



**PETERBOROUGH ROAD & AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

**PRARA NEWSLETTER**

**Incorporating the Minutes of the AGM - May 2003**

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**AGM**

The first Annual General Meeting of the Peterborough Road and Area Residents' Association, (PRARA,) since its formation in February 2002, was held at 7pm, on Friday, 16 May, 2003, at 75 Peterborough Road SW6 3BT

It was attended by 20 PRARA members (apologies from 12 members) and included invited guests, Nick Botterill (Councillor for Parsons Green & Walham), Brendan Bird (Councillor for Sands End)

**Coordinator Patricia Hicks** welcomed the guests and members, mentioned the amendment to the Constitution involving Election of Officers, and summarised PRARA'S achievements over the past 14 months.

These included

- Bedding-in of rising bollard
- Establishment of the Neighbourhood Watch in parallel with PRARA
- Improvement of maintenance and content of South Park.
- The intention to plant a small decorative tree (a whitebeam) in South Park this autumn

Outstanding objectives:

- Improvement to the condition of the tennis courts in South Park
- Repair of the historic terracotta balustrade
- Mitigate local vandalism
- Improve litter collection.

She said collaboration is one of PRARA's watchwords. Working with ARISE of Sands End, PRARA has opposed the over-development of Imperial Wharf and Lots Road. PRARA expects to attend and perhaps speak at the public enquiry regarding Imperial Wharf in June, regarding local traffic increase. PRARA is sometimes invited to ARISE committee meetings.

PRARA recently supported the Hurlingham Road Residents' Association in their successful opposition to council plans to erect 36ft. high floodlights round an all weather pitch in Hurlingham Park, just at the back of Napier Road. In return its chairman has offered to help us in any project we have in hand.

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**Hon. Secretary:** Ann Rosenberg, 72 Peterborough Road. Tel: 7731 5151 Email: [anntonv@which.net](mailto:anntonv@which.net)

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PRARA was recently invited to a committee meeting of the Bishops Park Users' Group to help us in our efforts to improve South Park.

PRARA has so far successfully squashed plans by a self-storage company to build a huge and ugly warehouse in Peterborough Road in place of the vacated premises of Chandlers, the recently departed wine company. We are indebted to our members, Paul Leonard (architect) and Richard Brown (commercial solicitor), for the expert advice and photographs provided in support of our objection.

Four members have been co-opted to the Standing Committee or sub-committee: Paul Leonard, Chrissie Stenning, Charles Truman and Michael Foster.

Patricia Hicks announced her intention to stand down as Coordinator this year and also that a Hon Treasurer should be elected as it is proposed that a voluntary donation of up to £5 per household would be needed to cover administrative costs for the next year. Up to now the committee had absorbed most of the expenses to date. The commencement of the date of payment of the donation would be from the AGM. She explained that the reason for asking for voluntary donations of a fixed amount was to avoid the complexity of setting up a subscription, and rejected applying for a grant to cover administrative expenses, as it would restrict PRARA's freedom and furthermore, PRARA's administrative costs are low.

**Hon. Secretary, Ann Rosenberg** summarized her role to date with the observation that as Fulham is changing rapidly, it is very important to keep abreast of events to try and preserve what remains of Fulham's village-like character. PRARA has its role to play in maintaining the character of its own area. The job of Hon. Secretary demanded commitment to PRARA's aims and was at times a busy role. She would welcome any offers of administrative help. As collector of the whip-round contributions she reported that there was £26 in the kitty, after newsletter photocopying expenses of £70. She paid for the newsletter paper as her contribution to funds.

**Clancarty Road representative Anthony Williams** reported that there are 60 homes forming the core base of Clancarty residents. They are supportive of PRARA but are not always able to attend meetings. He continues to work with the relevant authorities on the matter of Broom Farm.

**In the absence of Andrew Gray, Chrissy Stenning** read his Neighbourhood Watch report

Main points included:

- Neighbourhood Watch street signs: 16 signs will be erected on lamp posts as follows: Peterborough Road – 4 on each side between New Kings Road and Sullivan Road; 1 at each end of Daisy Lane, and 3 on each side of Clancarty Road, (but not opposite Broom Farm houses).
- Letter box burglaries: Do not leave house/car keys within reach of your front door where thieves can use rods and hooks to get them.
- Put a wire basket or letterbox cowl in place. The police have applied for a grant to supply letterbox cowls, but this is not yet available. If anyone wants one, please get in touch with Andrew Gray.
- Bicycle Boys: a youth worker is working with the police to find a location for a youth centre.
- Car/Scooter theft/vandalism – do not leave valuables in the car. Report loiterers near cars to the police.
- Meter readers - check their ID cards

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- Lighting in Parsons Green – concern has been expressed about the poor lighting round the green. The possibility of improvements will be investigated and reported on at the next meeting.
- Delivery of Directories – PC Amey will contact the distributor to ask them not to deliver at weekends, public holidays and school term breaks.
- Advice on making sash windows secure. (This will be explained in a later Newsletter.)

Action Points:

- Report a crime however small – you will not be wasting police time. A CRIME IS NOT A CRIME UNLESS IT IS REPORTED.
- Let your neighbours know when you are going away
- Appoint 2 key holders or professional key-holders
- Secure your letterbox.

