



PETERBOROUGH ROAD & AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

PRARA NEWSLETTER

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PRARA COORDINATOR & ENHANCED ROLES FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

This is our first Newsletter since the May AGM when Coordinator Patricia Hicks announced that she would resign from the post in September, and asked the committee to find her successor. Well, there were no volunteers, and as Patricia is a hard act to follow, after much deliberation the committee suggested that some of Patricia's workload could be delegated to members of the standing committee. They asked her to consider this proposal and remain as Coordinator for another term as the first point of contact for PRARA and meeting convener with particular responsibilities including the rising bollard in Peterborough Road, which she was instrumental in establishing. Patricia agreed, but asked the committee to continue to look for her successor once her term was completed by the next AGM in 2004.

From now on Charles Truman will take over the responsibility for South Park and Paul Leonard will in future handle all planning matters. Crime and social disorder concerns should be directed to our Neighbourhood Watch representatives, Andrew Gray and Michael Foster. Anthony Williams will look after the traffic and parking portfolio and has also been appointed Vice Coordinator.

PRARA members should now direct their concerns and comments to the appropriate committee member.

The standing committee needs to emphasize that PRARA still needs someone to take over the Coordinator role and continue Patricia's sterling work. A short job description is available – please contact Patricia to learn more. We also welcome any help from members who would be willing to take on small jobs to help with PRARA's work in maintaining the quality of life in our small area of Fulham, such as liaising with other like-minded organizations in the borough. Please contact either Patricia or Anthony Williams.

RESIDENTS' PARKING/CAR SECURITY

Anthony Williams (Vice-Coordinator & Clancarty Road representative), reported that the residents' questionnaire, delivered last week indicated that the Council is considering the 'residents' only' time slots introduced earlier this year in roads near Chelsea Football Ground,

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(which were intended to give residents priority on Saturday match days and during the weekday time slot when most people might be expected to arrive home from work), to other zones including our own Zone Q. A discussion on the subject at PRARA's AGM showed such a diverse range of opinions that the Standing Committee decided not to respond as an Association. We did, though, request that the Council revise the draft questionnaire so that everybody had the opportunity to comment more fully on all future options for residents' parking. We are pleased that the Council adopted most of our suggestions.

Car Security – this is attached as a separate document: PRARA Brief No. 4

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Andrew Gray (PRARA Neighbourhood Watch representative), reported that the new community policeman for Walham Ward is PC Philip Downes who replaces PC Amey. He would be chasing the Council over the poor state of the lighting on Parsons Green. As the Neighbourhood Watch area covering Peterborough Road was large, he suggested that a NW representative for the lower end of the road be appointed, and would approach some of the PRARA members at that end to ask if they would take on the role.

He reported that the Peterborough Estate NW group was very active, and now liaises with PRARA, exchanging valuable local information. The Estate has donated £10 on behalf of their liaison member Christopher Carter (Tel: 7731 3150), who will attend PRARA's committee meetings which seem useful.

The Annual Peterborough Estate Neighbourhood Watch meeting will be held at Christchurch, Studdridge Street on Monday 3 November 2003 at 8pm. All PRARA members are welcome to attend, and there will be the opportunity to meet PC Downes, the Walham Ward community officer. Those PRARA members who were unable to attend our own NW meeting last year will find it both interesting and useful.

Halloween Tips:

Many local families want to ensure that Halloween is safe and fun for their children, but it can also be an intrusion on residents who do not wish to participate.

These are some tips which we hope will make the evening more enjoyable for all:

- Homes that wish to participate should display pumpkins and/or decorate the front door and put on an outside light.
- Non-participants should turn off their outside light
- There should be a time limit of 4.30pm -7.30pm after which pumpkins/lights should be removed/turned off.
- Only offer pre-wrapped sweets. When you run out, switch off the outside light
- Children should be accompanied by an adult. Carry a torch.

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- Tricking is not a good idea as it may upset neighbours.
- Be aware that these tips will only be read by PRARA members, and you may still get unwelcome calls later in the evening.

CLANCARTY ROAD

Anthony Williams reports: On behalf of Clancarty Road members, PRARA submitted objections to a planning application for alterations to two restaurant premises, at 140 & 142 Wandsworth Bridge Road, formerly *Pizza Express* and *A Taste of Italy*. Both restaurants are serviced from Clancarty Road. The grounds for objection were primarily parking pressures and noise problems from early morning deliveries, and in the evenings, customers and ventilation systems, especially in the summer.

The applicant has currently withdrawn his application in order to address various issues raised by Planning Officers but a further application is expected. If you are concerned, please advise us, but also look out for a new planning notice fixed to lamp posts in the Wandsworth Bridge Road, and submit your own objection directed to the council.

