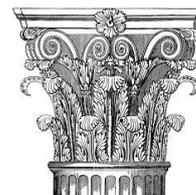


THE PEMBRIDGE ASSOCIATION

...supporting the Pembridge Conservation Area, Kensington, since 1972
www.pembridgeassociation.london | Registered Charity No 267406



December 2021

Dear Members and Friends of the Pembridge Association,

This has been a very unusual year for most of us and as is traditional at this time of year we are looking both backwards at the year that has passed and also looking forward to the future. Firstly, however, may we begin by expressing our sympathy for those of you who have been ill, suffered bereavement, have been flooded or who have found life difficult. In these challenging times we remain very grateful for your continued support for the Association which has enabled us to continue our work.

Throughout the various lockdowns and restrictions your Committee has continued to meet regularly both via Zoom or latterly in person. We have fully participated in not only the general round of planning applications for residential and commercial property within and adjacent to our Conservation Area but also an unprecedented number of RBKC consultations on issues as varied as the future of our High Streets and the Portobello markets, multiple responses to the Government's Housing Bill and various Local Plan, traffic, and parking issues. As ever, we are always pleased to have the benefit of your ideas and research to assist us and so we encourage you to keep us informed about the things which concern you or which you notice could be improved.

On this note, the latest **RBKC consultation on Al Fresco Dining concludes on 31st December** so do contact us and respond to it yourself. This proposes important changes to the way retailers and restaurants can create seated areas outside their premises, and a consultation period of only one week (with permission granted for five years). Whilst many of us enjoy the opportunity to dine outside, other residents have concerns about noise, suspension of parking bays and the effect on the streetscape especially for non-hospitality retail. The documents are quite lengthy so we recommend reading Appendix A for an overview first. See consultation details here: [A policy to support al fresco dining on streets and public spaces - Kensington and Chelsea's Consultation and Engagement Hub - Citizen Space \(rbkc.gov.uk\)](https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/citizen-space/consultation/al-fresco-dining)

July brought widespread **flooding** of both rain and sewage water to London with RBKC especially hard-hit including damage to homes and commercial property especially in Ledbury Road and Portobello Road. Thames Water have agreed to both an Independent Review and regular RBKC Scrutiny Committee sessions where residents and councillors can question them together with other interested parties including their regulator OFWAT. A number of PA members took part in the last session including your Chair and we will keep you informed of developments.

An excellent suggestion from a PA Member who experienced flooding was the need for a detailed map to be constructed showing all the properties affected, to reach a better understanding of critical factors and to assist with future flood prevention measures. Our MP Felicity Buchan has taken up the task and her team will also include data about how the FLIP system may have affected the flooding (FLIPs are small pumping units installed in private homes by Thames Water which transfer sewage and rainwater from private drains to the main sewer). You can provide vital information to assist with the map creation so please do fill in the questionnaire whether or not you were flooded: felicitybuchan.com/flood-survey

There will be a further opportunity to pose flood related questions at an **online Q&A session** on **Thursday 13th January 2022 at 6.00-7.00pm** with the Chair of the Independent Review, Mike Woolgar. The meeting will take place via Microsoft Teams. If you would like to take part or submit a question in advance, please email felicity.buchan.mp@parliament.uk including your name and post code. Please keep us informed too.

As in-person meeting restrictions lifted we were delighted to host an autumn **walk through the Pembridge Conservation Area**. Despite the freezing weather, senior staff from the RBKC's development and spatial planning teams came to discuss future developments, retail provision in Notting Hill Gate, public realm improvements and green initiatives including tree and shrub planting and improving drainage whilst walking the streets concerned. We welcome this opportunity to discuss issues "on site" where they can be seen in context and hope this will become an annual feature of our work. The walk was shared with the Chairs of our neighbouring associations in Campden Hill and Hillgate Village with whom we often work on topics affecting our joint memberships and we are grateful to them too for sharing their insights and planning expertise.

A less pleasant aspect of the streetscape and the most persistent complaint we receive from our Members concerns the proliferation of **graffiti or aerosol tagging on street furniture and commercial premises**. Those members in the Colville ward section of our Conservation Area around Portobello Road/Westbourne Grove/Notting Hill Gate sadly know all too well how quickly the damage has spread and how terribly dilapidated some walls and alleyways have become. Despite the best efforts of both Colville and Pembridge Ward Councillors even professional removal of tags whether by private contractors or RBKC led to further tagging within a depressingly short space of time.

After a series of meetings with the police, Safer Neighbourhood team, RBKC Officers in Waste Management, Ward Councillors and the Lead Members for Planning and The Brighter Borough we *finally* have a funded plan in place. In the New Year work will begin to remove tags, treat surfaces with (invisible) anti-graffiti coating, and enforce against owners of commercial property who leave tags in place in the Colville section of our Conservation Area. This will be an important trial and has involved the Council in tracking owners of buildings and legal forms of enforcement.

We are also working to improve the online system for reporting tags and the response time in removing them and hope to roll out a similar scheme within the Pembridge ward section of our area. We have received much helpful advice and

support from our Members including Joanna Gardner, Chair of the Bulmer Mews Residents' Association and the Chair of the Bayswater Residents' Association, John Zammit and great inspiration from local architect Nigel Crump. We cannot say how long it will take but we will not give up on this issue and hope to report new initiatives shortly.



Following the success of our annual Garden party in July we were hoping to announce details of our AGM which also provides us with a valuable opportunity to meet and talk directly with our Members. Depending on the fast-developing -pandemic situation we will now either proceed with arranging a local venue or again make plans for an on line meeting based on the latest government guidelines. In any event may we take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and our express our hopes that we will be able to meet again soon in the New Year.

With best wishes,

Executive Committee Pembridge Association