**Opening speech 18 March 2020**

Good evening everybody and thank you all for coming. I would like to welcome.

Councillors. Adam Bush, Omar Bush and Stephen Crowe from Raynes Park Ward and Daniel Holden from Hillside.

Stephen Hammond MP ......

Ryan and his colleagues from the Fire Service

Apologies for abscence

Minutes of last AGM

Treasurers report

Putting up for re election

Vivien Mackay Membership secretary

David Brown.... Treasurer.

Graham Bucknall .... Webmaster

Caroline Petch .... Secretary

Bill Petch... Chairman and member for planning

I would like as always to thank the committee and the road representatives for all their help throughout the year.

Membership remains strong and this is so important. The association can only be as strong as its membership and the more members we have the more weight we carry with the Council.

So much of the impetus for fighting local causes comes from you . We can advise and back up but as I said the push comes from you.

It is a shame that we still have a good number of members not receiving emails as they did not sign up after the data protection regulations came into force. I suspect there are none of them here, but if you know of any please encourage them to contact either their road rep or myself so we can get them on the list

Full details of membership statistics appear on our website [www.srra.co.uk](http://www.srra.co.uk)

**Planning.**

All is fairly quiet on the planning front. There are one or two inter neighbour disputes ongoing which I tend to try not to get involved in as they are invariably between two members, though I do try to advise.

There are rumblings of the possible development behind Wimbledon Close in the Downs rearing its ugly head again, but as yet nothing concrete, we will keep our ear to the ground and keep you informed.

Blossom Square on the site of the old Blossom House school is very nearly complete and looks fine from the road and I suspect the neighbours will be pleased when all the construction paraphernalia is cleared away from The Drive.

**Parking.**

I am sure you will all know how outraged I was about the new parking charges. I could accept a substantial rise but when the Council hid behind environmental issues to justify the hike and doubled our charges whilst hardly altering those in Mitcham and Colliers Wood, where strangely a bulk of the Labour voters live, I realised it was a “cash grab hiding under a green umbrella”

Councillor Holdenand I spoke at Commission of enquiry but since the whole thing was heavily weighted in favour of the Council it was hopeless and made me even more annoyed.

To rub salt in the wound the Council have made it extremely complicated to apply for ones new parking permit including signing onto RINGO which must be the most un user friendly website known to man.

**Street Cleaning**

I think it is basically hopeless. The only way to get the streets swept is to continually complain. This is not how it should be. In Montana Road we do now seem to have an operative with a broom and bags who occasionally comes which is the way forward, it is however a rare sighting of an endangered species. The ridiculous sweeping machines are no good at all. Arteberry Road continues to be a mess. I hate to say it but please keep complaining.

**Aircraft Noise.**

I realise the third Heathrow runway may be under some debate, and I am sure Stephen Hammond can update you better than I. However flight numbers are on the increase and we are getting many more taking off over SW19 and SW20. I would advise complaining on [Noise@heathrow.com](mailto:Noise@heathrow.com) then at least the authorities realise we are aware.

**Final Rant.**

This is my continual war with petrol driven leaf blowers. I can put up with them Autumn and Winter, but the noise of a gardener chasing four leaves round the garden in the Summer really grates. There are re chargeable almost silent blowers available. A friend and I are trying to get them stopped at certain times. Camden council [Labour] have banned them in Spring and Summer. I doubt we have a chance, but it is worth a go.