invite members and interested residents to come to our next public meeting. This will be an opportunity to ask questions of our councillors and raise local issues.

Join us at 8pm on Monday 30 October at Christ Church on Beckenham High Street.

Best wishes

Chair, Chloe-Jane Ross (CCARA) & Acting Chair, Marie Pender (WBRA)

## **CCARA WINS FUNDING FOR AIR QUALITY MONITOR**

The Copers Cope Area Residents' Association (CCARA) was recently awarded funding for an air quality monitor for Beckenham High Street through the Breathe London Community Programme - well done to all the Committee members that worked on the application. The team are now looking for the next location for the monitor and have asked the Council for assistance.

Public awareness of air quality across London has increased a lot in the last few years, but we mostly rely on modelled data to estimate the extent of air pollution in the local area. Measuring air quality in Beckenham and making this information available to local residents, businesses and councillors will help to improve our understanding of how clean the air is, and how this varies over time.



More information will be provided in due course, once the location for the monitor has been selected.

## **SALE AGREED - BECKENHAM PUBLIC HALLS**

In the last edition of the newsletter we advised that the Council put the Beckenham Public Halls up for sale. The building, despite being in Council ownership, has been neglected for many years and had a repair bill of over £1 million.



Last month the Council agreed to sell the Public Halls to the highest bidder. We understand the new owners are proposing community use which is great news. However, once the sale goes through the Council will have no control of the Public Halls, which is a shame for what was until now a public building for the people of Beckenham.

We look forward to meeting the new owners and finding out how the building will be used.



## LIDL IN BECKENHAM IS CLOSING

Sad news - the Beckenham Lidl store will close in November. This is because Lidl's lease has come to an end and the building's owner wishes to develop the site. CCARA's Chair contacted the Lidl head office and they confirmed that all the staff will be offered jobs in other branches and that they are in active discussions with a nearby landowner to relocate the store within Beckenham.

A new development on the Lidl site will be a significant change in the Town Centre and one of our Associations will be monitoring carefully. CCARA's Chair has contacted the Council's planning department about the type of development that could take place. The Council confirmed:



- The site is suitable for redevelopment in principle.
- If a loss of retail was proposed this would need to be justified in line with policy requirements, particularly policies 94 and 99 of the adopted Local Plan.
- As the High Street entrance area is within a primary shopping frontage there could be an expectation that an active retail use was retained in this location. (Our Associations do not want a break in the High Street frontage with a non-retail use.)
- It is possible to develop the car park, but this would be subject to assessment against relevant policy, including whether the loss of parking would cause any impact on the local highway and consideration of any delivery and servicing impacts. (We are not sure who owns the car park, but the Council has been asked to confirm that it does.)

We will keep residents updated. Farewell to Lidl and all its lovely staff for now.

## ULTRA LOW EMISSIONS ZONE UPDATE

On 29 August 2023 London's Ultra Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) was expanded to cover all London boroughs. It now costs £12.50 per day to drive a non-compliant vehicle in the ULEZ zone.

At the end of July, the High Court dismissed a legal challenge by five Councils, including Bromley, against the expansion of the ULEZ to outer London. They had argued that the London Mayor had failed to adequately consult, overstepped his powers and provided a flawed £110m scrappage scheme.



The High Court found that the legal basis on which the Mayor made the decision to expand the ULEZ was sound and in line with previous decisions on charging within the capital. The consultation on the scrappage scheme was “not in depth” but was “lawful”, it was said.

The ULEZ extension excludes lorries, vans or heavy vehicles over 3.5 tonnes, and minibuses or coaches over 5 tonnes. The scrappage scheme of £2000 will now be available for all people with non-compliant cars and motorcycles buying a new compliant vehicle, and increased to £7000 for vans. Charities will be able to claim £9000 for minibuses and the wheelchair adapted grant will double to £10,000. There have, however, been complaints of delays in obtaining the money.

The ULEZ aims to reduce harmful air pollution on our streets and public spaces. Air pollution from motor vehicles has two main sources: exhaust emissions and particulate matter from brakes, tyres and the road surface. Air pollution is the largest environmental risk to public health in the UK, and has been linked to an increased likelihood of heart disease, stroke, asthma, lung cancer, dementia and cognitive impairment.


