

Tudor Area Residents Association Kingston TARAK

March 2017

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

1. News From your Committee

(i) The 8th AGM was held on 26th January in Tudor Hall at 7.30pm. Drinks were provided (wine and soft drinks) in the first 15 minutes so that members could socialise and also sign up their membership for 2017. Elections were held and there was lively discussion on local issues. Councillors David Cunningham and Maria Netley attended, also Barry John Lomax (the Lead Officer Development Management North Kingston) and took part in this discussion.

(ii) the first TARAK Committee meeting was held on 22nd February when the following posts were confirmed:

Chair: Judith Poulton (nee Pottinger):

Planting and Lunches: Sue Canty

Vice-chair: Derek Brister

Newsletter: M.Levy and Gill Douglas-Smith

Treasurer: Kilado Gillett

N. Kingston Forum: Catriona Duncan:

Diane Smith : Membership Secretary

Communications: M.Levy

Minutes Secretary: Gill Douglas-Smith

Photography/cars on verges: Chris Curry

Website: Mike Derks

2. Bulb Planting

We are delighted with the progress that our daffodils are making in the grass verges (in Tudor Drive, Walsey Drive, Barnfield Avenue, Barnfield Gardens, near the telephone box) and our thanks go to those who plant more and more each autumn. If you would like to identify an area where planting could take place please notify Sue Canty.

3. Cars and lorries on verges

Chris Curry has undertaken to photograph cars etc on verges and will submit these to Councillor Maria Netley for action. We hope this will minimise cars and lorries driving over, or parking on the grass and even sometimes on the daffodils and crocuses. Please help the Council and residents maintain the grass verges and flowers by not driving on the grass. Also, if you or your neighbours require a skip for building work, please raise it on bricks to enable the grass to grow.

4. Events at Peppe at the Cardinal wine bar and restaurant

(i) About thirty-six members attended our Christmas Social held at Peppe's and there were a number of raffle prizes to be won including plants, chocolates and toiletries. Our thanks to the management for their support with this event.

(ii) Our first lunch of this year took place on 11th January and the second on March 8th. Both were well attended.

5. Local schools and education issues

(i) Many local Heads of schools are concerned at the shortage of funds for the coming year. The current proposed cuts for Kingston schools are £364 per student.

(ii) The RBK website has an area dedicated to apprenticeships with the Royal Borough for a range of ages.

(iii) A new school, Sir Simon Milton Westminster University Technical College in the state system is opening in September 2017 in a new building close to Victoria Station. They are now recruiting students in years 9 or 11. The college is free and non-selective. Details at <https://www.westminsterutc.co.uk>.

6. Loss of Local Shops/Doctors' Surgery

(i) On Ham Parade a three-year lease has been taken by Featherstone Leigh, on the former antiques shop, as a marketing suite for the Richmond Chase development.

(ii) The former surgery at 192 Tudor Drive has become a childrens' nursery for 32 children open from 8am until 6.30pm.

(iii) The Post Office in Better Price has changed. The Post Master retired on 8th March and we wish him well. Better Price staff have taken over and the P.O. counter has moved from the back of the shop to the front. From March 15th The Post Office will be open every day including Sunday. Opening hours are posted on the

front of the shop.

(iv) The empty shop on Tudor Drive is still not functioning as a shop. It has now been empty for three years.

7. Environmental matters

(i) Part of Church Road will again be closed to vehicles from 3rd to 31st March to allow the toads to cross the road safely. An environment group has now received funding so that a new pond can be introduced into Ham Common Woods for the toads to give them a new, safer habitat.

(ii) The Ham Open Gardens day is due to take place this summer. We will publish the date when it is known.

8. Gate between Anne Boleyn's Walk and Latchmere Close

Berkeley Homes have informed Latchmere Close residents that the dividing wall belongs to Berkeley and the intention is that when the Richmond Chase development is finished, it will offer a through route to facilities in Tudor Drive.

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

(i) The new Chief Executive, Charlotte (Charlie) Adan, will be giving a talk in the ASK Topical Lunches series, on Thursday, 18th May, entitled "Reflect; Listen; Look, to be held in All Saints Parish Church at 1pm.

(ii) Kingston has a new Borough Police Commander, Tony Enach, who will no doubt wish to maintain Kingston's reputation as the safest borough in London.

(iii) last year the Council announced that four of the Council's eight youth clubs were to be closed.

(iv) The Council recently announced that all seven Borough libraries would be closed in rotation for upgrading work to be carried out - the Tudor Drive branch will be closed from 3rd April until 2nd May. Lib. Dem. members of the Council criticised the cost of this work, estimated at £500,000, designed to upgrade libraries with self-service technology and create "flexible community spaces".

(v) The Council Tax will be increased by 4.99%, i.e. the maximum possible amount not requiring a referendum.

(10) Parliamentary Matters

(i) We hope that our new MP, Sarah Olney, is settling into her job. We have not yet had a local meeting for Tudor ward residents, but hope Sarah will be able to arrange this fairly soon.

(ii) Our former Member, Zac Goldsmith, has been appointed spokesman and organiser of the anti-third-runway Heathrow campaign, which includes the Boroughs of Richmond and Hillingdon and Windsor and Maidenhead (the Prime Minister's constituency). We wish him well with it.

(11) Councillors' Surgery

Our Councillors are available at the Tudor Hall on the second Saturday of each month from 10 a.m. until noon, should you wish to contact them in person.

(12) Some events for the early summer calendar:

{i} A Wedding Fair to be held at the Guildhall, Kingston on Sunday, 23d April.

(ii) Ham Open Gardens - date to be announced.

(iii) Ham Fair on Saturday, 10th June - 10am to 4pm.

Your Committee hopes you will have an enjoyable summer after this rather miserable, cold and bitter winter!

Don't forget that all previous TARAK Newsletters can be found on the TARAK website (

To join TARAK call Margaret Levy on 0208 546 1743 or write to:
margaret.levy@blueyonder.co.uk

Membership is f5 per household per year.