



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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Report on the 2007 AGM

The AGM which was held at Hurlingham & Chelsea School on 22 May was attended by twenty-two PRARA members and guests who included Steve Hamilton (Councillor Sands End), Nick Botterill (Councillor Parsons Green & Walham), Sgt Mick McDonald, (Parsons Green & Walham SNT), Sgt M.Trower (Sands End SNT), PC Ray Hayes (SNT), Michael Rumble (Chairman of Governors Peterborough Primary School).

Anthony Williams – Acting Coordinator – overview 2006/7

Anthony Williams, Acting coordinator, referred to the following events of the past year and made the following points:

- The position of coordinator would, hopefully, be filled later at the meeting.
- Deborah Lord has succeeded Simon Champion as Settrington Road rep. Simon continues as Chelsea Village Liaison.
- Hon. Treasurer Chrissy Stenning has also become Membership Secretary, easing the burden on the Hon Secretary.
- He thanked PRARA's new webmaster Bill Silvester, for his work over the year. The website is now regularly updated and includes additional information to that in the newsletters.
- The committee has accepted some associate members from the residents of streets adjoining the area covered by PRARA .
- He suggested that members should urge neighbours who are not members of PRARA to join.
- He thanked committee members for their work over the year and suggested PRARA members might like to offer to 'shadow' certain posts.

- The Standing Committee were pursuing its complaint over the width of the exit at the junction of Peterborough Road and New Kings Road.
- He had briefed the Fulham Society at its AGM on PRARA's actions regarding South Park.
- PRARA has expressed reservations about any change of use of the buildings should either Hurlingham & Chelsea or Peterborough Primary Schools close. As a non-political organization it had not commented on the logic behind the suggested closures.
- PRARA has received a questionnaire from researchers from the City University who are investigating the behavioural predictors of trust in local politicians. Copies were available to everyone who wished to complete it. It is also available online at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=90703253152> or email: s.loivette@gold.ac.uk
- Youngs has applied to vary the license for the Duke on the Green to extend the use of the pavements for the full trading hours which means until 12.00 midnight at weekends. This was due to the no smoking ban which comes into effect on 1 July. Three committee members had met the landlord, Neil Dunning, who had agreed to write a formal letter to PRARA undertaking to bring in all chairs and tables by 11pm Sunday- Thursday, and 12.00am on Friday and Saturday. The committee had agreed to this and will monitor the situation.
- There was no Chelsea Football Club victory parade this year. The new season begins on 11 August.

Brief reviews by the Standing Committee Members:

Hon Sec: Ann Rosenberg spoke about the need to be vigilant and act to protect the quality of life in the community and mentioned the Sustainable Communities Bill which had cross party support and was due to have its final reading soon. New members were needed to add strength to PRARA's actions.

Hon Treasurer/Membership Secretary: Chrissy Stenning reported membership of 107 households which included nine who had recently joined. However she has only received £255.00 in voluntary contributions for 2007 and 70 households have not made their donation yet. Cost of paper & printing, phone calls etc. have come to £407.11 and £227.63 was brought forward from 2006, so there is a balance of £75.52.

Chrissy is now collecting donations for 2007. We ask members to give £5.00 per household, which covers the cost of the website, postage, stationary, paper and printing of the newsletter 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. If you have not made your 2007/8 donation, please give it to Chrissy as soon as possible.

Neighbourhood Watch: Sue Pierson asked all members to let PRARA have their e-mail addresses, so police alerts could be sent to them immediately. The spate of thefts from cars was probably due to the fact that electronic locking devices could be unwittingly triggered by placing the key in a pocket while walking away from the vehicle, or by criminals using an electronic transmitter unit. The police are investigating the possibility of the latter. The Settrington Road residents are in the process of setting up their own Neighbourhood Watch group in conjunction with all the 'toast rack' roads (roads which run from Wandsworth Bridge Road into Settrington Road), but would remain PRARA members for all other matters.

Clancarty Road rep: Anthony Williams reported on the proposal to close Peterborough Primary School which is now going through a consultation process. The plan is to amalgamate the school with another in the borough and the site sold.

He had attended an open meeting at the school and was impressed both by the school and by the support for it expressed by people attending who were unconnected with the school. He had found it impossible to evaluate the consultation document, but PRARA had registered concern about the change of use of the site and the possible demolition of the demolition of the historic building.

Question from the floor: Why was Sullivan Primary School not under threat of closure? The Councillors present explained that Sullivan School was fully subscribed, and Peterborough Primary School was considered to be under performing, had no permanent head teacher, and had a low intake.

Mr. Rumble (Chairman of the Governors of Peterborough Primary School), said that the consultation document recommended the sale of the site to build a new Queensmill School, (which was the school for autistic children linked to Peterborough Primary School). There is no right of appeal, and an adjudicator is not available to community schools. The only action open is to present a strong argument to the council not to close the school. The Governors considered that the statistics presented by the council to justify their decision are incorrect and the school will make their own figures available for scrutiny on their web site: www.dontclosemyschool.com.

AW asked for a show of hands to indicate whether or not members wanted to retain the building. The result was inconclusive but did not show overwhelming support for its retention.

Daisy Lane rep: Guy Nicolson reported that the Castle Club, the local youth club was up for sale. The Grade 2 listed building was in a bad state of repair. Cllr. Botterill said it was an under used building and costly to maintain. Brendan Bird said he has been involved with the Castle Club for 25 years. It was a local play centre and youth club. He has been unable, despite repeated requests, to obtain any information from the council regarding their decision to sell the building. Where do the children go as it is the only youth club in the area?

Cllr. Botterill said that a review of youth provision is important, but getting it right and improving facilities was also important which would take time.

