



SOUTH RIDGWAY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Neighbours

Welcome to our Autumn 2022 Newsletter. It has been an extraordinary year on so many fronts and I hope you have all stayed well in these strange and recently very sad times. I always explain that our association exists to protect and where possible enhance our area and to keep you informed of anything of interest locally whether good or bad. I would however like to add that we have very testing times ahead especially within the home and I would encourage all of you to keep an eye on the less fortunate or the elderly in our neighbourhood. It is definitely a time to stick together and help one another.

We are planning three social gatherings in the year to come, more details below.

With best wishes

Bill Petch
Chairman
October 2022
chairman@srta.co.uk

Membership – Vivien Mackay membership@srta.co.uk

Secretary – Caroline Petch secretary@srta.co.uk

Treasurer – David Brown finance@srta.co.uk

Website – Graham Bucknall website@srta.co.uk

Planning – Bill Petch chairman@srta.co.uk

School Streets

I am fairly sure School Streets have caused more correspondence from our members than any other issue. Whatever your views on their benefits, which I think are very limited, I am sure the style of their introduction was underhand. There was no publicity (in Wandsworth all residents had a flier through the door warning them of the proposals) and the only way any of you found out about them was by being fined or by word of mouth from others who have been fined. I am afraid they are here to stay, so please take care.

ULEZ Expansion

It would seem likely that the Ultra-Low Emission Zone will be expanded to our area in 2023. This will be painful for anyone with a non-compliant vehicle. It will cost them £12.50 every time they take their car out. I am trying to ascertain the best way to fight this. There are several petitions in circulation, but I believe Transport for London are supposed to be consulting on the subject. I am a little cynical about how effective that will be as there is a suspicion that the new ULEZ charges rather than battling pollution will help to fill the black hole the Mayor has created in the TFL coffers.

Parking Charges

The Council pulled back on their outrageous emission based parking charges just before this year's local elections! I will keep you posted as to any further developments.

20 mph Speed Limit

This is the last item on motoring! There is, as I am sure you know, a general 20 mph speed limit over the whole borough. This I am afraid is here to stay. One minor piece of good news is the Council have stepped back on the limit on the Bushey Road which is going up to 30 mph. It is after all a dual carriageway.

Parkside will continue to be a challenge in quiet times and, be warned: apart from the one fixed camera, the police have taken to setting up mobile speed checks.

AELTC Proposed Developments

I am sure you are all aware of the All England's proposals to develop a large swathe of the golf course opposite their site in Church Road. This area is Metropolitan Open Land (the urban equivalent of Green Belt). Had the plans just involved low level courts I think there would have been a small amount of opposition. However they have applied to construct an 8,000 seater covered court and there are a vast number of local residents and organisations opposing the plans. I will keep you posted.

Planning

There are, at the moment, very few planning issues in or adjacent to our SRRA area. There are however early rumblings of possible major developments at the top of the Downs.

Please, if you hear anything, let me know.

Street Scene

My feeling is that street cleaning has improved, to some extent. I am convinced this is due to the employment of a man with a broom and bags rather than the large machine that invariably cannot sweep the whole road due to parked cars.

Anyway, it will soon be the leaf sweeping season so we will see.

Fly tipping is still a major problem, but I must admit the Council seem to arrive very quickly to clear up if they are alerted.

There is always the problem of foxes getting to the food rubbish overnight and spreading it over the road.

One possible solution is do not put the food rubbish out until the morning. I believe it is not usually the first collection.

And do make sure the caddy handle is in the locked position – which is forward and down. If you leave the handle standing up, foxes can easily knock it backwards and open the caddy.

Aircraft Noise and Leaf Blowers

I have put these two together as they have both become an annual rant from me.

We have had a massive increase in aircraft taking off over our area. This is to a large extent due to a post pandemic increase in flights as well as many days of Easterly winds.

If you are concerned I feel it would not go amiss to complain to Heathrow at noise@heathrow.com then at least they will realise we have noticed. You will get a response.

Petrol driven leaf blowers drive many people mad, me included, especially in Spring and Summer. We now have new local councillors and I am going to see if we can do anything about them for at least the noisiest time of the year.

Social Gatherings

We will be reinstating our popular November drinks gathering for members this year, in the Rushmere (formerly the Swan) on the Ridgway at 6.30 pm on **Thursday 24th November**. This is always a great opportunity to meet other members.

We will hold our Spring get together in Christ Church Hall at 8:00 pm on **Wednesday 15th March 2023**. Along with free refreshments, you will have the chance to meet your MP, local Councillors and the Police and to discuss local issues with them.

We are also planning to have drinks outside again in the early Summer. We were lucky with the weather this year and the evening was a great success. We will keep an eye on the forecast and hope to announce the date much nearer the time.

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

Gumtree

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

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

Wimbledon and Putney Commons

Very comprehensive site giving general information about the Commons.

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

Useful Council Phone numbers

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