



# SOUTH RIDGWAY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

www.srra.co.uk

*Dear Neighbours,*

Welcome to our winter newsletter.

## **PLANNING ISSUES**

As the economy picks up, there have been renewed signs of development in our area and we expect this to accelerate. The arrival of mega basements is something of a sign!

### **Garages to the rear of Aston Court 14 Lansdowne Road.**

This is the third year of applications from the owner of these garages to demolish them and build a house on this very confined site. The local residents and SRRA have consistently objected. Until now all the applications have been withdrawn or refused, but the latest one was recommended by the planning officer. As a result of a good number of objections, the whole affair had to go to the planning application committee. We are thrilled to report that as a result of much hard work by local residents and three speakers at the meeting (including Bill Petch from SRRA) permission was refused. The applicant has now appealed to the Secretary of State. We will keep you posted, but we are very encouraged to have been successful so far.

### **14 Cumberland Close**

The owner of this house had applied to erect a first and second floor side extension. SRRA in conjunction with a very active group of local residents objected to this proposal on the basis of over-development, visual intrusion and almost certain damage to two very fine mature trees. We are pleased to say permission was refused.

### **Black Pine in the garden of 12 Lansdowne Road.**

In 2011 permission was sought to fell this very fine tree in the garden of the convent on the grounds that it was diseased. Local residents objected and an independent expert was appointed with SRRA support, and he advised that the tree was safe. The nuns who live at the property accepted that it could stay. This year a planning notice appeared saying a tree was due to be felled. No one took any notice as the description of the tree was incorrect. When it was realised that it was the Black Pine under threat the local residents tried to conduct another independent survey. SRRA approached the nuns for permission to survey the tree. The tree has since been felled. Deeply depressing.

## **TRAFFIC and PARKING**

News emerged very recently that the Council is considering a number of traffic measures along The Ridgway and some of the roads off it. It also emerged that this is part of a bigger consideration by the Council, the whole problem of managing increasing commuter traffic through our area to and from the A3. That context sounds very sensible, though why the tactics the Council is considering for The Ridgway have not been presented to us is a mystery. We have asked to be consulted PRIOR to any decisions being taken and have been assured that we will be. We'll watch this carefully.

Most of our area is now covered by CPZs. There will be a need for some fine tuning in the future with regards to how many permits are issued to schools. Also the "no parking" period should be looked at : for example in some areas just a two hour period in the middle of the day would seem sufficient. We'll let you know of developments next year as they unfold.

## OUR ASSOCIATION

We exist to protect and wherever possible enhance the quality of life in our neighbourhood. We don't seek out issues, but where they occur, we are only as effective as the numbers of our membership. Therefore we are continually seeking to refresh the membership to keep our numbers up. A big thank you to all of our road reps for their untiring work. I'd also like to thank our Committee members for their commitment during the year.

### We warmly welcome new members.

If you have received this newsletter you automatically qualify for membership and we would love you to join if you haven't already. Just fill in the contact details and standing order with this newsletter and send it back to us – FREEPOST. Don't forget to add your email address, so that you can receive news and invitations. (We will never pass your details on to third parties.)

Membership costs only £3.00 a year, and for that you get regular news emails, two Newsletters a year, access to our website, and invitations to our March AGM (with free wine and nibbles) and other member get-togethers. Most importantly, your support gives our association the power to have influence on local matters on your behalf.

Half our members have already chosen to pay by Standing Order. No need for existing members to complete the form unless your bank details have changed.

And of course, everyone can continue to pay £3.00 in cash to their road rep if they prefer : we are collecting the subscriptions for 2014 now.

## MEMBERS' DRINKS at THE SWAN and AGM

On Thursday evening November 14th most of our road reps and a number of members gathered for a drink at The Swan. It was generally agreed that this should become an annual event and I urge you to come next year !

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th March 2014 at 7pm in the Hall of Christ Church on Cottenham Park Road / Copse Hill. We will have a glass of wine together afterwards. As the local elections follow shortly after, we will invite our councillors – incumbent and prospective – to come and set out their stalls, which should make for a lively evening. More anon.

## CHAIRMAN

I am moving out of the area in the New Year and so am resigning the Chair. I am delighted that Bill Petch has agreed to take my place. I know he will do a cracking job. I've thoroughly enjoyed my time in the role. Sometimes one feels a little daunted firing those emails out into the ether. It's really encouraging when members respond and I would urge you to have a lively interaction with Bill! SRRA is only as effective as its membership, so can I leave with a three part plea : **please join** if you haven't; **please pay your subscriptions**; and **please join in** – we still need an IT person to help with the website, someone who will round up local cultural events and always, neighbours who are willing to help the SRRA continue to thrive.

With very best wishes,

Alex Sandberg  
Chairman  
November 2013

