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Peterborough Road and Area Residents' Association
incorporating Clancarty Road, Daisy Lane, Hugon Road,
South Park Mews, Sullivan Road and Settrington Road

NEWSLETTER

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1 - Croquet Event and Thames Tunnel campaign update

We are moving our annual social gathering to the Summer Season to make it easier and pleasanter for people to attend, with the first new date in July of this year. So please come and join us to meet your neighbours and chat about local issues on

**Wednesday, 11th July from 6.00 to 8.30 pm
on the
Croquet Lawn of the Parson's Green Club in Broomhouse Road**

Drinks at very popular prices and we shall move inside if the weather is inclement.

Enjoy a game of croquet - coaching offered - and cucumber sandwiches

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Thames Tunnel campaign update at 7.00 pm

Please RSVP to Ann Rosenberg. We need to know how many croquet sets to be made available, and how many cucumbers to buy!

In spite of a massive objection by local residents, our MP and the Council, and Boris Johnson's publicly stated opposition, Thames Water have not altered their stated preference

for Carnwath Road to be a major Thames Tunnel construction site. The fight is not over and there will be a **briefing on the latest situation and campaign plans at 7.00pm.**

2 - Olympic Street Parties

The application process for street parties has been reduced to one on-line form, or a paper version can be supplied if required. The application deadline for parties during the Olympics or Paralympics is 29th June. Visit www.lbhf.gov.uk/streeparties or call 020 8753 2480.

3 - Neighbourhood Watch

Recent reports from our Wards' Safer Neighbourhood Police teams have shown a largely stable number of reported crimes. This is encouraging, considering the reduction to the one Sergeant leading both teams. Most crimes still happen to people who do not take security measures, or forget to apply them. The message is always the same: you are responsible for providing adequate locks on your property, and then remembering to use them!

A reminder about calling the Police: The non-emergency number 101 really is non-emergency; it is often very slowly answered and should only be used for routine enquiries or reports. If you witness a crime, or see something which looks as if a crime may be committed soon, **ALWAYS CALL 999**. Do not think the Police will be annoyed with you for wasting their time; that is their problem. They are there to respond to your emergency as soon as possible. They have told us that they would much rather you ring with what turns out to be a false alarm, than that you hold back from what turns out to be a real crime.

Congratulations to Chelsea Football Club on winning the European Cup. Unfortunately their Victory Parade on May 20th seriously inconvenienced and caused problems for many PRARA members and others living in our roads. We are anxious to do what we can to ensure that the worst parts of the experience never happen again. To this end we have made enquiries about who was really responsible for the chaos (Sgt Nicholson's email which we forwarded to some of you was not wholly accurate or fair.)

The opinions expressed below in italics have been formulated by Lance & Sue Pierson as Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators and firmly endorsed by the PRARA Standing Committee. If you have views, do please let us know.

Chelsea Football Club -

1) asked for the parade at short notice: this led to the failure to deliver warning notices to all affected households;

2) they insisted (against advice) on a later time (4pm) than in previous years; this led to roads being closed as late as 7pm or, in some cases, even later;

3) they employed, and failed adequately to train / brief, the firm of stewards called 'Innovision', who refused local residents access to their own roads, even after they had produced ID – all are agreed that this was totally unacceptable.

It seems to us that, of all the parties responsible, Chelsea were most at fault. It would be nice if they would distribute a written apology. We would like to suggest to the Council that for all future parades, Chelsea have to give a minimum period of notice; and that the Council, not Chelsea, have the decisive voice on what time the parade can start.

- The Police gave advice on the timing and location of all the road closures; as they are the experts on law and order, their advice is virtually automatically accepted. They insist that it really needs 7 hours to clear the roads and build barriers.

Like many residents, we remain to be convinced of this. We feel the Police are more responsive to the threat of violent disorder (from uncontrolled football fans) than to the legitimate right of the people who live here to have disruption kept to a minimum. If they knew that we were likely to be equally disorderly at having our movements restricted, could they not find a way to clear traffic and assemble barriers more quickly?! We would like to pursue this question further, and to ask the Council to press the Police to review their plans and procedures from the point of view of minimising disruption to the local population.

- The Council made the decision to allow the parade and follow police guidance; they therefore carry the can and get most of the blame. They took the view that if they said no to a parade, the Chelsea fans would turn up anyway and need policing, which would be less planned and which the Club could not be asked to pay for.

We are sympathetic to their difficult position, but would want to urge them to be more robust in trying to reduce disruption to their Borough's residents.

