**SYDENHAM HILL RIDGE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUM UPDATE 2021**

TO ALL MEMBERS, MAILING-LIST SUBSCRIBERS, AND LOCAL GROUPS:

NOVEMBER

* Liaison ongoing with Sydenham Hill Estate (Southwark side) reps to establish council intentions re building on the estate; despite council documents indicating no building is intended on SHE, Southwark council has been consulting residents re demolition for building purposes of garages (scrapped following residents’ opposition) and of bungalows; meeting to be sought with Cllr Simmons;
* SHRNF Cttee Convenor, David Begley, attended stakeholder mtg of London Wildlife Trust along with reps of Dulwich Society and Horniman Museum; DB raised tree loss in woods & neglected wildlife corridor at apex of Ridge; LWT agreed to address these issues; LWT needs more volunteers; if interested, contact DB on news.sydenhamhillridge.london@gmail.com or LWT’s (& SHNRF member) staylor@wildlondon.org.uk Sam Taylor, or see: <https://www.wildlondon.org.uk/nature-reserves/sydenham-hill-wood-and-coxs-walk>;
* SHRNF objected to planning application on 42 Peckarmans Wood seeking to double the house’s footprint (3-storey extension); application/precedent risks compromising integrity of original architectural, social, and landscape values of the estate; applicant offered no intention to analyse/assess impact of development on acute hydrography issues affecting the woods below;
* Beltwood site, Sydenham Hill: SHNRF considering objection to a retrospective application by developer attempting to rectify original planning permission approved on inaccurate plans; also considering objection to same developer’s application for further felling of mature trees on this site (part of the ancient Great North Wood); SHRNF attempting to check claim trees are diseased; a number of mature trees on this site have already been destroyed;
* **mature wych elm** ***saved*** following SHNRF representations to London Wildlife Trust; agreed alternative, tree-saving, solution to repair of ‘kissing gate’ entrance to Sydenham Hill Wood;

OCTOBER

* Hesper House (Wells Park Road, opp. the park) development proposal: SHNRF made representations at a Lewisham Council planning meeting to review an extended application by the developer to increase height and footprint of a previously approved application for a block on the site of a single house; SHRNF has submitted further questions to Council re drainage issues;
* SHRNF continues to support the Friends of Mais House in their struggle against Corporation of London’s over-scaled and inappropriate development proposals; despite a successful judicial review (ruling Lewisham had acted illegally & urging Council & applicant to work with the community re a more acceptable proposal), Lewisham Planners rushed through the self-same application which LBL again approved; following further legal advice, a second claim for judicial review has now been submitted and awaits a judicial decision re proceeding to a hearing;
* The Cedars, 34 Sydenham Hill: despite SHRNF’s and other local objections to this over-densifying development of a locally-listed building (+ loss of green space and two very mature trees), Lewisham has approved coach house demolition/conversion into 11 flats and building of 8 2-bed alms houses;

JULY-SEPTEMBER

* SHRNF Committee and Sydenham Society member, Pat Trembath, contributed an article re SHRNF and its work to the Longton Avenue Residents Association’s Newsletter; updated Syd Soc at their AGM; and contributed an article on SHRNF to Syd Soc’s Autumn/Winter Newsletter;
* Wells Park: Sydenham Wells Park Improvement Group, SHRNF reps + other local groups, met Lewisham Council and park contractor re future of park; responding to concerns re flooding and pollutants in run-off, LBL agreed to increase maintenance & introduce new wildflower/ wetland planting + swales to control flooding & filter pollutants; feasibility study starts 2022.

GENERAL

SHRNF members currently carrying out extensive research re the Neighbourhood Plan; a second community-engagement survey will follow a leafletting of the whole area (Nov/Dec), seeking to encourage locals to take part in the survey; also in pursuance of the NP, liaison ongoing with Sydenham Hill Estate to map council intentions re building on the estate (see first bullet point above).