



PRARA NEWSLETTER

PETERBOROUGH ROAD & AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.prara.org.uk

Incorporating Clancarty Road, Daisy Lane,
Settrington Road, Hugon Road, South Park Mews & Sullivan Road.

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PRARA AGM –TUESDAY 22 MAY 2007

The Annual General Meeting of the Peterborough Road and Area Residents' Association (PRARA) will be held on:

TUESDAY, 22 MAY, 2007

6.30pm for 7pm prompt

at

**Library
Hurlingham & Chelsea School
Peterborough Road.**

Phil Cross, Headmaster of Hurlingham & Chelsea School has kindly offered the use of the school library for the PRARA AGM. **For security, seating and hospitality purposes, please RSVP to Ann Rosenberg or your road rep.**

AGM 2007 - AGENDA

- 1 Notice of meeting and Apologies for Absence.**
- 2 Approval of minutes of 2006 AGM.**
- 3 Introductory overview by Anthony Williams**
- 4 Brief reviews by: Hon. Secretary, Ann Rosenberg
Hon Treasurer, Chrissy Stenning
Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators, Lance & Sue Pierson
Clancarty Road Representative, Anthony Williams**

**Daisy Lane Representative, Guy Nicolson
Settrington Road Representative, Deborah Lord
Hugon Road & South Park Mews Representative,
Alan Kelly.
South Park Anthony Williams & Beth Patrick
Planning, Paul Leonard**

**5 Questions, suggestions and comments: PRARA members
Subject to their availability, questions can also be put to Greg Hands MP and
our local councillors as well as Sgt. MacDonald and Sgt. Trower of the
Safer Neighbourhoods police teams, all of whom have been invited.**

6 Nominations and Election of Standing Committee Officers:

**Coordinator - Kevin Kissane is offering himself for election
Hon Secretary, Ann Rosenberg, is offering herself for re-election
Hon Treasurer Chrissy Stenning is offering herself for re-election
The Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators – Lance & Sue Pierson are offering
themselves for re-election
The Clancarty Road Representative, and Chairman South Park Campaign
Anthony Williams is offering himself for re-election
South Park representative, Beth Patrick is offering herself for re-election
Planning: Paul Leonard is offering himself for re-election**

**All nominations for Standing Committee Officers in writing to Hon. Sec. Ann
Rosenberg please – see your copy of the Constitution for procedure. If you
want a copy, please refer to the web site or contact Ann Rosenberg.**

Election will be by acclamation, but if necessary by a show of hands

7 Close of meeting. Mix and mingle. Drinks (donation requested).

DON'T FORGET - _RSVP!!! Ann Rosenberg.



SOUTH PARK

Our lobbying efforts are at last beginning to produce some real results. When the improvements to the Childrens' Play Area were finally implemented, four new structures were installed instead of just one. The other three did not cost the council any money but we regard it as significant that they were given to South Park. The main Challenger Unit is proving very popular. Our concerns about the design faults of the two low units have been noted and a maintenance procedure will be implemented to deal with the dirt and rubbish that accumulates inside them.

Further improvements are now under consideration by the new Assistant Director for the Parks and Culture Division.

This is a new Division which came into existence on 1st April and will, for the first time in very many years, bring the responsibility for and organisation of all park activities under the control of one department. On 11th April four members of the Standing Committee conducted an inspection of the park with this new Director, Geoff Allen, who was accompanied by members of his team plus the new project officer. Mr. Allen will in due course also be taking over responsibility for the capital improvement budget and the preparation of the park master plan.

The disappointing news is that a master strategy for all the Borough's open spaces has to be prepared in order to place the South Park scheme in context, and this will result in a further delay in having the master plan produced. However, this delay may be as little as six months. The very encouraging news is that the park has been allocated £205,000 in the current financial year for essential maintenance work, mainly relating to built structure. This includes the Peterborough Road brick wall,

which at places has been allowed to deteriorate to a dangerous condition, and the south lodge. We should therefore see some significant improvements in the coming months as well as some minor ones.

