



# SOUTH RIDGWAY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Neighbours

Welcome to our Autumn 2020 Newsletter.

I would first of all like to send our condolences to any of you who have lost family members or friends during these troubled times, and to any who are otherwise affected by the virus. For so many people, this has been a sad and difficult time.

I always try to look for positives and one that has come out of the pandemic is the great sense of community that has emerged. There has been an amazing amount of neighbours helping each other on all fronts and I am thrilled by this. It in many ways typifies all that our residents' association is supposed to be. I hope this community spirit will continue well into the future.

Normally at this time of the year your road representative would be distributing our annual physical newsletter and collecting subscriptions from those of you who pay by cash. This year I am afraid will have to be different. The committee have discussed what's best to do, and we have concluded that we won't expect the road representatives or our members to handle cash in current circumstances.

Having cancelled the March AGM, we will also now not be able to hold our annual November drinks at The Swan. Though that, and the absence of newsletter printing costs, will have saved us quite a lot of money, we don't feel we can just waive the cash subs this year. It wouldn't be fair on those continuing to pay by standing order and, more importantly, there are signs that the Government's new planning regime, which comes into force from September, may cause a rush of (inappropriate and unwelcome) planning proposals over the coming months which may cost us money and resources to fight. Therefore for those members who pay their subs by cash we will aim to collect £6.00 from you next year.

This is the time of year that our road reps also learn of any changes in your contact details, or of people who have moved away or new neighbours who have moved in. If any of your details have changed during the year, do let us know by emailing [membership@srta.co.uk](mailto:membership@srta.co.uk). And if you have a new neighbour, do encourage them to join SRRA by emailing the same email address.

Stay well.

Bill Petch  
Chairman  
October 2020  
[chairman@srta.co.uk](mailto:chairman@srta.co.uk)

Membership – Vivien Mackay – [membership@srta.co.uk](mailto:membership@srta.co.uk).  
Secretary – Caroline Petch – [secretary@srta.co.uk](mailto:secretary@srta.co.uk).  
Treasurer – David Brown – [finance@srta.co.uk](mailto:finance@srta.co.uk).  
Website – Graham Bucknall – [website@srta.co.uk](mailto:website@srta.co.uk).  
Planning – Bill Petch – [chairman@srta.co.uk](mailto:chairman@srta.co.uk).

## Planning

For the moment all is fairly quiet on the planning front. There are quite a number of small and some not so small domestic extensions happening. I am led to believe all local builders are very busy.

One major exception is the possibility of two extra floors being added to High Range. This is one of blocks on the East of Lansdowne Road. There has

been no formal application, but the concern is that under the new Governmental guidelines none will be required. The West side of Lansdowne Road is a Conservation zone however. We are keeping an eye on the situation. I would add the SRRA did agree to a previous application to increase the height of High Range by one floor and also to completely refurbish the whole block.

## Parking Charges

I have expressed my feelings, in a previous email, over the Council's plans to hike our parking charges even more. It is, as I always say, a cash grab hiding under a green umbrella, but it does also show our Council to be totally anti car.

## Street Scene

Fly tipping is becoming a bigger and bigger problem. This is not helped by the fact that the tip was shut for a while. It is now open but the rogue tipping continues. The Council do react to alerts very quickly and I would encourage you to report them on the website [merton.gov.uk](http://merton.gov.uk).

Street Cleaning is still very varied. I have been pushing for years for the streets to be swept by an operative using a broom rather than the ridiculous machines which cannot operate round parked cars and when the leaves come down seem to fill up very quickly. We are seeing evidence in our area of the broom method, fingers crossed.

## Aeroplane noise

As the skies return to normal, we are without a doubt getting more planes over our area. This I will concede is sometimes the result of the wind being in the East, but whatever the reason, I do not like it. I would encourage any of you who have strong feelings on this matter to express them to [noise@heathrow.com](mailto:noise@heathrow.com).

## Leaf Blowers

I must have my annual rant about petrol driven leaf blowers. I can just about understand their use in the Autumn, but am driven to distraction by them when there are very few leaves on the ground. I still have plans for a campaign to ban them at certain times of the year but am afraid the Council have other things on their mind at the moment.

## 20 mph speed limit

We now seem to have a 20mph speed limit over the whole borough. I can to some degree understand this and in fact on roads like Pepys Road I think it is essential and it would be a good idea if it was policed. However, I drove along Parkside the other day with a police car on my tail. It was mind numbing. I was nearly asleep by the time I reached Tibbets Corner.

## Pandemic Scams to Watch Out For

The majority of these scams are begun with an email or text. In a previous eNewsletter the TV Licensing one was mentioned. Some others are:

**NHS Test and Trace** – An email arrives claiming the recipient has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for Covid-19. A link leads to a website used to gather personal and financial data or possibly infect your device with malware.

**Grants and Tax Rebates** – The message says something like 'In the battle against Covid-19 HMRC has issued a payment of £258 payment'. Alternatively, a message with Government logos asks for bank details in return for a Covid related tax rebate.

**Free School Meals** – This text or email says 'As schools are being disrupted if your child is entitled to free school meals send your bank details and we will ensure you are supported.'

**Fake Lockdown Fines** – The message claims that you have been noted as breaching the Covid-19 rules as your movements were monitored by your smartphone. There is then a link to pay the fine or 'face a more severe penalty.'

Never provide personal or financial details to anyone unless you are absolutely certain of the request.

Be particularly aware of calls, or emails, from someone saying they are from your bank and your account has been compromised. Hang up and call your bank using a different phone and using a known number to see if there are problems.

If you receive an email which you're not quite sure about, don't respond or click on any links within the message. You can forward it to the Suspicious Email Reporting Service (SERS) at the National Cyber Security Centre, who will investigate: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).

## Useful Council Phone numbers

Fly tipping .....	020 8274 4902
Street Lighting.....	020 8545 3220
Noise .....	020 8545 3205
Road cleaning.....	020 8274 4902
Footpaths.....	020 8545 3700