The Peterborough Estate has a Neighbourhood Watch organisation and we are working with them. The next meeting is MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2003 at Christchurch, Studdridge Street.

**Patricia Hicks invited questions from members:**

Lady Beaumont wanted it recorded that she did not want the current parking bay regulations for Q zone to be changed to a residents' only parking bay as she has need of care workers who regularly visit her during the day, and family and friends need access too.

Cllr Botterill responded that parking zones S&F are experimenting with regulations that prevent parking during certain hours of the day by anyone not having a resident's permit in order to stop football fans parking in the area. However zones Q & Z are the best in the borough as regards meeting the needs of residents' parking. Family, business and care support need this flexibility, but there is increasing pressure for parking spaces, and the situation may need to be reviewed in a few years time.

Daisy Lane residents complained about the youths who gather there and ride mopeds / scooters /etc causing damage. Cllr Botterill acknowledged there was a problem dealing with noisy youths and urged residents to continue to complain about the problem to the appropriate authorities.

One member was concerned that local builders were damaging pavements with heavy materials. Cllr Bird advised writing to the planning authorities and the enforcement section of the environmental department. The information department of Hammersmith & Fulham Council will provide names and departments for the letters.

The maintenance problems in infants' playground in South Park has been rectified reported one member.

Patricia Hicks said she would pay for a tree – a whitebeam- to be planted in South Park, which would celebrate its centenary in 2004.

**Election of committee members:**

There were no nominations for the post of Coordinator.

Hon. Secretary – Ann Rosenberg was re-elected

Clancarty Road Representative – Anthony Williams was re-elected

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Neighbourhood Watch – Andrew Gray was re-elected  
 Hon. Treasurer – Chrissy Stenning volunteered and was unanimously elected.  
 Daisy Lane Representative – Guy Nicolson was elected

Patricia Hicks announced her resignation as coordinator. Anthony Williams paid tribute to Patricia's hard work since she founded PRARA, her commitment and achievements this year, and said that it would be very hard to find her replacement. All the members agreed and applauded her. Patricia agreed to remain in office for a further 3 months so her replacement could be found, after which time she will stand down.

## **NEWSLETTER ITEMS**

After the AGM, the main officers of the Standing Committee have increased from 4 to 6 and are now:

- Coordinator,
- Hon. Secretary,
- Hon Treasurer,
- Clancarty Road Representative,
- Daisy Lane Representative,
- Main Neighbourhood Watch coordinator.

Neighbourhood Watch team will be:

- Michael Foster (Clancarty Road NW representative) - co-opted
- Daisy Lane representative – to be co-opted
- Any subsequent street NW representative to be co-opted.

They will all liaise with main NW watch coordinator, Andrew Gray, and all communicate with each other via email where possible. They generally will only need to attend Standing Committee meetings when something particular concerning NW matters happens in their streets. Otherwise, apart from liaising with Andrew Gray, they can, if they wish forward items for discussion to their Standing Committee street representatives.

Specialists' team:

- Paul Leonard (architect and planning specialist) co-opted
- Richard Brown (commercial solicitor who will work with Paul Leonard when needed) to be co-opted.
- Charles Truman (overview of South Park) co-opted.

They will only attend the Standing Committee meetings if they need to report on items of their particular concern.

## **Donations**

As agreed at the AGM, members will be asked for up to £5 per year to cover paper and printing costs from the date of the AGM, which would now replace the £1 donation. No member will be cut off for not paying. An occasional reminder to absent-minded non-payers will be put into the Newsletter. Please send donations to Chrissy Stenning at No 15 Peterborough Road.

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The Hon. Treasurer and Hon Secretary will outline a simple procedure for dealing with the cash, which can be followed by future officers. The usual procedure is to keep a Petty Cash Box and a Cash Book. With current technology, this will be done on the computer in an Excel work sheet, which can be printed out on request. No auditor is needed for any cash under £10,000 pa, but the accounts need to be reconciled annually.

### **Current outstanding crime worries**

PC Chris Amey's advice regarding securing sash windows, given to Andrew Gray and read at the AGM by Chrissy Stenning, is important but technically slightly baffling. We need precise instructions for hopeless DIYers, or their handymen as to how to secure these windows. These will be printed in a subsequent Newsletter and as a hand-out which will be available at the next NW meeting - (3 November at Christchurch, Studdridge St). If anyone is worried, please get in touch with Andrew Gray.

Recent thefts from and damage to cars, as well as car theft has occurred in Peterborough Road opposite owners' houses, which must be tackled with new and very precise advice. The effectiveness of car tracking devices, vehicle registration numbers etched on car window, recommended lockable petrol caps, and immobilizers of various kinds will be researched by PRARA who will circulate the information in a leaflet/newsletter at the next Neighbourhood Watch meeting.

**Late news:** Anthony Williams reports that Neighbourhood Watch signs have been erected in Clancarty Road.

### **Nominations for the post of Coordinator**

***ALL NOMINATIONS FOR THE POST OF COORDINATOR TO HON. SECRETARY BY END SEPTEMBER PLEASE.***

June 2003

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