NEW KING'S ROAD / PETERBOROUGH ROAD JUNCTION

As our complaints concerning the width restriction were not being treated adequately, the Standing Committee considered that a formal complaint should be made. A letter was sent to the Director of Environment, Nigel Pallace, registering our serious displeasure. This invoked the Council's official complaints procedure but the eventual, overdue written response is entirely unsatisfactory, and somewhat insulting as the response was sent by the officer at the centre of our complaint. The Standing Committee have therefore decided that our complaint should be taken to Stage 2 of the complaints procedure.

HURLINGHAM & CHELSEA SCHOOL

The Adjudicator's consultation meeting regarding the closure of the school was abruptly cancelled by the Council, who have said that the school will not now close on the date previously announced. However they have set up a Commission on the future of secondary schools in Fulham, to be delivered in 12 weeks time, before the end of the Summer term.

The Commission will be chaired by Baroness Perry, a former Chief Inspector of Schools. She will be assisted by Bob Litchfield, formerly Director of Education in Camden; John McIntosh, recently retired Head of the London Oratory; and William Atkinson, Head of Phoenix High School.

The Commission will report to the Leader and Lead Cabinet Member for Community & Children's Services (Cllr. Antony Lillis) by the end of July 2007. It is then likely that the Council will bring forward fresh proposals for consultation. The Commission will hold a public meeting at the beginning of July. In addition, it will seek the views of all stakeholders, and welcome written submissions from all.

The public meeting on Tuesday 24 April became instead an examination of the Council's motives behind this move. It was chaired by headmaster Phil Cross and the speaker was Andrew Christie, LBHF Director of Children's Services, who explained the Council's position regarding the future plans for secondary schools, including the building of a small Academy in Hammersmith.

Parents and supporters who spoke raised the following points:

- * Although it was anticipated that the Adjudicator would find in favour of the school, the Commission would still have the power to recommend school closures in the borough which means that Hurlingham & Chelsea School could still be closed.
- * This would continue to discourage parents from considering the school, which in turn will undermine the success of Phil Cross and his team in bringing the school out of special measures in a very short time and raising the academic performance of the pupils to the national average.
- * Doubts were raised that the Commission can make an informed decision on an educational plan for Fulham in such a short timescale and the impartiality of the members of the Commission was questioned.
- * It is the only co-educational, multi-faith community school in the borough, and this is what parents specifically want.
- * The maximum size for the school should be 700 pupils.
- * Some speakers believed that the proposal to close some Fulham schools was motivated by the prospect of realising the value of the land in order to enable the council to make the promised cut to council tax. Schools in the north of the borough did not seem to be similarly threatened, so the suspicion is that school closure is linked to land value.

Under pressure from parents, Andrew Christie agreed that as the school will not be closing as previously announced, a letter to this effect will be sent to all primary schools asking them to include Hurlingham & Chelsea School in their list of secondary schools in the borough for parents' consideration. He also denied that the four members of the Commission were politically appointed.

Phil Cross summed up the situation with the following points.

- * The statistics and performance tables used by him in the argument to keep the school open are in the public domain and support the argument to keep the school open.
- * The proposed closure of Hurlingham & Chelsea has grown from a local issue to a London issue and now to a national one. Information on this can be found on the internet - just google Hurlingham & Chelsea School.
- * Hurlingham & Chelsea School now has the same status as all other secondary schools in the Borough i.e. it is no more threatened than any of the other schools.
- * Parents and residents actively want a co-educational multi-faith community school. Some parents who had taken their children out of Hurlingham & Chelsea School are now applying for them to return.
- * Financially the school is on a firm footing.
- * There is strong local support for the school.
- * It will be very difficult for any Commission to challenge the facts which are publicly available, so the proposed closure of the school would fly in the face of logic.
- * He is meeting the Heads of two other local schools who are now under similar threat.
- * If parents in a two mile radius of Hurlingham & Chelsea were to send their children to the school, it would fulfil all the criteria for a local school, and would probably be oversubscribed.
- * He asked that letters and emails in support of the school are sent to the Leader of the Council, Stephen Greenhalgh with a copy to him, so these can be submitted to the Commission in due course. Email: stephen.greenhalgh@lbhf.gov or Stephen Greenhalgh, Leader of the Council, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Town Hall, King Street, London W6 9JU.

