

A recent history of Round Hill's planning concerns 2014-15

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https://roundhill.org.uk/main?sec=community&p=London_Road_Station_a_heritage_asset

3rd March 2014 - 1st proposal for 5 residential flats: open space behind 28A Crescent Road

Cllr Amy Kennedy representing Preston Park Ward made a request for SCRUTINY INTO THE COUNCIL'S OPEN SPACES STRATEGY following the loss of three open spaces. These plots, which all provided visual and environmental benefits (the suitability for housing at the foot of a Dump or so near to a railway line was questionable) were:

1. to the rear of Princes Rd;
2. to the rear of Springfield Rd opposite plat 1 of London Rd Station;
3. to the east of Highcroft Villas

One of the questions Cllr Kennedy asked was:

Is the Council following Government Guidance on Open Space Assessment and Public Consultation?

The answer given by Brighton and Hove City Council's planning department was "yes" (as of 13 September 2010). See paragraph 4.1 at

[http://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000138/M00002364/AI00016488/\\$Item16OpenSpaces.docA.ps.pdf](http://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/Published/C00000138/M00002364/AI00016488/$Item16OpenSpaces.docA.ps.pdf)

All residents understand that government policy requires our Council to meet some very challenging housing targets as well as responding to the need for new homes.

However, if we are to have decent housing where people want to stay (as opposed to neighbourhood disputes & squabbles over parking space), we still need to give some consideration to reasonable amenity & privacy for existing households. This is the rationale for the Government's own guidance on how Councils should address developers' attempts to redevelop open spaces valued by local communities.

