

Devious Mount Park Road developers ...continued

CERA and over 75 residents have already objected to these new plans, which the developer incorrectly says are inspired by the Arts and Crafts movement and will 'enhance and positively

contribute to the conservation area and streetscape'!

Details are available on the Ealing Planning portal: pam.ealing.gov.uk. Ref 182928FUL



Proposed new block of flats on Mount Park Road, towering over existing flats and houses.

Improving our streetscape

Over the last few years CERA has been working with local councillors to refurbish original cast-iron street nameplates and to install reproduction plates where these were missing. In the last year we have had plates replaced on Eaton Rise, Castlebar Road, Gordon Road, Carlton Road, Blakesley Avenue, Marchwood Crescent and Charlbury Grove. In the next year we hope to extend this to include roads north and south of

Gordon Road. These plates are being mounted on walls, as they were originally. This means that superfluous posts are being removed, further improving our streetscape.

We would also like further improvements to reduce the clutter in our streets. For example, we would like telecommunications cabinets, many of which are rusting and left open to the elements, to be tidied up and refurbished. Often it is the Virgin media cabinets that are dilapidated. If members spot any that need fixing, please contact Virgin on press@virginmedia.co.uk and give them details of the cabinet.

AGM

At this year's AGM on 4 October there will be two additional motions, relating to membership subscriptions, which have not increased for well over 10 years:

- those present agree to increase the annual subscriptions from £5.00 to £7.50 per household.
- those present agree that anyone who has already paid for a subscription in advance will not be charged extra as a result of these changes.



Virgin Media cabinet on Montague Road

CERA NEWS

News from Central Ealing Residents' Association

CERA hotline: 020 8997 7131 - email: info@cera.org.uk - web: cera.org.uk

Autumn 2018

Fifty years and counting

For half a century Central Ealing Residents' Association (or Cleveland and Central Ealing Residents' Association, as it was known until 1996) has been working to represent its members' views on all local issues that affect them.

Committee meeting minutes record that CERA used to have a secondary purpose, to 'provide a social framework for members' to go on outings – canal trips and visits to places such as Wisley, Leighton House, Grey's Court, Kew and Pangbourne were organised several times a year. But support for social events fell away and apart from garden parties these were abandoned in the late 1980s – as were the garden parties some years later.

In the early years a key concern was the development of Ealing Broadway Centre. CERA was one of several bodies instrumental in changing the original shopping centre plans, a long campaign that was ultimately successful in stopping the creation of a 'concrete jungle' in central Ealing.

Since then, CERA has focused on opposing the West London Tram scheme, promoting sustainable development, sponsoring public safety measures such as new pedestrian crossings, re-siting bus stops, objecting to the proliferation of licensed premises in Ealing Broadway, especially those with late licences, discouraging the paving-over of front gardens, influencing shopfront designs (particularly those in Conservation Areas and where frontages are of 'group façade value'), reducing crime by lobbying for improved street lighting, fighting post office and public toilet closures, and so on.

Major projects on which has CERA has recently tried to bring pressure to bear include the Dickens Yard and Arcadia sites, and the abuse of Haven Green – the latter eventually resulting in the creation of the Friends of Haven Green.

Whatever the future may bring, we can be pretty sure that local residents will still be in need of this ever-active and hardworking organisation, particularly now that so much of what goes on gets scant, if any, media attention.

Invitation to CERA Annual General Meeting

7.00 for 7.15pm, Thursday 4 October 2018

Church Hall, Baptist Church, Haven Green, Ealing, W5 2UP

The formal business will be followed by an audio-visual presentation from **Alan Eastwood, Senior Engineer, LB Ealing** about transport management issues in central Ealing affecting pedestrians, cyclists and motorists, plus plans for the future and their likely effect on Ealing.

There will be time for questions

Drinks & nibbles will be served

LA Confidential licence

LA Confidential is a 'sexual entertainment venue' occupying basement premises in the Ealing Broadway Shopping Centre at the northern end of the High Street. The licence holder, Club Karma, applied earlier this year for an annual renewal of the licence, the transfer of the licence to Bespoke Leisure Ltd, and to vary the licence to extend the opening time to 4.30am, lower the age of staff and customers to 18 from 21 and allow leafleting within 200 metres of the premises rather than in the general locality.

There were objections by the police, Licensing, Environmental Health, a local councillor and seven interested parties, including CERA. The police had followed up a complaint from a customer who alleged that 'customers and dancers were taking drugs and sexual acts were taking place in areas not covered by the CCTV system'.

The police and the Council examined many days of CCTV footage and two officers from the Council spent a few hours inside the premises 'checking out' the allegations. In total about 140 pages of evidence were presented at the Licensing Committee at a lengthy meeting on 21 June open to the public. The evidence showed that the CCTV coverage was grossly inadequate in extent and quality and that sexual activity, which was described in detail, occurred in certain rooms.

CERA and others objected to the renewal, extension and transfer of the licence. The Licensing Committee accepted all the objections and refused to renew, vary or transfer the licence, but considered that the present location in the High Street was an appropriate location for a sexual entertainment venue. Club Karma has a right of appeal to the magistrates' court, and this has been exercised, but it will probably be many months before the appeal is heard.



Ealing Central and Pitshanger Lane Library closures

Ealing Central Library will close from 31 August for at least six months until spring 2019. During the closure period customers will be able to return and collect pre-ordered books, and to choose from a small selection of 'quick picks' in a temporary pop-up space on the current site. Customers will still be able to use the 24/7 online resource and order books online.

A new, much smaller library will be constructed within the old library space, and a new ground- and first-floor store (probably a Decathlon sports outlet) will take over the remaining space.



Book stock will reduce from 124,000 to 35,000. Two meeting rooms will be available for study space, meetings and adult learning classes on a mezzanine floor accessed by a lift and stairs.

The Local History section is being relocated to West Ealing Library, but only a limited range of material will be available (microfilmed newspapers, electoral registers, directories and some books and maps, but not archives). Most items will need to be ordered at least a week in advance as they will be stored off-site.

Although a great deal of money will be spent on the new downsized library, it is also proposed that it will move to the new municipal building on the Perceval House site in approximately four years' time.

On top of this, Ealing's Cabinet has just announced that it will not renew the lease on the heavily used Pitshanger Lane Library when it comes up for renewal later this year. This library was last refurbished in 2014.

Devious Mount Park Road developers

It is becoming a habit for developers to gain planning permission for a set of plans, start building and then reapply for an enlarged development. This happened with the 'Filmworks' scheme, where an additional floor of apartments was proposed and waved through by the Ealing Planning Committee. Now we see the same trick being tried at Mount Park Road.

In April 2013 the Methodist Church sold the extensive Moullin House student hostel for a bargain £2.6 million to Ealing, Hammersmith & West London College, to be used as student accommodation.

By May 2014 the college had sold on the hostel to a developer, who gained planning permission to knock it down and replace it with 29 flats in this residential Conservation Area.

Now that development is under way the developer has submitted a revised planning application for an enlarged block with an additional floor (six floors plus two basements in total), increasing the total size by almost 30 per cent to 37 flats. This proposed building will tower over all nearby buildings, most of which are two- or three-storey houses.

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