

THE WORKING PRACTICE OF THE CPCA PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE

The country's 8000 conservation areas are under attack. Cherished streetscapes rely on traditional forms and detail for much of their architectural impact and historic character. Yet these features are being erased as old buildings are degraded and replaced, resulting in visual catastrophe.

If you're concerned about this, the CPCA Planning Sub-Committee ('PSC') can help. We comment on local planning applications, particularly those affecting conservation areas. We strive to preserve and enhance our conservation areas, and to represent the views of all CPCA members and Crystal Palace residents.

The Local Planning Authority consults us on planning policies and applications affecting conservation areas in the adjoining boroughs of Bromley, Croydon, Lambeth, Lewisham and Southwark that comprise the area known as 'Crystal Palace'.

We also sit on a number of conservation area advisory panels, which broadens our knowledge and experience beyond Crystal Palace/Upper Norwood. We keep up to date on changes to policies and practices in planning generally, particularly in the historic environment.

PSC members are volunteers who are able or willing to do the following:

- Understand and accept the need to create, preserve and enhance conservation areas
- Learn about the area, its geography, its buildings and its history
- Visit sites, either jointly or as individuals
- Read planning and architectural drawings proficiently
- Express views rationally and coherently
- Spend time studying planning applications and researching policies
- Attend regular planning meetings as necessary

GUIDANCE

Because of the regularity of similar issues, we have a number of internal policies that we will apply when considering applications. We also prepare guidance notes to help you understand how we work. To date we have guidance on the following:

- Vertical sash sliding windows
- Residential dimensions
- Alterations and making good
- Criteria used in assessing applications
- Local listing
- Retail detail
- Why and how to get a building listed
- Conservation Areas