



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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INVITATION TO THE PRARA SOCIAL EVENING FOR MEMBERS AND GUESTS WELCOME

OUR ANNUAL SOCIAL GET TOGETHER IS ON WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER AT ARAGON HOUSE, NEW KINGS ROAD, SW6. BETWEEN 6PM - 8PM.

WE ASSEMBLE DOWNSTAIRS, SO PLEASE BUY YOUR DRINKS AT THE BAR BEFORE JOINING US. THIS IS THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET OUR NEW CO-ORDINATOR, SUE ORIEL AND FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS AND CATCH UP ON LOCAL EVENTS. OUR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD TEAM LEADERS, SGT. MARK TROWER AND SGT. PETE NICHOLSON, (SGT. MICK MCDONNELL'S SUCCESSOR AS HEAD OF THE PARSONS GREEN & WALHAM TEAM), WILL JOIN US FOR AN INFORMAL CHAT, OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS PERMITTING.

SOUTH PARK UPDATE

South Park sale proposals

Anthony Williams reports.

At an open meeting on Monday evening, November 1st, local residents and members of the Friends of South Park overwhelmingly voted *again* to oppose the sale of any land in the park—even if this severely limits public sector investment in the park by the Council in the short- or medium-term. Cllr. Greg Smith, Cabinet Member for Residents' Services, put the Council's case, which was the lack of any funds for the park master plan unless there was a sale and the need to reduce Council debt.

The Friends committee explained their objections to the sale, the implications of any sale for the protection provided by the covenant and their detailed proposals for the use of the north west corner.

The four main objections to the sale are that it:

- Breaks a 107-year-old covenant that intends the land for open space and public use
- Realises a permanent loss of open space
- Offers no certainty of any income for the park
- Alters the designation of land from open space and conservation areas

The Friends remain committed to the eventual implementation of the regeneration Master Plan and have always recognised that this could take up to 10 years to complete. In the immediate future, they intend to concentrate their efforts on putting Clancarty Lodge and the land currently being used for a depot back into public use. Instead of leaving the area an eyesore that is inaccessible to park users, the committee suggests a community market garden, an environmental education centre, and a revenue-producing enterprise providing services appropriate to a park, all of which could potentially provide the Council with more than 50,000 pounds of revenue.

The Friends also plan to continue to pursue possible funding sources for other parts of the park so that the full intentions of the covenant that protects the park to provide for local people can be honoured.

The covenant on South Park was imposed by Charlotte Sullivan when she sold the land (at below its market value for housing) for public recreation use. The Friends have legal advice that the covenant is strong but we do not know if the Council will still continue with their sale proposal, which is largely motivated by debt reduction. Whilst the community understands the financial challenges the Council face to pay down the interest on public debt, the Friends feel that the long term benefits that open space provides to the people in our area – one of the most disadvantaged areas of the borough – far outweigh the very limited impact that a sale of some park land would have in dealing with a short-term problem.

POLO IN THE PARK

Meeting Sept 2010 in Hurlingham Park Pavilion.
Fenella Gray reports:

Over 29,000 spectators visited the event during June last year. The ballot for local people was well supported and over 3,000 people applied for the 2012 free tickets on offer. Although the Polo Event was marketed to appeal to a wide range of spectators the organisers discovered the majority of the attendees for 2010 lived within a mile of the event.

Fortunately there were no complaints over noise or traffic problems during the event and the feedback to the council from attendees was very positive

According to the Hammersmith and Fulham website ‘the event won Sport Attraction of the Year at the prestigious London Lifestyle Award.’ The entertainment on offer included stunt riders, medieval jousting displays, a soft play area for children and a luxury shopping village as well as a Veuve Cliquot Champagne Garden’.

This plethora of excitement was not matched however by the World of Polo’s commitment to address the grassed areas damaged by the event. A spokesman from the H & F rugby club described the effort by the contractors as ‘a woeful performance’. The contractors supplied and paid for by World of Polo did not adequately re sow or water the affected areas resulting in poorer quality playing surfaces than prior to the event.

**The park was partially closed for weeks during and after the Polo event . For summer 2011 the organisers are looking into ways of keeping it open for as long as possible whilst maintaining the safety of park goers. This will benefit the local schools and sports organisations which also like to use the park during the summer.

**H&F news extract: *'due to the size of the event the building of the site will start on Monday 24th May'* (10 days before Friday 4th June opening day of the Polo) *'the dismantling of the site started on the 7th of June and is likely to take up to 7 days'* (ie 3 weeks. The first week also incorporated schools' half term week).

