

TUDOR AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION KINGSTON (TARAK)

April 2011 Newsletter – hoping you all enjoy a good Easter holiday break

1. TARAK lunches at the Cardinal. Members may recall lunch meetings every two months were an experiment proposed for 2011. They have proved quite successful. On 24th March about 8 of us met up and, in addition to having lunch, exchanged gossip about local happenings (good and bad), histories of local development, and wishes for future developments. The next lunch meeting is booked for Thursday 19th May at 12.30. Please let Judith Pottinger (8546 1195) or Sue Canty (8546 6529) know if you will be joining us.

If any members would like to have a TARAK evening dinner, say once every 3, 4 or 6 months, let Margaret Levy know (8546 1743). The principle for both events would be the same, individuals order and pay for their own meal and drinks.

2. Users of Latchmere Recreation Ground may have noticed that the promised play provision for older children has now been completed. Attached is a picture of the ‘tunnel’ and the ‘spiders web’, both of which offer quite a lot of space for imaginary adventures. There are also benches for picnics and seats for carers.



3. Regarding Latchmere Recreation Ground, the TARAK committee have been considering the possibility of having a ‘community picnic’ there sometime in June. We would like to know members’ views on the idea in principle. It would be a low-key low cost event, bring your own picnic, chairs and rugs if you want them (and umbrellas). Please get in touch with Judith, Sue or Margaret and let them have your views, suggestions etc. The picnic would probably be on a Sunday in June, say from 11.30 to 3.0pm.

If any member has experience of organising such an event and would be interested in helping in any way eg serving on a committee, organising posters etc please get in touch with Judith or Margaret.

4. Zac Goldsmith, our MP has been asking useful questions of Ministers on behalf of Kingston residents.

a. whether the [Royal Parks Agency](#) is taking steps to address trends in acute oak decline in trees in [Richmond Park](#). John Penrose answered: [The Royal Parks \(TRP\)](#) is working with the [Forestry Commission](#) and other key agencies to address the problem of acute or chronic oak decline. TRP has put a strategy in place and allocated additional resource to help mitigate the impact in Richmond and Bushy parks.

b. whether the proposals for the recall of elected representatives will apply to local councillors. Mick Parker replied: The Government are committed to bringing forward legislation to introduce a power to recall [Members of Parliament](#) where they have engaged in serious wrongdoing. Once a recall system is introduced for MPs, consideration will need to be given as to whether other elected offices in the [UK](#) should be subject to the same system.

c. whether the [Secretary of State](#) for Education will make funding available for a new secondary school in North Kingston. [Nick Gibb](#) (Minister of State (Schools), Education) replied that in December, the [Secretary of State](#) for Education, informed every relevant local authority of its full share of DfE capital funding for 2011-12 - £4.9 million for the Royal borough of Kingston-upon-Thames. The Department has not retained any reserves for responding to individual applications from schools or local authorities."

5. In the light of the above reply, TARAK enquired of our local councilors, whether there were implications for the proposed new secondary school in Richmond Road. For example was the BSF funding still available?

Councillors David Cunningham and Dennis Doe responded that the outcome of the 'James Review' (postponed from last Autumn, to February and now to May) is awaited. They said that it may take months for the Government to decide on the capital allocations. David Cunningham has asked the RBK Education Department to confirm the situation.

TARAK will try to keep members informed of any developments regarding the proposed new school.

6. Finally, in view of the expected funding cuts in local government expenditure, TARAK members might like to be made aware of the recent item of news published on the RBK website.

On 21 March the five Boroughs of the South London Partnership committed to work together to change the way services are delivered and provide residents with the best value for money. Kingston, Croydon, Merton, Richmond and Sutton Councils recently agreed a Memorandum of Co-operation, which sends out a clear message about how the Councils will work to deliver services for their communities in the future.

Councillor Sean Brennan, Leader of Sutton Council and Chair of the South London Partnership, said: "In our part of London we expect to adopt shared solutions to the way in which services are provided, and these may be undertaken by partnerships of two, three or more. We do not have to create situations where each Borough is ready to move at the same time, but our direction should always leave the door open for others to join at a later stage."

The five councils already work together through a number of well established collaborations that will provide the solid foundations onto which new partnerships can be built. The existing arrangements include:

- School improvement services
- Young people's substance misuse and sexual health services (Richmond and Kingston)
- ICT – LoGo computing project (Kingston, Sutton, Richmond and Merton)
- Legal Services. Merton and Richmond will enter shared arrangements in October 2011 and Sutton and Kingston are reviewing respective services with a view to considering sharing.
- Human Resources (HR) – Merton and Sutton already share. Kingston and Richmond are considering a similar arrangement.

The TARAK Committee hope you enjoy the Easter break