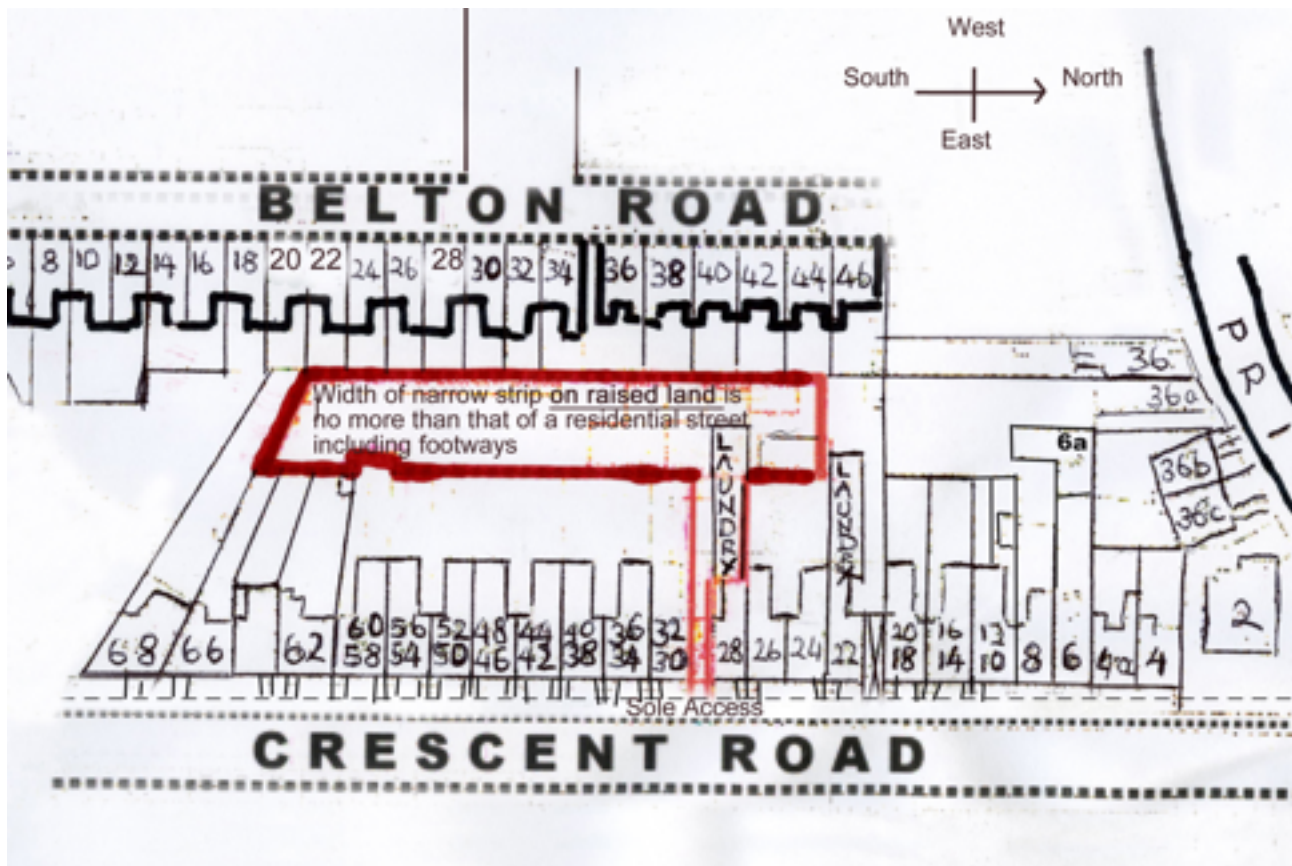


The very narrow strip of land separating the gardens to the east of Belton Road from those to the west of Crescent Road is such an open space. Change of use of the whole strip to residential is problematic. We have been told that the 5 residential flats now

under consideration (BH2014/000124) is only phase 1. However, if granted, these flats alone would mean that 9 existing households in Belton Rd and Crescent Rd would be closely overlooked.

Where there are now some modest visual and environmental benefits (e.g. a bit of green and the presence of wildlife) there would be loss of privacy with related problems such as noise & access issues, bin sites, borrowed street frontages, infrastructure etc.

The 5 flats proposed in the application (soon to be decided at planning committee) would generate a demand for 7.5 on-street parking spaces in the vicinity of Crescent Rd. If only one or two of our open spaces go the same way, parking in Round Hill in the evenings will be back to being a scramble (first come first serve). Our streets would then return to being a hunting ground for parking spaces which are unlikely to be in the vicinity of our homes. What's more, we will be paying for a residents' parking scheme which cannot deliver since there would be too many of us. This concern was voiced at The Round Hill Society's most recent AGM.



Both the view from Tenantry Down and a stroll along Belton and Crescent Roads show how densely populated our neighbourhood is already. For the planning process to be both reasonable and democratic, we need our Council to involve residents whose immediate surroundings are at risk of overdevelopment in formal open space assessment. This needs to be specific to the neighbourhood and application site under threat. The Council's so-called "Citywide" open spaces studies, which have pooled together public parks and recreation grounds, have missed out the needs of our neighbourhood altogether. Government Guidance applies to privately-owned plots as well as public parks. The guiding principle is the value of the open space to the community,

and this can only be assessed by "asking us", before we are further bombarded by development proposals. Government guidance, from which our Council needs to derive specific policies to address our neighbourhood's needs, is set out in a very easy-to-read chart at

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/7662/147486.pdf

Please have a look at it. Several local authorities have derived specific planning policies from the guidance which they still apply.

With all the current pressure to give in to city cramming in an already crammed hilly neighbourhood with finite space for parking, we need to get our own ward councillors to ask the question again:

Is the Council following Government Guidance on Open Space Assessment and Public Consultation?

Unless The Council is willing to offer formal open space assessment in relation to the narrow Crescent Rd / Belton Rd strip, we'll have to conclude that their last "yes" to Cllr Kennedy is now a "no". This may then become an issue for next year's local elections. We need to know clearly where our local representatives stand and whether they will follow up on Cllr Kennedy's inquiry.

Ted

P.S. Please go to <http://www.roundhill.org.uk> for further info including pictures of the application site.

Better still, comment online on the proposal (BH2014/000124) on Brighton and Hove City Council's website.

12th March 2014 - Carelet get permission for 6 taller houses. Tree felling on the open space between Crescent Road and Belton Road

Please go to The Round Hill Society's website

<http://www.roundhill.org.uk>

for a report on the outcome of Carelet's latest application.

10 were in favour, 1 was against, so their scheme for taller houses was approved.

I'm very sorry to hear about the trees on the open space between Crescent Road and Belton Road. I find it very unsatisfactory that permission for the felling of 4 sycamores was given without any of the immediate residents being made aware of the tree application. The Council's planning register says:

"Fell 4no Sycamores (G1). Trees have no public visibility or amenity value".

