



SOUTH RIDGWAY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Neighbours

Welcome to our Autumn 2017 Newsletter.

As I have said in other years, our association exists to protect and enhance the area in which we live, and also to try and keep you all informed of any local events that might be of interest. To be successful we depend on two-way dialogue with our members, and regular e-mail updates are often the best way to achieve this.

However, I am aware that some members are not on email. I do try to compact as much as I can into this missive, but I cannot put in all the information from my regular e-mails throughout the year. So could I take this opportunity to ask any of you who are on the e-mail list, that if you are aware of any members who are not, please can you let them know of any items that might interest them. (Just a reminder, for any of you that are worried: we keep every e-mail address provided to us secure, and do not share them with anyone else.)

We depend to a huge extent on our Road Representatives and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their work and also thank the other members of the committee for all they do.

Bill Petch
Chairman.
October 2017

Membership - Vivien Mackay
Secretary - Susie Mortimore
Treasurer - David Brown
Website - Graham Bucknall
Planning - Bill Petch

Planning and Construction Issues

Please contact the association with any concerns on this front and we will do our best to advise and co-ordinate any objections.

1, Arterberry Road

This site, which in fact runs for 30 yards down Dunmore Road, is very near completion and when finished will blend in very well with the rest of Dunmore Road I think.

Rosemary Lodge, The Drive

This development is also very near completion. The houses are large but (as always these days) have minute gardens. They are however not unattractive.

Blossom House School, The Drive

By the time you read this letter I suspect the old school will have been demolished and construction on the new development started.

Upton Court, The Downs

I am very sorry to say that construction of the extra floor on this block is well under way and is causing major problems for the residents.

Wimbledon Close, The Downs

The freeholder of this block applied last year to build eight flats in the area behind. This is the sort of infill the association objects very strongly to. There was a strong body of objection among members and the council received a huge number of letters on the subject, none in favour. The council eventually refused permission earlier this year, but I have no doubt the developer will return with new and, I suspect, inappropriate plans we are prepared.

High Range, Lansdowne Road.

The freeholder of this block of flats has applied to demolish the rather messy "penthouse" on the roof and replace it with two extra floors containing four more flats. From the association's point of view, we had a problem. We objected in principle, but had several members who were residents in this block, who were in favour of this development as the only way the freeholder would agree to modernising and renovating their building was by increasing the value of the building with the four extra dwellings. We suggested a compromise whereby the penthouse could be removed and replaced by one floor containing two flats. This would not have increased the basic height, as there was no way we could countenance a two storey extension. I am very pleased to say the council are minded to refuse the application but, as in the Wimbledon Close case, I suspect the freeholder will be back and we will be ready.

Swinburn Court, The Downs

This was a minor, but protracted and rather satisfying victory. The freeholder of this small block of flats had built a rather unpleasant wooden outhouse in the garden and applied for retrospective planning permission. This building took light away from, and

dominated, a flat occupied by a member. We objected and permission was refused. The freeholder appealed to the Inspectorate and we objected again and permission was refused again.

The council put a demolition order on the structure and after three months nothing had happened. I phoned the council to be told the two enforcement officers had resigned! However a new one was appointed and the building has at last gone.

Crossrail2

I am afraid to say there is no news on what is probably the most significant potential development in our area over the next 20 years. I can assure you I will let you know of any news as soon as I hear it. I assume it is buried below everything else with our government in turmoil.

Street Scene

There are continuing attempts to clear the roadside gutters with a machine, which is quite successful when there are no cars parked. I really do think people with brooms would be more use. There is an ongoing problem with extensive weed growth in gutters and on pavements. The council, when contacted, said the weeds were only treated twice a year. It used to be four times.

One of our members continues to fight the council over the bodged replacement of kerbstones lifted by tree roots. Root pruning would take away the necessity for this as it does in other boroughs.

We have several members who are litter picking in their area. This is a brilliant idea, if we all picked the litter, plastic bottles etc. outside our houses, the world would be a cleaner place.

I would like to have my annual rant about those who clear up after their dogs and then leave the bags anywhere. I still do not have an answer. Nor do I have an answer for the incessant use of noisy leaf blowers, which I can almost forgive in the autumn, but we have to put up with them chasing a handful of leaves round gardens all year round. Another cry for people with brooms!

Drinks at the Swan.

You are all invited to come for drinks at the Swan on the Ridgway on **Wednesday, 22nd November** from 7.30 pm onwards

Try and come – it is always an enjoyable evening and a chance to meet other members.

Annual General Meeting 2018

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 21st March 2018** in the **Christ Church Hall, Cottenham Park Road**

As a matter of interest, the hall is now no longer to be demolished and will be refurbished and available for hire. Phone 07719 525 916.

Wimbledon Events

Wimbledon International Music Festival

Founded in 2009, the Festival's aim has been to inspire audiences young and old by offering the opportunity of hearing some of the very best musicians in the world performing live in venues close to their doorsteps.

This year's festival takes place from 11th to 16th November. Full details can be seen on the website - www.wimbledonmusicfestival.co.uk - and booking is now open via the website or telephone 0333 666 3366.

Saturday 2nd December - Christmas Craft Fair

All day in the Ranger's Office.

Saturday - 16th December - Carols at the Windmill

Venue: Windmill

Time: 3.00pm

Refreshments: Drinks and mince pies

Free and no booking required/.

The SRRA Website

I would encourage everybody to use the website www.srra.co.uk. Please think of it as an electronic notice board. If you have any tradesman you would recommend or any item you would like to buy or sell or any local event you would like to promote, please let us know and it can be posted for all to see. Graham is posting information about numerous events on the site and there are many links to other local websites readily available.