

2024 updates on Greenwich Archive Petition from Mary Mills:

22 Feb 2024 The petition went to Greenwich Council last night and was briefly discussed. I am attaching a link below and hope it works. I - in a wheelchair I'm afraid - make a brief speech (you get 2 minutes) followed by a response by Adel Khareh who is lead member for Equality, Culture and Communities - and I need to get a proper transcript of what he said. He's followed by contributions from Cllrs. Chris Lloyd, Anne-Marie Cousins, and Pat Slattery.

I will let you all know what will happen next - we need to involve the Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust.

Here's the link. You need 'petition responses' from menu on the right. I'm the second item in - at about 26.10. then there were four speakers.

https://royalgreenwich.public-i.tv/core/portal/webcast_interactive/839620

26 Feb 2024 We are all very busy. Lots and lots of you are putting comments on the petition along with your signatures. I am fishing some of these out at random and putting them on the Greenwich Industrial History Facebook page (I'm not adding people's names though - hope that's ok).

You can contact us either through the Facebook page direct messages or email indhistgreenwich@aol.com - with the warning that it doesn't get looked at that frequently - eventually rather than daily!

And following the petition going to Council last week we are thinking through what is needed to be done.

Now - when I spoke to Council last week the answer came from Cllr Adel Kaireh. And this is what he said –

Thank you, Mr Mayor and thank you Mary Mis for your petition. And I'd also like to thank the 2000 plus who have signed the petition. Locally, nationally and across the world people have signed the petition which is great and shows our archive is reaching worldwide and that is brilliant and that is why we are working with the Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust making sure it opens for our residents, not only delivering the online services and bookings but are also opening extra days to make sure People can come for their research. We have consulted some of our residents about this and I have met myself and the leader chaired a meeting and with the Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust come up with a new model that can be implemented as soon as possible and we will be reviewing this on a regular basis and happy to meet you Mary and anyone else on this long term plan as soon as possible

8 Mar 2024 You will be glad to know that we have had some discussions with Council officers about the situation with the archive. We are sending to them some of the comments you have put on this petition.

The Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust is due to present a paper about its future to a Council Scrutiny panel and we will report to you on that.

19 Mar 2024 Thank you to everybody who has signed here. This petition is the biggest and most effective argument we have to persuade Greenwich Council and the Royal Greenwich Heritage Trust that things have to change - and that if we all work together costs can be kept down.

We are expecting a new plan from the Trust to be put out soon and then it will go to a Council Scrutiny Panel. We will report to you all on that.

Meanwhile the issue has got all tangled up with the Council's bid to be the London Borough of Culture - they didn't get it but they were a 'Mayor's Cultural Impact Award' winner. They'll get up to £200,000 to deliver a project -which I think is planned as a collection of life stories of residents.

Meanwhile - below we've put a report and some comments from the Greenwich Industrial History Facebook Page.

and so - Carry on signing - or rather getting all your friends and relations to sign

THE COUNCIL- THE MUSEUM AND THE ARCHIVE

Richard Buchanan writes

"At the last Greenwich Planning Alliance/Borough of Greenwich Planning meeting, future work in the department was discussed. Heritage' was mentioned and changes to 'Developer Engagement Practice'. The scope of what was in mind was not described, but the Greenwich Heritage Centre was almost certainly not included.

Developers of major projects should be made aware that the Royal Borough is in need of a permanent premises to house its Borough Archive and Museum (temporally, sans museum, at Anchorage Point) preferably in single location. This could be in two or three floors of a large building, and constitute their S106 (or whatever) provision.

The Leisure Centre now being built in Woolwich (bringing with it a clutch of oversize tower blocks to pay for it) is a case in point.

Greenwich Industrial History Society, together with the Greenwich History Society and other similar bodies across the Borough, have suggested the Greenwich Heritage Centre could be re-established at the:

- the whole area between Bathway and Calderwood Street in Woolwich, which includes the 'Old Town Hall'
- Borough Hall, Greenwich (this is not the section which has just got planning permission for flats- its the big hall, and the old Met.Borough Council suite and some offices)
- Within the Royal Artillery Barracks when the MOD leaves.

Support for the Greenwich Industrial History Society petition for the Greenwich Heritage Centre has now passed 2300.

Mary Mills adds.....

I have been talking to Council officers, stressing need for the Archive to allow browsing. And also the Museum should be restored to reflect local achievement and diversity.

The Council have press released their 'consolation prize' win, having not won the Year of Culture bid. They say:

"We are very pleased that we won an award from the London Borough of Culture process. The very first time the Council had succeeded in doing so. Our bid was all about local people telling their own stories and now we have won a secondary prize for a project to be delivered in 2026, we will be rescoping the project and will announce more details in due course.

And another contributor

Thank you, I am sure that for many of us, the time to access these invaluable archives to our ancestors who shaped the Greenwich, Charlton and Woolwich areas is fast running out. I would hope that a speedy solution by a Borough which has been granted with a Royal status is actioned without delay.

And - thanks to the History Mill for tagging all of this.

15 Apr 2024 Hopefully you will all be pleased to learn that this morning we have passed the 2500 mark for signatures, We should congratulate ourselves and - please - carry on signing

THE COUNCIL AND THE ARCHIVE AND US We have reported in previous updates that the Greenwich archive was due to be reviewed by a Greenwich Council Scrutiny Committee in early April. However that meeting never took place and we understand that the report on the archive will be discussed at a meeting after the Council's Annual Meeting in May. We don't know when that will be but look forward to finding out and will report here

We understand that the presentation which was not discussed at the Scrutiny Committee in November has been completely changed - but we don't know the new contents. We will report back to you when, and if, we find out.

6 Jun 2024 Sorry - we still have no news about when the archive will be discussed at Greenwich Council - the General Election has meant a further delay.....