There is a clear need for The Council to consult immediate residents on the amenity value of the open space to THEM. Government guidance recognises that an open space can have environmental and visual benefits to local residents even if it is privately-owned and they cannot access it.

Residents in Princes Road were denied site-specific open space assessment in 2003 when the principle of residential development on a valued greenfield site was up for grabs. The rest is history, planning blight, degradation of the site, and a series of permissions which have not been used because the developer wants more.

10 years ago, the Carelet site to the rear of 67-81 Princes Road was a wildlife haven and there were trees on the north and east borders (also the borders of the Round Hill conservation area). Back gardens on the north side of Princes Road (from the summit of the hill eastwards) were screened by these trees from both Hollingdean Depot and the Centenary industrial estate.

Within 2004 and 2005, eight tree applications were approved. Following Carelet's site clearance on 13th June 2005, a valued open space was reduced to bare earth. Instead of looking at green boundary features, I've been looking from my back garden at the summit of the hill straight into The Centenary Industrial Estate for almost a decade. Two permissions to build (2009 & 2013) were granted, but both went unused. A third permission for even taller houses (increased bulk to save on the cost of excavating deep foundations) was granted today. It remains to be seen whether this permission will be used.

Ted

8 April 2014 - 1st Crescent Road application withdrawn when applicant expected it to be refused. 2nd application has been registered under permitted development.

Please have a look at the Home Page of The Round Hill Society's website

<http://www.roundhill.org.uk>

where you will now find several arguments why Application 2014/00841 should never have been registered by The Council under the permitted development rights for change of use from office to residential introduced by the government in May 2013.

Buildings in (A2) use (Financial and Professional Services) do not qualify for permitted development. The use of 28/28B was described as Financial and professional development (A2) in the applicant's first proposal (BH2014/00124) received by the Council on 15/01/2014, but the developer withdrew this application when they expected it to be refused.

In an attempt to exploit the loophole of permitted development, they re-labelled the description of their application (BH2014/00841) by requesting "Prior approval of change of use from offices (B1) to residential (C3) to form 5no self contained flats".

The past use of their buildings by Geo Environmental Services was (A2) as they stated correctly in their withdrawn application. As well as incorrectly describing the offices as (B1), (which you would find in a place like The Centenary Industrial Estate but not on a very narrow strip dividing residential terraces), they also omitted reference in their description to "associated alterations".

This omission could be because, regardless of permitted development, associated external physical development may still require planning permission. This would give local residents the right to comment on factors such as overdevelopment, overlooking, whether

the external alterations are in sympathy with the character and appearance of their conservation area, instead of being limited to comments on transport issues, flooding & contamination risk.

The source I have used to research this is at <http://www.shoosmiths.co.uk/client-resources/legal-updates/Office-to-residential-conversions-and-permitted-devt-rights-5989.aspx>

You will find other relevant links from the Home Page of The Round Hill Society's website.

Ted

6 June 2014 Appeal against refusal of 138-room student hostel at Richmond House dismissed by the planning inspector



Matsim's appeal against refusal of their proposed scheme for 138 student units immediately adjoining the Round Hill conservation area (and the junction of Hughes Rd with the Sainsbury supermarket service road) has been dismissed by planning inspector Sukie Tamplin.

She concluded that the proposed development would seriously harm the environment and the setting of the Round Hill Conservation Area in particular and would fail to improve the

quality of the historic environment. The inspector also found that the economic re-use of the site, or policy compliant alternatives have not been fully explored.

See https://roundhill.org.uk/main.php?sec=archives&p=Richmond_House_2014_Appeal

See <https://roundhill.org.uk/rhdecision.pdf> for Appeal Decision.

25 July 2014 - Noise and odour nuisances from Hollingdean Depot continue. Need to deal with food waste separately and to take it elsewhere

Thanks, Boo for publicising the Environment Agency's hotline at 0800 80 70 60.

They will need a political nudge as well if they are to do more than tinker with the problem as they have done since The Waste Transfer Station started operating in 2009.

