

About the Belmont & South Cheam Residents' Association

Welcome to our Summer 2024 Newsletter which contains information about some of the major initiatives that are happening in our area. It is a taster of the information that we send to our members via our regular e-Bulletin service. This service gives our members the latest information specifically for our area on matters that include planning, environmental issues (street cleaning, trees etc.), crime updates and much more. If you find the information in this Newsletter interesting but haven't received a more comprehensive version by email, **please sign up to our e-Bulletin service** (see below) to make sure that you get all of the details and more! The Belmont & South Cheam Residents' Association is one of the largest and most active residents' associations in the London Borough of Sutton. We have been working on behalf of our members for over 50 years to consolidate our area's community spirit. We are involved with anything in our area that impacts on the quality of life enjoyed by residents. We work closely in conjunction with our Ward Councillors, we are represented on the Council's Local Committee and on the Police Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panels.

While over 2,000 households in our area are already on our email distribution list, we are aware that new residents are constantly into our area (Belmont and South Cheam) and may be missing out! Consequently we are delivering this Newsletter to ALL households in our area in the hope that anyone who does not know about the Association will join up.

In addition to our e-Bulletin service, we also have around 40 WhatsApp groups in our area that are linked together for rapid dissemination of urgent information. If you are not already a member of one of these groups and would like to join, please email me (see my address below).

If you would like to be part of our local community and join the majority of your neighbours who are already members of the Association, then please subscribe as shown below. We look forward to connecting with you during 2024!

Peter Matthey, Chairman, Belmont & South Cheam Residents' Association

Joining BSCRA or renewing your membership

If you would like to join the Association or renew your membership, the easiest way is by paying online through our secure website using a credit or debit card. Membership costs a mere £2 per annum. Just go to our website at:

www.bscra.com/subscribe.html or use the QR code here.....

Instructions on how to make your payment are shown on the web page.

Paying this way is much easier for our Road Stewards who often have difficulty finding people at home to collect cash.

If, however, you have paid your subscription but aren't receiving e-Bulletins from us, please first check your SPAM folder. If there is nothing there either, then please email

peter.matthey@bscra.com from the email address that you would like our e-Bulletins sent to and ask to be added to our distribution list.



Belmont Festival 2024

We are delighted to announce that the Belmont Festival is running again this year and will take place on **Sunday 7th July** from noon to 5pm. This is a very popular family fun day event that typically attracts over 4,000 visitors. What's more entry is FREE.

For more details see the Festival website at www.belmont-festival.co.uk

Please make a note in your diary now to come along on the day

London Cancer Hub Update

The Council has been trying for several years to find a partner to develop the land it acquired on the old Sutton Hospital site. At the end of 2023 it announced that it had selected a joint proposal from Aviva and Socius to purchase their land. Note that the term "London Cancer Hub" is intended to apply to the entire site, although in the documentation from Aviva and Socius, it only refers to the land coloured green.

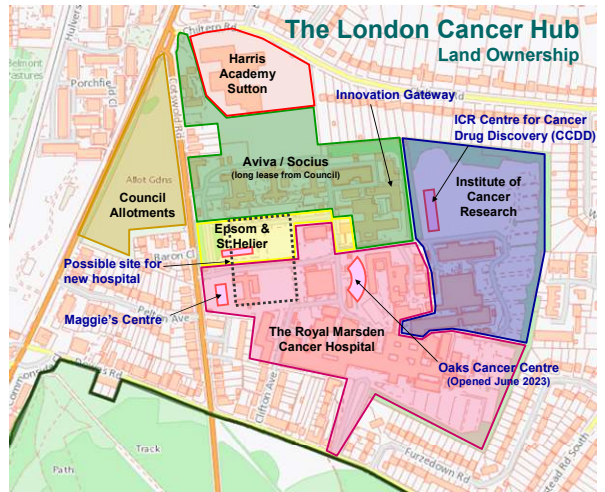
We have held several meetings with Socius and their architects and have emphasised the concerns that our members have given us, namely:

- 1. Built Form:** the height of buildings around the perimeter of the site must not be excessive.
- 2. Transport:** The roads around the site are woefully inadequate now and any increase in volumes will make these even more overloaded and dangerous. It is imperative that meaningful improvements are made to the transport infrastructure around the site which takes a holistic view of the future plans of all of the landowners on the site.
- 3. Parking:** TfL, and to a lesser extent the Council, claim that volume parking capacity onsite should not be provided as this will encourage use of personal transport (the car). TfL say that public transport will be enhanced so that staff and visitors to the site will not need to travel by personal transport. But this fails to acknowledge that a significant percentage of travel to the site will come from the south, east and west. In our view, failure to provide sufficient onsite parking would make the site less attractive to future employees and would inevitably put intolerable pressures onto on-street parking around the site.
- 4. Mixed mode usage:** We are told that the main purpose of the development is to build a world class research park. There is suggestion that retail, leisure and recreational facilities may also be offered on the site. If this is for the benefit of staff working on the site, then that would be understandable, so as to make the Hub a pleasant place to work. But we are concerned that this might be intended to attract significant numbers of non-staff visitors and this would mean yet more traffic to the site.

Despite these concerns the Association is broadly supportive of the proposed redevelopment of the site as the area has many issues today and, without outside investment, these are never going to be fixed. So far Socius seem to be making positive statements about listening to residents' concerns. It remains to be seen whether their proposals reflect these concerns!