## CROYDON ROAD RECREATION GROUND BANDSTAND

Restoration work is underway at last on our precious Victorian bandstand in Croydon Road Rec. Restoration works started in July 2023 and are due to be completed this year in December 2023. Naturally the bandstand is closed during the works.



The current plans for the bandstand include:

- refurbishment of all areas, including the intricate ironwork and perimeter fencing
- improved landscaping, including a Bandstand Brick pathway which features personalised bricks purchased by individuals, families, groups, organisations and businesses
- improvements to the roof material to aid the dispersal of rainwater, with the inclusion of sympathetic rainwater goods
- security measures, including lighting, which could also be used for performances.



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Saturday 2 December 2023, 7pm

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See [www.beckenhamchorale.org.uk](http://www.beckenhamchorale.org.uk)  
for further information and booking details



## LOCAL POLICE SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD PANEL

### **A message from Luke Baldock, the newly appointed Superintendent dedicated to Bromley Neighbourhood Policing**

I want to take the opportunity to introduce myself to Beckenham Town and Copers Cope and West Beckenham residents as the Superintendent for Bromley Neighbourhood Policing. I have been in this role since March this year and have a varied background in policing including firearms command, specialist public order, the City of London Police, along with local policing at Croydon and Lambeth Boroughs.



I am passionate about neighbourhood policing having held several roles across my career. My ethos is one of “Public First.” I feel that sometimes in policing in recent times we have lost sight of this, and it is something I am determined to restore. I have many fantastic teams working here at Bromley trying to do just that, and it is my job to set them up and succeed in delivering quality neighbourhood policing.

As I write this, I am planning a visit on 7 November to your local team on your Ward along with Marsha Berg (CCARA Committee), the Ward Panel Chair, where I can listen to issues that affect the people of Beckenham and Copers Cope. My aim is to listen to what communities tell us, and respond to what matters to them. We will not be imposing “top down” priorities and will start to put our main focus on what you tell us.

I will personally work with teams to support them in doing this. I am working towards an approach where we focus on problems, this could be crime, anti-social behaviour or something else that you tell us matters. We will then try to identify the root causes of this problem and work together with partners and the community to solve it together. It won't always be

easy, and can't always be quick, but is an approach I am determined we will deliver.

I look forward to working with you all, and please say hello if you see me on the Ward!

Luke Baldock, Superintendent  
Bromley Neighbourhood Policing

## COMMUNITY TOILETS IN BECKENHAM

Back in 2011, Bromley Council began a process of closing the public toilets they operated and starting a scheme of "Community Toilets", where local businesses, particularly coffee shops and restaurants, would be paid a small sum each year to allow non-customers to use their facilities.

Beckenham's Public Toilet (located at Thornton's Corner) was closed and put up for sale in 2015, despite local objection. It was locked up and unused for many years until in 2022 it was converted into a Daisy Grey café.

In Beckenham, we previously had eight community toilets in the High Street. Two of these, Waitrose and Sainsbury's, were part of the London Mayor's scheme. Over the years a number of locations stopped participating in the Council's Community Toilet Scheme, and since COVID only Waitrose and Deli Nene in the High Street are left, though we understand that it is still possible to use those in the Odeon Cinema. Other public



### FORMER PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Freehold Interest For Sale  
High Street, BECKENHAM, BR3



- Within a busy and popular High Street setting
- Freehold for sale by informal tender
- Viewings on 2<sup>nd</sup> October (AM) and 7<sup>th</sup> October (PM)
- Closing date 21<sup>st</sup> October 2015



toilets are available in Kelsey Park and Croydon Road Recreation Ground, but these are really not “convenient” for High Street shoppers. The Spa and Beckenham Public Halls were on the original list, but they seem to have disappeared, and of course, the Public Halls are being sold.

Bromley Federation of Residents’ Associations reports that there is a similar situation across the Borough. CCARA Chair Chloe Ross has raised the issue with the Council. It is essential that publicly accessible toilets are conveniently available for people in our town centres and parks - not having them can deter some people from venturing out for fear of being caught short.

