

## Help required to put the finishing touches to Chiswick House & Gardens' new spaces



A family enjoying a day out in the tranquility of Chiswick House and Gardens

**L**ocal people have the chance to make their mark on one of the area's most treasured places, thanks to Chiswick House & Gardens' crowdfunding appeal, launched on 26 March 2026.

By making a donation, Chiswick residents, London garden and culture lovers and supporters from further afield can help put the finishing touches to three new community spaces—as well as earning themselves one of a range of rewards, from limited edition pinbadges, seed mixes and postcards to their name on a celebratory brick or bench, or even expert advice for their own garden.

The Clore Learning Space in the Learning Hub and Foyle Learning Yard at Chiswick House & Gardens

will welcome 10 times as many schoolchildren and twice as many charity partners to the gardens, to connect with nature and learn where food comes from. The Learning Hub & Yard will be open year-round for visitors to enjoy and to hire for celebrations, meetings and classes. The Kitchen Garden Hub will provide much-needed new facilities for volunteers.

To make the new spaces ready to welcome the local community, Chiswick House & Gardens Trust is aiming to raise £165,000 through public donations. The money will pay for raised beds, planters and plants to bring the spaces to life; awnings to provide shade for school groups and visitors; and vital fixtures and

fittings including indoor and outdoor furniture, kitchen equipment and storage.

Xanthe Arvanitakis, Director at Chiswick House & Gardens Trust, says: 'We need your help to make these new spaces beautiful, welcoming and ready for everyone this summer. Your support will mean more people of all ages will have the chance to enjoy all that is special about Chiswick House & Gardens. Your generosity will help to build a future for this extraordinary place that is as inspiring as its past. Thank you.'

#### The new spaces are:

- Learning Hub with the Clore Learning Space—a new, net-carbon-

zero building designed as a flexible and practical space, it will be open year-round to support the expanding school and community programmes and to welcome people to connect, learn and celebrate

- Foyle Learning Yard—a new outdoor space for everyone, in the working heart of the estate, thoughtfully designed for learning, celebrating and watching the world go by.

- Kitchen Garden Hub—a brand new base for volunteers with a kitchen, sheltered seating area, storage, a drying room and an accessible toilet, all ensuring more people will be able to help with the everyday care of the gardens and enjoy the benefits of working together.

The development has cost £5.2million in total, supported by Hounslow Council, The National Lottery Heritage Fund, The Linbury Trust, Garfield Weston Foundation, The Wolfson Foundation, Kusuma Trust, Foyle Foundation, Clore Duffield Foundation, Mayor of London, The Headley Trust, The Swire Charitable Trust, Bernard Sunley Foundation, The Architectural Heritage Fund, Sandra Charitable Trust and many generous individuals.

The project will be completed this summer with the official opening in September.

Make a donation and secure your reward at [www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/chiswick-house-and-gardens](http://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/chiswick-house-and-gardens)

## Local News

# British Tajik Community Stands in Solidarity with Iranian Civilians Amid Escalating Violence

**The Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACAA), is an award-winning UK-based refugee charity headquartered in Hounslow and the largest charity supporting Afghan and Central Asian communities in the United Kingdom, speaking on behalf of the British Tajik (Persian-speaking) community and the wider Central Asian diaspora, expresses profound solidarity with the people of Iran amid the ongoing humanitarian crisis and escalating violence.**

ACAA recognises the profound historical, cultural and linguistic ties that connect Tajiks and Persians across borders. At moments of uncertainty and hardship, these shared bonds remind us of our collective humanity and our responsibility to stand together. These

extraordinary human losses deeply sadden the British Tajik community, whose cultural and linguistic ties with Iran remind us of the shared bonds connecting people across borders.

As Persian-speaking peoples with a shared civilisational history, Tajiks and Persians are bound together by language, culture, and centuries of common heritage. Tajiks and Persians are both Persian-speaking communities. An estimated 150,000 Tajiks (from Afghanistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan) live in the United Kingdom, forming an important part of Britain's wider Central Asian diaspora.

