

TUDOR AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION KINGSTON (TARAK)

Summer 2011 Newsletter – hoping you all enjoy a good holiday break and proper summer weather!

1. New school on Richmond Road

There is still no news regarding the new school or the funding for it despite our MP asking questions in Parliament. It may be September before we hear anything more.

2. Progress on the petition about an additional pedestrian crossing

TARAK members were sent a note on 31.01.11 about signing a petition presented by Annemarie Hamzeh. This concerned putting in a pedestrian crossing on Park Road near the junction of Latchmere Road where children and parents from three schools cross this very busy road. TARAK members helped to get more than the 500 signatures required for further action and at the 28.06.11 Kingston Town Neighbourhood Committee meeting, which Annemarie addressed, there was a favourable response (see summary below).

SUMMARY

Earlier this year a petition was received from residents requesting an additional pedestrian crossing on Park Road near to the junction of Latchmere Road. After careful consideration officers have secured funding from the 2011/12 Local Implementation Plan (LIP) to look at the possibility of providing a zebra crossing in Park Road between the junctions of Latchmere Road and Kelvedon Close.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is **RECOMMENDED** that a new zebra crossing is introduced in Park Road, as indicated within this report, and detailed in the attached **Annex1**, subject to local consultation.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To encourage the greater use of walking, and to assist all vulnerable road users, including parents and children, particularly pupils of the nearby schools, to cross safely.

TARAK has learned a useful lesson in how to get its voice heard! Incidentally, five days after this meeting there was an accident near this spot when a motorcyclist was knocked over! To some extent this perhaps confirmed Annemarie's concern about the danger to children and parents crossing a very busy Park Road.

3. Picnic on Latchmere Recreation Ground

No member contacted the committee regarding having a picnic in June. In view of the incredible changes in the weather this year (some members resorting to putting their heating on because it was so cold) a picnic did not seem feasible. Perhaps next year?

4. Coffee morning with Zac Goldsmith at the Cardinal 9.15 to 10.15

Sara and Vivian did a great job at such an early hour with a plentiful supply of coffee and biscuits. The meeting was quite well attended and a number of issues raised by residents (not many TARAK members attended). These included concerns about blocking of back alleys, free parking for short periods near shops, and cows on Petersham Common. It was reported in the local Guardian that a dog (not on a lead) had viciously attacked a cow. As a result the National Trust were considering the fate of the famous herd which has been on the site for some 200 years. A meeting is being organised by a Ham and Petersham councillor at

Petersham Village Hall at 7pm on Friday 08.07.11. This is not a Tudor issue but may interest residents who walk across the meadows with their dogs.

5. URGENT! Market Place consultation – get involved and have your say!

Kingston's much-loved Ancient Market Place is set to receive a **make-over**. Councillor Derek Osbourne, Leader of Kingston Council said the "Market Place is rich in history, culture and modernity, and throughout this process we will be looking to improve the area while ensuring we retain its charm. This is an exciting project and in order for it to be a success it's extremely important that we get the views of those who matter most – our residents, local businesses and visitors to Kingston."

He continued: "The redevelopment of the Ancient Market Area isn't just about aesthetics; we want to improve the pedestrian links between the Market Place, the riverside and other Town Centre shopping areas, as well as maximising the impact of other Council services such as street cleansing, graffiti removal and waste management. The Market Place was recently voted Britain's second 'Best Shopping' street in the Google Street View Awards 2011 – this is an amazing achievement and I'm confident that through further development we can reach the top spot."

Make sure you have a say in the changes.

Throughout 2011, the Council will be hosting community events and focus groups, as well as meeting with key stakeholders and interested parties to hear initial views and gain feedback on future proposals.

In July the project team and Council representatives will be on the street to gather your views and answer your questions. Visit them from 10am to 6pm on:

- Saturday 9 July 2011 at the Market Place and/ or
- Saturday 16 July 2011 on Clarence Street

How you can get involved

Go to the meetings in July. Get and fill in a Canvass Card and get a newsletter. You can download these from the RBK website or get paper copies from Amanda (at Soundings) 020 7729 1705.

For more information go to the RBK website. If you don't have a computer you can access it at the Tudor Library.

One TARAK member has already written to the organisers, wanting answers to the following questions:

- a. Who identified that change was required in this area initially?
- b. From what information, or survey from those who live in and use the area, was this concluded?
- c. If any area, anywhere is subject to an improvement commission it is unlikely few changes will be made because 'changes for the better' is exactly the remit of the commission. However, 'better' can be very subjective. Is it recognised that sometimes **seemingly shambolic market stalls and lack of 'sensible' modern planning can be very attractive in itself in a fast moving, slick hi-tech world?**

These are major questions to ask. The Ancient Market Place is an important part of Kingston both for residents and visitors and is a kind of living history.

6. TARAK lunches at the Cardinal

July 21 is the next date booked for TARAK at the Cardinal. We had 14 members turn up at our last TARAK lunch and it was very lively and most enjoyable. We started at 12.15pm and finished at about 2.30 having exchanged lots of ideas, information about our area etc. Please let Margaret (0208 546 1743), Judith (0208 546 1195) or Sue (0208 546 6529) if you are intending to join the lunch so we have enough chairs and tables set up!

7. Future activities

If members have ideas for future activities they would like to suggest to the committee, or issues they want to discuss, please write in to the committee.