## **CONTROVERSIAL CYCLE PATH IN LENNARD ROAD**

A cycle lane in Lennard Road is the subject of ongoing complaints from residents who say it is too short to be of use, is full of rubbish and is causing traffic jams because the road narrows to accommodate it.

Ardent cyclists in the area are equally dismayed by this lane, which, as one said, requires cyclists heading west on Lennard Road to stop, turn left onto Aldersmead Road, stop, cross Aldersmead Road, turn right onto the pavement, turn left onto Lennard pavement again, and finally rejoin the main road. It does not conform to TfL’s London Design Standards.



Bromley Council have said that recent visits show that it is popular with “a lot of cyclists” on the Pool River path and that “it takes time for users to get used to changes”. They will continue to monitor the scheme, and have introduced more parking restrictions and yellow lines.

## DOG CONTROL IN LOCAL PARKS

A new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for dogs is now in place following consultation, requiring dogs to be on leads on roads and pavements across the borough, with dogs excluded from certain restricted areas such as parks, open spaces and sports areas.

Owners are required to

- remove dog faeces
- comply with a direction to put and keep their dog on a lead
- not permit the dog to enter specified areas in the restricted areas
- keep the dog on a lead in a list of public highways, cafés and outdoor seating, cemeteries, allotments and nature reserves
- have a licence to take four dogs into a restricted area, and four dogs will be maximum allowed.

Anyone in charge of a dog in a restricted area will be guilty of an offence if their dog is not kept under proper control.

There should be clear signage in the relevant restricted areas and a full list can be found on the Council's website at:

[www.bromley.gov.uk/DogControl](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/DogControl)

## RECYCLING AND WASTE COLLECTION SURVEY - have your say by 24 October

Bromley Council is undertaking an annual residents' satisfaction survey for recycling and waste collections. These surveys give the Council and its service partner Veolia valuable insights into the ongoing waste collection services the Council provides to all areas of the borough.



The online survey is open from 27 September to 24 October 2023 at:

[www.bromley.gov.uk/HouseholdWasteSurvey](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/HouseholdWasteSurvey)

## STREET CLEANING SURVEY - have your say by 24 October

Bromley Council is also undertaking an annual residents' satisfaction survey for street cleansing so residents can give the Council and its service partner Veolia their thoughts about the cleanliness of the borough's streets.



The online survey is open from 27 September to 24 October 2023 at:

[www.bromley.gov.uk/StreetCleansingSurvey](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/StreetCleansingSurvey)

## TENANCY STRATEGY CONSULTATION - have your say by 27 November

The Council's consultation about a Tenancy Strategy which sets out how social housing tenants can expect to be treated by their landlords, is underway. The Council will be contacting social housing providers for their view directly, and tenants of social housing are encouraged to respond to the online consultation at:

[www.bromley.gov.uk/news/article/578/tenancy-strategy-consultation-underway](http://www.bromley.gov.uk/news/article/578/tenancy-strategy-consultation-underway)

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## WONDERFUL NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF KELSEY PARK

For 20+ years, we have fought to have our lakes dredged. Man-made in the 19th century, a silt trap, to be cleared every 3 – 5 was incorporated. Alas, this clearing has been erratic and wildfowl are paddling, not swimming! More serious is the very real risk of floods (as in 1968/9).



Bromley Council have instigated the desilting, and we await its commencement.

Our footbridge linking the non-dog side of the Park with the dog side, café and toilets has become unsafe and was closed. After much persuasion we are proud to say that its replacement will also commence soon.

We bid for up to £20,000 from the LBB late Queen's Jubilee Fund for a community project and were allocated the whole sum. FoKP has added more.

