BROCKLEY SOCIETY

INNOVATION AND CONSERVATION

BIG CONSERVATION CONVERSATION
50 YEARS OF CONSERVATION AREAS
50 Years Ago: What Was Happening...
Fight Back to Stop *The Age Of Blindness*

**Old v Modern: Religious Debate**
- Few advocating respect for heritage working with the new

**Infuriating his Civil Servants**
- Founding of the Civic Trust in 1957
  - The pressure of people pushing policy
  - People Power – on the Streets
  - Prince Charles the first Patron of the Civic Trust

**Cross Party Working**
- Civic Amenities Act 1967 that led to conservation area designation
- Encouraged local authorities to protect land around their towns and cities by the formal designation of clearly defined green belt
Conservation Areas: **Identity and Cohesio**

These were not for the protection of the grand but of the areas in which normal people lived. Your neighbourhood heritage gives you and your neighbours common personality and identity.

“the quality of life doesn't consist only of your tax bracket, or your percentage increase in average earnings, but of the surroundings and the society in which you live, of the history which you inherit, and of the future which you create”

Mrs Thatcher: Civic Trust 30th anniversary
In 1970, the Civic Trust said, "there will be need for no more than 3000 conservation area designations"

We now have approximately 10,000
Or Has Nothing really Changed?

• ‘Planning authorities are working under very difficult conditions at the moment with recent legislation increasing workload, shortage of space and staff, and not being helped by the general effects of cutbacks in spending.’

Lord Duncan Sandys,
Civic Trust Annual Report 1969
Salami Slicing: Capacity Expertise Knowledge

- Over 500 conservation areas are “at risk”
- 33% of conservation staff have been lost from local government since 2007
  - Haringay has lost 3.5 conservation officers – 70% of capacity
- Less than 50% of conservation areas have a management plan
- And in 10 years TIME...

So nothing has changed in 50 years!
You Are THE Front Line: Civic Societies are minding the gap.

- Font of local knowledge – history, contacts, etc.
- Continuity – some members go back a long way!
- Community based-organisations - consultations
- Able to work with planners, conservation staff, developers and property owners as ‘honest brokers’
- Help with Conservation Area appraisals
- Eyes on the ground
- And Sometimes troops at the Barricades
50\textsuperscript{th} Anniversary Civic Amenities Act: Your MP

Ask Your MP:

✘ What will they do to safeguard and enhance Brockley’s conservation areas?
✘ Are conservation areas afforded enough protection?
✘ Are local authorities adequately resourced to enhance their local conservation areas?
✘ What is their vision for the future for conservation areas?
✘ Will they join the All Party Group for Civic Societies

Let’s have a Big Conservation Conversation to discuss!
50th Anniversary Civic Amenities Act

Objectives of the Big Conservation Conversation:

• to celebrate the contribution of Conservation Areas to national health and wellbeing
• to provide opportunities for civic learning about and engagement with conservation areas
• to encourage LPAs to update CA character appraisals
• to set out a positive agenda for the future of Conservation Areas
• to recruit 500 community groups to participate in the campaign (across England)
Putting Pressure where it Matters: **Don’t Hold Back**

Get your voice heard:

- News releases
- Social media
- In and Out of your MPs office
- Cause Trouble
- Join In with Civic Voice Activities
- Appoint a Brockley Historian and give them a lot of profile
- Get into schools
- Work with other NGOs – Friends of the Earth, Greenpeace, Housing Associations
No single factor will preserve Conservation Areas, it is a combination of lots of actions and pressure

But Never Forget that

People Power Matters
Now is the time to say “My Conservation Area Matters”