

# Newsletter 82 Supplement - 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009

## Major Proposals for the Park – The Public Consultation Starts

The Gunnersbury Park Regeneration Board were last night presented with a set of proposals which would transform Gunnersbury. These were the outcomes of the “Options Appraisal” conducted by the consultancy firm Jura. They were substantially the same as the earlier reports in the press, but with a more detail in some areas, particularly the costs of the scheme. It is these which will be sent out for public consultation, leading to both Councils’ decision later in the year.

The main features of the proposal are to repair and refurbish the two Mansions, the Stables, the Temple, the Conservatory and the Potomac Tower, along with the other garden buildings, and to upgrade the landscape and gardens to match their historic status. To do this, the Large Mansion would become a restaurant and functions service, Gunnersbury Park Museum would move into the Small Mansion, the Stables would be used to store the Museum’s collections and the Conservatory would be become a Tea Room.

The money for this would come from many sources. Gunnersbury would have to be successful in getting grants of around £6.5m from English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The two Councils would have to commit a further £2m just to attract those grants. There is a possibility that the London Development Agency might contribute. The remainder would come from the development of houses in the Park along Lionel Road North, in a strip as wide as the existing houses, and flats at the southernmost end. This would lose 5.6 of the 186 acres of the Park.

The Board was presented with three other choices. One was described as “mixed use” and was more commercial (offices in the Small Mansion, holiday lets in the Stables). The Board was told that neither English Heritage or Heritage Lottery Fund were inclined to support this. Another was upgrading everything to “Destination” status, which required much greater investment than was possible at this time. The third was to do nothing, and even this had significant costs associated with it. The Board is now preparing a public consultation process, which we expect to start in two months time.

## Friends Meeting to discuss the Plan – Small Mansion Terrace Room, 6.30, Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March (light refreshments from 6.00)

We have invited Paul Jardine, of Jura Consultants, who is the main author of the plan, to meet us at 6.30 this Thursday evening (finishing by 8.00). He will describe the proposals in much greater detail than we can supply here and explain how he has arrived at these conclusions. He will also explain the work of Montague Evans, who have provided the valuations evidence, and LDN, his specialist architect advisors. We, the Friends, will be able make a preliminary judgement about the whole proposal.

Of course, we apologise for setting this up in a rush, and we appreciate that just before Easter is not the best time, but we wanted to get as much accurate and reliable information to you before all the rumours started.

You can read much more about this on the Friends web site: [www.gunnersburyfriends.org](http://www.gunnersburyfriends.org)