We would value views and comments from members, either direct to Lance or Sue Pierson or via your street representative - contact details at the end of the newsletter.

As far as we are aware, the road closures and stewarding over the Jubilee weekend were much better organised and less disruptive.

4 - Peterborough School building in Clancarty Road

Following the public consultation on the planned development works, the PRARA committee was directly briefed by the architects. We were broadly impressed by their designs which are sympathetic and well thought through. Essentially they comprise a substantial renovation of the historic and listed main building, the construction of a new entrance and dining hall/gym on the north west corner of the site and a new layout and landscaping of the Clancarty Road playground and frontage.

We have made the following representations both to the Cabinet Member for Childrens' Services and as a submission on the current planning application:

We are broadly supportive of the proposed scheme which in many respects is commendable. We do, however, have several reservations which form the basis of our objection to the planning application as submitted.

1 - The plans submitted do not make it clear that the existing wooden fence along the Clancarty Road boundary of the site will be replaced by open railings. We think this should be a specific element of the design which becomes a requirement.

2 - We consider it essential that access to the Early Years part of the school should be from Studdridge Street only, using the re-opened existing pedestrian entrance to the school site from this road. This is necessary to help control the already bad traffic problems that occur at school closing and particularly school opening times.

3 - For the same reason, we will not be satisfied unless there is a legally binding requirement for an extremely robust travel plan which includes mandatory procedures. We are aware that the Ecole Marie d'Orliac already has a travel plan. Although worthy and helpful, it has not prevented severe traffic congestion at the school opening time. This congestion can only become completely unacceptable with a school of double the size unless adequate measures are in place to prevent it.

At our meeting with the architects we requested consideration be given to a drop off point which could help alleviate the problem, but there is no indication this is being provided.

4 - The plans we were shown separated the kitchen delivery route and unloading

area from the grounds used by pupils and we are disturbed to see the present sharing arrangement now being proposed. This requires deliveries between 6am and 8am which is totally unacceptable in a such a residential area. We already had concerns over the timing and scale of the deliveries that will be required for the enlarged school and its catering. These concerns have now escalated and we wish to know how such deliveries will be controlled so that their impact is minimised and made only after 8am and preferably only after the morning rush hour is over.

The development plans are a consequence of the expansion of the bi-lingual education programme of Ecole Marie d'Orliac (the Lycee primary school) with Holy Cross primary school, with the Ecole taking over the entire building after the Queensmill special needs school moves to a new location.

5 - South Fulham Riverside SDP

The second draft Supplementary Development Plan (SDP), which encompasses the Carnwath Road land wanted by Thames Water, was published in March 2012. PRARA's submission is available for viewing on our web site. We re-iterated many of the comments we had made in our response to the first draft of the SDP, including objections to building heights. The second draft included some details on the proposed changes to the 424 bus routes to which we have given qualified support.

6 - South Park

Two of our PRARA Committee members are also on the Committee of the Friends of South Park: Lance Pierson and Beth Patrick, who would welcome your comments to pass on to the Friends. They share the brief for the maintenance of the Park - Beth for trees and planting, and Lance for everything else! – so this report concentrates mainly on this, but finishes with headlines on some other issues. 'Maintenance' means keeping the Park in good running order as it is now – not the 'Masterplan' for upgrading it over a 10-year period.

Problems in dealing with the plants and trees include:

- finding the right people to deal with at the Council and at Quadron, the ground maintenance contractors. Recent appointments at both seem very good, and give us hope;
- weather: the hosepipe ban makes watering new plants impossible
- funding: this year money is only available for Parks that already have Green Flag status or are applying for it. We were told all along that South Park was not in the running until, suddenly, on May 11th, we got a summons to an inspection, as it was being assessed for the award after all! We were very surprised, as it is still treated as a poor relation and very little of the Masterplan has yet been achieved, but of course delighted at the opportunity. If we are awarded a Green Flag, it will release much needed money to improve the trees and flowers. Meanwhile Beth is exploring other sources of funds in case we have to turn to them.

To look at all the other parts of park maintenance (paths, walls, fences, benches, bins, children's play area, etc.), we had the annual walk-about with the relevant Council officers on May 21st. We have a list of 15 maintenance tasks, of which the most urgent are the 'Danger Asbestos' area in the south-east corner and the pot-holes in most of the paths. We were promised prompt action at the walk-about, but then we have been in previous years as well, only to be disappointed. So Lance has a time-table for monitoring progress, and ratcheting up the pressure if the progress is not quick enough!

