

# Southgate District Civic Voice

Newsletter No. 265  
July 2023

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**AUTUMN MEETING**  
**Sat. 21st October 2023, 2.30pm**  
**at Walker Lower Hall,**  
**7 The Green, Southgate, N14**

**"WHAT HAPPENS TO LONDON'S RUBBISH?"**  
**A talk by representatives from North London Waste Authority.**

London generates millions of tons of rubbish every year. Find out what happens to that rubbish once your wheely bin is emptied and how you can help reduce it.

**Please note: Members of SDCV and guests only to this event**

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**Contributions to the October newsletter should be sent by Friday 22nd September 2023**  
to the Editor: Colin Barratt, 48 Maplin Close, Winchmore Hill, London, N21 1NB  
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Copies will be emailed, hand delivered or posted during week commencing 9th October 2023

**Southgate District Civic Voice** ~ Established to conserve and enhance the environment in Southgate, New Southgate, Cockfosters, Palmers Green, Winchmore Hill and Hadley Wood.  
(Registered as an amenity society with **Civic Voice**).

# ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

## 29<sup>th</sup> April 2023, Lower Walker Hall

### Elections to the Executive Committee 2023 / 2024

The following members were elected as officers and members of the executive committee at the AGM:

President	Vacant
Vice-President	Chris Howell
Chair	Graham Davis
Secretary	Preenal Gondhea
Treasurer	Vacant
Membership Secretary	Vacant
Newsletter Editor	Colin Barratt
Publicity Officer	Vacant

Committee Members (up to 6 members):

Eileen Bostle  
Jane Maggs  
Richard Purver  
John West

Since the AGM John West has taken over the role of Membership Secretary. However, we do not have a Treasurer, which is a problem for the running of the Society. The Executive Committee would be pleased and relieved if a member would volunteer to take on this straightforward role.

Any member interested in the role should contact the committee at [info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org](mailto:info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org)

# TALK AT AGM – “VIBRANT, HEALTHY & INCLUSIVE TOWN CENTRES”

The speaker was Andrea Bugli. He is Place Shaping Delivery Manager at Enfield Council and is currently an Associate at Public Practice and recently completed a Masters in City-making practices at CSM.

Andrea looks after five town centres in the Borough of Enfield, but his talk to us was on Southgate and Palmers Green. Among the aims is to create economic benefits for these areas. Town Centre Action Plans were published in 2022. There is a capital improvement programme, which aims to target the street scene, (re-painting, replacing and repairing). 5km of footways have also been audited.

Create Enfield – this is a public art and capacity building programme.

## **Southgate** – “A Vision for Southgate”

The team have conducted community engagement events and people’s concerns have included heavy traffic and the difficulties faced by pedestrians. It was thought there were few green spaces and public seating areas and it was an unpleasant pedestrian environment.

Under Charles Holden’s masterplan for Southgate Station the station was designed to be integrated into a broader vision and it used to be better for commuters and pedestrians. Enfield Council were trying to safeguard the experience for children, women and families.

The areas identified were: the station public realm, the Pocket Park, Ashfield Parade and Chase Side. The intention is to make incremental and tactical actions and future interventions include Ashfield Parade businesses, Chase Side businesses and St Andrew’s Church.

The Vision is to safeguard everyday experiences and rebalance public experiences. There will be public realm projects for the station and Ashfield Parade.

Southgate Station This recently marked its 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a successful celebration. It’s a Grade II\* station and an application is to be made to the Heritage Lottery Fund to improve the area of the station.

Ashfield Parade Concerns had been expressed that this was a male dominated space and was intimidating for women and families. The aim is to make it safer and greener. A business forum had been set up and businesses were involved in the 90<sup>th</sup> celebration of the station. There were challenges with a lack of trust in the council and there were limited resources. The team will be creating Community Events Guidance for small events and they hope to introduce greening and seating by July.

