

March 2015

### News from Your Committee

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

The minutes from this meeting are attached to this newsletter.

#### **2. Bulb planting in the grass verges and elsewhere**

The bulbs planted in November 2014 are beginning to show their heads. Those planted in 2013 (outside the library, in Wolsey Drive and around the arches at the top of Tudor drive) and in 2012 In Tudor Drive (lower numbered houses) are also doing well. The plans for 2015 include Barnfield Gardens/Barnfield Avenue. We received a donation from the BBC (Boy in the Dress film) towards the latter. More details regarding assisting with new planting will be given in the Autumn. The area planted in memory of Jo Condon was badly damaged by monopole investigations but was well replanted shortly after by about 50 neighbours protesting against the monopole damage. See paragraph 7(iii) on RBK Planning Proposals.

#### **3. Latchmere House Development**

You will recall that Kingston Council agreed both proposals and Richmond Council turned both down (see Jan 2015 Newsletter). We have now heard from Percy Mullany, MRICS (Land Director for Berkeley) who says, "We are now appealing both Scheme 1 and Scheme 2 with Richmond Council. The full inquiry starts on the 12<sup>th</sup> May and will run for 4 days. It is a real shame that we could not secure a local decision, particularly given Kingston have consented both schemes". Tudor residents will thus have to wait even longer to know how the development will affect their everyday lives: local school places, Local Library space and use, local buses etc. They are also anxious about the management of the disruption associated with the building work eg heavy lorries in surrounding roads, general dirt and noise.

#### **4. Letters from TARAK members of interest to other members**

**(i) Latchmere Recreation Ground rubbish bins:** -some residents put domestic rubbish into these bins. However this is apparently then removed from the bins by the official bin emptier and put outside the gate in Latchmere Lane where it ends up strewn across the road. Our Councillor, David Cunningham, is investigating a possible solution to this issue.

**(ii) One of our members has reported** finding several discarded needles in the service alleyway behind their property. Many residents use the alleyways to walk through daily, often with children. TARAK are not aware of a local problem with this, but should any member have experienced anything similar, please do let us know. The specific syringes have now been collected and properly disposed of by the council's Environment and Waste centre using the right equipment. If you are experiencing a problem or have seen any discarded needles elsewhere within our area, please do not try and remove them yourself, but give the Council a call on their website or telephone 020 8547 5002. TARAK will bring this to the attention of our local community support officer.

#### **5.Social occasions at the Cardinal pub**

The Cardinal pub has at last completed all its redecorations and has a new chef who is serving up a very good and interesting menu, which has something for most people whether vegetarian, fish only or meat eaters. Examples of starters are: chef's soup of the day with crusty bread (£4.95), wild mushrooms in thyme infused cream fricassee on toasted brioche (£6.95), seared scallops on black pudding with crispy prosciutto, broad bean puree and hollandaise sauce (£9.50). TARAK has booked the following dates for the TARAK lunch meetings usually starting at 12 noon.

**19th March, 7th May, 9th July, 24th September, 12 November.**

The lunches are informal and offer a chance to swap local information, raise issues, talk to TARAK committee members and sometimes a local councillor. We do ask that if possible you phone Sue Canty (0208 546 6529) to give us some idea of numbers.

#### **6. Kingston Education News**

##### **(i) Kingston Academy**

More than two-thirds of 11 year olds in Kingston have been offered a place at their preferred secondary school. The new Kingston Academy will open in September with 180 year 7 pupils.

**(ii) Achieving for Children**, the new company set up a short time ago to take care of children's services in Kingston and Richmond, recently made a serious error in not informing head teachers or their own staff that they would be sending a van round to schools and inviting students into the van to provide various kinds of information. This created a cross borough abduction scare (see Surrey Comet 6th March). This is a poor start for the new company.

## **7. Kingston Council News**

**(i) Council's All in One Survey** : The Council's 'All in One' survey saw almost 10,000 people tell RBK what they thought of their local area. RBK hosted exhibitions in local venues to give residents the chance to find out what people said about Kingston. The Tudor exhibition was at Tudor Library 9-14 March. The full results are at <http://kingston-consult.objective.co.uk/file/3319821> and this was circulated to you by TARAK in an email.

The numbers from Tudor is shown on Figure 2 Page 11 of the full report and shows the unweighted number of Tudor respondents as 669. The Tudor proportion of satisfied respondents of 91% only very marginally in the second position of all the borough wards. The above analysis was provided by our Councillor David Cunningham.

**(ii) Kingston council planning proposals**: there have been a number of protests about the proposals to build high rise buildings in the vicinity of the Old Post Office, and near the Market Place.

**(iii) Tudor had its own monopole planning protest**: TARAK recently forwarded a message to members from a local resident, about planning applications 15/12072 and 15/12089 for a 12.5 metre high mobile phone mast and 5 equipment cabinets about 1.7 metres high to be placed on the corner of Tudor Drive and Park Road. Over 500



residents signed a petition against the proposals and many wrote in to the Council objecting to the proposal. The Comet gave good coverage of various protest meetings and Zac Goldsmith and Tudor Councillors were also opposed to the application. The decision of the planning committee should be known shortly. The Comet gave good coverage of the protest and followed it up on March 6th with a picture of residents and their children re-planting the grass verge - see para2 above. The decision of the Planning Committee regarding this planning application is now expected next week.

## **8. Kingston Hospital Car Parking News**

Many of us will by now be aware of the changes to the parking arrangements at Kingston Hospital. Since it is often easier to drop someone off for their appointment and return later, it is worth being aware that there are twenty minutes allowed to drive in and out of the hospital grounds. After that twenty minutes is up and the vehicle has not left the hospital, it is considered we have parked and will be charged.

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

Apart from holding local residents' meetings and large public meetings on various issues, Zac Goldsmith has been very active in Parliamentary debates. In particular on his Recall of Members Bill (voters to be able to sack MPs), child abuse (specific mention of Kingston's Liberal Leader just released from prison) and Heathrow's third runway. A cyclist was recently clocked at 41mph in Richmond Park, fined £65 and ordered to pay £65 costs. Zac Goldsmith said "there is undoubtedly a problem with speeding cyclists in the park and police currently cannot issue spot fines but have to go through the courts. I am trying to change that in Parliament". see Surrey Comet p3.

## **10. Councillors Surgery**

**Surgery open to all residents on 14th March in Tudor Hall 10am to 12 noon.**

## **STOP PRESS**

Camera Drones and model aircraft are now banned in all London Parks including Richmond and Bushy Parks.

The committee would welcome your comments on this newsletter and/or suggested contributions for the next newsletter June/July.