Many Tajiks are also experiencing hardship and repression in the region, including under the Tajik government in Tajikistan and under Taliban rule in Afghanistan, where serious concerns

about human rights and fundamental freedoms persist.

Recent reporting confirms that civilian deaths in Iran have now passed 200 in the most recent wave of conflict, as people inside the country live in fear of bombs and a tightening regime clampdown.

Amid this violence, devastating strikes have hit civilian infrastructure — including schools and hospitals. In southern Iran's Hormozgan province, a missile strike destroyed a girls' school, killing dozens of young girls and students. Reports from Iranian authorities and independent sources indicate that around 170 children were present at the time, many of them young girls whose lives were cut short in what should have been a place of learning.

Beyond the school attacks, there are credible accounts of hospitals being overwhelmed or directly affected by the ongoing violence, and health facilities struggling under catastrophic conditions as civilians seek urgent care amidst bombardments and street clashes.

These reported figures represent only a fraction of the wider human cost being documented. Independent human rights estimates suggest that thousands more civilians and protesters have been killed across Iran since late 2025, as the nationwide unrest and repression have deepened.

Commenting on the situation, Darius Nasimi, Head of Funding & Partnerships at the Afghanistan and Central Asian Association (ACAA),

said: "The British Tajik community stands in unwavering solidarity with the people of Iran. The loss of civilian life, including children, young girls, and families, is a human tragedy that transcends borders. These are not just statistics, they are real people whose lives and potential have been cut tragically short. In the face of such suffering, we call on the international community, including the UK Government, to prioritise humanitarian protection, diplomacy, and urgent life-saving support to those affected."

ACAA urges global leaders to advocate for de-escalation, the protection of civilians under international law, and unfettered humanitarian access to provide urgent medical and humanitarian relief to communities across Iran.

## 8-year-old raises £7,410 for school playground

**A primary school pupil in West London who raised £7,410 to fund new playground equipment for younger children has opened the climbing frame his fundraising made possible.**

Eight-year-old James "JC" Connor, a pupil at Our Lady & St John's Primary School in Brentford, raised the funds after hearing younger pupils say they hoped the school might one day have a better climbing frame.

JC first heard the idea while taking part in the school's School Council, where pupils share suggestions about how to improve school life.

Rather than simply raising the issue with teachers, he decided he wanted to try to make it happen.

With encouragement from teachers and family, JC organised a school raffle, donated a Disney on Ice VIP box as the prize, and launched an online fundraising campaign. Friends, parents and members of the wider community all contributed to the effort.

Together the fundraising raised enough money to fund a brand-new climbing frame for younger pupils at the school.

The total funds raised came from three initiatives organised by JC:

- School raffle (Disney on Ice box): £1,570
- Online auction (32 Auctions): £168.86 net
- JustGiving fundraising page: £5,490.61 net

The climbing frame was officially opened on Monday 16 March, with JC invited to cut the ribbon as younger pupils used the equipment for the first time.

JC said: "When I joined the School Council I heard younger children saying they wished they had a better climbing frame, so I wanted to try to help make it happen."

Mrs Kelliher, Headteacher at Our Lady & St John's Primary School, said JC's initiative had been an inspiring example for the whole school community.

"JC's fundraising is a wonderful example of how our pupils live out the values we teach in school. His kindness and determination show how even the youngest members of our community can make a real difference."

JC's parents, Stephen and Ha Smith, said they had been inspired by their son's determination to help younger children at the school.

"What began as a simple idea raised in the School Council became something much bigger. We are incredibly proud of JC for wanting to help younger pupils and for showing that even a small idea can make a real difference when a community comes together."

Several of JC's classmates also contributed ideas for the design of the climbing frame, while a parent from the school community volunteered to assist with surfacing work during installation.