Cllr. Hamilton said that there is a proposal for schools to be open after school hours and Sullivan School could possibly offer a youth club facility.

Settrington Road rep: Deborah Lord now confirmed Sue Pierson's comments about a new NW scheme being set up for the 'toast rack' roads which would include Settrington Road.

Hugon Road rep: Allan Kelly reported the successful removal of graffiti after contacting Greg Hands MP. After much nagging seven trees have been planted. He had recruited four new members with seven potential members. Street lighting and improvements to the pavements were now an objective. The Chapel on the corner was derelict and in bad condition but the landlord, won't do anything about it. The council can't act unless there is a statutory nuisance to the community – (e.g. rats), which is not yet the case.

South Park: Anthony Williams said that he had now received the minutes of PRARA's recent meeting with the new Deputy Director responsible for parks, Geoff Allen. There is some progress but there is some time to go before the completion of the master plan for parks across the borough. Beth Patrick reported that cherry trees had been planted by pupils from Hurlingham & Chelsea School. She has now established a working relationship with the park's staff. The children's playground had been completed with new play equipment. Brendan Bird said that the football pitches needed attention and that some of the tennis courts were in unplayable condition and were also under used. AW reported that the tennis courts are due for repair but there was no system for booking courts on site. The football and cricket pitches will receive attention. Thomas's School has indicated interest in using the park and making a financial contribution to improvements.

Question from the floor: Why are there no play facilities for children over 5 years old? Anthony Williams replied Geoff Allen was aware of this and is seeking a solution. The older childrens' play area in the South East corner had been replaced by landscaping since it caused annoyance to residents of Hugon Road.

Planning: Paul Leonard said that there was nothing to report at present but in response to a question from the floor regarding the major development in Peterborough Road he replied that it comprised an office block and two live/work units.

Nominations & Election of Standing Committee Officers.

Anthony Williams introduced Kevin Kissane whom the Standing Committee were recommending should be elected as the new PRARA Coordinator. Kevin briefly addressed the meeting following which his appointment was confirmed. The rest of the standing committee offered themselves for re-election and were re-elected by acclamation.

Crime Report (not on agenda)

Sgt Mark Trower reported that a flasher in South Park has been arrested by plain clothes officers and would be taking part in an identity parade. There was an increase in graffiti in Sullivan Court and a youth had been arrested and would appear in court soon. Burglary and vehicle crime are dropping. However residents should make sure that doors and windows are secured especially during the summer months, and check that vehicle are locked, with possessions out of sight. Sgt Mick MacDonald said he had stopped a well-known car thief who said he had never had to break into a car in a long criminal career. The culprit who had been scratching the paintwork of so called Chelsea tractors was a 77 year-old resident of the Peterborough Estate. Sgt MacDonald said that people must report crimes however trivial so the police can log the information and get a picture of criminal activity in the area. If a crime is not reported it is considered not to have happened, and without this information police resources might be moved elsewhere.

Anthony Williams then handed over the chair to Kevin Kissane who paid tribute to Anthony's sterling work as acting coordinator of PRARA over the last 3 years.

Fair on the Green

The Fulham Society Stall at the Fair on the Green on Saturday 7 July, have kindly agreed to allow PRARA to display their flyers, and some committee members will be on hand to answer questions and recruit new members.

STOP PRESS:

These are examples of recent email alerts from our SNT teams which are sent to PRARA members as soon as they are received by the NW coordinators, and also posted on the PRARA website. If you don't have email, and would like to receive these alerts, we may be able to put you in touch with a neighbouring PRARA member who has. Please contact your Neighbourhood watch or Street representative.

- **From: Mick MacDonald PS 40FH**
Parsons Green and Walham SNT
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July 2007

This is message to advise you of a current trend. Over the last two or three weeks we have been suffering an unusual kind of theft from motor vehicle offence. The primary vehicles being targetted are BMW's and they are having their front and rear bumpers removed and stolen. In addition, other parts such as wheels and side mirrors have been taken. This

appears to be taking place overnight as far as I can tell and there is no discernible pattern to where the thieves strike. Although it is pure supposition I cannot help but think that the perpetrators must have a vehicle of some sort very nearby to remove such a bulky piece of the car. Whether this is a van, a lorry or a normal car I can't say.

Can I please ask you all to be alert to anyone apparently working on a car in the street, especially a BMW. They may look like genuine mechanics, but someone is starting to have a damaging effect on our car crime rates. If it looks at all out of place please consider calling 999. If they are genuine they will be able to prove it to police officers. If they are not genuine, we may be able to break up a large scale operation. From small acorns etc!!!!

- **From: Mark Trower PS 33FH**
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June 2007

This is just a quick update for you regarding an incident which occurred yesterday afternoon in Peterborough Road.

PCSO's Richard Powers and Chris Watts from the Sands End team were on foot patrol in Peterborough Road when their attention was drawn to a moped travelling towards them with two males on it. Richard recognised the male driving to be one of our well know locals who has previous theft of mopeds. The male also recognised Richard and speed away. Despite this both officers managed to obtain a section of the number plate which enabled them to carry out a vehicle check via their radios. This check revealed that the moped was stolen and as a result the officers immediately made response officers aware and police units attended the location . This quick response by mobile police units meant that an area search was able to be conducted. The males had abandoned the moped in Sullivan Court but were caught nearby and both were identified by Richard and Chris to the officers present. One of the males was also wanted for failing to appear at Court and is one of the ones we arrested for burglary on our recent stint of nights.

This is another good example of tackling vehicle crime in Sands End and vehicle crime is currently one of the main issues on the borough.

Ends