



PETERBOROUGH ROAD & AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

PRARA NEWSLETTER

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OPEN MEETING

PRARA's first meeting of 2004 will be held at 6.30pm on Monday, 29 March, at a new meeting place – the **Ashville Surgery, Swan House, Parsons Green Lane** (between nos 24 & 22, just beyond the tube station), by kind permission of Dr Stephen Aras who is a recent PRARA member.

We have invited a Met. Police spokesman to explain the latest arrangements of shift patterns within the Fulham force, resulting, among other changes, in the reassignment of our two current Community Policemen. He will also answer your questions regarding local policing.

We have also asked Mr. Phil Nicholls, the Deputy Borough Engineer, (Environment Department: Highways) along to explain his work and with the latest information about the rising bollard in Peterborough Road, originally there to prevent heavy traffic, and why it has not been working.

If you have any particular questions to ask of the guests, it would be useful to have them beforehand, in order for them to research any facts and figures which may be necessary for a full and detailed answer.

Please send in your questions to Ann Rosenberg, Hon. Sec. PRARA, either by email or letter, or by phone (leaving name and contact phone number if answered by machine), by Thursday 22 March.

Wine & soft drinks at a very reasonable price will be available. We look forward to seeing our old members and welcoming our new ones.

IMPERIAL WHARF REFUSAL

The bid by developers St George to add nearly 300 more units to its first phase of Imperial Wharf has been turned down by the public enquiry inspector and by the Secretary of State, John Prescott, on the

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basis of their poor design. Prescott also had concerns about the impact of elements of the new scheme on existing and future occupiers of the small houses of Sands End. The scheme conflicted with the borough's development plan.

Strangely enough the appeal scheme was NOT thought to cause unacceptable traffic problems in the nearby roads or even as far as Peterborough Road and its area. The rail station was mentioned as a possibility but was not considered vital to the area. The impression is left on reading the full report that if the developers had designed their new scheme more sympathetically and with better 'affordable housing' units within it, then despite congestion, and the very high density, the additional units would have got through.

Patricia Hicks, Coordinator PRARA, spoke for 20 minutes at the inquiry about the traffic problems of Peterborough Road and its member streets.

It is now open to St George to appeal against the Secretary of State's decision, or to redesign a new application for Imperial Wharf, Mk2.

THE NON-RISING BOLLARD

Members may have spotted on page 2 of the January 22 edition of the Fulham Gazette a story about the disappearing bollards, (sic), of Peterborough Road

Even more members may have noticed that this (one) bollard has not been working consistently since well before Christmas. As a rising bollard it has had its quirks over the past two years since it was installed – two cars over-ran it, electricity cuts, and faulty mechanics. But by and large it has done its duty – preventing very heavy goods vehicles from using the street as a rat-run and making private cars which were illegally speeding through the centre use the legal 7-foot traffic lanes on either side of it instead.

The bollard is lowered electronically from a distance, rather like a TV remote or garage door, by the use of a transponder in permitted vehicles: i.e. the 424 bus and fire engines, both too large to use the side lanes. There is a fail-safe cabinet by the side of the road which can be unlocked and the bollard lowered by following printed instructions.

Unfortunately, although this bollard is the only one of its kind in London, the key to its cabinet is identical to all the non-rising bollards and road barriers throughout London, which can be unlocked and taken down manually. We understand that these keys are in the hands of all the emergency services and some of the utilities, as well as of the police.

Either some of these organizations have become impatient and are regularly lowering the bollard – and not raising it, or the keys have got into the wrong hands.

Either way, as soon as a council officer came down and put the bollard up, some unseen hand lowered it again. This up-again-down-again bollard was obviously dangerous to pedestrians, muddling for drivers and potentially dangerous to all road users

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Patricia Hicks, PRARA Coordinator, has been in correspondence with the council for some time and has recently written to the Metropolitan Police and had contacted Councillors Brendan Bird and Nick Botterill about the problem. There has been a council offer to discuss the bollard with the police and to perhaps erect CCTV cameras to catch the culprit or culprits. There was a recent car accident at the site – a driver worse for drink was taken to hospital and then released – and large yellow and black temporary bollards were placed at the sides of the area.