The school has also recognised JC's efforts during assembly with its 'Disciple of Hope' certificate, celebrating pupils who demonstrate kindness, leadership and service to others.

The project has become an example of how a school community can come together to support younger pupils and turn an idea raised through the School Council into something lasting.

## Action Plan Launched to Tackle Fly-Tipping and ASB on Kingsley Footpath

**Hounslow Council is stepping up action to address recurring fly-tipping and anti-social behaviour along Kingsley Footpath—a key pedestrian route.**

Kingsley Footpath, the alleyway between Spring Grove Road and the Bus Garage, is an adopted public highway approximately 386 metres long. It is maintained by Hounslow

Highways under the Council's PFI contract, which runs until December 2037.

Despite regular cleansing, strong maintenance standards and good lighting, the footpath and adjoining private land have experienced ongoing issues with fly-tipping, littering and anti-social behaviour—including street drinking and suspected drug

use. These issues are particularly concentrated in areas where private land boundaries are damaged or unsecured.

While police records show only two reported incidents in the past year, underreporting remains a concern. Greater reporting will help build the evidence base essential for further enforcement action.

## Brentford Boat Club uncovers the lost boating slipway at Chiswick



Brentford Boat Club maintenance team

**Brentford Boat Club members have been working tirelessly to uncover the lost boating slipway underneath layers of silt, mud, and debris following their move to the Old Boathouse site at Dukes Meadows in Chiswick.**

The athletes and parents are enormously grateful to Hounslow Council for the opportunity to use the site, overlooked by the iconic Barnes Bridge, and are working relentlessly to bring the overgrown site on the corner of Dan Mason Drive back to life.

Children have been thrilled to launch boats there for the first time in over 5 years. Basic temporary facilities have been installed whilst the club raises funds for its operations and future aspirations and to buy a racing boat for National Schools in May.

Brentford Boat Club, established in 2024, has been making an impact on the national rowing circuit, taking children from beginners to winning medals at national competitions, with over 90% of its members from nearby state schools, encouraging success in the sport and beyond.

Brentford Boat Club is also grateful for the generosity and help from the wider rowing community up and down the Thames they have received. If any readers would like to support the club athletes in their endeavours, please find a QR donation code below.

Brentford Boat Club welcomes new members; for more information or sponsorship inquiries, please contact [admin@brentfordboatclub.com](mailto:admin@brentfordboatclub.com).

**Follow us on:**  
<https://brentfordboatclub.com>

## Local Government News

# £30k of fly-tipping fines issued in Cranford crackdown

**Church Road in Cranford was recently the focus of a joint day of action led by Hounslow Highways with support from Hounslow Council.**

The operation saw years of large-scale illegal dumping of commercial and household waste in the area cleaned up and £30,000 worth of fines issued to 30 individuals for fly-tipping offences.

The area has been a hotspot for illegal waste dumping, also known as fly-tipping, for some time. Fly-tipping is a criminal offence and, if caught, offenders face a £1,000 fixed penalty notice (FPN). For large or dangerous fly-tips, an unlimited fine or even face a prison sentence in a magistrate's court.

Teams from Hounslow Highways and the Council joined up on Thursday, 5th March to remove about 30 tonnes of waste, repair about 70 highways defects, cut back overhanging vegetation and clear the encroachment of vegetation to clear footpaths.

The Council's enforcement officers and Hounslow Highways Network Stewards were also in attendance, gathering evidence from the fly tipped waste to fine 30 individuals – many of whom may have paid rogue waste disposal companies to dispose of bulky waste, who then dumped truckloads full of waste in Cranford.

Councillor Pritam Grewal, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Customer Experience and Enforcement,

said: "I'd like to thank the teams at the Council and Hounslow Highways for their hard work in cleaning up Church Road, and for investigating and fining offenders to deter waste criminals from using our Borough as a dumping ground in future.