We are also monitoring a restaurant application for 146 Wandsworth Bridge Road as these premises also back onto Clancarty Road houses. We understand that this application is likely to fail on community grounds.

IMPERIAL WHARF

The Imperial Wharf development has implications for the whole of South Fulham especially the area of Sands End and Walham Wards, which are represented by PRARA.

Patricia attended the public enquiry into the appeal by the developers, St George, against the Council's refusal to allow it to increase the housing units by an extra 269, (which would also include cars) into phase one of its development at Imperial Wharf, which was already at the limit of housing density in an isolated site bordering narrow residential streets. Among the Council's reasons for its refusal include the height of the proposed new units, design not suited to the character of the area, blocking of sunlight to nearby streets and houses, small rooms, density, insufficient local transport, increased local traffic, and a rail station still a long way from creation.

On behalf of PRARA, Patricia spoke for 20 minutes, concentrating on one aspect of the effect this development is likely to have on the local community: increased car traffic. Cars could be forced off the Wandsworth Bridge Road, and all the surrounding residential roads will become rat runs including, Peterborough Road, Clancarty Road, Daisy Lane, and Settrington Road – PRARA's membership area.

PRARA was able to persuade the inquiry inspector to add the PRARA membership area to his on-site inspection of traffic conditions and the Wharf development, and he walked the full

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length of Peterborough Road on his own.

The QC acting for St George claimed, through the St George's traffic specialist, that an increase of only 10 vehicles per hour in either direction were likely to use Peterborough Road and Broomhouse Road.

PRARA however got them to admit that their traffic specialist had added both roads together (when Broomhouse Road is almost free of traffic), thus putting an additional 20 vehicles per hour into Peterborough Road, and omitted to mention that this was spread over a notional 24 hour period.

PRARA then went on to produce some statistics obtained from the Council's own traffic computer study made in November 2002 to assess how successful the recently installed rising bollard in Peterborough Road was in preventing heavy traffic. The results showed that the bollard was successful in preventing heavy traffic, but also it revealed that during the morning rush hour, 141 cars travelled along Peterborough Road towards New Kings Road at 7.45 am, and this increased to 346 cars at 8.45 am.

In his closing speech, St George's QC made a dismissive comment on the above figures from PRARA. He would only advance his own figure of 10 cars per hour to 13 or so. He added in conclusion: "We respectfully submit that changes in traffic generation during peak hour of that order are wholly immaterial and would not give grounds for objection on highway or indeed on other grounds. *Indeed we doubt whether they would be noticed at all!*" (our italics).

PRARA was not able to reply as the inquiry then ended.

The nearby Lots Road development by Circadian, of which the Fulham half was recently approved by the Council, is expected to add to traffic congestion in this triangle of Fulham.

The inquiry inspector was expected to report on this in early September, but his conclusions will not be made public until the Secretary of State for the Environment has seen the report, which will probably be sometime after the party conferences.

SOUTH PARK

Charles Truman reported that the area of the park near Woolneigh Street was falling into neglect. With unweeded beds and gaps in the planting. Unfortunately these gaps would not be replanted due to current lack of funds. The tree planted by Cllr Bird in February has died but will be replaced. The repair of the terracotta and the tennis courts is still under review. However the tree ordered by Patricia on behalf of PRARA would be properly planted by the Council sometime in November. Members will be invited to attend when a date has been set.

Anthony Williams has a watching brief on the fate of the lodge in South Park which borders Clancarty and Peterborough Roads.

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BAGLEY'S LANE

Paul Leonard (Planning representative) reports that the traffic restrictions are due to a newly planned traffic layout, which may result in one of the mature trees on Eel Brook Common being cut down. He will contact the Council's traffic chief, Mr. Olizar to investigate.

Post script:

*South Park

PRARA hopes to encourage a summer celebration to mark the centenary of South Park next Year. More news of this later.

*Voluntary subscriptions

Chrissy Stenning (Hon. Treasurer) reports that many members still have to make their voluntary contribution to the PRARA kitty which covers the cost of paper and printing newsletters etc. (In the May AGM it was agreed that everyone would be asked to make a voluntary donation of up to £5 per member).

If you have forgotten to make your donation, please let Chrissy have your contribution in cash (PRARA has no bank account), as soon as possible. And many thanks to the new members in Settrington Road and Clancarty Road who have enclosed their contribution with their membership forms.

*Recycling

Remember to tie up the orange recycling sacks to prevent the content being scattered in the street by unruly youths, as has happened to one member.

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