

THE TRUST

GAZETTE

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One year on...

It is almost a year since the Trust Council began a strategic review of its activities and we have made substantial progress in our efforts to strengthen the Trust.

Finances

The Trust has reviewed its financial situation. We have tightened up and re-cast our financial management and are publishing more informative accounts. The most urgent need is to stem the long term decline in the Trust's reserves. We have put the Management Charge onto a sound financial basis and continue to examine all aspects of income and expenditure.

We have identified areas in which economies are possible and are continuing to develop the longer-term

financial strategy. The Trust is studying the feasibility and fairness of applying the Management Charge using Council Tax bands and there is a report on this on page 6.

Environment and infrastructure

We have put considerable effort into considering the way in which the Trust manages its own property, identifying the most urgent works and unravelling the complex and neglected area of rights and responsibilities in relation to open spaces and roads. This is a huge area of work for the Trust.

Communication

The Gazette is a new channel of communication between residents

and the Trust. As future plans are agreed, it will settle as an annual or biannual publication. We have a Trust website, www.lhgstrust.org where all basic data can be found for those interested in engaging in informed debate about Trust issues.

These advances would not have been possible without unstinting contributions by volunteers and the Trust is greatly indebted to them. The

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A joint Trust and RA group chaired by former Trust Council chairman Eddie Caplin has been working for some years in preparation for the Suburb's centenary in

2007. It has progressed major events such as a Heritage Lottery bid for Central Square; an international conference organised by Trust Hon President Dr Mervyn Miller and the Town and Country Planning Association; the creation of a new rose, Henrietta Barnett, from Harkness; a new book on the Suburb from Mervyn Miller and a fresh perspective on the life of the Suburb's founder in a biography from Alison Creedon.

More recently the Residents Association's Celebrations committee has been working with all the many Suburb bodies, churches and the synagogue, societies and schools, to arrange a year long programme of exhibitions, parties, concerts, tournaments, a programme its chairman David Littaur says "will, I hope, involve everyone living on the Suburb, young and old, long established and new residents."

Helpers and funds needed

Many of the planned events will be self funding or sponsored but an appeal will be made in the Autumn for donations to make the party go with a swing. "We will also need a lot of volunteers to act as stewards or to help in other ways," says David who can be emailed on celebrations@hgs.org.uk