



PRARA NEWSLETTER

PETERBOROUGH ROAD & AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.prara.org.uk

Incorporating Clancarty Road, Daisy Lane,
Settrington Road, Hugon Road & Sullivan Road.

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THE PRARA COMMITTEE WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL 2007



All PRARA members are invited to a social gathering on
Tuesday 30 January at
Aragon House, 247 New Kings Road, SW6
(next door to the British Legion Club opposite Parsons Green).
6.30pm -8.30pm

We're in the cellar bar, so buy your drinks at the bar
and come on down and join your friends and neighbours,
meet the committee, your Ward councilors
and your local police officers.



November Open Meeting

Many PRARA members attended the Open Meeting on Monday 20 November 2006 at Hurlingham & Chelsea School, when the Leader of Hammersmith & Fulham Council, Stephen Greenhalgh spoke on topics of direct

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concern to PRARA members, and answered their questions. Also attending were the Ward councillors Jeanette Bentley, Frances Stainton, (Parsons Green & Walham Ward) Jane Law, Steve Hamilton (Sands End Ward), Nick Botterill, (Environment) and Councillors Loveday and Doughty.

Stephen Greenhalgh spoke of his connections with Fulham and said his mother had taught at Hurlingham & Chelsea School before he was born. Since his election in May 2006, his mandate is to put residents first and he applauded PRARA for its work.

He briefly outlined the changes which are being made by the new administration; the large in-house delivery of services will end with these services being put out to tender such as street cleaning, refuse collection and grounds maintenance. He said that this will not affect the quality of these services and the Council is looking to improve services at a lower cost. The Borough was listed as the forth best in London for street cleanliness.

They are identifying areas where savings can be made which will help to reduce Council Tax. There will also be a new Parks Department as previously the responsibility for the borough's 53 parks and open spaces, which suffered from under investment, were lost in the bureaucracy. There will be new capital investment in the five flagship parks including, Bishops Park, South Park, Ravenscroft Park. He was aware of the feedback from South Park users. They are looking for additional funding to improve South Park and Bishops Park, which will hopefully come from the Lottery although this will still require the council to find matching funding.

It was pointed out by one member that the lottery fund application for South Park is linked to its use by Hurlingham & Chelsea School and its closure would affect the basis of the bid.

There was much unexpected support for Hurlingham & Chelsea School which faces closure, and the Headmaster, Phil Cross. The reasons given for the closure were a low intake, and the fact that parents were sending their children to schools outside the borough. Although the school had made a marked improvement since Headmaster Phil Cross took over, it will not make a sufficient difference to the intake in the near future. A new Academy is to be built in Lots Road in 2009, and pupils from the school will be re-located there and to other schools in the borough.

One member said that the school should be given time to settle and the pupil numbers should be 600 as originally intended when the school was built. He felt that the decision to close the school was made too hastily. PRARA members indicated that they felt that the school should be given time to re-establish itself. In response to questions from PRARA members about the site, Stephen Greenhalgh said that there was no intention to sell the Hurlingham & Chelsea school site – the buildings would always have an educational function. One proposal is to offer the site to Lady Margaret School.

Anthony Williams reminded members that it had not been the intention that the debate on Hurlingham & Chelsea School should dominate the meeting, but Stephen Greenhalgh will now be aware of the strength of local support.

Stephen Greenhalgh went on to say that they will increase the amount of social housing and home ownership in the north of the borough. They will implement a zero tolerance policy towards crime and will work with the police to improve safety. Clean streets are a start, and the regeneration of Shepherds Bush and White City are a

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priority. Funding for the Safer Neighbourhood Police teams will not be cut.

The westward extension of the Congestion Charge to Kensington and Chelsea will have far reaching effects in Hammersmith & Fulham. He said there was no possibility of it extending into Hammersmith & Fulham. They have asked £6M from TfL to improve traffic flow in the major arterial roads which are Wandsworth Bridge Road, Shepherds Bush Road, Fulham Palace Road and North End Road. So far they have been offered £400,000. There will be a Congestion Charge Summit meeting to which Residents Associations will be invited to discuss the problems they will face, and ask for suggestions as to what can be done to alleviate these problems.

Brendan Bird (Sullivan Road Rep) raised two issues – the privatisation of home helps as the department is being closed because they can't put this service out to tender, and the surcharge for residents who wish to be buried in the borough: an additional £1000 is levied.

Stephen Greenhalgh said that the previous administration had employed home helps as well as agency staff when needed. This mixed economy was not seen as efficient and they feel that they can deliver the same level of service at a lower cost. However home help for people discharged from hospital will remain an in-house service. Nick Botterill (Environment), said that burial fees are lower than in other boroughs.

Another member complained at the time taken to get planning approval. Stephen Greenhalgh said that problems exist and they are looking at ways to speed up the process. Nick Botterill (Environment) said that there has been an improvement. Jane Law (Sands End Ward) said she would take on the member's problem.

Parking in the area was a problem for many members, especially those living at the top of Peterborough Road. Councillor Loveday said he would be willing to listen to members' complaints and see what could be done to improve parking for residents.