"As well as making our streets messy and unpleasant, fly-tipping costs the Council millions every year. This is taxpayers' money which should be spent on the things our communities value.

"Our residents have told us that cleaner, safer streets are a top priority for them, and they rightly expect us to take a zero-tolerance approach. That's why if you dump rubbish or pay an illegal waste carrier to take your rubbish away, you should expect to be caught and handed a hefty fine."

Tim Hurley, Divisional Director for Hounslow Highways said: "Church Road has long been a priority for us, and the operation carried out shows what can be achieved when everyone pulls in the same direction. By closing the road and bringing together our Hounslow Highways crews with the Council's enforcement officers, we were able to clear tonnes of illegally dumped waste, tackle long-standing issues on both public and private land, carry out essential repairs and issue fines. I'm incredibly proud of the dedication shown by every team involved. Their combined efforts have made a visible and meaningful

improvement for local residents and businesses, and we will continue working together to keep this area clean, safe and welcoming."

The action day comes as the Council launches a dedicated team of officers set to tackle fly-tipping, littering, anti-social behaviour and parking offences. Each area of the borough, based on Council wards, will have a dedicated team of Enforcement Officers, who will get to know the community and work to keep their local area clean and safe.

The team will also be equipped with hand-held devices allowing them to identify, capture, report and respond to issues in real-time and reassure residents that issues are being identified and dealt with.

Residents can play a key role in the fight against illegal waste dumping on the public roads and footpaths, by reporting fly-tipping online through Fix My Street and disposing of waste correctly.

Bulky waste items can be collected from residents' homes or can be taken to the Reuse and Recycling Centre in Feltham.

Local businesses can dispose of their waste with a commercial waste subscription.

If you're considering paying a waste carrier to dispose of waste, remember to carry out proper checks beforehand, including checking the waste carrier is licensed on the Environment Agency's official register.

## Council pays tribute to Councillor Jagdish Sharma MBE

**Hounslow Council regrets to announce the passing of Cllr Jagdish Sharma MBE—the Council's longest serving councillor and sitting councillor for the Hounslow West ward.**

A legendary councillor in the history of Hounslow, Cllr Sharma MBE had a remarkable and distinguished career spanning over five decades serving as a councillor for almost 52 years to Hounslow residents.

Born in 1934, Cllr Sharma was first elected to the Council on Thursday, 2 May 1974, formally taking office four days later on Monday, 6 May 1974 as a Labour Councillor in the Hounslow Heath ward. He then went on to serve as a councillor in the Hounslow West ward continuing to serve residents until his death.

He made history by becoming the first Asian Mayor in the United Kingdom when he served as Mayor of the London Borough of Hounslow in 1979-80, meeting the Queen Mother and featuring in Time Magazine as part of his mayoral year. He later received an MBE from her Late Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace.

He was also the only member of the Council to have served as Mayor, Deputy Leader, Leader and Leader of the Opposition at different points during his lengthy career. Cllr Sharma

was Deputy Leader of the Council between 2002-2006, the Leader of the Opposition between 2006-2010 and then Leader of the Council from 2010-2014. He was made an Honorary Freeman of the Borough in 2000. During his tenure Cllr Sharma MBE also served as part of the London Government Association (LGA) General Assembly, the London Councils Leaders Committee, the Association of Public Service Excellence and the Community Relations Council as well as many other pan-London and regional governmental bodies.

Councillor Shantanu Rajawat, Leader of Hounslow Council said: "It is with great sadness that today we learnt of the passing of Councillor Jagdish Sharma MBE at the age of 91, after a long and brave battle with cancer.

"Jagdish was a devoted public servant, a pioneering leader, and a deeply cherished member of our community. His remarkable years of service to the London Borough of Hounslow transformed the lives of countless residents and helped shape the borough we are proud to call home.