The council has now changed the contractors who look after the bollard, and in the week beginning Monday 2 February it was raised. However, the council's Lighting Engineer, Mr. Roy Walker (Tel: 8753 3087), who drives along Peterborough Road daily has undertaken to stop and raise the bollard any time it is down. This seems unfair on Mr. Walker. Can we ask PRARA members who may happen to see anyone suspicious fiddling with the cabinet to ring Mr. Walker or Patricia Hicks.

DAISY LANE TRAFFIC PROBLEMS

Guy Nicolson (Daisy Lane representative) was informed that the council, after consulting local residents, had made a decision to remove a parking bay in Peterborough Road at the junction of Daisy Lane in order that the heavy vehicles using Broomhouse Lane and turning into Daisy Lane have room to turn the corner into Peterborough Road. Guy Nicolson, who had not received any consultation paper, wrote to the council on behalf of PRARA members about the potential danger to parked cars in Daisy Lane by articulated vehicles using Daisy Lane and Peterborough Road to return to Wandsworth Bridge Road, after their deliveries to Hitchcock in Carnwarth Road and Jewsons in Broomhouse Lane. This route also neatly avoided the rising bollard which was installed to stop the use of Peterborough Road by this type of heavy vehicle.

A meeting was arranged at the beginning of February with a council official, Mr. Dunkwu of the Fulham Traffic Group who, with Guy Nicolson and Ann Rosenberg, walked round the affected streets to see what alternative suggestions could be made.

After this meeting Mr. Dunkwu agreed to put forward a proposal to install a mini roundabout at the junction of Broomhouse Lane and Daisy Lane, where the road was widest, which would enable articulated vehicles to turn round and return to Wandsworth Bridge Road via Broomhouse Lane and Carnwarth Road. This means that valuable parking spaces in Peterborough Road would not be lost. Daisy Lane residents intend to petition for a restriction to any commercial heavy good vehicles using the narrow residential lane.

PRARA'S TREE PLANTING IN SOUTH PARK

Two dozen or so members braved a damp and windy Saturday morning on December 6 to see a sapling Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria 'Majestica'*), a gift from PRARA to South Park in honour of the park's 100th birthday in May. It was planted with the help of parks staff in a corner by the end of the terracotta balustrades, near the corner of Clancarty and Peterborough Roads. Many thanks to those who brought along a bottle.

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The Whitebeam has paddle-shaped green leaves with an under layer of silvery white hairs, and a profusion of red berries in autumn. It's a fairly small tree. Mr. Alan Taylor of DSO3 kindly found a paling surround to protect it. The Fulham Gazette sent a photographer and ran a small story.

Picture by Karen Ward

NEIGHBOURS SOW THE SEEDS OF CHANGE IN PARK

Members of a residents' association planted a tree in a Fulham Park on Saturday and hope it will lead to a change in fortune for the neglected open space.

Members of Peterborough Road and Area Residents' Association were given a hand by Hammersmith and Fulham Council park staff to plant a whitebeam tree in South Park in Clancarty Road. The planting commemorated the 100th anniversary of the open space and coincided with national tree week.

Neighbours have criticized the council in the past for not doing enough to maintain South Park. Patricia Hicks, co-ordinator of the association, donated the £20, 10ft high tree to the park and hopes planting will become an annual tradition for residents.

Mrs Hicks said: "We think South Park is a Cinderella park because the council has very little money to maintain it, for example for digging and weeding, but the park staff do their best to keep it looking nice.

"The tree planting cheered people up and it was nice to put something back into the park and have something nice for the residents. We hope to plant a tree and more plants next year."

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SCHOOL QUESTIONNAIRE

PRARA members may have recently received a questionnaire regarding Hurlingham School pupils, which could have given the impression that it came from an official local association. This questionnaire is nothing to do with PRARA or the Hurlingham Residents' Association. PRARA understands that its source is being investigated by the school and Councillor Bird.

WEDDING BELLS

Ann Rosenberg, our Hon. Sec. married Tony Bell, (our unofficial barman at PRARA events), on Saturday 31 January. She won't be changing her name for practical reasons, although she will answer to Mrs. Bell when she's concentrating. We wish them every happiness.

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