We get this foul odour repeatedly in periods of hot weather from spring to summer. We are talking about badly located food waste taken from thousands of homes all over the city and beyond - a constant stream of it being processed within 100 metres of several homes.

It is important to continue lobbying our political representatives about this. Local ones such as our ward Councillors (Pete West, Ian Davey, Lizzie Dean) as well as our constituency MP Caroline Lucas, since what is being allowed to go on is very poor environmental practice and a very poor example on a wider scale than Brighton and Hove City Council.

The Environment Agency is a government institution and the right one to target in trying to get things changed. They licence Veolia, independently of the conditions which our Council is willing to implement.

The Council's Enforcement Officer has even proved unwilling to implement BHCC's own planning condition for Hollingdean Depot banning old-fashioned reversing alarms which subject us to loud beeping and robotic voices blurring out ATTENTION VEHICLE REVERSING while we try to relax in our homes and gardens. Council budgets are tight and there's a backlog of other enforcement cases. Breaches of their own planning conditions are therefore not picked up on.

So the best strategy is to continue to complain to The Environment Agency.

The more genuine complaints they log, the nearer we will come to revision of the terms of Veolia's licence so that the 25%-30% of food waste (currently mixed in with black bag refuse) is taken to a large-scale composting plant located elsewhere. Much of the clean 70% of black bag refuse could be recycled, but this is unlikely to happen once it has been mixed in with food waste. The recycling levels in Brighton and Hove are embarrassingly low for a city where there are so many groups and individuals with environmental concerns. A total review of permitted waste management policies is needed with new rules and conditions set by government as well as local authorities.

Ted

30 September 2014 - Publicity for AGM including suggestions on issues residents may want to discuss.

The Round Hill Society, founded in late 1999 so now nearly 15 years old, is our local residents' association. Our printed newsletter, The Round Hill Reporter, was first put through letterboxes in February 2000.

The Downs Infants School on Ditchling Road will host our next AGM, starting at 7pm on Wed 1st October 2014 and all finished by 9pm. All welcome. It would be pleasing to see a good turnout of Round Hill residents.

5 good reasons to be there on Wed 1 October:

- simply get to know a few neighbours, especially if you are new to the area. Nobody will press you to do any more, unless you want to. Neighbourliness is a complete reason for attending.
- Find out what existing members of the committee do. Sample the issues we have addressed this year and voice your own questions & concerns. Your feedback is useful and residents will be present who can address the following issues:

- - A Playsafe/picnic
 - B Richmond House
 - C Seasonal singing
 - D Rubbish issues and tidy-up activity
 - E Waste Transfer Station
 - F Planters and Bike racks
 - G Reporter and website
 - H Crescent Rd and Belton Rd backland
 - I Lampposts
 - J Policing

- Residents do not have to be committee members to help as and when they have time. The Round Hill Society is considering the formation of sub-groups (e.g. for areas A. to J.) so that those wishing to get involved can pinpoint what they are interested in doing &/or learning about. We welcome suggestions of areas of activity (e.g. gardening group, swimmers' group, walkers' / cyclists' group, coffee mornings by street for a particular age or focus group) which our residents' association has yet to try. There are also tried ideas (reading group, local history group) which some in Round Hill may wish to duplicate or revive.
- consider standing for a position on the committee. There will be a vacancy or two, so it need not be competitive. Just contact the Chair or Secretary if you are interested. Our committee meetings are usually held monthly. Interested in gaining practice at charring meetings, representing Round Hill on Brighton and Hove City Council's Conservation Advisory Group / Neighbourhood Planning / getting to know local government, newsletter production, authoring a community website? New committee members often like to start off "without portfolio", but members with established roles welcome opportunities both to pass on what they have learnt and to relinquish responsibilities to others so that there can be substitutes or replacements available to keep The Round Hill Society alive in the future.
- We hope to have time for a discussion on Students in the Community, so it will be good if both students and other residents attend. Mark Woolford, University of Sussex Housing Officer (private sector), will be present.

Come to hear how we have raised money and spent it in your name, and what we plan to do next year – with your support. And have a glass of wine.

26 October 2014 - sample letter of objection to proposal for 5 flats on land to the rear of 28A Crescent Road

Dear Sally,

You can add our names (Ted and Jane Power) to your detailed letter of objection. Thank you for all the useful campaign documents. There are now links to these both below and on The Round Hill Society's website at www.roundhill.org.uk

Ted

HELP NEEDED NOW!

