

# TUDOR AREA RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION KINGSTON (TARAK)

January 2015 Newsletter

## **A Happy New Year to all our Members**

### **News From Your Committee**

#### **1. TARAK Bulb planting in the grass verges**

On Sunday 2nd November at 11am, a number of members, non-members, several children, and our two new Councillors (Hugh Scantlebury and Maria Netley) turned up in pouring rain with spades, forks, trowels etc to plant four sacks of daffodil bulbs! The planting was to take place:

- (i) on the even numbered side of Tudor Drive in parts of the grass verges between the shops and the Cardinal Avenue,
- (ii) outside the shops, in the two grassed areas near the bus stop,
- (iii) in the grassed areas at the back of the library and in Hollybush Road.

Because of the fierce downpour, after part (i) of the planting was completed, at 11.45am most of us retreated, dripping wet, to the Cardinal where we were welcomed with a blazing fire and tea /coffee and biscuits. It was a great opportunity while we were drying out, to meet and chat with other residents and informally with Maria Netley who came to the pub with us.

On Sunday 9th of November, the second part of the planting was bravely undertaken by our Chairman and her husband, Sue Canty (from our committee) and Derek Brister. Derek finally completed part iii of the planting (outside the shops) later that week.

We now await the results of the planting and look forward to the Spring flowering.

**NB Skips** TARAK members will have noticed that many skips (where houses are being renovated) are being placed directly on to the grass verges. This can have a very bad effect on the grass and new bulbs. It is important that skips are placed on supports so that there is an air space between the skip and the ground.

#### **2. Latchmere House Development**

Members will be aware that no development has occurred to date. Kingston Council agreed both proposals submitted by Berkeley (one for 73 homes using existing access from Church Road, the other for 89 homes requiring a new road off Latchmere Lane). However the 12.12.14 update to TARAK from Nick Jones (of G L Hearn) states "Both applications were taken to Richmond's planning committee at the end of November and unfortunately refused. As you know, Berkeley has already appealed the 89 unit scheme and that process is still running". It has now been confirmed by Berkeley that they will pay £100,000 towards the Tudor Library. Among responses to the consultation was one from the Kingston Society stating a preference for the scheme with the smaller number of houses. We still await news.

#### **3. Social occasion at the Cardinal pub**

On 9th December TARAK held a very successful social at the Cardinal, attended by about 40 members and including two Councillors. TARAK provided mulled wine and mince pies to members with the help of the Cardinal staff and there was an enjoyable free lucky dip for all who attended. Prizes included chocolates, bottles of wine, cosmetic items and two ten pound tokens donated by the Cardinal management. The Cardinal is fast becoming part of the Community Hub again. TARAK will again be holding our bi-monthly lunches there in 2015 - dates to be announced.

#### **4. The TARAK Annual General Meeting**

The AGM will be held at the Cardinal on the 29th January at 7.30 pm. Members and non-members are welcome but only members may vote. If you have new neighbours, encourage them to come along and join in our discussions. If you would like to play an active part in TARAK eg stand for the committee, write a paragraph for the newsletter or provide a photo for the website, help organise an activity, please contact our Chairman on 0208 546 1195. Come with ideas for action in 2015.

#### **5. Kingston Education News**

- (i) The new Kingston Academy has been recruiting for the September 2015 intake and has been heavily oversubscribed with over 700 residents choosing it as their first choice for the Year 7 transfer. The school will actually take 180 year 7 pupils.
- (ii) Kingston will be setting up 7 additional reception classes to meet the increased demand from residents.

#### **6. Kingston Council Planning Proposals**

- (i) According to a note in the Surrey Comet on 5th December a revised scheme to build 315 new houses on Kingston's former gas holders site has been approved. Kingston Council has approved proposals for a nine, seven

and six storey residential building with additional community, education or commercial space. The Kingston Council website has fairly detailed plans available under the title North Kingston Development Brief - StageTwo - Draft Consultation 2014.