Epsom and St Helier new Hospital for Belmont update

Plans for the proposed new hospital in Belmont have largely been on hold awaiting the outcome of the Government's Hospital 2.0 programme. This is intended to provide a standardised design for all of the planned hospitals in the Government's New Hospital Programme. This should benefit patients and staff through an optimised hospital layout, decrease the average time to build hospitals and reduce costs through economies of scale. The Hospital 2.0 Programme has now delivered sufficient guidelines which have enabled work on the new Belmont hospital to be restarted. From a recent meeting with James Blythe (Epsom & St Helier MD), we understand that preliminary designs for the new building may be available in June 2024, although work will still be needed on the supporting transport infrastructure. However, it is unlikely that the new hospital will be operational until 2030 at the earliest. And then there is the impact of a General Election!



New life-saving Defibrillator for Belmont Village

Key feedback from members during our Neighbourhood Plan workshops was the need for readily accessible defibrillators in our area.

What is a defibrillator?

A defibrillator is a device that gives a high energy shock to the heart of someone who is in cardiac arrest. Defibrillators can save lives. When someone's heart stops beating, oxygen is no longer being transported to their brain and other vital organs. Without any intervention, brain damage will start to occur within four to five minutes.



Over 30,000 people suffer annually from cardiac arrests outside of hospital and less than 1 in 10 survive. But if a defibrillator is used within one minute, survival rates can be as high as 90%.

Where is a defibrillator needed?

The area identified by members as urgently needing a defibrillator was Belmont Village. There are several defibrillators in and around Belmont and South Cheam, but most of these are in private premises (e.g. schools and clubs) and are not accessible 24/7. Your Association's Committee decided the Association would purchase a defibrillator which would be available 24/7. We enrolled on a Government scheme enabling us to buy our own defibrillator at a reduced price.

We researched several locations and, thanks to Michelle in The Good Home (and her landlord), it is now installed in the alleyway to the side of her shop. We would also like to thank Glen Watkins, MD of local electricians WatkinsCole, for installing the device at no charge. The defibrillator is now ready for use. So this has been a real community venture!

It is also a first for the Association to buy assets for the benefit of our community.

The location of all registered defibrillators in our area (and in the UK) are on the website:

www.defibfinder.uk/

How do I access the defibrillator?

The unit is secured in a locked box to prevent vandalism. You can get the combination by:

- asking one of the adjacent shopkeepers who have the combination code, or
- dialling 999 and giving the location of the unit (see the front of the box). The 999 operator can give you the code to open the box and assist you in the use of the unit.

Do I need training to use the defibrillator?

You do not need training to use a defibrillator. Once you turn the defibrillator on, it gives clear, spoken instructions and will not deliver a shock unless it is needed.

However, the most important thing if someone is unresponsive is to perform CPR.

Guidance on where to find more information on CPR and using the defibrillator can be found on the "Advice and Help" page of the BSCRA website (www.bsra.com)

Notification of Neighbour Planning Applications

The Council has made a decision that, as from 1st March 2024, it will no longer personally notify residents of planning applications for neighbouring or nearby properties. You will only be made aware of nearby planning applications by site notices erected in the street.

The Council say that it will notify neighbours of planning applications by email, but **only if you have registered with the Council's planning system** and have set up alerts. On behalf of our members we believe that this is a retrograde step which we hope can be reversed. However, we will do our best to notify members, who are on our email distribution list, of applications that might affect them using our "Planning Watch" service. So another good reason to make sure that you are on our email distribution list!

The Association's 53rd AGM - Wednesday 15th May 2024 at 8pm
St Andrew's Church, Northey Avenue, SM2 7HF

AGENDA

8.00 AGM Formalities

Annual Report by the Chairman

Balance Sheet and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2023

Elections: Officers, the Executive Committee and the Accounts Examiner

The AGM formalities are conducted according to the rules of the Association as shown on our website.

Members should take specific note of Rule 16 relating to nominations and Rule 17 on voting.

Only BSCRA members may vote in the elections.

8.30 Members' Forum

a) **London Cancer Hub - An update from Socius** (*the developer of the site*)

b) **Update on other developments in our area**

c) **Questions from Members**

9.45 Close

The AGM is only open to members of BSCRA plus invited guests.

Notes from the AGM will be available on the BSCRA website after the meeting has taken place.

BSCRA Accounts Summary - 12 months to 31 December 2023

Space does not permit us to print our full accounts for the year here, but they can be found on the BSCRA website at www.bscra.com/meetings.html

Our accounts for the year to 31st December 2023 (prior year figures in brackets) show income of £2671 (£1,563) and expenditure of £2,255 (£891) with a surplus of £416 (£672).

Our income during 2023 was a mix of online subscriptions through our website (64%) and cash received via Road Stewards (36%). We have also seen an increase in the number of members subscribing for future years with 60% of the subscription monies received being advance payments for 2024 to 2027.

Costs have increased due to us holding both online and "in person" meetings, printing costs and the purchase of the defibrillator for Belmont Village (see page 3).

Our Net Assets at 31 December 2023 were £10,183 (£9,767). In addition we have an additional £5260 received from members for subscriptions allocated to future years.

Paul Arnold, Treasurer, Belmont & South Cheam Residents' Association

BSCRA Website and Facebook

The BSCRA website (www.bscra.com) has useful information on keeping your home and car safe, scams, guidance on concerns you may have about planning applications, the history of our area, and useful links to Council services, police and other services.

Don't forget that if you want to have your say on any topic relevant to our area, you can do so on the BSCRA Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/BSCRA.UK

BSCRA Officers - Contact details

Chairman:	Peter Matthey	020 8643 0635	peter.matthey@bscra.com
Secretary:	Tony Butler	020 8642 0782	tony.butler@bscra.com
Treasurer:	Paul Arnold	07557 194103	paul.arnold@bscra.com