



**PETERBOROUGH ROAD & AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

# **PRARA NEWSLETTER**

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## **SPRING MEETING: VANDALISM vs REGENERATION: SOUTH PARK**

As Spring arrives, so does the first **PRARA** Newsletter of 2003. So it is appropriate that **PRARA** holds its first meeting of the year to discuss progress, with Parks and Parks Police spokesmen, in the regeneration of, as well as vandalism to, the local jewel in our crown – South Park, on **Wednesday 19 March at 7pm-9pm**. The details of your invitation are on the last page of this newsletter.

Attached to this newsletter are press cuttings relating to South Park, problems at the No 22 bus stop, planning applications relating to the departure of the long established Peterborough Road wine merchant, Chandler & Co, which was picked up by a previous **PRARA** newsletter, and the distribution list to interested parties outside **PRARA** membership.

### **SOUTH PARK**

Three local newspapers used **PRARA's** comments on the lack of maintenance in South Park generally and on the new South Park Garden designed on behalf of the council by Groundwork West London. Press cuttings are attached.

Patricia Hicks reports that the flower beds have now been pruned and mulched, and that new turfing and soil improver has been supplied for the start of the growing season. The lavender beds are in a sorry state, but will be weeded and re-planted later in the cycle. The terracotta features which have been badly damaged by vandals will be protected from further damage, and the remaining ornamental vase put away for safety. The council is now discussing ways in which the restoration of these unique features can be funded. Patricia has asked for specific dates as to when this will work will commence. The restored terracotta in Bishops' Park has already been vandalised.

The request from parks staff and **PRARA** for an increased police presence in Peterborough Road at the end of the school day is under consideration, as is the possibility of temporarily closing the Peterborough Road gate at this time, leaving all four other gates open. **PRARA** has asked that the installation of mobile CCTV cameras in the park is also considered.

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### **PRARA CONTACTS**

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The **PRARA** committee discussed making a positive contribution to South Park of a tree. A Whitebeam was suggested, which is not only decorative but also attractive to wildlife. If **PRARA** members agree, a contribution towards the cost would be requested, but as the planting season would not be until the Autumn, the request for a modest contribution would be made later this year.

It is hoped that a representative from the Parks maintenance department of Direct Services, and a representative from the Parks Police will speak about current progress and future plans for South Park, at the meeting. It is intended to invite the Head of Hurlingham & Chelsea School to the meeting.

### **PUPIL ANARCHY AT THE 22 BUS STOP PARSONS GREEN**

**PRARA** members have reported that the unruly behavior of school children at the No 22 bus stop in New Kings Road by Parson's Green, has caused much concern. Recently a Daisy Lane resident found herself pushed and sworn at during a fight between two apparently rival gangs from Hurlingham & Chelsea School on the top of a number 22 bus. **PRARA** has, in the past, written to the school requesting that a member of staff accompany pupils to the bus stop in order to moderate their behavior.

The Council's Environment and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel met on 12 February to discuss the reliability, access, safety and information provision of London buses. Transport for London and the bus operators were invited to attend the meeting. **PRARA** made a representation to the committee chairman with suggestions as to how to combat this problem, and the outcome of this meeting will be reported to **PRARA** members in due course, but the March 11 meeting of the Panel may provide some information.

If any **PRARA** member has witnessed an incident at the bus stop, please let us know.

### **PLANNING APPLICATIONS:**

#### **26a PETERBOROUGH ROAD**

A planning application from a self-storage company for 26a Peterborough Road, (the site vacated by wine merchants, Chandler & Co.), has been vigorously contested by the residents of Peterborough Road who live opposite the proposed new development. **PRARA**, on behalf of all members, has written to the Hammersmith & Fulham Planning Dept. with a list of objections. This application – now viewed as major – MAY come to a Planning Committee meeting on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, but could be withheld for further consideration.

#### **LOTS ROAD**

Circadian has put in its third application for the Fulham part of this development land on the south side of Chelsea Creek. The new application has 67 fewer units, (down to 397 units from 442), and 29 fewer car parking spaces, (down from 296 to 267). In the other hand, Circadian has increased the height of its tower by 11 storeys, (up to 37 from 25). The other half of the site is on the Kensington & Chelsea side, and there the matching tower remains at 25 storeys, although that borough has still to pronounce on an existing application. So far Circadian has made three applications to Hammersmith & Fulham and two to Kensington & Chelsea.

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**PRARA** has continued its objection to this development and has called for Circadian to take a much more radical approach instead of tinkering with heights and so on, since housing of some kind is needed for the site. The most stringent objections stem from traffic congestion, which was already bad in this triangle of Fulham, even before new developments were envisaged.

### **IMPERIAL WHARF**

**PRARA** members may remember that developer St George recently put in an application for 300 more units for Phase One of this development than was originally given. St George proposed to do this by splitting up the very large top floor flats into two. Permission was refused. This application will now go to appeal, scheduled for 3 June 2003.

### **THE NON-RAIL STATION**

The new passenger rail station which is crucial to St George's future plans, and indeed for nearby Lots Road, still hangs fire. St George has put in design details for the new station, which is a big step forward. However the developer has apparently met its match in the rail authority, which has to supply the trains and fit them in with the freight traffic and the little Connex trains which use the same line. So at present we might foresee a lovely new rail station without any trains.

### **NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

It is hoped that the Neighbourhood Watch signs will soon be installed in Peterborough Road. The newly formed NW meeting of Peterborough Estate residents at Christchurch Church Hall, in Studdridge Street, a couple of weeks ago attracted over 200 residents. At this meeting, Parsons Green & Walham Community Police Officer, Chris Amey warned residents that letterbox thieves are operating in the area. Where house keys are left near the front door, thieves are able to insert a rod with a hook and steal the keys. He recommended installing a letterbox guard and keeping keys out of sight, away from the front door.

### **AGM**

The AGM is expected to be held in May at a date to be announced.

### **FUND-RAISING**

The **PRARA** Committee would like to consider ideas for a fund-raising event, as the voluntary £1 donation to cover the cost of stationery and printing leaves little for additional activity. All your ideas are welcome, so if you can't attend the meeting, ring, write or email them to the committee. Bingo (with prizes other than cash), has been suggested. So has a Barn Dance.

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**INVITATION TO THE SOUTH PARK MEETING**

**PRARA members are all invited to attend the meeting which will be held  
in  
The Red Room, (Parson's Green Executive Suite), British Legion Club,  
New Kings Road,  
On Wednesday 19 March 2003 at 7pm.**

**This is the elegant Georgian Building at the junction of Parsons Green  
Lane, which we hope will be our regular venue. Please knock & enter  
through the main (members) door.**

**Wine and fruit juice will be available at £1 per glass. Beer can also be  
ordered (at club prices) from the bar. Speak to Tony who is looking after  
the drinks.**

**RSVP –by phone or email to Ann Rosenberg.**

**At the end of the meeting, PRARA members may like to gather in the bar  
in Aragon House, (part of, and next door to, the British Legion building),  
which is a friendly and informal place to chat to fellow members after the  
meeting.**

**You have to knock on the door and enter via the street entrance.**

**PRARA would like to thank Bob and Eira for giving us the use of the Red  
Room for our meeting.**

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