

# Tudor Area Residents Association Kingston TARAK

## November 2015 newsletter

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

### 1. News from Your Committee

**(i) Our Chair, Judith Pottinger** has stepped down temporarily from this post but remained on the Committee and **Michael Derks** from the Committee has kindly agreed to become Acting Chair until the AGM. If you would like to join the committee as an ordinary member next year please contact Margaret Levy at 0208 546 1743.

**(ii) TARAK has now joined the North Kingston Forum**, set up in response to the changes in RBK planning policies and TARAK has invited the **Secretary, Diane Watling** to our AGM on 29.01.16 to provide a briefing on progress.

**(iii) The proposed KLL pavilion** The TARAK Chair has contacted Kingston Little League again about the possibility of building a pavilion which offers facilities to the whole community, not only for KLL. TARAK would hope to enter into discussion with KLL and RBK regarding this. TARAK members may recall that there is a covenant on Latchmere Recreation Ground in addition to the 1902 Act of Parliament which ensures the land is for use by all residents of the Borough for recreational use. It should be possible to set up a **Latchmere Recreation Ground Community Trust** (including KLL, TARAK and NKF etc ) to apply for funds to build a community pavilion.

**(iv) The proposed TOPO development** on the Old Post Office site was thrown out on 05.11.15

### 2. Bulb planting in the grass verges



On 25th October TARAK members planted hundreds of daffodil bulbs in the grass verges in the sections on both sides of the road near the post box in Barnfield Gardens. It was a lovely warm, sunny morning but fewer members than usual turned up to help. We forgot to allow for the fact that it was half term and many residents had probably gone away! When we moved on to Barnfield Avenue, two resident families came and joined in the planting and all (including the children) had a good time. The photo shows the parents and children working with TARAK members. Look out for the flowers in the Spring/Summer of 2016!

### 3. Latchmere House Development

On Saturday 31st October residents were invited by Berkeleys Homes West London, to a small exhibition, mulled wine and cupcakes, and face painting for the children. They announced that demolition of the outbuildings on the Kingston part of the site would begin week commencing 16.11.15. Bat boxes have been installed. All the asbestos on site has already been safely removed. The demolition material will be crushed on site and water suppression will be used to reduce dust. The transport of the demolished materials will be outside rush hours and the routes used will not be through either Kingston or Richmond town centres. **Berkeley will be establishing a newsletter for local residents** and in addition a website. Further information about routes will be provided shortly.

### 4. The Cardinal wine bar and restaurant

TARAK members held their first regular lunch at the new Peppe restaurant in the Cardinal on 14th October and the 18 participants declared it a great success both in terms of quality and variety of food and also as a social occasion. Our next lunch will be at 12.30pm on 9th December: please confirm your attendance with Sue Canty (0208 546 6529). **The Xmas social for members will be at Peppe's on Monday 21st December at 7.30pm.**

### 5. Kingston Council News

**(i) The proposed TOPO development** on the Old Post Office site was **unanimously turned down on 05.11.15**. The Kingston Residents Association (KRA) expressed their satisfaction at this result of all their hard work on the subject.

**(ii) RBK reported that** The **'All in One' borough survey**, showed that only **25 % of the 10,000 people** surveyed felt they could influence the council decision making process. They have therefore changed the Neighbourhoods process

with five meetings where the Neighbourhood Committees make decisions about local matters, and three conversation events per year which get to the heart of local issues. **The next closest conversation for North Kingston will be held on Thursday 26th Nov, 7:30pm, Council Chamber, Guildhall and the theme will be affordable housing.**

**(iii) The first Tudor Ward Conversation** was held in Tudor Hall on 10.10.15 from 10am to 12noon. It was well attended by residents from across Tudor Ward. These included members from TARAK, BRaG, CARA associations. **Kevin Davis** (RBK Council Leader) spoke of major issues facing the Authority and residents: scarcity of council housing; cutback of 45% in funding by the Government; forecast of 34% growth in RBK population. Time was given to questions from the floor. The whole meeting was video'd and can be seen in full at <https://www.youtube.com/user/KingstonCouncil/>. It is two hours long but well worth watching. Our TARAK treasurer raised the issue of Latchmere Recreation Ground and the covenants/ownership by the people of Kingston, the only question to which **Kevin Davis** professed total ignorance. Councillor **David Cunningham** responded instead.

