

Tudor Area Residents Association Kingston TARAK

Autumn 2016

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

1. News From Your Committee

(i) the committee decided to carry out a **door to door survey in Tudor Drive** to find out what support there is for a 20mph speed limit in Tudor Drive - this is in progress - if you would like to have your say please **send your view to Mike Derks (mh.derks@hotmail.com) who is coordinating the findings**. TARAK is also investigating the possibility of a joint project with Ham about traffic at Ham Cross and along Ham Parade.

(ii) The committee is currently constructing a survey to help identify areas of importance for TARAK to submit to the North Kingston Forum to aid with planning for the future. The areas of importance identified may then go forward to the Council as part of the proposed neighbourhood plan. This survey will be as widely circulated as possible. **If you can help with the distribution in your road please inform Catriona Duncan (catriona5@hotmail.com) our TARAK representative**. The NKF website is www.northkingstonforum.org.

2. Sheds in Front Gardens - Discussions with the Council

Mike Frain, an active TARAK member, kindly submitted to Kingston Council for comment, the photo of one



of the sheds in a Tudor Drive front garden, used to store the three wheelie bins. Following discussions with our Councillors, it seems that **the Council is now re-considering the issue of putting sheds in front gardens and may formalise the option of installing cover for the wheelie bins**. This would possibly involve stating a maximum size for such a construction and would not allow pedal bike or motor cycle storage facilities. Also in discussion are issues of paving over front gardens to provide standing for a motor vehicle in view of the shortage of street parking facilities. TARAK is asked to submit views of residents on the above issues. **Send your views to Margaret Levy or Judith Poulton, or directly to one of our Councillors**.

3. Bulb planting in the grass verges

2016 bulb planting will take place in two areas on two separate dates. On **Sunday 30 October at 10.30** we will meet at the corner of Barnfield Avenue/Barnfield Gardens to plant in Barnfield Avenue and at **10.30 on Sunday 6th November** outside No 88 Wolsey Drive to plant in Wolsey Drive. Please Join us and bring tools and children to help.

4. Latchmere House Development

Berkeleys has now decided on a marketing name: it is to be **Richmond Chase, Ham Gate**. Thus the reference to the Latchmere site will apparently be lost. We hope **Latchmere House** itself will retain its name. The street names are the choice of each council in whose area the street is sited.

5. Events at the Cardinal wine bar and restaurant

(i) Lunches TARAK had a very successful lunch at the Cardinal on September 7th when 18 (including new members) members and Councillor David Cunningham attended. The next lunch is on **Wednesday November 9th at 12.30**. Please confirm your attendance with **Margaret Levy (8546 7143)** or **Sue Canty (8546 6529)**.

(ii) Xmas social The committee decided we would not organise a social this year.

(iii) Annual General Meeting This will be on Thursday, **26th January 2017 at Tudor Hall at 7.30pm**.

6. Local Schools

(i) Latchmere School recently celebrated its **80th Anniversary**. TARAK would like to offer its congratulations on this much sought after and successful school.

(ii) Kingston Academy This **new successful Kingston school in Richmond Road** is already oversubscribed for Autumn 2017. It is expected that the new building will be ready for occupation then.

7. Phone mast Planning permission for the phone mast outside the Scout Hut, has been refused due to the efforts of local residents together with the Tudor Councillors. **Residents must maintain their vigilance** as the company will no doubt try again following the failure of this third attempt to put a phone mast in the area.

8. Kingston Council News (website is www.kingston.gov.uk)

(i) Achieving for Children Kingston Council has assured residents that **the appointment of Nick Whitfield to Reading Council for three months** will not have an impact on child services in the borough. Achieving for Children was launched as a social enterprise on 01.04.14 with Mr Whitfield as chief executive and received

£500,000 from the Government. It began as a joint operation with Kingston and Richmond and later included Sunderland. Nick Whitfield recently moved to semi-retirement and received a £52,000 send-off. He was then asked by the Department for Education to help Reading improve their children's services. In July this year Child Social Care services in Kingston were found to be among the best in the country. Also RBK and the Metropolitan Police have each begun campaigns to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation, Deborah Lightfoot independent chair of the Kingston Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) said "child exploitation is a serious and alarming form of abuse". For more information see RBK website.

(ii) Letting out the Town Hall? First the Market House and now the Town Hall: letting part of the Town Hall is the latest venue being considered as a way of increasing income for Kingston Council.

(iii) Outsourcing the Housing Service The Council is considering the possibility of outsourcing its Housing Department to a private company and has also approved the implementation of the Government's Pay to Stay scheme. This will see rent rises for the borough's higher earning council tenants. There is a shortage of housing for rent in Kingston. Have your say at the Community Engagement Portal on the Future of Housing Services - closing date 21.10.16.

(iv) Appointment of Chief Executive, Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames

On 30 September the Tudor Ward Councillors welcomed chairmen and leading members of local organisations to meet **Charlie Adan**, the newly appointed Chief Executive of Kingston Council, who has moved to Kingston from her role in Suffolk (she prefers not to be called Charlotte). The guests included the mayor, Cllr Geoff Austin and the lady mayoress; Zac Goldsmith our MP; Tony Arbour and several members of Council Staff. The guests also included TARAK Chair, Judith Poulton and Margaret Levy, TARAK newsletter and communications and Diane Watling, from the North Kingston Forum. Charlie Adan intends to introduce herself to as many groups and individuals in the Borough as possible. The new Chief Executive was delighted to be invited to join one of the TARAK lunches in due course. One of the new members of RBK staff also in attendance was Barry John Lomax who is the Lead Officer Development Management, North Kingston. It is hoped that John might be able to attend one of our lunches.

9. Latchmere Recreation Ground

No further information regarding a possible new pavilion on Latchmere Recreation Ground is available.

10. Parking in KT2

Parking in some of the KT2 roads is becoming very difficult as many cars ousted from the Albany Park Road previously free parking spaces are now choosing to park all day in the nearest KT2 roads. Residents may soon have to decide whether to use their front gardens for parking or engage in a Council parking scheme.

11. Our MP in Parliament and the Constituency

(i) The draft changes to electoral boundaries announced by the Government do not affect the Richmond Park and North Kingston constituency. Zac Goldsmith will therefore not be affected by the changes and will remain as our MP. We presume he will stand again in the next election.

(ii) Heathrow - Zac Goldsmith is currently fighting hard against any proposal to build a third runway at Heathrow. He has asked some searching questions in the House of Commons eg how many employees have moved from the Department of Transport to take up posts at Heathrow and how many Heathrow employees have taken up posts in the Department of Transport. The answer to this was not forthcoming - the argument being that it was not cost effective to provide such an answer!

10. Councillors Surgery

Don't forget - the Councillors are available to talk to residents at the Tudor Hall on the 2nd Saturday of every month from 10am to 12noon. If you have any concerns about local issues, this occasion offers an opportunity to discuss them with our Councillors.

The committee wishes all members a good Autumn with some good planting and gardening weather.

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 Margaret Levy at 0208 546 1743

The cost is £5 per household.