PRARA members who attended the Open Meeting on Monday 20 November 2006, at which Cllr Greenhalgh spoke, were critical of the decision to close the school. PRARA's plans for the regeneration of South Park and application for a Lottery grant are partly based on the park facilities being developed for use by the school.

PRARA responded to the original consultation expressing its concerns about the potential closure of the school and is therefore writing to Stephen Greenhalgh in support of the school.

CLOSURE OF PETERBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL, CLANCARTY ROAD

At the beginning of the year we were alerted to rumours that there were plans to close this school, which also houses the Queensmill School for special needs children. We immediately contacted the Councillor responsible, Antony Lillis, who confirmed that a primary school review was underway, because of over capacity in the south of the borough. A consultation document "Primary and special schools strategy" has now been published detailing the council's proposals which do indeed include the closure of the school and the sale of the site. Copies of the documents were distributed to all houses in Clancarty Road and Studridge Street and it can also be found on the Council web site at [http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/Directory/News_and_Media/Press_office/Press_releases/78711 Proposals to reshape primary and special schools unveiled.asp](http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/Directory/News_and_Media/Press_office/Press_releases/78711_Proposals_to_reshape_primary_and_special_schools_unveiled.asp)

The justification for the closure is not something on which we feel competent to comment and as PRARA is non-political, the Standing Committee considers that any objections on educational or amenity grounds should be left to individuals. The deadline for submissions is 9th June.

However, the sale of the site for an unspecified use, and the potential loss of a handsome and historic building, could be very detrimental to the area and adversely impact on all residents. We shall therefore be strongly registering PRARA's concern about this.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH NEWS

Lance Pierson (Neighbourhood Watch Co-Coordinator) attended the 'Crime Summit' put on by the Council and the Police in March.

On March 24th the Council and the Police jointly put on the first ever 'Crime Summit'. Happily this was

not a conference on *committing* crime, but on *preventing* it.

Most of the messages from it will come as no surprise to regular readers of this newsletter. But there were 3 items worth reporting and reiterating.

News

This is of course small consolation to any victim, but the number of reported crimes since the introduction of Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams in each ward is steadily reducing - in every category except one. This is theft of and from motor vehicles. The frustration of the police is that most of these thefts are really the fault of the owners in leaving their cars unlocked or valuables visible. Please take this to heart and pass the message on to friends and neighbours. We easily assume that we always lock our cars. But it is a matter of simple observation that many people click their key as they walk away from the car with their back to it; they do not check that it really has locked or that they have not accidentally double-clicked. These keys are sometimes so sensitive that it is possible to touch them accidentally and unlock one's car without realising; we have several times found our car unlocked when we thought we had locked it, and this may be the explanation.

The other significant new development is that there is now 24-hour Neighbourhood policing round the Fulham and Shepherds Bush town centers for a 2-year experimental period. H+F is the first Local Authority in the country to introduce this. If it succeeds in further reducing crime, the hope is to spread the 24-hour coverage to other parts of the Borough.

Phone numbers

There was widespread confusion over what number to ring when. The official advice on the day was to ring **999** -

- if you or your property are in any way threatened;
- if you need a quick response, e.g. because there is a realistic chance of an arrest
- if you are in any doubt at all.

If it is the wrong number, they will connect you with the right one; or at worst ask you to re-dial. If they are in the least critical of you, tell them this was the advice given.