28B Crescent Road - conversion to 5 flats?

Round Hill residents, you can help by making use of links 1, 2 & 3, (below).

Application BH2014/033343 seeks overdevelopment of a valued green space, using a loop-hole in the law to prevent reasonable comments being taken into consideration. It could be your green space next, if this one isn't - imagine the shock of having reasonable grounds for concern ruled INVALID. Please help your neighbours by acting on this injustice:

1. Crescent Road BH2014/033343 - covering letter
2. Crescent Road BH2014/033343 - sample objection
3. Crescent Road BH2014/033343 - detailed objection

[please add your signature, but post your own comment on The Council's website too so that more than ONE representation is counted!]

4th February 2015 Campaign to get London Road Station added to Brighton and Hove City Council's Heritage Assets

Dear neighbours - I've also sent this to the following representatives interested in our area:

Local residents' associations - DRARA / PRESTON PARK / ROUND HILL / SYLVAN HALL / MAYO COURT

Ward Councillors Davey, Deane and West [St Peters & North Laine] and Jones, Kennedy and Littman [Preston Park]

Member of Parliament for Brighton Pavilion Constituency - The Right Honourable Caroline Lucas, and

Roger Hinton, Chair of BHCC's Conservation Advisory Group - can be forwarded to other Group Members if deemed appropriate

[1] LONDON ROAD STATION - OPPORTUNITY TO GET IT LISTED



I am pleased that the Heritage Team has accepted my suggestion to recommend Shaftesbury Place, Brighton London Road Railway for inclusion on the local list of Heritage Assets. The Review has now got to the stage where members of the public and local representatives (e.g. residents' associations) can support successful nominations. For an overview, please see:
<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/planning/heritage/review-local-list-heritage-assets>

[2] HISTORIC STREET LIGHTS - OPPORTUNITY TO GET THEM LISTED

Although new nominations for the local list cannot be accepted at this stage, I notice that we are still invited to submit examples of letterboxes, street lighting and telephone kiosks which meet the specific criteria set out in the Council's thematic surveys on these features. The thematic survey on street lighting includes pictures / descriptions / individual locations, and is to be found at

<http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/brighton-hove.gov.uk/files/LLHA%20Street%20Lighting.pdf>

Many of the street lights in particular neighbourhoods - my own neighbourhood (Round Hill) has several historic ones with swan necks & cast iron columns - are already mentioned in the PDF document at the above link. So the main need is to comment in

support of what is already "recommended for inclusion" in the above document. If you spot important omissions, suggestions of street lights worthy of conservation can still be made to conservation@...

PLEASE COMMENT AND ENCOURAGE NEIGHBOURS TO COMMENT TO GET LONDON ROAD STATION RIGHTLY LISTED

LONDON ROAD STATION is a facility which I believe to be of conservation value to all of our neighbourhoods (especially) as well as the city and the travelling public. I like it architecturally, but I also like the openness, the long view of the listed viaduct and the short view into the tunnel, the curve of the track, the rural-feel and the unusual staggered platforms, adding to exposure to wildlife / trees / vegetation along garden boundaries. Also spectacular, is the birds-eye view of London Road Station from the top of the tunnel (opposite the BP Garage on Ditching Road) which offered special joy when steam-trains revisited London Road Station last June on the 150th anniversary of the Brighton to Seaford line. Video of this event, showing the birds-eye view, is posted at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VettHD4gdbg>

Comments should be sent to conservation@... or Heritage Team, Kings House, Grand Avenue, Hove, BN3 2LS. The deadline for comments is 15th March 2015. Any comments received will be considered in producing a final draft local list and PAN which will be reported to the council's Economic Development and Culture Committee for approval.

Comments which support what The Heritage Team has already valued about London Road Station, would probably help most of all (see Categories A, C and F - see below).

However, in view of both Brighton's railway history and the existence of a thriving community partnership [through which London Road Station now boasts a well-looked-after community garden next to Platform 1], I do feel that the reasons for listing cited by The Council's Heritage Team are incomplete. Surely B - HISTORIC AND EVIDENTIAL INTEREST and D- COMMUNAL VALUE should also be recorded if we are successful in getting London Road Station listed. Older local residents will know the role of this little station over at least 3 decades in hosting a model railway club and in allowing folk clubs in the immediate vicinity to thrive.