'After the dismantling of the site, work will start on reinstating the park, repairing any damage as a result of the event and improving the overall surface for year round park users. This is all part of the event organisers responsibility and done at their own cost. The Council will be closely monitoring this work to ensure that this is carried out to our level of satisfaction.'

'There will then be a period of rest for the park of about 6 weeks. The park will still be open for use but with reduced bookable sport usage.'

We expect the part to be fully operational by the 1 August 2010 when the main sporting seasons reopen.

This amounted to 10 weeks. The fact is that although most of the park was open, the clubs and organisations couldn't book on the off chance there may be an area large enough to play. The council said that there would be alternative venues but then they had to cordon off a swathe of the north end of South Park for reseeding so that area was out of action. The south part of South Park was very full at one stage with schools playing games.

CLANCARTY ROAD STREET CLEANING

Anthony Williams reports:

Extensive communications with the Council's Head of Waste Management have hopefully resolved some of the problems with the cleaning and collection services, which were partly a result of communication issues with Serco, and also provided information on the services that the road should be receiving.

The main rubbish and recycling collection on Friday mornings was occurring later than it should have been with the result that the post collection sweep was often being carried out *before* the collection. This error has now been corrected.

The road should also have a full clean on Tuesdays and post 4.00 pm sweep every weekday during school term time. Bulk collections for the Peterborough Road school site, Brightwells and Lowlands are scheduled on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays using a different vehicle.

Power spray cleaning has also been carried out to deal with the worst of the residual mess from fallen fruit which was not cleared by the normal sweep.

DUKE ON THE GREEN

Chrissy Stenning is now PRARA's liaison with the Duke on the Green pub at the top of Peterborough Road. Any concerns or issues, please email her first.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH UPDATE

This report from Lance & Sue Pierson is re-printed from the last newsletter as the information it contains is still valid and a timely reminder now that the clocks have gone back.

It is important to register valuable items such as sat navs, bicycles, mobile phones etc; in fact anything with a serial number on www.immobilise.com. Then, if they are stolen and recovered by the police, they can be returned to you easily.

Listening to the experiences of people in other parts of the Parsons Green Ward, makes us realise how fortunate we are to live in the PRARA area!

But there is still crime and a demand for our Safer Neighbourhood Teams to be active on our behalf. They are aware of the problems that people have in contacting them by phone; this is their latest advice:

- * For emergencies, and if you are witnessing a crime or potential crime - 999.
- * For the SNTs themselves, about any non-urgent matter in your street -
 - *Parsons Green and Walham Ward* (= the north side of Clancarty Road and Peterborough Road north of Clancarty): 020-8246 2993.
 - *Sands End Ward* (= all other streets in PRARA, including the south side of Clancarty): 020-8246 2823

These are often on answerphone; they will get the message the next day. So you may prefer to email ParsonsGreen.Walham.SNT@met.police.uk or SandsEnd.SNT@met.police.uk.

- * For matters outside the Ward, and where you want an 'immediate' (!) response - 020-8563 1212. This is the number causing problems. It is the central 'Metcall' switchboard which should connect you to Fulham Police Station. But people have found there can sometimes be a very long wait, and that messages do not always get through to the right person.

Both Ward SNT's continue to deal with household burglary as a high priority. They are concerned that many of the houses they walk past are in darkness after sunset. This is an open invitation to burglars to visit an empty property. The police urge us, if we are regularly out after dark, to install and use timer light-switches; they are cheap to buy and simple to use. Tips from experience they gave us at the Summit were:

- Have at least 2 lights on timer-switches, one at the front and one at the back of the house.
- Set them to come on at different times, so that it doesn't look obviously programmed.
- Leave curtains at least slightly open, so that the lights show clearly through the window.
- Upstairs is better than down; looking through a downstairs window shows that the room is empty.

As good PRARA members, we are OF COURSE doing all this already (!), but please pass the advice on to friends and neighbours.

SAVE THE SANDS END COMMUNITY CENTRE - Briefing.

From Ann Rosenberg.

PRARA members may have read articles and seen photographs of the Save Sands End Library and Community Centre Action Group in the local papers over the last three months. Although part of PRARA's footprint is in Sands End Ward, it does not represent the views of the residents outside the footprint, and therefore has kept a watching brief. What follows is some background information which may be of interest.

