

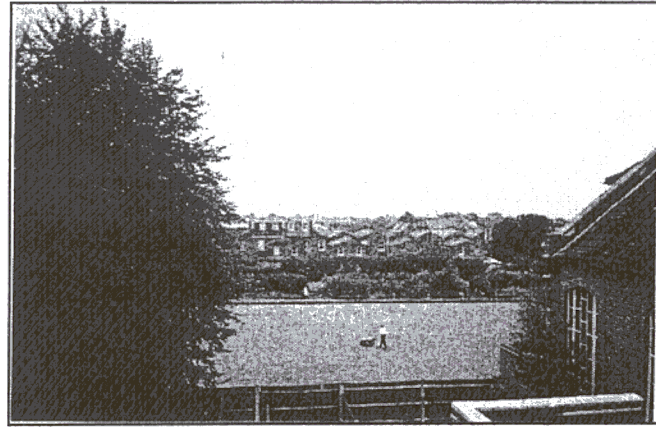
THE BALHAM SOCIETY

Registered Charity No 273668

Registered with the Civic Trust

Represented on the London Forum

Do you want to help us stop developers building all over Balham's hidden green gem?



Photograph of the manicured rinks of the bowling green taken from a house in Ramsden Road two years before the club closed, i.e. in 2002. Beyond are the rooftops of houses in Chestnut Grove.

If so please object immediately in writing to the planning officer for this application. We have only days left.

A planning application has been received by Wandsworth Council from developers who want to build over the $\frac{3}{4}$ acre bowling green of the former Balham Club, land that is within a Conservation Area.

For over a century there has been a bowling green in Balham, used by local people for outdoor recreation, and tucked away between the High Road (behind WH Smith), Ramsden Road and Chestnut Grove. Before Christmas 2004 an application was received from a developer (who paid £2½ million for both land and clubhouse!) to build 9 houses, 12 flats and a small indoor bowling facility on this outdoor recreational land. Local residents were indignant and the Society submitted a 12-page document as a rebuttal to this disgraceful proposal. The developers then withdrew it, but have now re-submitted.

A year ago The Balham Society pointed out that five schools catering for children up to the age of 11 years lie within easy walking distance of this land - that's 1,000 energy-filled kids who need to let off steam in a safe place. Not one of those schools has grassed outdoor sports facilities and this land could readily be converted and made available to these children. (If one of them belongs to you, why not have a word with the head-teacher or governors about this?!). Outdoor tennis courts are another possibility.

The Society had hoped that this demand for outdoor recreational space, which planning law says must be taken into account before building on outdoor sports land, would be sufficient to send the developers away with their tail between their legs, but instead they have splashed out money to pay for what they dress up as a quasi-independent "report" that