



# SOUTH RIDGWAY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Neighbours

Welcome to our Autumn 2024 newsletter.

One of the main purposes of the South Ridgway Residents Association is to keep our members in touch with everything of importance that is going on in our area. This is hopefully achieved by our regular emails. Our annual paper newsletter is to summarise the year and to alert members to our future social gatherings. Another main purpose of the SRRA is to co-ordinate objections to unwelcome planning applications etc, both by making members aware of them and by advising how best to approach the authorities. We have just had a classic example of a co-ordinated response, but more of that below.

With best wishes.

Bill Petch,  
Chairman,  
October 2024

Membership – Vivien Mackay [membership@srra.co.uk](mailto:membership@srra.co.uk)

Treasurer – David Brown [finance@srra.co.uk](mailto:finance@srra.co.uk)

Website – Graham Bucknall [website@srra.co.uk](mailto:website@srra.co.uk)

Secretary – Caroline Petch [chairman@srra.co.uk](mailto:chairman@srra.co.uk)

## AELTC Proposed Development

I am sure you are 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) and 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. A vast number of local residents and organisations are opposed to these plans. The latest news is that Merton approved the application and Wandsworth did not. The site does fall in both boroughs. There is to be a hearing before the Greater London Authority planning office on **27th September 2024**. They are then obliged to make a decision within five days. At the time of going to press we don't yet know the outcome but there is every chance it will be called in to be reviewed by the Secretary of State.

## Planning Issues

The major issue in our area this year, as many of you will know, is the application to build a block of flats in the garage area behind Wimbledon Close and Upton Court in The Downs. The SRRA and a very active group of members fought a similar application on this site several years ago which was eventually dismissed on appeal.

However the applicant (the freeholders of Wimbledon Close) came back in May with a not very different scheme which threatens significant adverse effects on the quality of life of the residents in the six blocks of flats overlooking the site. We co-ordinated a good number of members to object to this application (a classic example of backfill) and there have been somewhere in the region of 60 letters of objection. The applicant submitted some minor amendments in August and we have heard nothing since, although I expect it to go to DPAC (the Development and Planning Applications Committee) in due course. As soon as I hear anything I will let you know.

The SRRA have advised and helped the relevant members on a massively over-sized proposal in Conway Road. I was thrilled to see it was rejected by the Council. We also obtained Tree Preservation Orders on the three Lime trees outside 25 Arterberry Road. These have been severely pollarded but will return to their former glory and have been saved.

## Local Councillors

Our area covers three wards, Village, Hillside and Raynes Park and councillors of two political hues. I would like to thank the councillors who have advised and helped us over the last year. If any of you have specific problems please ask and we can advise you who to speak to. On the subject of politics, Stephen Hammond retired after 19 years of service as our MP and I was pleased we could say a formal goodbye at our AGM. I hope you will have the opportunity to meet Paul Kohler our new MP at our AGM next year.

## Useful Council Phone Numbers

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

## Walk and Talk

Many of you will already know of this movement. It is best described by this from the national website:

“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.

## Become a Friend of Wimbledon and Putney Commons

Every path, heathland, bog, stream pond and woodland on the Common has an incalculable value that requires ongoing investment. As a charity the Commons rely on the support of the community and visitors who cherish this special place, to keep them open, safe, clean and bursting with life.

By becoming a Friend of Wimbledon and Putney Commons you will be playing a crucial role in preserving, protecting and maintaining this unique and special place.

Your benefits as a Friend will include invitations to special social events, a regular e-newsletter and access to special walks led by the highly experienced staff.

For more information see:  
[wpcc.org.uk/support-us/become-a-friend](http://wpcc.org.uk/support-us/become-a-friend)

And why not give Friends' Membership to someone for a birthday or Christmas present?

Finally, on the subject of the Commons, I would like to congratulate two of our members on being elected as Conservators. They are David Brown our treasurer and Sue Bucknall. They can be contacted on matters relating to the Commons at:

[david.brown@wpcc.org.uk](mailto:david.brown@wpcc.org.uk)  
[sue.bucknall@wpcc.org.uk](mailto:sue.bucknall@wpcc.org.uk)

### 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](mailto:chairman@srra.co.uk)

## Aircraft Noise

I have an annual beef about this which I realise is distinctly nimbyish, but there does seem to be an increase in aircraft taking off over our area. I realise this is more prevalent when the wind is in the East, but the aircraft often continue after 11.00 pm. They are supposed to stop at 10.50 pm. If you are concerned I would advise emailing [noise@heathrow.com](mailto:noise@heathrow.com). You will get a reply and even though it probably makes little difference I think it is worth letting the authorities know we are aware.

## Recommended Websites

**Freecycle** - [www.freecycle.org](http://www.freecycle.org)

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

**Gumtree** - [www.gumtree.com](http://www.gumtree.com)

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

**Nextdoor** - [www.nextdoor.co.uk](http://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](http://www.wpcc.org.uk)

Very comprehensive site giving general information about the Commons.

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

... and don't forget to use your very own SRRA website for news, events, planning, membership

## Social Gatherings

We will be holding our ever-popular gathering for members in the Rushmere (formerly the Swan) on the Ridgway on **Thursday 21st November** from 6.30 pm. Drinks are free for members and it is a very enjoyable way of meeting your neighbours.

We plan to hold our Spring get together at Christ Church Hall towards the end of February 2025. I can't yet confirm the date but will do so by email as soon as possible. There will be a guest speaker and along with free refreshments you will have a chance to meet your MP Paul Kohler if he is free, and local councillors to discuss any issues with them.

We will try and arrange Summer drinks outside in 2025, but this is obviously weather dependent and as I have said before subject to the whims of the Chairman.