

TUDOR AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION KINGSTON (TARAK)

March 2013 Newsletter

Local news from your committee

1. **Bulb planting** As previously reported in the TARAK October 2012 newsletter we had a successful planting of 1500 bulbs outside Nos 55-77 Tudor Drive with the support of local residents, local councillors and a representative from Quadron. Nearby residents kindly supplied tea, coffee and biscuits.



The bulbs are now emerging and are a pleasant addition to the look of Tudor Drive.

Your committee is considering another bulb planting project – we need your views first!

Let us know what you think.

2. **TARAK Lunch Club** As you know the Cardinal is not doing food but the Hand and Flower, where we had our AGM, is welcoming us. The next lunch has been booked at the new venue: the Hand and Flower on Richmond Road. The next lunch is on Wednesday 8th May. We look forward to seeing you at 12 noon. Please phone Sue Canty on 0208 546 6529 if you would like to join us.

Stop Press: We have just heard that the new landlords at the Cardinal will soon begin providing Sunday lunches and ‘pub grub’

3. **Toad Protection** Once again a section of Church Road, between Ham Gate Avenue and Latchmere Lane will be closed for two weeks to enable the toads to move to their breeding grounds. Closure is from 15th March to 1st April.

4. **Grass verges** TARAK members may be aware that the grass verges on Tudor Drive are being ‘chewed up’ by cars and lorries driving over them and sometimes parking on them. Please ensure it is not your or your visitor’s car which is contributing to this unsightly damage. If you do see lorries parked or driving on the grass, if possible take the licence number so that we can pass it to the Council to deal with.

5. **Latchmere House** A Consultative Event was held on Wednesday 30 January 2013 to discuss the final Draft Planning Brief. At this event there was an opportunity to view display material and to hear from representatives of the Councils, the Consultants who led on the preparation of the Brief and to ask any questions. The Councils are currently considering all representations received during the consultation period and amending the Draft Planning Brief as necessary. A Statement of Consultation which documents the consultation process will then be published. Adoption of the Brief is planned for Spring 2013. **Note that any future planning applications for this site will require additional full public consultation.**

6. **Parking** TARAK members will have noticed that as from Monday 11th March parking restrictions have been brought in outside the parade of shops in Tudor Drive. They operate from 8am – 6.30pm from Monday to Saturday and allow 2 hours free parking and **no return within 2 hours**. You might want to note these restriction and bring them to the notice of your friends and neighbours.

7. **Proposed new school in Richmond Road** The Independent Office of the Schools Adjudicator (OSA) has decided that **Kingston Educational Trust** should provide the education at a new secondary school in the north of the borough from September 2015. However no firm date has been given as to when the Council will hear if its bid (and appropriate funding) for a new school has been included in the Government’s Priority Schools Building Programme. Michael Gove MP, Secretary of State for Education, stated in Parliament on the 19th February in answer to a parliamentary question that decisions could be expected in ‘about a month’.

8. **Scams** The Metropolitan Police and our own SNT have issued a number of warnings about scams taking place in Kingston. Some of these involve telephoning a householder to say their credit card has been compromised and the bank will send a

messenger to collect it. If this happens, the householder should put the phone down immediately and not use it for about ten minutes when they can then call the bank and/or the police.

9. **New NHS Telephone number** NHS 111 is a new telephone service that was introduced in 2010 to help make it easier for you to access local health services. You can now call 111 when you need help fast, but it isn't a 999 emergency. You can ring the number 111 on 365 days a year, to reach a full range of local health services, including out of hours, doctors, community nurses, emergency dental care and late opening chemists. Calls from landlines and mobile phones are free – just like 999.

10. **The Tudor Estate** This is a Local Area of Special Interest (LASC) and the TARAK constitution includes:

a) To maintain and improve the quality of the environment of the defined area, initially bounded by Tudor Drive, Barnfield Avenue, Latchmere Lane, Aragon Road.

(c) To make representations to the appropriate individuals and authorities whose actions, proposed actions or negligence are perceived to be against the interests of the area and/or its residents.

RBK has planning regulations which should protect the Tudor Estate from developments which are against the interest of the area. TARAK, local residents and local councilors have drawn the attention of RBK to the recent establishment of a large shed in a front garden in Tudor Drive. No planning application was received for this and it is in front of the building line and against planning laws, so TARAK has asked that an enforcement order be made to remove it. We will let members know of progress in this matter. Residents must ensure any changes to their property comply with RBK planning regulations.

11. **Big London Energy Switch** Kingston Council is spearheading The Big London Energy Switch, as part of 20 London Boroughs working together to secure cheaper gas and electricity bills for residents. Purchasing energy together can mean cheaper bills and is easy to do.

The Big London Energy Switch is a free service, makes it easy to find out if there is a better energy tariff for you, the council negotiates a better price on your behalf, if you accept the offer, the council will ensure a safe switch over, there is no obligation to change energy supplier.

To register your interest visit the Big London Energy Switch website www.biglondonenergyswitch.org.uk

Anyone who pays the energy bill in your household can register.

12. **The London Fire Brigade** is inviting residents to have their say on the Draft Fifth London Safety Plan. Full details of the proposals and the online consultation are at **London-fire.gov.uk/LSP5** or telephone 0800 7888 569. The consultation runs from 4 March to 5pm 26 May 2013 and will include open meetings in this area.

News from our member of parliament Zac Goldsmith

Concerning Heathrow

1. The Government has finally published its initial consultation on night flying restrictions at Heathrow and other major UK airports. The current regime was established in 2006 and regulates flight activity over our community between 23:00 and 07:00. It was scheduled to expire in October 2012, but the Government has extended this period until 2014 in order to take account of other planned legislative changes. The consultation ends on 22 April 2013. Please visit the Department for Transport's dedicated webpage for full details of how to take part.

2. Mega Rally

With the prospect of Heathrow expansion back on the agenda, it is more important than ever that we step up our campaign against it. As part of that, I'm thrilled to confirm that I will be joined by Boris Johnson, MPs from all parties, and Council Leaders at a 'mega rally' I am organising to demonstrate the strength of feeling against the third runway, and to promote the Council's crucial upcoming referendum on the issue.

Please do attend the rally with your family, friends, neighbours and colleagues, and please circulate this email as widely as possible. It goes without saying that we need the biggest possible turnout.

The event will take place at Barn Elms Playing Field between 09:30-10:30AM on Saturday 27 April 2013.