



# SOUTH RIDGWAY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Neighbours

Welcome to our Autumn 2021 Newsletter. I do hope you all have managed and continue to keep safe and well in these much changed times.

I cannot believe it is two years since our last paper newsletter. As I am sure you all remember we did not produce one last year as due to Covid, it was not advisable for our Road Representatives to go door to door delivering the letter and collecting cash subscriptions. However we feel it is safe enough to go back to that system now. It is also a good chance for you to meet your Road Rep and vice versa, and for your Road Rep to collect last year's subscription as well as this year's from those of you who pay by cash – £6.00 in all.

With Covid cases still high, though, I am sorry to say we feel it might still not be sensible to hold our November drinks at The Swan. Instead, we plan to combine drinks with our AGM early next year. I will confirm nearer the time, but this will be Wednesday 16 February 2022 at 7.30 pm in Christ Church Hall.

Our association exists, as I have said in the past, to protect and hopefully enhance the area we live in. We try to keep you all informed of anything that will affect our lives in this very pleasant borough. This works both ways and, please, if you have any concerns do not hesitate to contact us.

With best wishes

Stay well.

Bill Petch  
Chairman  
October 2021  
chairman@srra.co.uk

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Secretary – Caroline Petch  
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## Parking Charges

One of the most contentious issues has been the proposed hike in parking charges. This huge increase has been agreed by the Council and will happen. No one is clear why the new charges have not started, but as far as I know they are imminent and if I hear more I will let you know. I would like to thank all of you who contacted the Council objecting to this politically biased cash grab, disguised as a green initiative.

## Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

We did score one major victory when, combined with two other residents' associations, we opposed the proposed restrictions that would have basically closed the junction of Cambridge Road with Coombe Lane. This was a scheme with no benefits for anyone apart from a few residents of Cambridge Road. The Council saw sense and it was thrown out again. I would like to thank everyone of you who contacted them to voice your objections.

## School Streets

School Streets I am sorry to say are another example of a scheme that has not been thought through. Many of you have been caught by the cameras and, whatever your view on the whole idea, the lack of publicity verges on the underhand and stands out yet again as a cash grab hiding as ever under a green umbrella. I believe the scheme is an 18 month trial. I will keep you posted and again I would like to thank all of you who have contacted the Council with your views.

## Crescent Road Gate

We waged one very local campaign, which was to object to the charge for the use of the gate on the footpath between Lansdowne and Crescent Roads. The gate had been open for several years but the residents' committee of Southdown Drive decided to reactivate the lock and charge £50.00 per annum for a pass key. This affects a very small number of people but they do include the staff at the nursing home in Lansdowne Road. We fought long and hard as it smacked of greed, but our appeals fell on deaf ears and the gate is locked and the charge is in place.

## Flooding

Flooding has again been an issue especially in Raynes Park. Who is responsible seems to be the classic hot potato and it falls between Thames Water, the Council and even the Environment Agency. There does not as yet seem to be an answer.

## Planning

It has been fairly quiet on the planning front. There have been a small number of inter-neighbour disputes, but no large scale planning applications. This is I am sure going to change as our coming out of the pandemic aligned with the government's housing policy is going to encourage developers. We will continue to be vigilant and should any of you hear of any proposed developments, please let us know.

## Street Scene

Street cleaning does seem to have improved over the last year. At last common sense has prevailed and we now see operatives with brooms and shovels rather than the expensive and impractical machines and this works. The real test as always will be the leaf clearing season, which will lead me onto tree maintenance. If only the Council would prune the trees on an annual basis, it would save a lot of money in the long run, as there would be fewer leaves to clear and the pavements would not be lifted by oversized trees. Please do not think I am anti-tree, I am very definitely not, but they do need to be looked after.

Fly tipping is still a major issue, but I find the council react very quickly to reports. It is one of their better services. The relevant phone number is below.

## Leaf Blowers

I still continue to be annoyed by the loud noise generated by petrol driven leaf blowers, especially in the summer when there are relatively few leaves around. I am unsure how to wage a campaign against them but am not without hope. As I have said before, Camden, another Labour council, has had them banned at certain times of the year.

## Aircraft Noise

I am sure you will have all noticed the increase in aircraft noise as life returns to normal. I have often complained to Heathrow and always get fobbed off with the excuse that we only get planes

taking off over us when the wind is in the East. I am not certain this is true but I am sure it is worth complaining, as at least it shows the residents of SW20 have noticed the increase in air traffic over our area. The email address is [noise@heathrow.com](mailto:noise@heathrow.com). You will get a response.

## Wimbledon Guardian

I have no idea what can be done about this, but our local paper is hopeless. It has very little news in it and much of it does not concern our borough. I would love us to have a decent paper full of local news with a proper letters section.

## Recommended websites

### Freecycle

This is a non profit movement of people who are giving (and receiving) items for free in their own neighbourhood. It is all about re-use and not using landfill.

[www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)

### Gumtree

An excellent site to buy and sell second-hand goods.

[www.gumtree.com](http://www.gumtree.com)

### Nextdoor

This is a very active social website, with its members buying and selling items, asking for and giving recommendations for local tradesmen etc.

[www.nextdoor.co.uk](http://www.nextdoor.co.uk)

### Wimbledon and Putney Commons

As well as general information about the Commons there are a number of events taking place to celebrate its 150 years. Each of these will be advertised on the site as they arise so keep looking at regular intervals. Currently there is a Life on the Commons picture competition which runs monthly until next July.

[www.wpcc.org.uk](http://www.wpcc.org.uk)

### SRRA

... and don't forget to use your very own SRRA website for news and events, planning, membership issues, buy / sell / recommend and SRRA contacts.

[www.srra.co.uk](http://www.srra.co.uk)

## Useful Council Phone numbers

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