

The Kensington Society
Registered Charity Number 267778
Statement of Financial Activities
for the year ended 31 December 2024

The Kensington Society

Report of the Trustees

The Trustees present their report and accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024.

Constitution and objects

The Charity's objects shall be to preserve and improve the amenities of Kensington for the public benefit by stimulating interest in its history and records, promoting good architecture and planning in its future development and by protecting, preserving and improving its buildings, open spaces and other features of beauty or historic or public interest.

The Kensington Society was founded in 1953. The constitution is a trust deed adopted on 11 November 2010 and is available at www.kensingtonsociety.org.

Patron

His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO

President

Lord Carnwath of Notting Hill, CVO, PC

Vice-President

Nick Ross CBE

Council

Barnabas Brunner
Sir Angus Stirling

Trustees

Amanda Frame, chairman
Martin Frame, treasurer and membership secretary
Michael Bach, chairman of the planning committee
Henry Peterson OBE, planning committee
Sophia Lambert CB, planning committee
Thomas Blomberg, planning committee, website and newsletter
Vanessa Bartulovic, planning committee
Barry Munday, planning committee
Shayan Keyhan-Rad, planning committee
James Fairrie, planning committee
Michael Becket
Peter Mischcon

Chairman's review of the year's activities and achievements

2024 was an eventful year for all of us, not least for the Kensington Society. The Society's trustees have been extremely active, as the excellent planning committee report within the annual outlines. The changes in government have created challenging debates.

Having participated throughout the process since 2020, following the June/July 2023 Examination in Public with the planning inspector, the Secretary of State approved the new RBKC Local Plan on 24 July 2024. It was a long haul but worth it. The inspector adjusted some fine points in the plan and we and the planners are pleased with the result.

We have participated in multiple consultations from RBKC including Night Time Economy, revitalising Earl's Court Road, Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) – Nuisance Vehicles 2024, Clear Streets, Time-banded Commercial Waste Collections, and Double-glazed Windows for Listed Buildings in specific areas. The highly contentious one with TfL being the consultation over the controversial proposal for the cycle route through Holland Park roundabout. In addition, we have commented on the proposed revision of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was published before Christmas. A highly active year with constant support and attention by the trustees, particularly the planning committee.

Our president's report draws attention to the continuous process that new governments go through with promises of transformation which seldom succeed in fully implementing the reforms. That does not mean we should not look for improvements or even variations which reflect the changes in the need for additional housing, or as often today, with increasing concern about the environment, or as we have seen with the Grenfell tragedy, design and construction methods. It is evident that promises made on the election trail are harder to implement than politicians anticipate in opposition. Even the obvious, such as responding to Grenfell is taking too long.

In her first budget speech on 30 October 2024 as the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves stated that the planning system was "antiquated" and "as a graveyard of economic ambition". This follows from the Labour manifesto which said that "the current planning regime acts as a major brake on economic growth".

We disagree faulting the planning regime. We can agree that the process takes too long especially for large developments to come to fruition. There is no magic wand to wave for developments as large as Earl's Court and Kensal Canalside to be completed. The Earl's Court redevelopment has been going on for nearly 15 years first with Capco and now with Delancy.

The Kensal Canalside Opportunity Area was also first designated in 2011, when there was the aspiration to build a new Crossrail station to overcome its poor accessibility. This has not materialised. The visions for both sites have changed throughout the years and even if the current applications were to be approved this year it would be a decade and more before the developments will be completed.

To blame the planning system for delaying economic growth is not realistic. To blame planning committees for holding up approvals shows a misunderstanding of the system. There are now proposals afoot to restrict the role of elected councillors in decision-making and to allow planning officers to approve or disapprove applications. What is not understood is the importance of checks and balances in the process.

Hopefully both the long-standing 1947 Town & Country Planning Act's requirement to obtain planning permission to develop and 1968 Town & Country Planning Act that required public participation, will continue to be respected. There will be an outcry not least by this society if it is proposed to limit public participation.

Somewhat unexpectedly the stalled expansion of Heathrow airport for a third runway has re-emerged. The Chancellor is using the economy as an excuse to restart the process, while the Mayor of London is opposed to expanding London's airports on environmental grounds.

We have a busy and particularly challenging year ahead. As our objects state, we shall continue to promote good architecture and development in Kensington by protecting, preserving and improving its buildings, open spaces and other features of beauty and historic interest.

Financial review

The Society thanks all the members who have generously subscribed £11,015, donations and legacies of £1,557 which qualified for Gift Aid of £2,923.