I am delighted to say we will be creating a community garden in the yard behind the Information Centre, for old and young, able-bodied and those with disabilities. Our wish is that it will combat loneliness. We intend to

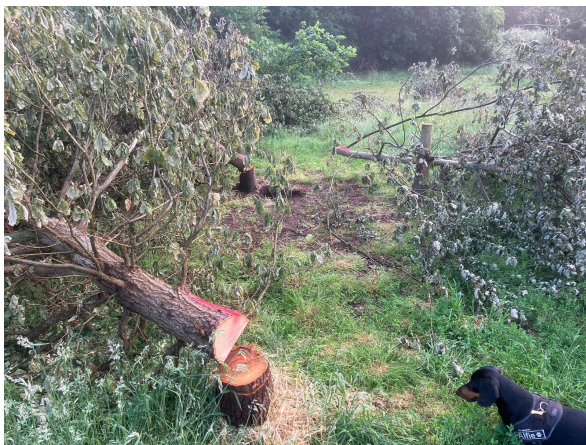
include school groups and hope that gardening will prove a healthy activity so children can learn how food grows, with raised beds, and a sensory bed.

Anyone who would like to help us supervise the garden, donate tools or seeds, seedlings and plants, or do garden work in it, will be most welcome.

By: Wendy Hardy, Chair, Friends of Kelsey Park.

## **TINY FOREST FOR CATOR PARK**

Many residents will be aware of the shocking illegal tree felling that occurred on privately owned land next to Cator Park in August 2023. Over 130 trees under a Tree Protection Order were 'massacred'. Some of the trees were over 25 years old and the woodland was a haven for wildlife including bats, woodpeckers and owls.



The landowner was arrested and the investigation is still ongoing. The landowner has been advised that Section 206 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 places a duty on the owner of the land to plant the same number of new trees in such places as may be designated by the Council as the local planning authority.

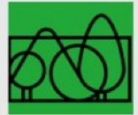
While the legal side is being resolved the Friends of Cator Park have started to crowdfund to plant a Tiny Forest inside Cator Park. Our Associations are proud to have contributed to this wonderful scheme. Every penny donated is match-funded by other organisations across the UK. You can donate at:

[www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/tiny-forest-for-cator-park](http://www.avivacommunityfund.co.uk/p/tiny-forest-for-cator-park)



# Cator Park Tiny Forest

## Fundraising campaign



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## BECKENHAM BUSINESS ASSOCIATION UPDATE

### Visit Beckenham Business Day to Fast Forward your business!

Beckenham businesses are invited to Beckenham Business Day on 1 November 2023 at Azelia Hall in Croydon Road, from 10am-5pm. Organised by Beckenham Business Association this year's one-day conference is themed 'Fast Forward' and is aimed at helping businesses grow, develop and connect.



You'll hear from a programme of speakers, workshop hosts and exhibitors, all of whom will help you build a strong network and support system, and give you tools to adapt to the pace of change. Plus there'll be plenty of networking! **Find out more and get tickets:**  
**[beckenham-business-day-2023.eventbrite.co.uk](https://beckenham-business-day-2023.eventbrite.co.uk)**

## COMMUNITY ENERGY IN BECKENHAM

The South East London Community Energy (Selce) Company is an award-winning society for community benefit.



**SOUTH EAST LONDON  
COMMUNITY ENERGY**

It provides advice on the cost of energy, help for home-owners to retrofit their properties and funds solar panels on community buildings.

Selce was established in 2014 by members of the public who were interested in climate change issues. It has grown from 1.5 staff in 2014 to currently over 30 staff. They receive grants from central government and the London Mayor's office.

Selce runs a number of initiatives:

- Telephone advice on fuel poverty including home visits for vulnerable households.
- Drop-in "energy cafés" across the borough - find the calendar online.
- "Heat Doctor" services that will organise a home visit for eligible low income homeowners and private tenants who are responsible for their own boiler.

## **Contact Selce**

Get in contact with Selce and find out more about these services:

- Phone: 020 4556 5764 (option 1 for advice on energy bills).
- Email at [energy.advice@selce.org.uk](mailto:energy.advice@selce.org.uk)
- Web: [www.communitylinksbromley.org.uk](http://www.communitylinksbromley.org.uk)

## **For Bromley's Community Organisations**

Originally based in Greenwich, Selce expanded into Lewisham, and now wish to develop their services in Bromley. They want to hear from any local community organisation in Bromley Borough who needs help to reduce their energy bills. There is no cost to the community organisation as Selce will maintain the solar panels.