Generally the meeting had gone well and was usefully supported by our local Councillors. The Leader was more open and informative than we might have expected and overall created a favourable impression. Inviting him will hopefully help our future lobbying.

Neighbourhood Watch report

SNT Parson's Green & Walham Ward 13 November team meeting: reported the difficulties in policing Eel Brook Common and damage to vehicles on the Peterborough Estate. Vehicle crime is up and it is suspected that the thefts are to order. The advice is to leave nothing in view in the car when parked. Burglary and mugging is down.

SNT Sands End Ward 28 November team meeting: Youth problems – the dispersal order on Sullivan Court has been successful and the police are organizing football matches with some of the youths. Helicopters have proved useful in tracking dangerous driving involving mopeds. Their priorities are to tackle muggings, drug dealing (they have certain premises under observation), and vehicle crime. They advise removing the bracket that holds the sat.nav. as this will encourage thieves to break into the car to search the glove box. The advice is to remove all documents too. It appears that the targets are mainly people visiting friends in Fulham, and

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business men. People are also advised to leave lights and a radio on when leaving the house empty. Paul Leonard reported on one Perrymead Road resident finding a burglar in the bedroom at 6am. Anthony Williams reported that a stabbing had occurred outside the Cafe Nero at the end of Clancarty Road early on 24th November and understood that an occupant of 2 Broom Farm was involved.

South Park

There is new paving at the South Park entrance in Clancarty Road which looks good and the gingko trees on either side of the gate looked magnificent this autumn. The committee had agreed that the paved space worked well and Anthony Williams had accordingly advised the Project Officer that we did not now consider any tree planting was required.

Six children from Hurlingham & Chelsea School planted six cherry trees on 27th November and were photographed for the Hammersmith Times. Photos of the event are on the website – www.prara.org.uk. The Fulham Gazette and Fulham Chronicle were invited to the planting but did not attend but Hammersmith & Fulham News had promised coverage in the December issue. The £24,000 budget for the refurbishment of the children's playground will not be increased as the council was unsuccessful in obtaining an external grant. However, new play equipment has now been ordered and is scheduled to be installed around the end of January. Two US companies are offering huge discounts on equipment. Anthony Williams will meet with the Project Manager and Nick Botterill in January to discuss status of South Park masterplan and Lottery application.

After making contact with the Secretary of The Fulham Society, Anthony Williams was invited to attend the society's AGM on 27th November. He was given an opportunity to brief their members on PRARA's activities and lobbying for the park and gathered that this information was well received and our activities appreciated. Subsequently the society had asked if they could put a link to our web site on theirs.

PRARA has supported the residents of Settrington Road with a petition requesting the pruning and improved maintenance of the trees along the east side of the park which overhang many of their gardens.

Peterborough Road & New Kings Road junction

PRARA insisted that any improvements to the junction of Peterborough Road and New Kings Road should not make it narrower, and was assured that there would be sufficient space for two cars to exit side by side, right and left.

Anthony Williams has now measured the width of the junction as it looks too narrow for two cars to exit side by side as previously agreed. His measurements of the completed works have determined that the width of the exit lane is narrower than promised, partly due to the fact that it tapers, and it is not possible for two cars to exit at the same time. This needs measuring again to confirm that it is narrower than agreed, and he will be reporting this to the local councilors. A further complaint has been made to the officers concerned and our councillors.

Congestion Charge Summit

Paul Leonard and Ann Rosenberg attended the meeting of the councilors who are directly involved with road traffic in the borough. The conclusion was that the previous Labour administration did not make a strong enough

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protest about the effect of the CC on the borough. The effect on North End Road and Fulham Palace Road will be grave and the only proposal at present is to alter the rate of change of traffic lights to speed traffic flow. There will be pressure on parking. But the problems can only be assessed once the CC comes into operation on 19 February 2007.

Hurlingham & Chelsea School

Ann Rosenberg attended the part of the Council Meeting to which was open to the public, regarding the future of Hurlingham & Chelsea School. Headmaster Phil Cross and a representative from the NUT made a strongly reasoned case against the closure of Hurlingham & Chelsea School, which was based on out of date statistics. Leader of the Council, Stephen Greenhalgh repeated his Open Meeting comments that there were no plans to sell the site and that the buildings would be used for educational purposes. At the end of the representations, the Council voted to close the school and called a recess so that the public could leave. (The public notice about the closure proposal was published in the Fulham Gazette on 7th December and the deadline for objection is 19th January.)

New Membership Secretary

Chrissy Stenning (Hon. Treasurer) has taken on the responsibility of Membership Secretary from Ann Rosenberg, and Deborah Lord has taken over from Simon Champion as Settrington Road representative..

Planning Applications - Comments and Monitor On-line

Comments on planning applications can now be made directly by e-mail rather than via the Council web site. The address is plancomments@lbhf.gov.uk Supporting documents can be attached to your e-mail.

The facility to view applications, make comments and monitor their progress via the web site is still available. Go to www.lbhf.gov.uk/planning and click on the 'Planning Online' logo on the planning homepage.

Please remember to quote the application reference on all submissions and include your address for a postal acknowledgement.

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