Pocket Park Ideas were put forward in the community engagement events for this area outside Nando’s restaurant. People felt that the history of the area was important. There are plans to have a children’s play area here, including the trunk of a fallen oak tree, as a reminder of the forest oaks of Enfield Chase. There would be history information and flower planting. These ideas were presented at the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and there was a positive response. Discussions will need to be held with Transport for London, as it is their land.

Chase Side Enfield Council wants to create connected interventions along this road.

## **Palmers Green**

Devonshire Road This had been closed at the junction with Green Lanes to create Devonshire Square. It’s been used as a children’s play area and other uses were being considered, such as markets.

Arbeit Studios They were providing space for artists and holding art events.

Andrea concluded by saying that Enfield Council was committed to improving the Southgate and Palmers Green areas.

### **Questions:-**

Andrea was asked what would be provided for older people. He said that the Council wanted to improve the area for everyone, but the priorities were for women and children, as it was not a pleasant place to visit.

How would they deal with anti-social behaviour? There were issues in Southgate and Palmers Green with men standing outside restaurants and cafes, smoking. This would be considered in the planned improvements.

Would there be other traffic-free areas? It was accepted that this would be difficult.

New cycleways were suggested and get Southgate College students involved.

Andrea was asked if printed copies of the various projects were available to view at the Civic Centre. He would check.

Andrea was asked if he was working with TfL on the station improvements. He replied that they were in regular contact.

Parking was an on-going problem in Ashfield Parade. The taxi rank is seldom used now and is used for general parking. It was thought that the public car park in Leigh Hunt Drive should be used more. Signs to this car park should be made more visible.

Andrea was thanked for his presentation and SDCV would hope to be involved in future improvements developed by the Council team.

*Colin Barratt*

## **ENFIELD'S LOCAL PLAN**

During 2022, the Council consulted on the draft Local Plan under Regulation 18. It was agreed that all the responses would be summarised and published. These are now available on the Council's website (see link). A full list of consultees is available, but individual responses are summarised in a single document. This means that the comments made by a small number of property developers to build on Green Belt land tend to be given equal weight to the large number of residents opposing the loss of open farmland and other green spaces, including land adjacent to Trent Park.

The document notes that "the responses have been analysed and used to inform the next stages of plan preparation" (Regulation 19) that will be published later this year.

In total, 7,267 written responses were received. SDCV submitted comments during the consultation period, raising concerns about the loss of Green Belt land and the lack of clarity about high rise developments at transport hubs.

The reg 18 consultation responses and consultation statement have been posted to the Council website here:

**<https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/planning/new-enfield-local-plan>**

# SDCV 60th ANNIVERSARY OAK TREE



**The plaque in position**



**Celebrating the tree after our AGM in April**

Our 60th Anniversary oak tree should have been planted last autumn, to co-inside with our celebration in October 2022, but there was a delay and Enfield Council couldn't plant it until the end of March 2023. The plaque had already been engraved, so the date was incorrect. However, the tree was an impressive specimen, about 15 feet tall and protected by a mesh fence around it. At our AGM in April some of us walked across to our new tree to celebrate its arrival.

The council had committed to watering it once or twice a week, but by the end of May the hot dry weather had affected the tree badly and it was looking shriveled. Regular watering was done by members and others to try to revive it, but it's showing no signs of life again yet. We have been advised to continue watering it through the summer and if there is still no improvement we will ask the council to replace it, which is what they promised if it failed.