## **Solar for Beckenham Spa?**

Selce have worked up a project with Bromley Council and Mytime Active to provide solar panels at the Spa and Pavilion Leisure Centres in Beckenham and Bromley. Not only a real money saver for the running of the leisure centres, but also a green source of energy, a win-win. However, the project

has stalled in recent months. Residents can show their support for the project by enquiring with Mytime and their Councillors directly.

By

Dermott McKibbin

## WHAT'S NEW IN THE TOWN CENTRE

There has been quite a lot of change in our town centre since the last edition.



**Fireaway** pizza finally opened at 186 High Street after a long wait.

The previous Slug & Lettuce/Manor House pub transformed into **Erin's** at 150-154 High Street

Dizzy's Diner has gone from above 256 High Street - we wait to see what **Capitana** will be.

The beautiful newly opened flower shop just off High Street at **7 Village Way** makes an attractive change from more coffee shops and estate agents.



From La Rascasse to My Place, and now to the **Moon** - latest reinvention at 59-63 High Street Beckenham



New dentist in the ex-Cartridge World shop at 120 High Street promising to bring **Smiles** to Beckenham

And a fascinating innovation on Croydon Road next to the Texaco garage - a coin operated launderette.

## BECKENHAM GREEN FRIENDS UPDATE

The Beckenham Green Friends kicked off the Autumn season on Saturday 14th October with our biggest group meeting to date. With the help of our friends at Good Gym, 12 eager volunteers worked hard to prune, weed, replant and sweep! The beds have been topped with our very own compost, making use of last year's leaves and the compost bin we installed. A

rewarding achievement to reflect the hard work of the group.



There are some exciting plans ahead for The Green over the next few months as we work with idverde to start to implement small projects funded by the late Queens Platinum Jubilee fund. We hope to see the big brick tree planters replanted soon and we will be creating a new nature trail through the green too. More details will be shared when we can!

The friends will be meeting again in November so if you want to join us and help do even more, get in touch with us at [greenfriends@coperscope.org.uk](mailto:greenfriends@coperscope.org.uk)

**Not yet a member? Enjoying a complimentary copy? Please join! 20**



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## PLANNING AND LICENSING UPDATE

To find out more about a particular planning application, go to: [www.bromley.gov.uk](http://www.bromley.gov.uk) then click on search planning applications and enter the case reference in the search box.

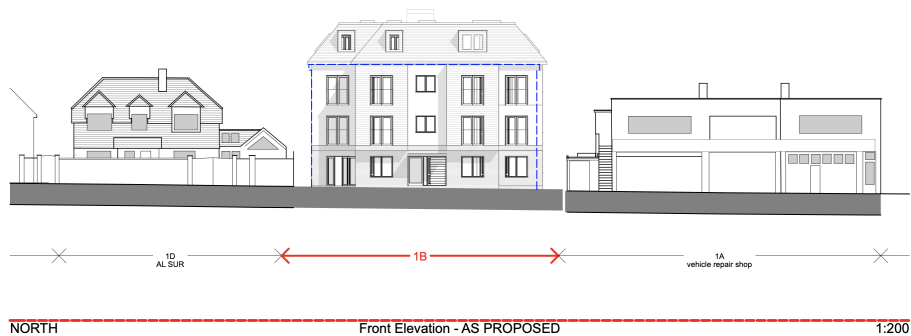
When providing comments, you must give your name and address (including postcode) otherwise your views may not be considered.

### 23/01788 Orchard Lodge, 1B Copers Cope Road BR3 1NB

An application to demolish the existing house on this site and replace it with a four-storey block of 8 flats, comprising 4 two-bed and 4 three bed units was refused by the planning department over the summer. Situated next to the old Masters Citroen garage, Orchard Lodge is one of the oldest houses remaining on Copers Cope Road, at its southern end.



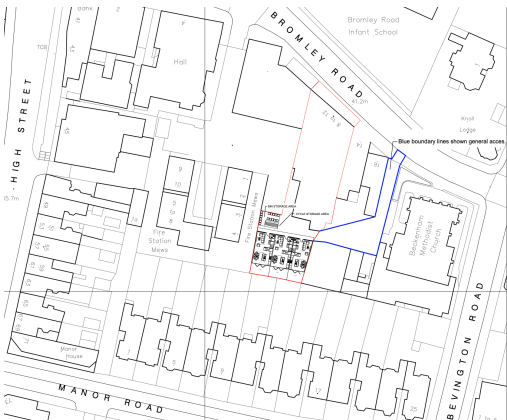
An application to demolish the house and replace it with a smaller, three-storey block of 7 flats was granted permission at appeal last year, after the Council refused the scheme.