The total income for the year was £33,833, a decrease of £20,029.

The cost of administration is allocated on a time basis to the various charitable activities.

The total expenditure was £32,667, a decrease of £27,746.

The balance sheet has unrestricted funds of £62,842, an increase of £1,165. These funds are necessary to secure the future of the Society. Improving funds through subscriptions, donations and legacies is welcomed.

Statement of financial activities for the year to 31 December 2024

Income	2024	2023
Donations and legacies	£	£
Membership subscriptions	11,015.00	11,005.00
Donations and legacies	1,557.00	10,963.67
Gift Aid	2,923.38	4,810.92
Total donations and legacies	15,495.38	26,779.59
Charitable activities		
Events	4,650.00	14,176.21
Annual report advertising	12,350.00	11,700.00
Total charitable activities income	17,000.00	25,876.21
Investment income		
Bank interest	1,337.84	1,206.95
Total income	33,833.22	53,862.75
Expenditure		
Charitable activities		
Newsletter	3,462.32	3,330.10
Events	6,108.66	20,412.21
Annual report	15,914.00	11,040.35
Planning	5,445.27	23,443.72
Membership	856.44	1,111.80
Charitable subscriptions	205.00	200.00
Total charitable activities expense	31,991.69	59,538.18
Other		
Insurance	96.00	96.00
Examiner	580.00	780.00
Total other expense	676.00	876.00
Total expenditure	32,667.69	60,414.18
Net income/(expenditure)	1,165.53	(6,551.43)
Total unrestricted funds brought forward	61,677.36	68,228.79
Total unrestricted funds carried forward	62,842.89	61,677.36

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2023

	2024	2023
	£	£
Current assets		
Debtors		
Accrued income and prepayments		
Interest	137.84	133.61
Insurance	64.00	64.00
Total accrued income and prepayments	201.84	197.61
Cash at bank and in hand		
Nationwide Building Society	60,000.00	40,000.00
Barclays Bank	7,568.43	26,778.04
PayPal	1,670.62	1,437.14
Total cash at bank and in hand	69,239.05	68,215.18
Total current assets	69,440.89	68,412.79
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Deferred income		
Subscriptions and donations	1,887.00	1,220.00
Creditors and accruals		
Creditors	3,262.84	3,797.27
City Living Local Life - Norland	798.16	998.16
Accruals	650.00	720.00
Total deferred income and accruals	6,598.00	6,735.43
Total net assets	62,842.89	61,677.36
Funds of the charity		
Unrestricted funds	62,842.89	61,677.36

Approved by the Trustees 23 January 2025

Signed: Martin Frame, Chartered Accountant

Treasurer and Membership Secretary, The Kensington Society

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2023

- **Charity registered address and number**
The Kensington Society's charity number is 267778 and is registered at Westwoods, Marlborough SN8 4DY.
- **Accounting policies**
These accounts have been prepared based under the historical cost convention in accordance with Accounting and Reporting by Charities – Statement of Recommended Practice (FRS 102).

Income

- **Recognition of incoming income**
These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:
 - The charity becomes entitled to the income;
 - The trustees are certain they will receive the income; and
 - The monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.
- **Donations**
Donations are only included in the SoFA when the charity has unconditional entitlement to the income.
- **Tax reclaims on gifts and donations**
Incoming income from tax reclaims are included in the SoFA to the extent that claims have been made.
- **Volunteer help**
The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the financial activities.
- **Investment income**
This is included in the financial activities when receivable.

Expenditure and liabilities

- **Liability recognition**
Liabilities are recognised as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to expenditure.

Financial instruments

Debtors

Debtors do not carry any interest and are stated at their nominal value. Appropriate allowances for estimated irrecoverable amounts are recognised in the SoFA when there is objective evidence that the asset is impaired.

Cash at bank and in hand

These comprise cash at bank and other short-term highly liquid bank deposits with an original maturity of three months or less.

Public Benefit Statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Respective responsibilities of Trustees and Independent Examiner

As the charity's Trustees, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, based on procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act, whether matters have come to my attention.

Basis of Independent Examiner's report

My examination was conducted in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair' view, and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent Examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no material matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination which gives me cause to believe that in any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of the accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a "true and fair" view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn to this report to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed: *A. Ktistakis*

Date: *9 April 2025*

Angela Ktistakis ACA FCCA
GMAK Chartered Accountants
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