Other developments:

- There was a successful Picnic in the Park on May 13th, attended by several hundred people
- Work continues to develop the Community Garden in the north-west corner.

- Teo and the staff from Il Pagliaccio continue to provide a refreshment cart most days through the summer. They hold the key to give access to the loos. Do please support their public-spirited initiative, as they often run at a loss. This is a temporary arrangement while we continue to seek ways to provide a permanent cafe.
- We are exploring ideas with the Council for commercial opportunities in the Park, which would aim to finance parts of the Masterplan; these are still at a very tentative stage.

7 - The Big Stink

Earlier this year Clancarty Road and Peterborough Road in particular were affected by a strong smell of sewage which lasted for over two months. The source was difficult to trace as the smell was inconsistent in location. Quadron, the Council's park maintenance contractor, initially claimed it was nothing to do with them. At PRARA's request, Thames Water (twice) and the Council carried out checks of the Clancarty Road sewage system but were unable to find any blockage or reason for the smell. Eventually, Quadron admitted that the cause was a mulch they had spread in South Park which had not been fully broken down before it was applied. This problem has never occurred before and hopefully will not happen again.

8 - The Duke on the Green

The revised terms of the premises licence are now in force. "From March to September (inclusive) on Thursday, Friday and Saturdays and from 8 pm to 11 pm the Premises shall have at least one member of staff who is fully trained whose sole responsibility is to monitor customers outside the Premises: this member of staff will be identifiable and will, where necessary, actively encourage customers to be quiet."

To date we have not received any comments from PRARA members on the effectiveness or otherwise of this new condition.

9 - The Greedy Buddha and El Sitio restaurants licensing objections

These two restaurants are located in Wandsworth Bridge Road at the junction with Clancarty Road. Both recently submitted premises licence applications which, if approved, would have subjected residents at that end of Clancarty Road to excessive and particularly late night noise. PRARA submitted objections to both applications which were only approved following the acceptance by both premises of amendments to their applications and with strict conditions to prevent noise and disruption.

10 - Polo in the Park

This year's Polo Event in Hurlingham Park took place on 8th-10th June, at the time this newsletter was being written. Construction of the site began on 28th May and the dismantling was scheduled to start immediately after on 11th June and be completed by 15th June.

According to the council web site, this year's MINT Polo in the Park was set to be bigger and better than ever before with double the amount of bar and garden space overlooking the field, more on-pitch entertainment over the three days – including horsemanship displays and a children's sports day – larger spectator viewing area and an improved children's zone. Six teams representing global cities were scheduled to play in a 'round robin' format, with three games each day.

If you attended the event, or were affected by it, please let us know so that we may provide feedback to the council.

11 - Parson's Green Club Development Plans

In order to ensure its survival the club has been pursuing various development options over the past few years. The current scheme comprehensively improves and modernises the club's facilities and relocates others, which will release some of its land adjacent to Sullivan Road for housing to provide the necessary funding. The Board of the Parsons Green Sports & Social Club Ltd. has recently announced that planning permission has now been granted for the initial stage of the development. Details are available on the H&F web site at

http://www.apps.lbhf.gov.uk/PublicAccess/tdc/DcApplication/application_detailview.aspx?keyval=LXBRDBBI01E00&searchtype=PROPERTY&module=P3

It is envisaged that construction work will begin shortly on the Sullivan Road land. As soon as the planned schedule of works has been drawn up for this initial stage, PRARA will be informed of any local disruption to residents during building works, which will be kept to a minimum.

12 - Celebrating Fulham Week

Our two Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinators are wearing other hats to provide entertainment in 'Celebrating Fulham Week' at the beginning of July.

- Tuesday 3rd, 7.30pm at Fulham Palace. Lance's words-and-music trio perform 'Elizabeth to Elizabeth', celebrating 450 years of English history as part of the Jubilee festivities. Tickets £12 from the Lyric Theatre, 0871 2211729 or www.lyric.co.uk/whats-on and click on "Other Events".

- Wednesday 4th, 7.30pm at Christ Church, Studdridge Street. Sue gives an illustrated talk on Peterborough House, one of the lost houses of Fulham.

13 - Bramford Community Garden

You are warmly invited to visit this new garden which has been created alongside Wandsworth Town Station next to Homebase, and which grows herbs, flowers, fruit and vegetables. It is open from 11.30 - 1.30 pm every Sunday and usually at 7.30 pm on Wednesday evenings during the Summer.

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