

From the Trust Manager

The Suburb, as residents know, is a unique area. But familiarity can sometimes dull appreciation and it is easy to forget just how special the Suburb is. It is internationally renowned and represents the very best of early twentieth century English domestic architecture and landscape. It is also a delightful place to live, with a strong sense of community.

It is not just the “old” Suburb which is special, but the newer areas too. Hill Top has arguably the best views across the Suburb, especially on spring and early summer mornings. Ingram Avenue, set between Turners Wood and Hampstead Golf Club, has fine Queen Anne style houses in verdant gardens, Lytton Close packs a powerful sense of style. All the different areas of the Suburb have their special characteristics and all need protection to keep them special. For this reason the Trust is seeking residents’ support to raise the standards to which the Trust aspires: to be more effective, efficient and to communicate better with those who live in the Suburb.

Responses to Gazette No 1

Most comments on the issues raised in Gazette No 1 were connected with the proposal to raise the Management Charge. Respondents:

- believed that a flat rate charge is unfair;
- were mostly in favour of linking the Management Charge to Council Tax bands;
- felt that an increased Management Charge should go with openness and accountability to residents.

In brief - the Trust

- Safeguards the present character and appearance of the Suburb
- Decides on applications for changes to houses and landscapes
- Provides advice on the maintenance and alteration of property
- Gives technical guidance on building materials
- Provides advice on trees and changes that affect the landscape
- Checks that agreed changes conform with the approval
- Consults with Barnet, English Heritage and others to further the interests of the Suburb
- Maintains some landscaped areas, allotments, and unadopted roads
- Works for environmental improvements throughout the Suburb

The proposed area character appraisal was welcomed. I look forward to taking up the many offers by residents to help with this. The Trust is greatly encouraged by the support this project is also receiving from English Heritage and the London Borough of Barnet.

Respondents to the first issue of the Gazette generally liked its look and tone. A small minority felt strongly that the presentation should be lightened up. So, we have made substantial changes which I hope will be well received.

Meanwhile the Trust has been heartened by the voluntary assistance of a number of residents who are helping with matters including estate management, publicity, fundraising and finance. I would like to express my thanks, and those of the Trust staff and Trustees, to these residents. I hope that their faith in the importance of the Trust to the future of the Suburb will be shared by many others.

Jane Blackburn

Jane Blackburn, Trust Manager



Hill Top Maisonettes



Modernist styling in Lytton Close



Ingram Avenue