

that lots of people do walk around the Suburb; the fact that the cottages are as thoughtfully and as interestingly designed as the larger houses; the sense of community.

The retained scale of buildings, views of the Heath and from the Heath, and brilliant sightlines to views – like the kink in Meadway by Heathgate, and in Wildwood Road by Kingsley Way.

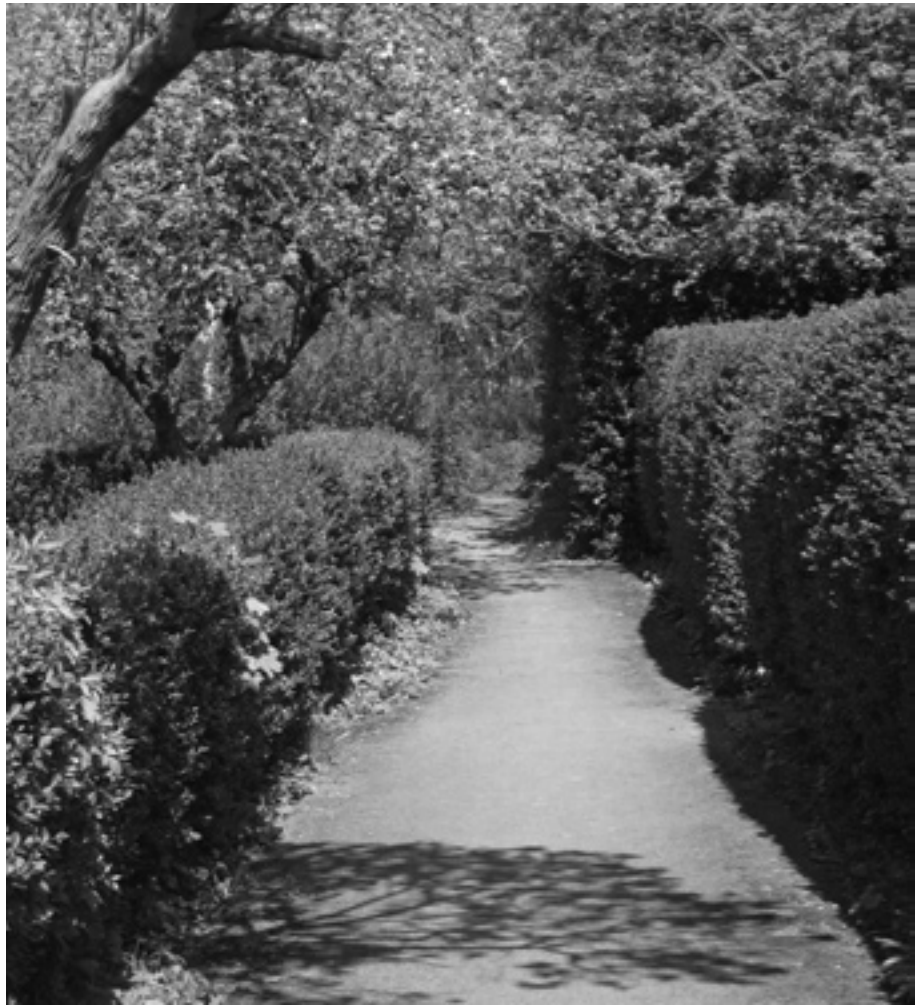
What do you think the biggest challenge to the Trust is?

Trying to keep the Trust’s voice heard and important, so that it has teeth and can act in the best interests of the Suburb. Also to retain understanding of details like windows and trees.

Pippa Stroud, Graduate Assistant at the Trust from October 07 to March 08 comments:

“I worked at the Trust for 6 months supporting Judith Chaney (volunteer Character Appraisal Coordinator) and David Davidson (Trust Architectural Advisor) on the Character Appraisal. This meant that they could concentrate on the main tasks such as final editing, while I could help liaise with volunteers.

I was surprised by the varying atmospheres of different streets in the Suburb. For example, Wildwood Road curves along an old field boundary, with views over the heath. It has large mixed hedges, and feels very rural. This is in startling contrast to the grand formality of Central Square, or the intimate homely cottages and closes in the Artisans Quarter. There is a huge diversity of design within the Suburb, though recurring principles such as the provision of green space, street trees and views help unify it all.



Twittens are an important Suburb feature

Unique Suburb features such as the ‘Twittens’ which prioritise pedestrian access routes should be celebrated. The amount of public green space is also very special – the Heath Extension, Big Wood, Little Wood, Lyttelton Playing Fields and the walk along Mutton Brook. They provide an oasis of calm, where you can take a relaxing country stroll and forget you are surrounded by busy London suburbia.

The biggest challenge to the Trust and greatest threat is probably from residents who do not fully appreciate or value the unique character of the Suburb and therefore do not take into account the management guidelines and work of the Trust.

The Suburb has and will continue to respond to changes in lifestyle, such

as the dominance of the car and climate change. However, the overall vision of charming architecture and verdant roads must not be lost.

The Character Appraisal will be an excellent basis to enable the Trust to retain its accumulated knowledge for the future so that the history, design principles and philosophy of the Suburb is not lost or disregarded.”

Councillor Andrew Harper, Chairman of the Character Appraisal Steering Committee told the Trust:

“I am full of admiration for the dedication and enthusiasm of the many volunteers, without whom this project could not be undertaken to the extent merited by our wonderful Suburb.”