My original submission, making the case for listing London Road Station, is posted at

London Road Station a heritage asset
image

London Road Station a heritage asset

Asset Name: London Road Station Asset Address: Shaftesbury Place, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 4QS Asset Type (e.g. Pub/House/Public Park): Railway station.

This includes photos and covers historic & evidential interest and community value (points B and D) as well as the criteria (see points A, C, F below) which Brighton and Hove Council's Heritage Team rightly records as reasons for listing LONDON ROAD STATION.

A - ARCHITECTURE, DESIGN AND ARTISTIC INTEREST (i) a good example of a regional approach to its design, construction, planning, craftsmanship, decoration and/or materials

C - TOWNSCAPE INTEREST - (i) Within a Conservation Area, making a positive contribution to the character and appearance, but atypical in style, design and/or materials.

C - TOWNSCAPE INTEREST - (iii) Forms a visual focal point and/or landmark

F - INTACTNESS - (i) Retains a sense of completeness, in itself and/or as part of a larger group. (Note that the railway viaduct to the south-west of it is already listed). Retains the majority of its design features, such as the original windows to a building or original landscape/architectural elements within a historic park. This may represent a single phase of development or a number of historic phases of development.



Please help both by [1] commenting in support of the above, and [2] encouraging neighbours to comment on nominated places and features which make a positive contribution to our area.

Ted Power, The Round Hill Society [Conservation]
<http://www.roundhill.org.uk>

LINKS TO DRAFT LIST (recommended for inclusion) and my original submission for London Road Station):

The Council's first draft of heritage assets to INCLUDE on the revised local list is at <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/brighton-hove.gov.uk/files/LLHA%20Summary%20Draft%20Local%20List%20-%20Include.pdf>

The Council's selection criteria for heritage assets worthy of listing is given here: <http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/brighton-hove.gov.uk/files/LLHA%20Approved%20Selection%20Criteria.pdf>

My original submission to get London Road Station listed is reproduced at:

http://www.roundhill.org.uk/main.php?sec=community&p=London_Road_Station_a_heritage_asset

27th March 2015 - Richmond House proposed use as a Drug and Alcohol Recovery Centre

The Round Hill Society committee met yesterday on Thursday 26th March 2015.

We invited Wendy Turner (Deputy Director) and Peter Glass (Director of Operations) from Cranstoun (part of Pavilions Partnership) as well as Kathy Caley (Lead Commissioner for Alcohol and Substance Misuse Services) from Brighton and Hove City Council to address concerns voiced by local residents relating to the use now proposed for Richmond House.

Click here to review the concerns which The Round Hill Society forwarded to Pavilions Partnership and to see how they responded. https://roundhill.org.uk/main.php?sec=community&p=Richmond_House_Liaison_with_Cranstouns

28th March 2015 - Feedback from the meeting with Cranstoun, the organisation which proposes to run the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Centre at Richmond House.

Thank you, Carol, though I do need to make it clear that Annie collated all the questions after trying to gather as many concerns as possible from neighbours and doing her own research on what can go wrong when centres are badly managed.

The Directors from Cranstoun were given the bank of questions in advance, so if the answers have been well polished, they did have a day or two to prepare them.

They were asked many more questions at the RHS committee meeting, though this was a case of some of the same questions being rephrased and delivered orally with more fervour.

In my own view, they answered well. Their involvement in the charity clearly went beyond public relations and showed hands-on experience of operating the service. I was impressed too with the Commissioner's summary of all the services (primary as well as

secondary: referencing alcohol and substance misuse) - many which will continue to operate in our city alongside any new centre. If the Richmond House (Cranstoun) planning application is approved, I feel that our local community would have conscientious people we could liaise with.

Annie rightly observes, in reviewing the answers we have been given, that the phrase 'we have no plans to.....' occurs in several of them. The two directors were reassuring on the subjects of drug dispensing, needle-exchange, congregating in groups & anti-social behaviour at our committee meeting. However, assurances which are reasonable for immediate neighbours to request, need to be translated into planning conditions.

