



# SOUTH RIDGWAY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Neighbours

Welcome to our latest newsletter.

Our association exists to protect and enhance the area in which we live. To be successful we depend on a two way dialogue with our members. We also depend to a huge extent on our "road reps" and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for all their hard work. I would also like, as always, to thank the committee for all their work and for keeping me on the straight and narrow ! We strive to keep our members informed of important events in the area, and please never hesitate to contact me with any matter you wish to raise.

Bill Petch  
Chairman  
October 2015

Membership - Vivien Mackay  
Secretary - Susie Mortimore  
Treasurer - David Brown  
Website - Graham Bucknall  
Planning - Bill Petch

## PLANNING ISSUES

There is plenty going on in the area, both on a large and relatively small scale. Here is a list of all the association is and has been involved in recently.

### *Upton Court, The Downs.*

I am afraid from a planning perspective this battle was lost. The association and a group of local residents fought a long and hard battle to prevent a penthouse being built on top of this block.

The planning officer however recommended acceptance and even after impassioned pleas to the committee the application was rubber stamped.

### *Crescent House, 113-115, Worple Road.*

A planning application for a similar extension to this block was approved. I hope this is not a developing trend for the whole area.

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

I find it hard to believe that I am writing again about this proposed development, as I said in my letter of objection to the council "I am overcome with an appalling feeling of déjà vu" There have been numerous applications to develop this very small site behind a block of flats into a dwelling place. Two of the applications have been rejected by the council and two on appeal by the Secretary of State.

Anyway the applicant is back and the latest design is virtually identical to all its predecessors, and as I said the association and many local residents have objected strongly. I will keep you posted.

### *Rosemary Lodge, The Drive.*

This site has been sold with accompanying planning permission. The proposed development, as I have said before, will almost certainly be a massive improvement on that which is there at the moment. Tom Coleman, one of our members, is keeping a keen eye to make sure all recommendations are adhered to especially with reference to preserving trees.

### *Blossom House School, The Drive.*

This school has been operating from premises in the Drive for a number of years, providing an excellent education for children with speech, learning and communication difficulties. Its phenomenal success has meant that the school has now outgrown this site and this has prompted the need to move to larger buildings near Motspur Park station [still within the borough]. It has been a very costly process relocating the school and a planning application has been approved to redevelop the old school site for 13 family homes principally to fund the school relocation.

I totally approve of this whole development, not least because, fine institution though Blossom House was, it was never an object of great beauty. The proposed housing will be much more in tune with the neighbourhood.

## 1, Arterberry Road.

This site runs for roughly 30 metres along the South side of Dunmore Road. There is at the moment a 1930s style cottage on the site. It is I realise inevitable that this site will be developed, however the association in conjunction with several neighbours are fighting hard to make sure that any development is totally in tune with the charming uniformity of Dunmore Road. I also feel that four houses is too many and three would be more in keeping with the area.

## Parking, Traffic, Street Scene.

We now have two parking zones within our area. The first is for permit holders only between 8.30am and 6.30pm on weekdays. The other is the same apart from the time gap is 11.00 am until noon.

I can assure you I get many enquiries from those within the ten hour zone asking how they can get the zone changed to one hour, and I have just started to get enquiries from those in the one hour zone wanting to go to the ten.

The ONLY way these zones can be changed is if someone organises a signed petition involving all the houses in a zone and if a majority want change the council will comply.

I would also point out that these zones were established as a result of a survey and the wishes of those who responded was adopted.

Thank goodness we are to have no mini roundabouts on the Ridgway. However two very tight "pinches" have appeared, one near the West end of Belvedere Drive and one near the end of Belvedere Grove. These I was lead to believe were initially an experiment, however they are different widths so the experiment would seem to be flawed. Also the traffic priority sign in Belvedere Grove gives preference to traffic travelling towards the High Street, thus causing tail backs to the High Street mini roundabout. The thinking, or lack of it behind this is beyond me. Those in the Belvederes have still not achieved their desired "traffic free ghetto" status and chaos reigns. I have written expressing my views and will keep you posted.

I have a direct repeat of last years letter whereby I would like to congratulate the council with regards to how quickly they clear away fly tipped rubbish when contacted on the phone, even after hours. I would also like to appeal to them to replace as many street lights as possible with the new LED models.

I am very pleased that a vast majority of dog owners clear up in the street after their pets, however several members have pointed out the increasing number of bags containing dog faeces are dumped in the gutter or against trees. I have no clue what can be done about this and if any member has any idea how this unacceptable habit can be discouraged please let me know.

## Concert Hall.

The Chief Executive of the Philharmonia Orchestra is so impressed by the plans to develop an international performing arts hall in Wimbledon town centre that he has joined the campaigning board to give it his weight and authority.

The planned site is the Hartfield Road car park and the proposals would double the size of the parking area. This is a major community project which will invigorate and give character to Wimbledon Town Centre.

Anyone who is willing to support this project please contact Anthony Wilkinson on 0208 946 5078 or Wilkinson.a@outlook.com.

## Annual General Meeting 2016

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 23rd March 2016** in the **Lower Hall** at the **Sacred Heart church in Edge Hill**. I am sorry not at Christ Church Hall but that will probably have been demolished (soon to reappear) by then.

Please put this in your diaries for next year, more details of who will be there to follow.

## Drinks at the Swan.

You are all invited to come for drinks at the Swan on the Ridgway on **Thursday 19th November** from 6.30pm onwards. Please try and come this is usually a good evening and a chance to meet other members.

## The SRRA Website

I would encourage everybody to use the website [www.srra.co.uk](http://www.srra.co.uk). Please think of it as an electronic notice board. If you have any tradesman you would recommend or any item you would like to buy or sell or any local event you would like to promote, please let us know and it can be posted for all to see. Graham is posting information about numerous events on the site and there are many links to other local websites readily available.