

TUDOR AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION KINGSTON (TARAK)

march 2014 newsletter

Your Committee News

1. The Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 30th January at the Cardinal was well attended. with about 24 members and with Dennis Doe representing our Tudor Ward Councillors. Our Chair, Judith Pottinger, welcomed members, read out apologies, proposed a special thanks to Dennis for supporting TARAK since its beginnings in 2009 and wished him well in his retirement from the Council (he is continuing as a governor of Kingston Hospital Trust).

1.1 Treasurer's Report - The treasurer reported that we had an improved balance this year. This was partly because of donations: from Complexshone in Park Road (£100); Ham Horticultural Association in memory of Jo Condon (£50), and Harry Hill film makers (£300), but also because collection of fees was very efficient.

1.2 Membership Secretary's Report - we had not managed to increase our membership but it had remained stable at 53 members. Members were asked to help recruit more members from friends and neighbours.

1.3 Events and lunches Report - four lunches had been organised during the year and had taken place at the Hand and Flower because the Cardinal was not providing a lunch facility in 2013. However in 2014 lunches would again be held at the Cardinal. **Dates booked for 2014 are 12 March, 14 May, 16 July all at 12 noon.**

Further bulb planting groups had been active in Wolsey Drive, outside the library, and by the arches at the top of Tudor Drive, and the Park Road end at the bottom of Tudor Drive.

1.4 Election of Committee Members All Committee members were willing to stand for a further year and Michael Derks, who was co-opted to the committee at the 2013 AGM had his committee membership confirmed..

1.5 In the open discussion which followed the following points were made:

1.5.1 we should better advertise our existence by means of noticeboards, all notices and newsletters placed in the library

1.5.2 make contact with other residents associations

1.5.3 find projects in addition to bulb planting which members would want to engage in eg access to Adult Education

1.5.4 perhaps we should have a TARAK website

1.6 Date of the next Annual General Meeting is 29th January 2015

2. Pembroke House Rose Garden and Car Park Renovation

TARAK members will have noticed activity at Pembroke Lodge. The project, which is funded by Transport for London Greenways programme, aims to improve the visitor experience and ease the movement of park users passing this busy entrance whilst using the Tamsin Trail. The programme of improvements is expected to finish at the end of March. During this period the south side of the car park will be closed, reducing car parking capacity by half. The work will improve the entrance to the lodge from the car park which is heavily used by pedestrians and cyclists. By upgrading the materials and increasing the pedestrian/cycling space, the Royal Parks hopes there will be more circulation space for everyone. Benches and cycle racks will be relocated, and the drainage of the area will be improved..As part of the project the accessible parking spaces at the front entrance to Pembroke Lodge will be realigned and surfaced in tarmac with marked out bays to improve access to Pembroke Lodge. You can see the details of the works and a drawing of the planned changes by downloading information from the Royal Parks Richmond Park website.

Work is also taking place to redesign the Pembroke Lodge Rose Garden, funded by the London Marathon Charitable Trust. The project will take around six weeks to complete and will create a better defined garden with new benches, a larger viewing area and new beds to showcase the roses. More on The Royal Parks website.

3. Closure of Church Road

Church Road will be closed to motor vehicles, from Latchmere Lane to Ham Gate Avenue, **from March 14** for three weeks to allow for the annual toad migration.

4. Closure of Richmond Road

The RBK Council intends to make an order starting on 15 March regarding *short duration* closures, from the junction with Sopwith Way to Cromwell Road to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic, to allow the movement and installation of preformed sections for the Kingston Station platform extension. The order will remain in force for 18 months or until the work is completed, hopefully within one month. Full details available in the library.

5. Boris Johnson and Cycling and RBK

In the Autumn many RBK residents received information about the Mayor of London's £100 million Outer London Cycling Fund Cycling projects and development - 'Mini-Holland' proposals. RBK responded as follows:

"In July 2013, we submitted a formal Expression of Interest in the Mayor of London's Outer London Cycling Fund. Our aim is to secure a share of the £100m fund and to make the borough's town centres 'mini Hollands', as cycle-friendly as Dutch equivalents. Our plans are ambitious and innovative, combining new facilities and improved infrastructure. We were successful in being shortlisted for the next stage of the bidding process, and in December 2013 we submitted a formal Bid document."

Residents can now access a copy of the formal Bid document on the RBK website. It is called: 'A cycling vision for everyone'. It is a very comprehensive document which will be of interest to all cyclists, young and old and if achieved will revolutionise cycling in Kingston. If you don't have a computer you can access the report using the Tudor Library computers in the library entrance. The librarians will be able to assist you if there are no people waiting for books.

6. Kingston New Secondary school

6.1 There are four shortlisted names for the new free school: Kingston Academy, River Park, Hawker Academy, Caesar Picton Free School. All four names have local connections and sometime in March one will be chosen. David Cunningham, our local councillor, said he would like to see a wide consultation on the choice of name because it is a community school. The new school in Richmond Road, which has secured multi-million pound government funding for construction, furniture, fixtures and equipment, is scheduled to open in September 2015.

6.2 Re-siting of existing facilities in the current building (North Kingston Centre)

6.2a Most Kingston Adult Education courses will be housed in extra space provided at King Charles Centre, Surbiton from September this year. Some courses will be run at Newent House, Surbiton for the academic year from September 2014 subject to a change of use application. A review of adult education will be carried out, including possible closer partnerships with other providers in Kingston and Richmond, to finalise courses and locations for 2015-2016 onwards.

6.2b Kingston local studies and archives services will go to the Dukes Centre, and Museum and Archives storage to the National Conservation Services Collaborative Storage Scheme (off-site storage).

The government's Education Funding Agency has agreed to meet the £1.4million cost of relocating services from the North Kingston Centre.

7. Failure of Child safeguarding in Kingston in 2012

Residents will remember the devastating OFSTED report in 2012, suggesting that Kingston was worse than Harringey for child protection. The new Director of children's services, Nick Whitfield, recently revealed to the RBK scrutiny committee, that his department had to carry out over 200 re-assessments due to poor quality of previous work but considerable improvements have now been made in the service.

8. Latchmere House redevelopment planning changes

Residents close to the Latchmere Prison site received a letter in late February from the developers (Berkeley), explaining that Kingston and Richmond Councils now wanted an increase in the number of affordable homes (from 18% to up to 50%). This change involves 55 of the new houses using a new private access road from the site onto Latchmere Lane. A further public exhibition regarding both plans will be provided. Some local residents have already objected to Richmond about the changes, in particular mentioning that Kingston schools are already overstretched for space.

9. North Kingston Development Plan

This development plan is still being considered - on the site of the old gas-holders

10. Zac Goldsmith

Our MP has continued to keep us up to date with Parliamentary activity regarding the Heathrow third runway and local opportunities to have a say, the call back of MPs who have broken the law, and more recently with the Mayor of London's cycle plans funding. He continues to hold his local surgeries in the Cardinal or the Bistro so that residents can approach him with any issues they have.

11. Flooding

The Lower Ham Road was considerably affected by the rise in the Thames in Jan/Feb but the water has now subsided.

The committee wishes all members some peaceful and better March weather.