

CRICKLEWOOD

CRICKLEWOOD TOWN TEAM ANNUAL REPORT – 2023-24

Achievements over the past year.

Station garden

Considerable work has been undertaken with a makeover including soil improvements and planting spring bulbs donated by 'Bulbs for London' and 'B&Q'. The irrigation has been upgraded and the Christmas lights were enhanced for a better display with addition of snowman light feature donated by 'B&Q'. Local artist Caty Delmont created a colourful artwork backdrop to the water feature which is welcomed by many users of the station.

Thanks to funding from GTR Govia Thameslink there is an array of new plants and bulbs so the station garden will be in bloom throughout the year. We appreciate the work that the station gardening club do. They meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 3 pm at the station; all volunteers welcome.

The station entrance now has brightly coloured fencing around the revamped bin store and the longstanding water leak at the entrance was repaired.

Cricklewood Lane Market

Cricklewood market is picking up with a resurgence of interest from locals wanting to startup a business. A world food theme - Caribbean, Lebanese, Pakistani and Filipino - is emerging. More stalls are scheduled to start in March 2024.

CTT has successfully bid to Barnet Business funding to rebrand and give the market an identity as well as host an evening of music and food. This project will be delivered in the summer.

Broadway Christmas lights

Our Barnet local councillors ensured that new Christmas lights were installed on the Barnet side of the Broadway. We are in discussion with Brent to see if these can be extended to the Brent side.

Oaklands

We were unable to complete the NCIL project as the Council did not get agreement from the owners of the Post Office building to install lights but in their place a Cricklewood noticeboard and another star to recognise the name 'Smiths' Industries as a thriving local business over the past decades will be installed in April.

Eco Events

We held two successful events in May and October funded by Brent Council. The Dr Bikes repair workshops worked non-stop supporting local people's needs for repairs to their bikes and Brent Cycling added their input. We had excellent feedback and will try to hold another in the coming year.

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BWR Project

The Town Team have been involved in the Brent Women of Renown project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which through partnerships with 6 local Brent schools brought the lives of these pioneering women to their classrooms. An elders' event was held at Ashford Place and provided an opportunity to learn more of these women and have an open discussion on gender, race and diversity. The documentary film was premiered at Kiln in November to a sellout audience. All information about the project including access to the film is available at <https://cricklewood.net/brent-women-of-renown/>

Development in Cricklewood

Work has started on the Galtymore site. Rhatigan, the developers, have engaged with CTT and donated a Christmas tree which was erected in Oaklands Road. The local churches held a carol service there, sadly in the rain, like many other activities.

The plans for the Cricklewood Lane/Broadway corner have been approved and will involve single-storey retail units, seating and planting at the corner site. We hope that the red propping girders, which will remain, may look less obtrusive.

The owners of the B&Q development site have applied for a change to the approved plans, mainly relating to a new access road to the development.

There is concern in Cricklewood about the application for an adult gaming licence from Golden Slots (Southern) for the old Barclays Bank site on the corner of Chichele Road/Broadway. CTT have challenged Brent Business licencing with a formal objection, which is available to read on our website. The Cricklewood & Mapesbury SNT Ward Panel raised their concern and agreed that there was not a need for additional premises linked to gambling on the Broadway in an area of higher crime. Our Councillors will use the crime data information from the SNT to support our objection at the licence meeting on 4th April.

The **Chichele Road Pedestrian Crossing** is still an ongoing discussion between Barnet and Brent Councils and TfL. CTT and NW2 RA are ensuring there is a resolution to this issue.

Station House has been vacated and returned to Network Rail. CTT consider the feasibility study put in place by Barnet would have significant benefit to local business and we will continue to pursue the opportunity.

As ever members of CTT continue to advise the local councils of issue of anti-social behaviour, particularly graffiti, fly tipping and unusable phone boxes attracting problems.

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Ashford Place continues delivering social support services to the residents of Cricklewood and across Brent. The charity, established in 1983 has been an important partner to the Cricklewood Town Team since 2010 and indeed is grateful to local residents associations, faith groups and CTT for supporting vulnerable residents to engage with them for assistance.

April 2024