"He was among the early generation of Asian migrants to the UK—individuals who worked tirelessly to build new lives while strengthening the foundations of community and

belonging. His dedication to supporting others, particularly new families settling in Hounslow, earned him profound respect and affection.

"A passionate advocate for social justice, education, opportunity, and inclusion, he championed young people and ensured their voices had a place in leadership. Indeed, he was one of my mentors who encouraged me and many of my generation to run for Council in 2010 for the pursuit of public service.

"His impact was not limited to the Council Chamber. He was a mentor, a guide, and a trusted friend to many, including my own family. His kindness, wisdom, and encouragement shaped my life personally and inspired a new generation of aspiring public servants.

"Jagdish leaves behind an extraordinary legacy - one defined by service, compassion, and community. His contribution to Hounslow will be remembered with gratitude and pride for many years to come.

"We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family, friends and colleagues during this difficult time, and may his memory continue to inspire us."

A book of remembrance for members of the public to sign has been placed in the Library in Hounslow House. There will be a tribute at the next meeting of the Council.

## Public Notices



### London Borough of Hounslow

#### Notice of Application for Grant of Premises Licence Under Section 17 of The Licensing Act 2003

Notice is hereby given that Eltham Leap Ltd on behalf of (Nakshatra Banqueting Hall) has applied for the GRANT of a Premises Licence to supply of alcohol, between the hours of 11:45–23:00 hours Monday to Sunday, regulated entertainment including live and recorded music between 11:00–23:00 hours Monday to Sunday and performances of dance between 18:00–22:00 hours Monday to Sunday. The following opening hours are applied for: 11:00–23:00 hours Monday to Sundays for the premises Nakshatra Hall situated at Snakey Lane, Feltham, Middlesex, TW13 7NA

Application has also been made for the following opening hours: 10:00–23:00 hours, Monday to Sundays.

Anyone wishing to make representations to this application must give notice in writing via email by 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026 to: [licensing@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:licensing@hounslow.gov.uk) or letter to the following address:

Regeneration, Housing & Environmental Services, London Borough of Hounslow, Hounslow House, 7 Bath Road, Hounslow, TW3 3EB

Representations will still be accepted via post, however there could be a delay in us receiving them within the limited 28-day time period.

To view the application please go to: [www.hounslow.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/licensing) Housing, Regeneration & Environmental Services, London Borough of Hounslow

Hounslow House, 7 Bath Road, Hounslow, TW3 3EB

To view the application please go to: [www.hounslow.gov.uk/licensing](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/licensing)

Within 28 days of the date of this notice specifying the grounds of your representation. Should any representations be received, members of the Licensing Committee will determine the application. Any person who has made representation will be invited to attend the hearing, although all valid representations will be read and taken into consideration in the determination process. The Council are required to copy all representations received in full (name & addresses) to the applicant.

It is an offence to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement in connection with an application; the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence is unlimited.

#### Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

**Molat Brothers Ltd**  
of: 379 Copperfield  
Chigwell  
IG7 5NR

**is applying for Operator's Licence to use**

**Parkway Farm**  
Church Road  
Hounslow  
TW5 9RY

**as an operating centre for 20 goods vehicles and 20 trailers.**

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.

Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice.

A Guide to Making Representations is available at:

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-making-representations-objections-and-complaints-goods-vehicle-operator-licensing](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-guide-to-making-representations-objections-and-complaints-goods-vehicle-operator-licensing)

**To list legal and public notices  
please call 020 3286 0102  
or email: [pn@hounslowgazette.co.uk](mailto:pn@hounslowgazette.co.uk)**

imagine ideas, advice  
and design options  
sketched out on a  
4 or 7 hour initial visit

imagine how a  
'pay as you go' menu  
of services would allow  
you to stay in control

imagine a local architect  
to help you explore all  
the possibilities and the  
likely costs and pitfalls



architect**your**home

for a free brochure call: 0800 849 8505  
or visit: [www.architect-yourhome.com](http://www.architect-yourhome.com)