While planning conditions are needed, I feel that good liaison between Cranstoun and our local community is key. I know from listening to noisy reversing sirens at Hollingdean Depot that the Council can and does fail to enforce its own planning conditions, especially when a service is run to meet a local need for which the Council is mainly responsible.

Unless any resident (through googling or other methods of research) has found evidence to the contrary, I am willing to believe that the two recently refurbished buildings (iHEAR Hounslow and Iris Sandwell W Midlands), which Cranstoun offered as examples of how they operate, are well managed centres.

With the two previous applications for Richmond House - Matsim's schemes to accommodate vast numbers of pre-university students - I felt that the scale was wrong for our neighbourhood and the level of supervision proposed was inadequate.

I feel that the third scheme with Cranstoun gives us a charity with good intent and an organisation we might actually take pleasure in liaising with. Rent for the owner of Richmond House would not be obtained by cramming large numbers of students into unsuitable living conditions. We would get an improved version of the current building instead of a five-storey building (a bonanza for a much larger number of parties outside our community) towering over small houses and blocking out long views into & out of the conservation area.

My own feeling about this third application is cautiously supportive. I do not live opposite Richmond House. However, I have formed the impression that Cranstoun want good liaison and regard alertness to neighbours' concerns as part of good set-up and management practise. Their directors are likeable.

Ted

13th April 2015 Cranstoun's application for use of Richmond House as a Drug & Alcohol Recovery Centre approved.

Richmond House - new 2015 proposal
APPROVED - see The Council's decision

The approval is subject to 9 planning conditions.
Application number: BH2015/00493
Richmond House D'Aubigny Road Brighton BN2 3FT

The application is for Change of use from B1 office to Sui Generis mixed use of B1 office and D1

Non residential institution. Erection of secure and covered cycle parking area in car park. Full planning consent is sought for the change of use of the building from B1 office to Sui Generis mixed use of B1 office and D1 Non residential institution. The development would provide B1 office accommodation on the entire top floor and half of the ground floor with D1 space on the remaining half of the ground floor.

The entire site would be used by the Pavilions Partnership to deliver and manage the city's Drug and Alcohol Treatment & Recovery System.

20 June 2015 - Round Hill residents meeting with Cranstouns

https://roundhill.org.uk/main.php?sec=community&p=Richmond_House_Liaison_with_Cranstouns

In attendance: 22 Round Hill residents, our local councillor and 4 staff from the new service attended.

Wendy Taylor, Deputy Director of Operations from Cranstouns led the meeting

The above link leads to sections of notes on the meeting taken by Annie Rimington, Chair of The Round Hill Society.

Annie observes that, in spite of a decent turnout, a lot of people couldn't get to the meeting. Rather than hold another one so soon, we wondered if we could collect any questions expressing concerns not covered in Annie's notes. We could then forward them for Cranstouns to answer and then display answers (hopefully reassurances) on The Round Hill Society's website.

Our committee member's contact details are given on the back page of our printed magazine THE ROUND HILL REPORTER, so do let neighbours who don't use the Internet know that we will pass on their questions and report back to them either personally or in the next issue of our magazine.

11 September 2015 - Land to Rear of 101 Round Hill Crescent: Erection of two storey three bedroom dwelling) and alterations to boundary wall).

The application numbers link directly to the pages on the Council website where you can comment online.

Almost half the 14-metre bungaroush wall would be removed and the long public view through Woodvale and Tenantry Down to the ridge of Race Hill would be for the most part obscured: losses to all users of D'Aubigny Road.



27 September 2015 - Round Hill Society AGM. Includes long wall and Blue Plaque

Tower Room, Salvation Army Buildings, Rose Hill
(entrance about halfway down) - see google street view

Chairs welcome to residents and guests – outline of evening.

Approval of last years minutes.

Election of committee, including any nominations from floor (five executive posts and up to 8 other posts).

Future of Richmond House and Cranstouns – Wendy Taylor

Treasurer's Report – Carol Hall

Greening Round Hill and prizes presentations – Jan Curry

Playsafe report and future events – Kate Rice

Round Hill Environmental quality – Sandy Thomas

The Long Wall (bottom of Wakefield Rd) – Harry Brignull

Possible community garden space – Chris Paul. See photos of example provided by Stanford & Cleveland Community Garden

Crime summary – PCSO Bonnie Scovell

Other issues and events of last year – Rob Stephenson

Seeking the Society's approval to put forward a name to the Blue Plaque Panel.