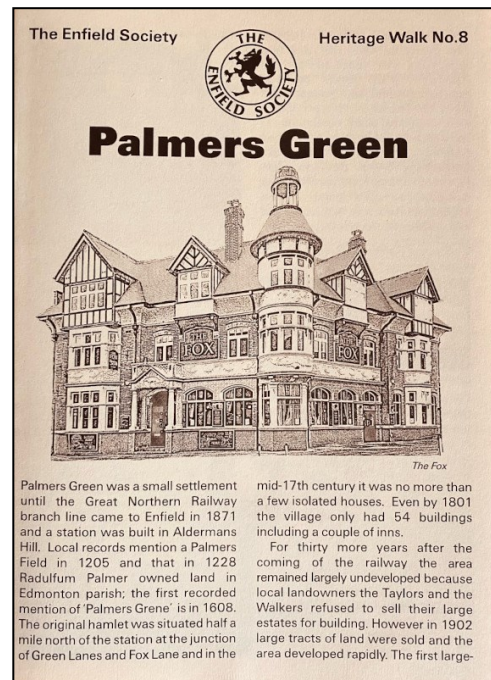


**The tree wilting in June 2023**

# ENFIELD SOCIETY HERITAGE WALK FOR PALMERS GREEN

Following the issue last year of their heritage walks for Southgate and Winchmore Hill, the Enfield Society have now published one for Palmers Green. The text, which covers nationally and locally-listed buildings, was provided by Adrian Day, who is also a member of SDCV and information about our group has again been included on the back cover. 10 pages in A5 format with fold-out map, price £2.50, available from the Enfield Society website store and their meetings and in due course at the Dugdale Arts Centre and Forty Hall shops.

*Richard Purver*



## PALMERS GREEN FESTIVAL Sunday 3rd September 2023 12pm to 5pm

The Palmers Green Festival is back! It will be held, as usual, in Broomfield Park. Enjoy the funfair, food festival, Vintage Village and more at this free event for all the family.

The Palmers Green Festival is an annual event and has been a popular one in the local calendar since its inception in 2008, drawing in between 2,500 and 5,000 attendees.

The festival is a free to enter event, developed and run entirely by experienced local organisations, including Friends of Broomfield Park, Cooking Champions, PG Vintage Flea and Starfish Loves Coffee. There will also be Biddall's Fun Fair, who will draw in lots of families.

Southgate District Civic Voice were hoping to book a stall at the festival, but all plots were taken, so we are on their waiting list. If a plot becomes available we will take it and let all our members know. If we are lucky and get a plot, we will be looking for help from members, So if you think you could help us on our stall, and tell visitors what SDCV does for our community, Get in touch by email (details on front page).

## STAN SMITH'S BENCH AT WINCHMORE HILL GREEN

Looking at some old SDCT newsletters recently I came across the front page feature in No 187 (January 2004) *In Remembrance of Stan Smith – late Vice-President* which explained that the Trust had decided to commemorate Stan's many years of service to the society by providing a seat on Winchmore Hill Green and that members who knew Stan well 'gathered on Wednesday 8th October 2003 to dedicate the seat, which is strategically placed when waiting for the W9 bus to Enfield'. A photograph shows the group including Stan's widow Mrs Betty Smith, the President – Audrey Kirby – and Peter Hodge, whose heartfelt obituary of Stan had appeared in Newsletter 183 (January 2003), detailing his 35 years of membership of the Trust, his work with the Local History Group and the Publications Sub-committee and his chairmanship in 1977-9. Betty's pen and ink sketches for the occasion of the Trust's twentieth anniversary depicting the society's varied activities was on the front page of Newsletter 100 (June 1982).



A charming note in Newsletter 189 (July 2004) in the Local History and Publicity report for that year's AGM by SDCT chairman Alison Cathcart says 'The bench now is a welcome seat to those waiting for the W9 and deemed appropriate as many have missed buses and trains stopping to chat with Stan, who always had so much of interest to say'.

Having overlooked it previously I was pleased to find the bench and its plaque in memory of Stanley Smith are still in situ nearly 20 years on and to realise that with the noticeboard across from Winchmore Hill station (funded by a bequest from Hilda Bocock and unveiled on 10 July 1999 in collaboration with Winchmore Hill Residents Association) and the plaque to the right of the station entrance commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Great Northern line to Enfield (unveiled on 10 July 2021) the name of our society (as Trust or Voice) appears three times within the small but historically significant area of the Green, as well as on the Henrietta Cresswell plaque (unveiled on 27 September 2000) further down at 16 Station Road.

*Richard Purver*

