



SOUTH RIDGWAY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Neighbours

Welcome to our Autumn 2023 newsletter.

The SRRA works to keep you in touch with issues of interest in our area via regular e-Newsletters. This annual paper newsletter aims to summarise the main issues affecting us at the moment and through the last year. It also alerts you to three social gatherings we are planning to hold so that we can get together and actually meet each other. Please see details below.

With best wishes

Bill Petch
Chairman
October 2023
chairman@srra.co.uk

Membership – Vivien Mackay membership@srra.co.uk

Treasurer – David Brown finance@srra.co.uk

Website – Graham Bucknall website@srra.co.uk

Secretary – Caroline Petch secretary@srra.co.uk

Planning Issues

Our whole area is full of expanding homes, whether in the form of roof conversions, extra buildings in the garden or extensions. I am often asked for advice on this subject and what I always say is please discuss your intentions with your neighbours in advance. So many problems can be resolved in this way. As the old advertisement used to say, "It's good to talk".

We do however have one major planning issue looming and that is the proposal to build a block of flats behind Wimbledon Close and Upton Court in The Downs. The SRRA and a very active group of local residents fought a similar scheme on this site several years ago and permission was refused. As I write, no official planning application has been lodged, but we have formed an action group to oppose this development and will keep you posted.

School Streets, ULEZ Expansion and 20 mph Limit

Whatever your feelings, I am afraid these three measures are here to stay. Take care especially with regard to School Streets which I find very poorly signposted. For those of you who may not be aware, these are streets adjacent to schools from which motor traffic is banned for a period in the morning and a period in the afternoon during term time. They all have cameras installed.

Aircraft Noise

This has without a doubt increased exponentially in our area. This I realise has to a certain extent been caused by the number of days with the wind in the East, but there are generally more planes taking off over our heads. I know it is slightly "nimbyish", and I do not see the harm in that, but I would recommend, if you are concerned, emailing noise@heathrow.com. You will get a response. I do not know how much effect it will have, but at least the authorities will realise we have noticed and are not happy.

Street Scene

Road sweeping and tree pruning seem to vary massively from one road to another. One classic example is Devas Road which has perfectly clear gutters, whereas those in Montana Road bear a startling resemblance to the herbaceous borders at Wisley. If you have concerns keep complaining to the Council and involve your local Councillors. Do not give up! On a positive note, even though it is sad it is needed, the Council's fly tipping clearance service is very efficient.

Walk and Talk

Many of you may also be aware of this excellent movement. It is best described by this from the national website www.walkandtalkmovement.org:

"We are on a mission to bring communities together for a fun, healthy and engaging weekly walk in the local green space".

Our local Walk and Talk meets at the War Memorial in the Village at 10.30 am every Saturday. I can highly recommend these walks – they are short, instructive and a great opportunity to meet others.

AE LTC Proposed Development

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 is Metropolitan Open Land (the urban equivalent of Green Belt). Had the plans simply involved low level courts I think there would have been very little opposition. But they seem intent on bulldozing through proposals for an 8,000 seater covered court and there are a vast number of local residents and organisations opposed to these plans. I will keep you posted and, if you would like to add your voice to the opposition, you can do so by signing the petition at www.savewimbledonpark.org.

Social Gatherings

We will be holding our ever-popular annual members' free drinks gathering in the Rushmere (formerly The Swan) on the Ridgway on Thursday **23rd November** from 7.00 pm until 9.30 pm. This has always proved to be an enjoyable evening in the past.

Our Spring get-together will be at Christ Church Hall, Cottenham Park Road at 7:30 pm on Thursday **22nd February 2024**. There will be a guest speaker and you will have a chance to meet your MP and local Councillors to discuss any issues with them over free refreshments.

We are planning to have drinks outside in early Summer. This will be subject to the medium term weather forecast and the whims of your Chairman!

New Subscription Payment Method

In these increasingly cashless times, it has become more and more inconvenient for members to find £3.00 down the back of the sofa when Road Reps call to collect subscriptions every Autumn. Having researched what other local residents' associations are doing about this problem, we have set up a new, convenient and secure direct debit system for paying subscriptions with GoCardless. Some of you may have experience of GoCardless through other organisations you belong to. They are a highly reputable operator used by several respected organisations including HM Government.

We will introduce the system gradually, so that those of you who pay by standing order (some 60% of members) can continue to do so. From now on, though, Road Reps on their Autumn rounds will ask all new members to pay by direct

debit, and they will gently invite the 40% of members who currently still pay by cash to switch to the direct debit system if they possibly can. I very much hope that most of you who pay your subs by cash will agree to switch when invited to do so by your Road Rep, as it will be so much easier for you, and very much more efficient and less time-consuming for our doughty Road Reps and our hard-working Treasurer and Membership Secretary to operate. From your point of view, as one member put it recently, you will find it 'a doddle' to switch.

Recommended Websites

Freecycle - www.freecycle.org

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.

Gumtree - www.gumtree.com

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

Nextdoor - www.nextdoor.co.uk

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

Wimbledon and Putney Commons

- www.wpcc.org.uk

Very comprehensive site giving general information about the Commons.

SRRA - www.srra.co.uk

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

Would you like to help the SRRA?

If so, are you able to become one of our valued Road Reps?

We are particularly looking in the Cottenham Park Road and Lansdowne Road areas but Road Reps don't have to live in the road they look after.

If interested email chairman@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