Meeting must end by 9pm

However new you are to Round Hill, do contemplate joining us. You will meet a few more friendly neighbours immediately and may carve out a satisfying role in your new neighbourhood.

23 October 2015 - Destruction of a much valued mountain ash

[Report sent to The Round Hill Society from a resident living in Richmond Road]:

"Came home tonight to find someone has snapped and killed our lovely mountain ash tree on the corner of Richmond Road and Mayo Road...

.Incredibly sad but touched to see someone has responded already"

Responses from other residents

"from the notice on the tree trunk it looks as if it happened overnight. I was woken up by very loud shouting from somewhere in the direction of the tree (from where I live). So the damage might be connected to this. Not sure of the time but it would probably have been around 2pm."

"How horrible. If this was done during the day maybe someone saw it or saw rowdy behaviour. Worth asking neighbours via notes in doors?? This might also give an idea of when it happened. So sorry to hear this."

Ghastly news....what on earth makes people think this is acceptable or fun! I am so upset! We MUST plant another tree soonest!

<https://roundhill.org.uk/main?sec=gardens&p=Round Hill Rowan Tree 2016>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FTIKGDScnC8>

11th November 2015 - Commenting on Land to rear of 101 Roundhill Crescent



The Round Hill Society would like to thank all residents who have commented on applications RE Land to Rear of 101 Round Hill Crescent BH2015/02786 (Erection of two storey three bedroom dwelling) and BH2015/02796 (alterations to boundary wall).

Both these applications fall within the garden of a grade II listed property and would have an adverse impact on long views into & out of our conservation area resulting too in poor living accommodation for new occupants and close overlooking of neighbouring properties.

Councillors: Cattell (Chair), Gilbey (Deputy Chair), C Theobald (Group Spokesperson), Mac Cafferty (Group Spokesperson), Barradell, Bennett, Hamilton, Inkpin-Leissner, Littman, Miller, Morris and Wares. Co-opted Members: Jim Gowans (Conservation Advisory Group)

THE PLANS LIST scroll to page numbers 79-111 or enter a print range of 87-119 for hard copy.

Contact details of Planning Committee Members

Avoid bombarding them with information in the hours leading up to their meeting. Best to lobby them one week before relevant meeting. They can read representations, but they are not allowed to take sides or express a view in advance of the relevant meeting.
Decision date: Wed 18th November 2015

The outcome of these planning applications will be decided by Brighton and Hove City Council's Planning Committee on 18 Nov 2015 (meeting commencing at 2pm) on Wednesday 18th November at The Ronuk Hall, Portslade Town Hall.

This is quite a long way across our city to go for what is usually a long meeting, though residents' interest in preserving the open-feel of our densely populated conservation area would be picked up by planning committee members if there is a visible presence in the public gallery.

Comments which have already been made both objecting to the proposals and in support of them can be found on THE PLANS LIST - the very thorough document prepared by the Council's Case Officer to guide the elected Councillors who themselves decide the outcome, having taken all representations into account.

There is still time to email these members of the planning committee if you wish to reiterate arguments already in the PLANS LIST or contribute something which you feel is missing, even if it is just the personal value you attach to long views linking us to neighbouring hillsides. There has been a heritage assessment of the value of the long view (i.e. "medium"), but we live here and the democratic process allows us to "have our say" as well as heritage consultants. The PLANS LIST also addresses factors other than heritage, which you may want the elected Councillors to focus on, such as living conditions within proposed accommodation and the amenity of neighbours.

On 18th November 2015, both applications were refused.

<https://roundhill.org.uk/main?sec=planning&p=Daubigny Rd and R H Crescent Refusal>

7th December 2016 - Richmond House to re-open on 14 Dec 2015 for its new use

Richmond House is expected to open for its new purpose as a drug and alcohol recovery centre on Monday 14th December 2015.

Come and meet the team who will be running the centre on Sunday afternoon 13th December 2:30 to 4:30pm.