If there is no hurry - e.g. you are reporting that your car was broken into last night - ring **8563 1212**. This is Hammersmith Police Station; but it will take time to get through, as all calls to the Met Police are handled centrally.

All I can say is that the Police are aware of the public's frustration at how slow it is to get through by phone.

If you want to contact your Safer Neighbourhood Team, you can only do so via an answerphone or by email.

If you live in Parson's Green and Walham Ward (basically the north side of Clancarty Road and further north), this is:

8246 2993 ParsonsGreen.Walham.SNT@met.police.uk

If you live in Sands End Ward (south side of Clancarty Road and further south):

8246 2823 SandsEnd.SNT@met.police.uk

Volunteer Help

Like everyone else, the Police have limited resources. Their priority is to have the maximum number of police officers. This is partly why the phone answering and police station counter services are often unsatisfactory. So now they are looking for volunteer help with some of these back-up functions. If you are at all interested in helping the Police in this way, contact Katy Young: 8246 2815 / 07789 925710 katy.young@met.police.uk

Scam Warning from the SNT

The SNT have given the following warning of a scam operating in Barnet, where a group of men are working their way along a residential road, house to house - the most recent incident occurring 22/03/07.

The traders, 3/4 men, Irish, driving a transit tipper truck and sometimes 2 cars had been leaflet dropping and touting for business. They called themselves **M & L PAVERS, of 1 Jackets Lane, Ducks Hill, Northwood, UB6 9PZ**. They targeted a row of houses, did some work on one of them and then called on the others saying that they had been working on a neighbour's house, and, was there any work that they needed doing. This gave credibility to their approach and as a result 4 households had various shoddy building and decorating work done, ranging from painting, guttering, roofing re

pointing and tile replacement. The traders had given quotes and then upped the prices to unrealistic levels. One example is a quote which started as £1500 then rose to £4000. A van was seen driving past on a regular basis reg no. **M965 ACL. Another vehicle, a Ford had had reg. no MA53 PYX.**

Police attended with Trading Standards Officers to advise consumers. It is clear the work is substandard and appears the trader had been watching as they returned to consumers address once Police and Trading Standards had left.

It is likely this trader will go elsewhere in London so please be aware

Please circulate the details of this message as widely as you can as it is possible that this scam could move to Fulham.

SETTRINGTON ROAD

Deborah Lord (Settrington Road rep) reports the following: The Neighbourhood Watch initiative in Settrington Rd is now getting underway. We have a main coordinator in Pat Heskia and she has requested that we identify other residents who wish to take an active roll, (which will include myself), to work together as a team. The police have visited us to make introductions and Pat will shortly be setting up a meeting to progress things.

The pruning of trees in South Park has been completed satisfactorily and the council have agreed to a follow up meeting in late summer to assess the works done and to establish an ongoing policy/plan to maintain the trees in future. Gavin Simmonds is to contact us to set up said meeting but I will make a diary entry to prompt him at end August.

GARDEN RUBBISH COLLECTIONS

Following a complaint by a PRARA member, the new policy for these collections has been amended. It is still necessary to register for the service for which there is a fee of £6.00, but we understand this will now include an unlimited supply of the special bags which are more expensive than the orange bags. By registering the addresses for collection it is hoped to make the service more efficient and more environmentally friendly, as it will avoid the need for the collection vehicles to cruise all the streets looking for bags as all the collection places will be known.