(ii) In July there were discussions about a possible new collaborative agreement between Richmond and Kingston Councils which would bring together council services - a move which could possibly save each Council many millions of pounds in coming years. Richmond and Kingston Council already share a number of services, including HR, Audit and legal. In addition, earlier in 2014 both authorities formally launched Achieving for Children, a company that operates at arms length from the councils to provide education and children's services in both boroughs. However on 17.12.14 the following further statement was issued by Richmond. "Over the past five months officers in both Richmond and Kingston Councils have been investigating the possibility of a new collaborative agreement – joint plans to bring together council services. At this stage it has not been possible to agree a single, joint management approach which works effectively for both authorities. It has therefore been agreed that discussions be suspended. The Councils will continue to seek opportunities for strategic partnership building on our current successful joint work. However, in the meantime both Councils will also be free to look at alternative arrangements.

(iii) Proposed new waste collections are creating much discussion in the Comet from residents across Kingston, both on the lack of consultation and on the proposals themselves. Tudor Councillor Cunningham wrote in the Comet that paper and card will be picked up every fortnight, and glass, plastic and cans alternate fortnights, so there will still be weekly visits. Presumably food waste will still be picked up on a weekly basis. This is expected to save money.

## **7. Kingston Health Issues**

### **GP winter weekend clinics.**

TARAK members might like to note that additional GP winter weekend clinics are running from November 2014 until March 2015 in Kingston. The clinics are for patients with urgent medical needs and will be provided from local areas across the borough. Of relevance to TARAK members are:

#### **Churchill Medical Centre**

Clifton Road, Kingston KT2 6PG

#### **Clinic times**

Appointment only: Saturdays and Sundays 10am - 12 noon and 5pm - 7pm

Call 020 3021 5404 for an appointment (Phone lines will open 30 minutes before clinic start times)

#### **The Groves Medical Centre**

171 Clarence Avenue , New Malden KT3 3TX

## **8. Kingston Hospital Parking Charges**

Parking charges at Kingston Hospital now have a new system by which they are collected. This involves remembering your registration number and estimating and paying for the number of hours your visit will take. If you take longer than estimated you have to pay extra when you leave.

## **9. Local Policing**

Members will no doubt be sorry to hear that our local police contact Adrian Hadfield, has resigned from the police. He writes 'After nearly nine years working as a PCSO on Tudor Ward, I have made the decision to hand in my notice of resignation. This has not been an easy choice to make, leaving the Met but I feel this is right time for my career. I have been offered & accepted a job with the London Ambulance Service, working as a frontline Emergency Ambulance Crew. My last day on Tudor Ward, will be on Friday 16th January 2015. I will try & get round to say goodbye before I leave. I would like to thank you again for all your help & support. The TARAK committee would like to wish Adrian all the best in his new career. We would also like to know when we have a replacement.

## **10. Councillor's surgery**

This is a reminder that the Councillors hold their surgery, open to all Tudor residents, on the 2nd Saturday every month in Tudor Hall from 10am -12noon.

## **12 Zac Goldsmith**

Our MP has held a number of meetings for voters in Tudor Ward to raise issues with him. These are sometimes early mornings in local pubs but also occasionally larger meetings in Richmond for all North Kingston residents. He has also kept us informed about the Heathrow third runway developments, including where there have been petitions available to sign. He has also been very active in the House of Commons on child abuse issues (trying to get information from the Home Office on abuse activity associated with the Elm Guest House) and on the recall of MPs proposals.

## **13. Donations**

Some TARAK members may have watched **The Boy in The Dress** TV film over the Christmas. Much of it was filmed in Barnfield Gardens and it also used the Greycourt School setting. One of our committee members approached the Director regarding a contribution to TARAK to purchase bulbs to plant on the corner of Barnfield Gardens and Barnfield Avenue. We are very grateful for the donation of £200.

**With best wishes from your TARAK committee for 2015 - join us with a glass of wine at the AGM**

**Don't forget! Come to the AGM on 29th January. 7.30 at the Cardinal. [www.tarakresidents.wordpress.com](http://www.tarakresidents.wordpress.com)**