

Cricklewood Town Team Report April 2020 to March 2021 – the Covid year.

The Town Team volunteers work in partnership with residents, business and statutory bodies to improve the environment in Cricklewood over more than ten years. But the last year has been a challenge for the voluntary and community sector with the Covid rules in place.

Brent Council were able to continue with the work on the Oaklands Pedestrianisation project which is now complete, with the trees planted. However, the Press Play activity will be installed in the autumn when the lighting will be more effective. This project was funded by NCIL, supported by Brent Council Highways and led by Udenson Caldbeck Associates and the Cricklewood Town Team. We are planning to have an official opening later in June when hopefully all Covid restrictions will have been lifted. We aim to have a regular series of events there, particularly supporting local artists and musicians. We hope that our local Mayor will be able to undertake the opening ceremony, particularly because Cllr Lia Colacicco was involved in the discussions and progress of the work.

The monitoring programme is continuing to provide useful information on the air quality on the Broadway and the first report is available on the Cricklewood website.

We are pleased that Brent has developed a good programme of tree planting for the remainder of Oaklands Road, Howard Road and Rockhall Road following the completion of the work at the top of Oaklands Road. This will continue with the work of encouraging a better environment for the people living in the area and supported by the North West Two Residents Association.

Our Partnership with GTR at Cricklewood station enabled CTT and local residents' associations to obtain funding for improved facilities at the Station. There is a stunning art installation on the approach to Platform 1 by local artist and CTT member, Alistair Lambert acknowledging the historical presence of the aeronautical industry in Cricklewood. A history project will be installed in the new passenger waiting area as soon as this has been finalised, bringing the story of Cricklewood over the past 150 years. The plan for the garden on the platform was stopped by the rail companies from a safety viewpoint. However, the wonderful repainting of Cricklewood on the railway bridge was undertaken by using that funding and a lot of hard work by North West Two RA to get all the requirements in place for the work to be undertaken safely.

CTT remains committed to making Cricklewood a vibrant and pleasant place to live but consider that the proposed Montreaux development of the B&Q site will not achieve this goal. We submitted the Team's objection to this proposed development plan because it would make Cricklewood into a high-rise annex of the Brent Cross Regeneration and deprive Cricklewood of its identity as a historic town centre location. We also advised that we would welcome discussions with the developers to work up a design that would be beneficial for both parties. <https://www.cricklewood.net/ctt-remains-committed/>

The Town Team is encouraged by Barnet Council's feasibility study into the viability of Station House. It is hoped that this will provide ideal community space and for local business development alongside a more positive approach to the station.

The TfL Legible London signposts have now been erected in Cricklewood Lane and the Broadway identifying Cricklewood as a modern urban-London area. The finger post at the exit of the station is appreciated by visitors.

The Town Team are pleased to note that Cllr Anne Clarke has been elected to the GLA; she is a hardworking local resident and will bring a perspective on Cricklewood and the surrounding area. With Cllr Clarke, Cllr Hurani on the GLA and Cllr Colaccico the Mayor of Brent and Cllr Lorna Russell Deputy Mayor of Camden, Cricklewood is well represented.

The **Cricklewood Community Library** is at its final stages of a challenging development and throughout shutdowns, local residents have worked hard to get the building ready for opening. This will be a valuable resource for the residents of Cricklewood.

<https://www.cricklewoodlibrary.org.uk/>

The excellent work done by Our Yard at **Clitterhouse Farm** exemplifies local achievement; mixing gardening and learning about nature, alongside their newly developed café and workshops, which are due to open later this year. www.clitterhouse.com

Community Action on Dementia-Brent's volunteers have worked hard throughout the lockdowns to support their clients through the challenging time. CAD-Brent successfully applied to the Alzheimer's Dementia Friendly Communities Recognition Process by meeting the standards required for the process. A major step in the aim of making Brent a Dementia Friendly Borough.

Ashford Place supported throughout the lockdowns the vulnerable and disadvantaged amongst us by providing information, advice and guidance to an increasing number of residents, some about to lose their home and job. The continuing challenging impact of Covid and austerity on individuals; with the parallel reduction in mainstream public services requires the continuing local community support of Ashford Place.