



GREEN LONDON

Newsletter of the London Branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England

GoParksLondon wins award and a new challenge in 2019!

We will be running a 'Walk in the Park' challenge in January to encourage people to get out and discover London's amazing 3000 parks and green spaces. This follows our 2018 GoParksLondon challenge when we urged people to visit a park they had not been to before and to post a photo of their visit which was judged one of the best digital campaigns of the year.

Could the Stag Brewery be a 'car-free' development?

A large former brewery site in Mortlake is up for redevelopment. Local residents are supportive but believe the site, wedged between the river and a railway line with road congestion already very worrying, must not bring lots of new cars to the area. To help, CPRE London organised a meeting with the Chair of the London Assembly Transport Committee Caroline Pidgeon, local residents and Councillors, to discuss the potential for a 'car free' scheme. Such development is increasingly common across London, with examples even in outer boroughs like Hounslow, as councils seek to tackle congestion and associated air pollution.



THE LONDON PLAN

THE SPATIAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR GREATER LONDON
DRAFT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION



Examining London's future: London Plan scrutiny begins in New Year

The London Plan is the single most important document affecting land use and development across the capital. The future of new housing, transport provision, the public realm and green spaces is strongly influenced by its policies.

The Mayor's new draft London Plan will be subject to a formal 'public examination' in 2019. CPRE London is set to play an important role pressing for stronger Green Belt protection and improvements to other policies, for example to provide more genuinely affordable housing. At the same time, developers and others are seeking to weaken green space protections. We need to muster all the evidence we can to resist changes to the Plan that would undermine the protection of our green spaces and efforts to make better use of brownfield land.

Space to Build in Enfield

Last year, we showed there is plenty of space to build in London while protecting our precious green spaces and retaining special buildings. Yet local campaigners are concerned that Enfield Borough Council is looking at the Green Belt for sites for new housing. So we have been mapping alternative sites which could be used to show there is no need to build on Green Belt. Enfield has some big industrial and retail sites with large areas of surface car park and one storey buildings making very poor use of land. They could easily be redeveloped to 5 or 8 storeys, doubling commercial floor space while providing residential units above.

Our Winter Appeal is seeking donations to help us defend our precious green spaces at the London Plan examination.

You can donate here: mydonate.bt.com/events/londongreen

We are grateful for any donations however small!

Film festival to celebrate Parks Friends Groups

On 25 January 2019 we are hosting a film festival at the Gallery in Cowcross Street to celebrate the work of parks friends groups in London. This is part of our ongoing collaboration with the London Friends of Green Spaces Network. Find out more here: www.bit.ly/2UgFr3L

Green Clean of the Bow Back Rivers

On a wet Sunday in September doughty volunteers from CPRE London and Friends of Bow Back Rivers joined forces to clear waterway paths of almost 60 kg of litter, including over 600 drinks containers providing valuable evidence for CPRE's national campaign for a deposit return scheme. Thanks to Newham Borough Council, Thames Water, and Poplar HARCA for their support, and the Viewtube Cafe for refreshments!



Tranquil London?

Our new campaign to promote action to improve the health benefits of green spaces is striking a chord with supportive policies in the London Environment Strategy and draft London Plan, and a new national noise action plan for large urban areas. In the New Year we hope to be able to work with partners to map tranquillity across selected London parks - so watch this space!

Thank you!

As always, we would like to thank all our members and volunteers for their continuing support.

Clearing roadside litter

Margaret Dinkeldein from the Blackheath Society reports on a success story from Greenwich:

'For thirty years I have been involved with other volunteers in clearing litter where I live. While at times I have been on the verge of applying for a Litter Abatement Order under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, the Councils concerned have generally been responsive to complaints. But a section of the A102 road from Bexley to the Blackwall Tunnel Approach has remained an absolute disgrace for many months. The verges were covered in litter and debris - shocking for a main route into London!'



'Litter clearance on the A102 is the responsibility of Greenwich Council but a Street Cleansing Manager told me that they had to use Transport for London's preferred contractors. Special permission also needed to be given by the Transport Police to cone-off sections of the road and for the work to be carried out at night. Along with health and safety concerns associated with the 50mph speed limit, I was told this meant the work could not be undertaken until the end of the year!'

'The threat of a Litter Abatement Order, and a meeting with a helpful local Councillor, persuaded them to start clearing the litter at the end of October. This has now been completed, but concerns remain about the cleaning contract which seems totally inappropriate for this type of road which was apparently last cleared of litter in July 2017! Our Councillor is now seeking reassurances that litter will be cleared more frequently, ideally by a specially trained 'in-house' team.'

(With thanks to Margaret for keeping us updated on this issue)

Find out more about our work by visiting:

www.cprelondon.org.uk - where you can sign up to receive regular updates and our bi-monthly **Green London e-Bulletin by using the join us link at the bottom right. Alternatively please email: office@cprelondon.org.uk**