FULHAM CHRONICLE

PRARA subscribes to this weekly local paper in order to monitor the planning and licensing applications which appear in it, and learn about any other matters which could be of relevance to our area. We have also just secured a free listing in the Clubs and Societies Section

PRARA WEBSITE

Our thanks go to our new web master who has enabled the site to be regularly updated. You will find it a very useful reference tool and we are also endeavouring to publish on the site some of the correspondence and reports that we produce which are impractical to circulate in written form.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES BILL

Ann Rosenberg (Hon Sec.) attended the packed rally in London's Central Hall on Monday 27 March where a thousand people listened as Local Government Minister, Phil Woolas, promised not to block the Sustainable Communities Bill, now going through Parliament. David Cameron and Sir Menzies Campbell also made rousing speeches and pledged their full support of the Bill which also has the support of over 400 cross party MPs. It has the support of many National and Local associations, as it aims to return power to community level, so that local associations can challenge their local councils if they feel their decisions are to the detriment of the neighbourhood – such as rent increases forcing out small businesses, and local schools closed in favour of fashionable Academies.

Its aim as officially printed is:

“To make provision for local authorities to submit plans to the Secretary of State in connection with promoting the sustainability of local communities; to provide for parish councils and other persons to participate in the formulation of such plans; to provide for the Secretary of State to assist local authorities in promoting sustainable communities; to specify the indicators by which the sustainability of local communities may be measured; and for connected purposes.”

PRARA will see if this Bill will help in its aim to preserve the character of the local neighbourhood, and will liaise with other local associations on related matters. If any **PRARA** members wish to raise any

concerns, please do so. More detailed information is available on www.localworks.org which includes video links to the main speakers.

DONATIONS

Hon Treasurer, Chrissy Stenning is now collecting donations for 2007. We ask members to give £5.00 per household, which goes on postage, stationary, paper and printing and the general administrative expenses incurred in running PRARA. The increase in membership has meant that we do not ask you to give more, but this does depend on members being willing to contribute.

We do hope that lots of you will be able to attend the AGM on Tuesday 22 May when Chrissy will be on hand to collect your donation then. But, if you are unable to come to this meeting, please would you put you your donations through her letterbox at 15 Peterborough Road. Cash only please, in an envelope with your name.

APRIL 2007

PRARA COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONTACT LIST

Coordinator:

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Tel: 7736 6865 email: k.kissane@hume-kissane.demon.co.uk

Clancarty Road Representative & South Park Campaign Chairman: Anthony Williams, 59 Clancarty Road. Tel: 7736 6045 email: Gileswill@aol.com

South Park Representative : Beth Patrick, 69 Clancarty Road, Tel: 7731 0753

Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator & Parsons Green & Walham Ward & Sands End Ward: Lance & Sue Pierson, 48 Peterborough Road Tel: 7731 6544 email: lance@lancepierson.org

NW Clancarty Road: Peter Smith 57 Clancarty Rd,
Tel:7736 8271 Email: peter.smith@openminduk.com

NW Hugon Road: Fiona Talbot-Smith, 62 Hugon Road, Tel 7731 5091
mail@puffins.org.uk

NW Settrington Road: Pat Heskia (details tbc)

Hon.Secretary: Ann Rosenberg, 72 Peterborough Road. Tel: 7731 5151 email: anntony@which.net

Hon. Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Chrissy Stenning, 15 Peterborough Road,
Tel: 7736 8053 email: cstenning@peterboroughrd.freeseve.co.uk

Daisy Lane Representative: Guy Nicolson, 21 Daisy Lane, Tel: 7736 8015 email: guy.nicolson@virgin.net

Settrington Road Representative: Deborah Lord, 72 Settrington Rd
Tel: 7731 2874 email: lords@southpark20.freeseve.co.uk

Hugon Road & South Park Mews Representative: Allan Kelly, 28 Hugon Road,
Tel: 7731 3303 & 077465 98944 email: wak2@talktalk.net

Sullivan Road Representative: Brendan Bird, 1 Sullivan Rd. Tel 7736 8722
email: bird001@hotmail.com

Planning Representative: Paul Leonard, 21 Peterborough Road Tel: 7610 6827
email: Paulleonard@leonarddesigns.com

Non-Committee members

Chelsea Football Club liaison: Simon Champion, 14 Settrington Rd Tel: 07887 692918
email: simon.champion@db.com

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