



SOUTH RIDGWAY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Dear Neighbours

Welcome to our Autumn newsletter.

An awful lot has happened in the last year, both on the world stage and locally. I think the Association has managed to be involved with, and keep our members informed of, any matters that concern our area. One of our main aims is to maintain an environment in which residents continue to be happy to live and work. This we do either in an advisory capacity or by directly engaging with the Council or developers. I see the two major factors that will affect our area over the next few years as "infill" and Crossrail2, more of which later.

Our other main aim is to keep our members informed, by regular email, of current events in our area. I would like, as always, to thank the committee for all their work and also our Road Representatives who in so many ways help the association to function.

Bill Petch
Chairman
October 2016

Membership - Vivien Mackay membership@srra.co.uk
Secretary - Susie Mortimore secretary@srra.co.uk
Treasurer - David Brown finance@srra.co.uk
Website - Graham Bucknall website@srra.co.uk
Planning - Bill Petch chairman@srra.co.uk

PLANNING ISSUES

Please contact the Association if you have any concerns with regard to planning issues. We cannot wave a magic wand, but will always do our best to advise and help on any contentious proposals.

Garages to the rear of Aston Court Lansdowne Road:

I am appalled to report that planning permission has been granted for this totally inappropriate dwelling to be built behind this block of flats. The owner of the garages has made several applications to develop this site. Two have been rejected by the Council and two by the official Inspectorate. Anyway a virtually identical application has been granted. I realise the Council's planning department are under-staffed

and overworked, but I do sometimes wonder about some of their decisions. I would like to take my hat off to the group of residents who fought long and hard to stop this development.

1, Arterberry Road:

This site, which runs for about 30 metres along the South side of Dunmore Road, has been ripe for development for several years. The Association, in conjunction with several local residents, objected to the initial proposals and they were withdrawn. The plans that have been approved (and in fact the work has started) are for four houses which to a large extent blend in with Dunmore Road. The Association thought three houses would have been more appropriate but it was not to be.

Rosemary Lodge:

The development of this site is well under way. We have a member keeping an eagle eye on the building work to make sure all the rules and recommendations are adhered to. As I have said before, this development, though substantial in all aspects, is an improvement on what was on the site before.

Blossom House School:

Planning permission was granted to develop the old school over a year ago. It has not been possible to market the site until recently, but there should be some action soon.

Wimbledon Close, The Downs:

The freeholder of Wimbledon Close is trying to build a block of eight flats in the garage area behind this block and Upton Court. This is a classic example of "infill" that I mentioned earlier. In February we organised a meeting between several affected residents and the developer's planning consultant. A large number of concerns were raised, a full note of which we then sent on to the planning consultant.

At the time of going to press the developer's agent has not responded to our concerns but has informed Wimbledon Close residents that a planning application has been submitted. Nothing on the Council's website as yet, however. SRRRA, along with a large number of local residents, will continue to fight this inappropriate development on all levels.

King's College School:

There are plans to build a new swimming pool and sports hall at King's. This will bring the tennis courts over to the field beside the Ridgway. I can see no real objections to this scheme, but please let me know if you have any problems with it as it is a significant change.

CROSSRAIL2

This is probably the most significant development in our area over the next two decades. It will have a massive effect on Wimbledon town centre both during and after construction. There are however no clear plans for the track between Wimbledon and Raynes Park station nor any obvious plans for the latter.

This is not the place to enter the debate, but we will keep you informed of significant developments on this issue. I realise not all our members are interested in Crossrail2, but for those of you who want more detailed updates I would suggest you register on wehraplanning@aol.com. This organisation will keep you updated with all the minutiae and arguments for and against the scheme before, during and after its conception. Another website to watch is that of the Friends of Wimbledon Town Centre www.wimbledontowncentre.com.

I would also urge any of you who have strong views on this subject to voice them to your local councillors and to Stephen Hammond our MP. I can assure you that weight of response does matter.

STREET SCENE

There has been a rash of fly tipping in the area. If you witness any I am not advising you to intervene, but a registration number or possibly a photograph will help the authorities. I have also found phoning the Council on 020 8274 4902 elicits a very prompt response.

There is a lot of kerbstone replacement going on in the area, where the trees have pushed the originals off line. From what I can see the job is being bodged and could be completed in a much more professional fashion. In fact the money would be better spent on road surface repairs and also if the trees were pollarded on an annual basis the problem would not occur.

I would like also to have my annual rant about dog owners who, having cleared up after their pets, then leave the offending bags in the gutter. I realise this is a minority and I do not have an answer, but if anyone has any ideas please let me know.

An alert member noticed there was an application lodged with the council to fell two perfectly healthy Yew trees at the junction of Edge Hill and the Ridgway. The association objected as these trees were very much part of the street scene and were in fine fettle. I am pleased to say the request has been denied.

Annual General Meeting 2017

The Annual General Meeting will be held at 7.30pm on **Wednesday 22nd March 2017**.

No venue confirmed as yet. I am hoping we can return to Christ Church Hall, as amazingly it looks as if it will not be demolished due to a U turn by the diocese. I will keep you posted.

Drinks at the Swan.

You are all invited to come for drinks at the Swan on the Ridgway on **Wednesday 16th November** from 7.30pm onwards.

Please try and come as this is always an enjoyable evening and a chance to meet other members.

The SRRRA Website

I would as always encourage you all to use the website www.srra.co.uk. Please think of it as an electronic notice board. We do not allow advertising but if there is a local tradesman you would like to recommend, an item you would like to buy or sell, or a local event you would like to promote, please let us know and it can be posted for all to see. There are also many useful links to other local websites.

Council Tax

Merton Council is asking residents to have their say on council tax and council spending in 2017 and 2018. Please see the centre pages of the latest My Merton or you can find out more online at news.merton.gov.uk/2016/09/06/have-your-say-on-council-tax-and-council-spending/

Crime Review

The Safer Merton partnership is undertaking a review of crime and antisocial behaviour in Merton and would like to hear from residents about your experiences and priorities for the future. To find out more and get involved please see www.merton.gov.uk/community-living/communitysafety/safermertonconsultation.htm