Having gathered a historic 6900 signatures of local residents, the Action Group were entitled to present their petition to a full Council Meeting at Fulham Town Hall on Wednesday 27 October.

The Sands End Community Centre Action Group represented by PRARA associate member Nicholas Waldemar Brown, (who is also a member of FOSP), presented the following petition to the council. It was signed by 6900 people and the signatures were handed to the council for scrutiny.

"We the citizens of Sands End petition the council to

- a. abandon its plans to sell the Sands End Community Centre which houses our library and community centre and*
- b. reinvigorate the management of the centre to generate fuller use of its many facilities and thereby increase its value to the community and reduce its costs to the borough."*

London used to be a series of villages and some areas still have that feel and identity: Fulham still has some character and Sands End has that community feel despite the gentrification of parts of Fulham or little Chelsea as it is now known.

*The Sands End Community Centre, tucked away in the back streets, is well used by those who know it and those who need its facilities. An affordable gym, table tennis, badminton, a small library which runs reading/story telling sessions for local children, with computers and a place for pensioners to read the daily papers. There's a crèche, dance & fitness studios and craft workshops - a jewellery and stained glass studio and a well equipped pottery - Fulham used to be famous for its pottery (an old bottle kiln is preserved at the bottom of the New Kings Road). Age Well, NHS Rehab (uncertainty has forced the service to relocate) , Sure Start and sports sessions for the disabled are run here. *In proposing to close the library - on the grounds that few books are borrowed - the council is ignoring the broad use that is made of it by local people during the day and evening.*

Everyone is welcome at the Centre and people of all ages, cultures and means can mix together here; and for some less mobile or lonely people it is a lifeline. The community centre is within walking distance for all its many users. The centralisation of library facilities elsewhere in Fulham would mean a journey of more than a mile for local people on Fulham's crowded roads. Public transport is slow and cars mean parking charges and add to the congestion. If the council sells the building to developers they will destroy a COMMUNITY centre.

We want to build up Sands End Community Centre (which has been run down) and strengthen it as the social hub for the people of the Ward. The co-location of these sports, educational, health and welfare activities make the Centre in its present form a vital asset to our community. It contributes significantly to social cohesion in an area which is otherwise characterised by huge disparities in personal wealth. And it could be better managed to the benefit of the community and the borough. David Cameron wants us to build a Big Society but our council is threatening to take away the very building which would enable us to do that."

**Initially the council used the popularity of centralising Shepherds Bush library facilities in Westfield to argue its case, and subsequently made the proposal to re-locate the library elsewhere in the Ward. However, the effect of this action is to close the library in the Community Centre thereby depriving the young children of Langford School and elderly residents of an existing accessible facility.*

RECYCLE! BE ECO-FRIENDLY! CLEAR OUT THE CLUTTER! BAG A BARGAIN!

From Ann Rosenberg

Fulham's first Flea Market and Table Top Sale takes place every Sunday, from 10am-3pm, at the Parsons Green Sports & Social Club in Broomhouse Lane (between Daisy Lane and Sullivan Road).

It's been open since October and local people are finding it just the place to find bargains, Christmas presents, and something delicious for tea. There is a regular home-made cake stall each week, plus home-made jams, apple pies and mince pies too— using tip-top ingredients. Its becoming quite a hit

so if that's what appeals make sure you come early on Sunday (except Sunday 21st as Caz is taking a break from baking).

It's also the opportunity to get together with friends and clear out your clutter. One PRARA member has already done so. You can book a table for £10 on 020 7736 1401 between 12-3pm and after 6pm. Sellers admitted at 8.30am. There are some charity stalls, and as we head towards Christmas there will be more craft stalls. There is also a regular vintage vinyl stall selling jazz. So there are bargains to be had among the books, clothes, bric-a-brac, collectables, CDs DVDs, and jewellery.

There are refreshments available and the Club bar opens at 12 noon with drinks at club prices. Entrance is 50p.

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PRARA COMMITTEE MEMBERS CONTACT LIST

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Peterborough Road representative (Parsons Green & Walham Ward): Fenella Gray, 65 Peterborough Road.
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Hon. Secretary & Peterborough Road Representative (Sands End Ward): Ann Rosenberg, 72 Peterborough Road. Tel: 7731 5151 email: anntony@which.net

Hon. Treasurer & Membership Secretary & Duke on the Green liaison:
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Non-Committee members

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Chelsea Football Club Liaison - tba

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