

Tudor Area Residents Association Kingston TARAK

March 2016

website <https://tarakresidents.wordpress.com>

1. News From Your Committee

(i) **The 7th AGM** was held at Tudor Hall on 29.01.16. The minutes are attached.

(ii) **The first TARAK** committee meeting was on 15th February and the following posts were confirmed:

Judith Poulton (nee Pottinger) Chair,
Michael Derks Treasurer and website ,
Margaret Levy newsletter and communications,
Diane Smith Membership Secretary

Anne Newmark Minutes Secretary
Catriona Duncan North Kingston Forum rep.
Sue Canty planting and lunches
Derek Brister Vice-chair

2.. Bulb planting in the grass verges



The first photo shows the swathe of daffodils planted by the Council. These swathes have been added to by TARAK regular bulb planting every Autumn. However the photo also shows a skip which has been placed on the grass verge. Skips on the



grass verges are becoming more frequent in Tudor ward as residents build extensions to their houses. Vans and lorries are regularly driving onto the verges thus churning up the grass, as shown in the second, smaller photo. Please help to prevent damage by skips - ask your (or neighbours' builder) to raise the skip (eg on bricks) so the grass can continue to grow. Also take photos of

vans/lorries damaging the grass verge showing the number plate and send it to your Tudor Councillors. Finally, remember that parking on the cross-over is not permitted. The cross-over is Council land.

3. Latchmere House Development

The developers are now providing a quarterly newsletter for residents. This can be read at: <http://www.latchmereconstruction.co.uk/>. Members may be interested that Berkeley are offering building trade apprenticeships and local residents can apply. It was expected that the site would be cleared by the end of March and the first new residents in the accommodation by late 2017. In March 2016, Berkeley will also be hosting a **totally free cycle repair workshop at Ham Common**. Qualified bike technicians will be at hand to repair punctures, check brakes and service gears.

4. Events at the Cardinal wine bar and restaurant

(i) **Lunches in 2016** - the first lunch was held on 10 February and 18 members attended, including 5 new members. The food served from a wide menu was pronounced excellent. Further lunches are booked for **13 April, 8 June, 7 September, 9 November**. Don't forget to book with Sue Canty or Margaret Levy.

5. Kingston Council News

(i) **The planned tax rise** for 2016 will now be 1.99% rather than 3.99%

(ii) **Planning** Councillor Davis, Leader of the Council states **"It is vital that the Council has an open and engaged conversation with our residents and stakeholders about growth opportunities as well as possible threats that face us"**. However, an email from Kingston Futures, advertising Kevin Davis' attendance at a developers' conference in Cannes at ratepayers expense, quotes him **" Royal Borough of Kingston are working with land owners, developers and investors "to shape the physical character of the borough."** **Note(iii) below appears to show that residents' views count less than those of developers.**

(iii) **The Old Post Office** redevelopment **was recently agreed by a narrow majority (6-5) despite objections from residents and the Kingston Society** The next battle against high rise towers in the centre will be in regard to the Eden Walk Project. The Kingston Residents Alliance, which TARAK supports, remains

completely opposed to these inappropriate developments. For further information concerning the KRA response visit <http://kingstonskyline.weebly.com/eden-walk-concerns.html>. Also see Surrey Comet letters page Feb 26 from the Chair of the Kingston Society.

(iv) The Market House - Grade II listed building built in 1838

A number of concerns have been raised in the Comet letters page (eg Feb 26 p16, March 4 p17) and elsewhere, regarding the proposal to make more income by granting a long lease to The Stable Bar and Restaurant as opposed to the present many craft traders. Read the report at <https://modern.gov.kingston.gov.uk/documents/s66547/Market%20House%20Kingston%20Report.pdf>

(v) Refuse Collection changes

Most residents have now received the blue bins for both newspaper and cardboard, together with a year's calendar showing which days the various bins are put out for collection. It will take a while for the new scheme to settle down, but if necessary phone the Council refuse line (sent with the blue bin and calendar).

(vi) Bi-annual staff survey

in 2001 RBK set up a bi-annual staff survey in conjunction with Kingston University. The latest statistics show that over half of Council staff are dissatisfied over job security.

6. Latchmere Recreation Ground

(i) Margaret Levy, committee member and Andree Frieze, co-opted committee member, met two members from Kingston Little League to discuss the proposed KLL pavilion. TARAK provided information showing that the recreation ground was held by the Council on behalf of Kingston residents and any survey carried out by KLL regarding the pavilion should only take account of Kingston residents. The TARAK members suggested that a community pavilion would be welcomed by residents as opposed to one specifically for KLL to use at weekends. We spoke of the possibility of setting up a Community Trust Fund to raise money for a community pavilion which could also be used by KLL. TARAK is awaiting feedback from KLL.

(ii) A Facebook page for Latchmere Rec? A member of TARAK and resident of Latchmere Lane, Andree Frieze, has set up a page on Facebook for our local park - [facebook.com/latchmererecreationground](https://www.facebook.com/latchmererecreationground). It's for the community to post news and events on. Andree is also looking into setting up a Friends of Latchmere Rec. If you are interested in being involved, please email her on Andree_frieze@yahoo.co.uk.

7. Kingston University community mapping project

The Kingston University Community Connectors are running a Community Mapping project of the Royal Borough of Kingston that aims to map assets within the community. A really important part of the project is about unearthing the culture and history held within the diverse communities across the Borough. Therefore, in addition to mapping existing community assets, the team also want to map the life stories of those who live, work and study in Kingston – to find everyday people with interesting stories and who deserve to be highlighted within the community. For further information, please contact Aranee - at a.manoharan@kingston.ac.uk

8. Events for your Easter Diary

(i) Kingston Crown Court are having an open afternoon on **Tuesday 29th March from 2pm - 4.30pm**. Families welcomed. Guided tour, dressing up in a wig and gown for children, watch a mock trial and be a lawyer/juror, visit cells, see what it is like to be a lawyer.....

(ii) Kingston Town Centre Policing Team Annual Open Day **Wednesday 30th March from 11am - 4pm** Present will be police horses & dogs, police cars, cadets, fire-engines. ambulances plus more....

9. Our MP in Parliament and the Constituency

Zac Goldsmith is now standing for Mayor of London.

10. Councillors Surgery

Don't forget - the Councillors are available to talk to at the Tudor Hall on the 2nd Saturday every month from 10am to 12noon.

The Committee wish you all an enjoyable Easter Holiday

Don't forget that all previous newsletters can be found on the TARAK website.

To join TARAK contact Mike Derks at mhderks@hotmail.com or call 0208 546 1743

The cost is £5 per household