

TUDOR AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION KINGSTON (TARAK)

October 2013 Newsletter

Local news from your committee

1. Join in this year's TARAK bulb planting on Sunday 27 October (weather-permitting)



You may remember the magnificent show of daffodils resulting from our communal bulb planting last October. Following this success, your committee has agreed with the local authority and Quadron a second community bulb planting day: Sunday 27 October. The idea has been welcomed and suggestions for where to plant have been received, so we will be at:

- (i) the Park Road end of Tudor Drive - from 10.30am
- (ii) outside the library - from 11.00am
- (iii) on the green in Wolsey Drive - from 11.30am

Details and reasons for these particular locations are:

(i) on the green triangle outside 325 Tudor Drive / at the junction, we'll plant clumps of daffodils. And from 298 Tudor Drive towards Park Road we'll make two narrow swathes of daffodils between the trees.

This is in memory of Jo Condon, who lived in Park Road near this junction and worked in the Tudor area for many years. Jo was an active member of Ham Horticultural Society and the Society has expressed the wish to contribute to the bulbs. She was an award-winning flower arranger and is much missed by her friends for her bright attitude to life.

(ii) staff at the Tudor Drive Library would like "clumps" of daffodils on each side of the path leading to the library door.
(iii) between the trees on the two triangles of green that can be seen from Cardinal Avenue, ie outside 17 - 79 Wolsey Drive and opposite at 26 to 40. Many residents will recall the recent filming in the roads around Cardinal Avenue and Wolsey Drive. The film company has made a donation to TARAK which will go towards the cost of these bulbs.

Do come along with your family and help with the planting. The more the merrier. Bring your own tools - from experience last year we do not dig down very far and all the digging is done by hand!

2. Latchmere House development

The good news (confirmed on 16.08.13 by Berkeley developers) is that Berkeley's application to develop the Latchmere site will not seek additional vehicular access via Garth Road or Latchmere Lane. There will be a singular access as at present from Church Road. In addition, they've reduced the number of houses from 76 to 70. This is to be welcomed as there will be less pressure on schools, buses, surgeries in addition to road traffic. The fences on Latchmere Lane (see photo) are to close the area off temporarily whilst ecological and archaeological investigations are being undertaken. The fence is also likely to form part of the safety barrier once demolition starts. Berkeley place notices along the fence that explain its purpose and also provide contact details in case there are any questions. The intention for the final scheme (dependent on progress of the preferred master plan) is that the area between Latchmere Lane and Latchmere House remains open and publicly accessible with a pedestrian access to the site through the open area.



3. The Cardinal pub

Members will have noticed that the pub is under new long term management with a menu of burgers, pizzas and salads, starters and desserts etc. It's newly decorated throughout and has a very welcoming landlord, Kelvin, who wants the pub to be part of our Tudor community. If you live or work nearby, you can sign up to a loyalty scheme for an ongoing **10% discount off food (25% off food before 7pm on weekdays)**. For Christmas parties: a sharing dish, any pizza or burger (including turkey & cranberry burger/pizza) any dessert and glass of prosecco £20 per person. TARAK may consider having our Christmas mince pies and mulled wine party there.

4. Lunch Club. The next lunche has been booked at The Ham & Flower on Richmond Road, for Wednesday 13 November at 12 noon. We look forward to seeing you. Please phone Sue Canty on 8546 6529 if you'll be joining us.

5. Filming

Residents in Wolsey Drive and Cardinal Avenue had the excitement earlier in the year of the filming for the future Harry Hill feature film. There was a minimum disruption to local services and the film company made a donation to TARAK (see bulb planting). We're sure residents will be pleased to welcome the film company back one day.

6. Kingston Hospital

We noted that in April Kingston Hospital had achieved Foundation Status. However, a Care Quality Commission (CQC) report, published on 25th September, stated that a surprise inspection found that Kingston Hospital is not providing "safe and appropriate care" to patients in its medical wards. Kingston Hospital says they will be dealing with this. This information does emphasise how important it is that each one of us using the NHS contributes to keeping it working properly on our behalf. A start can be made by joining your surgery's patient participation group (PPG) to feed back information to your GPs, both on what services you would like from the surgery and also on what services you are receiving when you are sent to a hospital for treatment.

7. New Kingston Secondary School

The new free school in north Kingston will not be opening next September as was originally anticipated due to "a combination of practical and other factors". The Kingston Educational Trust (KET) applied to the parliamentary under secretary of state for schools to defer opening of the building until September 2015, to give more time to relocate adult education and archive the services currently provided at the North Kingston Centre. KET also say that: "This deferral also means that the school can open without adversely affecting the recruitment of children to other secondary schools within the borough". Kingston currently has a severe shortage of primary school places because according to the Council, too many primary age school children moved to Kingston over summer.

8. Neighbourhood Policing

Your committee is represented at the quarterly meetings between the community and the police. Please let us know if you have an issue you would like raised. The local police provide advice on keeping safe and marking personal equipment and publish regular bulletins to keep residents informed on current local police issues and matters of concern.

9. Kingston Council

(i) The new leader of Kingston Council is Liz Green, who has replaced Derek Osbourne.

(ii) On 12th July 2013 it was reported that, according to independent inspectors (Ofsted), twelve months on from the original poor report, child protection services in Kingston are still inadequate despite significant improvements. Nick Whitfield, Kingston Council's director of children's services, said "We are determined to get back to the excellent level of service that young people and their families expect from us. We are making good progress but it will take years, not months." Councillor Margaret Thompson is the lead member for the relevant committee.

(iii) Kingston Council has a new website. They are asking residents send in their comments on its usability.

(iv) Potholes: the council is asking for residents to take photos and report on potholes which need repairing.

(v) Building forward of the building line: residents are reminded that such building requires planning permission. Two Kingston Town residents have been compelled to remove their structures which were built without permission.

10. The Gas Works in Sury Basin

The iconic gasworks near Kingston Sainsburys are nearer to being demolished. Southern Gas Networks has said it no longer needs this site on Richmond Road, which used to hold up to 100 tonnes of natural gas. The site has been earmarked for private development by Kingston Council but the closure of the gasworks will need to be ratified by the Government. Further planning developments awaited from Kingston Council.

11. Zac Goldsmith, our MP

Zac Goldsmith has asked several questions in Parliament which may be of interest to TARAK members. In particular, he has:

1. asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward a stamp duty rebate for homes participating in the Green Deal.
2. challenged the Government to take urgent action to tackle the excessive use of antibiotics on intensive farms.
3. asked the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress he has made on implementing the Coalition Agreement commitment to introduce honesty in food labelling so that consumers can be confident about where their food comes from and its environmental effect.
4. asked the Secretary of State for Education what timetable he has set for the testing and introduction of revised standards for school food.
5. asked the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the first-year results of the plastic bag levy in Wales and come to a decision on introducing a levy on single-use plastic bags in England.11.07.13.

With best wishes from your TARAK committee