**(iv) The new Kingston Playing Pitch Strategy - Improving and investing in the borough's sports pitches** (Published Friday, 25th September 2015). Councillor **Andrea Craig**, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Sport at Kingston Council, said: "Being able to unlock new sources of funding and apply for considerable sums of money through funding organisations like Sport England, the Big Lottery Fund and the Football Foundation could significantly improve our facilities. Putting in place clear plans on how we continue to develop our green spaces for sports is key to creating a happy, healthy borough." The new Kingston Playing Pitch Strategy feeds into planning guidelines, informing future use of current pitch sites and fields that are capable of accommodating pitches.

#### **(v) The Register Office is now at The Guildhall**

Address: Guildhall High Street Kingston upon Thames KT1 1EU(020 8547 4600) Email: [registrars@kingston.gov.uk](mailto:registrars@kingston.gov.uk)

**(vi) Waste collection** There are major changes for house waste collection coming shortly. Residents will be issued with a blue topped wheelie bin for paper and cardboard and this will be collected on alternate weeks to landfill.

**6. Kingston Police - Bike theft and prevention** Tudor had a three week period of 14 bikes being stolen (7 stolen from front/rear gardens, 5 of which were insecure/not locked up). Also recently there have been a number of burglaries in Tudor. **Simon Stamp**, our local PC is working to set up Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) in Tudor. Contact him if you would like to assist in the process.

#### **7. Our MP in Parliament and the Constituency**

**(i) Zac Goldsmith** continues to speak out, including in Parliament, against a third runway at Heathrow.

**(ii) In a letter addressed to the RBK development control committee** **Zac Goldsmith** urged the council to reject "inappropriate" plans for a 16-storey residential building at the old post office site in Ashdown Road, and suggested they should try to get a better deal for the community. "I don't think anyone can pretend the proposed design demonstrates any respect on the part of the developer for the rich heritage of Kingston town centre's built environment." He also lamented the lack of affordable housing in Kingston.

**(iii) Letter from a TARAK member** - who attended one of Zac Goldsmith's anti-scam meetings on 19.10.15

"Dear Zac, Les & Jonathan, I write to express my appreciation of yesterday's presentations - avoiding scams, fraud etc. It was excellent. The role play brought home and demonstrated how even those who consider themselves most astute fall victim. It was also encouraging to see the availability and demonstrations in the use of new equipment to help protect and alert. **It would be very helpful if perhaps similar demonstrations, could be held for Tudor Ward residents (population around 10,000 and 13.6% Senior Citizens) nearer to home and in the daytime**".

#### **9. Councillors Surgery**

The Surgery in Tudor Hall is open to all Tudor residents on the second Saturday each month from 10am to 12 noon.

#### **10. Other information to note**

##### **(i) The Christmas lights will be switched on on 19th November at 6pm**

The location: Kingston Town Centre - Clarence Street, Church Street and the Ancient Market Place.

**(ii) All Saints Church** will have a short family service with local school choirs performing. Entertainment from 4pm with hot chocolate on offer after the service.

**(iii) Rose Theatre** In celebration of the Rose Theatre's hotly-anticipated production of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol, this year's celebrations will have a distinctly Victorian feel, with characters from the classic Christmas tale wandering the streets and welcoming visitors.

**(iv) The Christmas Market** opens immediately after the lights are switched on.



**The Committee wish you all a Happy and Peaceful Christmas Break.**

**To join TARAK contact Mike Derks at [mhderks@hotmail.com](mailto:mhderks@hotmail.com) or call 0208 546 1743**