**23/01069 Land to rear of 8-12 Bromley Road, BR3 5JE**

An application to build 3 two-storey terraced houses on this small plot of land, hemmed-in between Beckenham Methodist Church, Fire Station Mews (behind the Public Halls) and the block where Chokha restaurant used to be, has been refused planning permission. It is within the St George’s Conservation Area and sits next to the Church, which is a locally-listed building.

The proposed three-bed houses were small and had only a few square metres of outdoor space each at the rear. No parking places were provided. Access to the site is via a very narrow entrance off Bromley Road, and the route leading to it is convoluted. Space is cramped as the Church and several businesses already use the route to access their properties.



**46 Bromley Road (old Beckenham Theatre) 22/04352**

There is still no news about a proposed scheme for flats on the old Theatre site at the junction of Manor Road and Wickham Road. The Council was

due to reach a decision on the planning application by the middle of March this year. The current application is to replace the existing building with a four-storey block of 15 flats comprising 4 one-bed, 8 two-bed and 3 three-bedroom units.



### **Register heritage buildings near you**

If you have any historic or 'heritage' buildings near you that you care about, it may be worth bringing them to the attention of the Council's Conservation Officer so that everyone in the Planning Department is aware of them before a planning decision is made. It may be possible to have certain buildings 'locally-listed' which gives them some degree of protection. Email [planning@bromley.gov.uk](mailto:planning@bromley.gov.uk)

### **Telecoms mast outside Nettlestead Close, Copers Cope Road, Beckenham 23/02020/**

This application for a 15m high telecoms mast outside Nettlestead close has been refused.

### **Telecoms mast outside Holy Trinity Church, Lennard Road 23/00570**

There is no decision yet by the Planning Inspectorate on the application for a 15m high telecoms mast outside the church right next to the tower and also next to a pedestrian crossing.

## **Ironstone House (22/03930) and Marqueen House (22/0394) High Street/Burrell Row**

The application we reported on in the spring newsletter to put an additional floor on each building was refused. Applications to change the existing metal framed windows have been approved.

## **Ex-Masters Showroom at 150-164 Upper Elmers End Road 22/01173**

It now appears that this plot will not be a B&Q after all, but a Pets At Home site. The ex-Masters Showroom at 487 Elmer End Road has permission for a change to Enterprise Car Rentals.

## **St John's Coptic Church Dunbar Avenue 23/01381**

The application to change the use from Church to nursery for 108 children has been approved. Its use is restricted to children's day nursery, and hours of operation are Monday to Friday 7am to 7pm. We hope this will substantially cut the noise disturbance to local residents.

## **Car Wash at The Spa 23/03526**

Residents in Chaffinch Road are being subjected to noise from the car wash just over the rail tracks, from 9am to 7pm seven days a week. The car wash has been operating along the boundary with the railway line in The Spa car park for some time. The operators were refused retrospective planning permission in March 2022, and their appeal failed in January. Residents have been plagued by the noise of the machinery, music and shouting, day in and day out.

WBRA contacted Bromley's planning enforcement team, and enforcement action was started but a new application has been made. This application merely proposes part enclosure of the vacuum and jet wash machinery. Noise monitoring equipment in the houses led to a noise abatement notice, which has not been complied with. Residents have suffered several months of constant noise while all this was going on, some trying to work at home. The new residents of Registry Heights would also suffer this noise.



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Information about how to join either the Copers Cope Area Residents' Association (CCARA) or West Beckenham Residents' Association (WBRA) can be found below. As a member you will receive up to three editions of the Beckenham Residents Newsletter a year.

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**West Beckenham Residents' Association Joining Instructions**

West Beckenham Residents' Association covers the Beckenham parts of Clock House, Kelsey & Eden Park and Penge & Cator wards. The annual subscription per household is £5 or £2 for the unwaged.

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