

CRICKLEWOOD

Cricklewood Improvement Programme – The Town Team

ANNUAL REPORT

APRIL 2017 TO MARCH 2018

The Town Team volunteers continue to work hard to keep on top of the issues for residents and business in Cricklewood. The Cricklewood Christmas Lights Switch-On in December attracted an enthusiastic response in the cold.

The Town Team are particularly pleased at recent developments which includes, with sustained effort from NorthWestTwo and the Grove Resident's Associations, achieving the Green Space in Cricklewood Lane being listed by LB Barnet as an Asset of Community Value. As a result, the Town Team are planning a Cricklewood Festival on 23rd June on Cricklewood Green with local artist Alistair Lambert's vision of a rural Cricklewood with his sculptured sheep grazing on the Green. We are working with local businesses to gain their support of this vision with their contribution towards the sheep and flowering arches; we are aiming for a flock of sheep grazing there as a permanent feature, which will be child-friendly.

Key issues currently engaging the team are:

- Planning – ensuring that the voice of local people and their concerns are heard by the three London Boroughs in relation to the effects for residents and businesses from the challenges of the Brent Cross re-development. The disappointment about the aggregate super-hub, which will see a significant increase in HGV movements on Cricklewood Broadway as well as dust, traffic and noise, will ensure that the Town Team and Residents Associations work together to monitor these effects locally in addition to the waste transfer station beside the A5. We are pleased to be supported by local councillors on this particular issue.
- The work on Cricklewood Lane/The Broadway is starting within the next few months, and we await further details of the disruption that will be created, whilst recognising many of the benefits that will result, including a pedestrian crossing required for the safety of pedestrians. We will also need to keep abreast of any amendments to the plan so that we are consulted at an early stage by Borough Planning Departments.
- Following very concerning issues relating to the unpleasant use of a BT phone box in the area, Brent Council and BT management have agreed to the removal of most of the phone boxes in the Cricklewood area and the Town Team really appreciate Cllr Colacicco's support with this issue. Effort continues to ensure that all phone boxes are kept clean and fit for purpose
- L B Barnet are leading on the Legible London signs for Cricklewood and working with TfL to achieve this result.
- Cricklewood Business Association's relaunch has energised some of the businesses and it is hoped that this will encourage more businesses to join with the aim of achieving a more positive experience on the Broadway area.
- The Town Team are working with local councillors across the three boroughs with the Broadway shopfront clean-up initiative over the year. We are encouraged by the concerted involvement of our local councillors with this project which includes proposals for cleaning and improving

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shopfronts. Some businesses have now carried out refurbishments, including William Hill and Paddy Power; we hope that other business that rely on the local community will join in this effort.

- The Town Team are in dialogue with PrimeSight, Clear Channel and Network Rail regarding advertising hoardings and issues with leaking bridge in Cricklewood Lane which has blown the tunnel lights and causing water staining on the commissioned Cricklewood sign.
- Cricklewood Town Centre continues to host visiting markets, like the French Market, and while the current market is small it is a perfect incubator for a developing business as proved by the Cricklewood Coffee shop now with a licence to trade at the station.
- The Cricklewood Community gardeners are progressing with their gardening on either side of the Train line and pleased with the feedback from local people. The Swan sculptures on the Hill have provided positive impact to this space.
- The partnership with the Station/Govia Trains continues to bring benefits to the community including supporting Hampstead School's Art Department on a project for the platform at Cricklewood Station. The welcome signs in 32 languages made by Our Lady of Grace School for the Summer Festival are very well received. The CEO of Thameslink hosted a visit by the Chair of London TravelWatch at Cricklewood Station to showcase the improvements and success of the "Adopt A Station" partnership with the Town Team. This partnership with the Station achieved the 2017 Community Award at the QuEST for Success (Govia award for best community station on the Great Northern and Thameslink routes).
- The Town Centre now boasts an array of artwork by Cricklewood artists and recent ones include the 120ft "Cricklewood Selfie" mural of residents' silhouettes in Sylvan Grove and the "Cool Cats" artwork has transformed a corner of Ashford Road
- The Generations of Learning project based at Ashford Place and funded by the Historic Lottery Fund is developing an oral history programme to uncover the migration stories of the Pakistani and Irish communities from their arrival in Cricklewood. This project will be of great benefit particularly to younger members of the community to learn of the stories of the older population.
- Councillors for Brent, Barnet and Camden continue to provide active support for the Town Team particularly for local initiatives and issues.