



PRARA NEWSLETTER

PETERBOROUGH ROAD & AREA RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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

Volume No. FIVE

Issue No.20

Date: FEBRUARY 2006

This is the first PRARA Newsletter of 2006. We hope you will find it informative and interesting.

We are also holding the first of our **Open Meetings** in March, (details below), which we hope you will attend. Not only is it an opportunity to listen to speakers who are relevant to PRARA, but you can meet the Committee, fellow members of PRARA, and the local Police. You can also put your questions to the speakers, both within the meeting and informally afterward, as everyone mingles.

OPEN MEETING – TUESDAY 14 MARCH 2006

THE LIBRARY
HURLINGHAM & CHELSEA SCHOOL, PETERBOROUGH ROAD

6PM FOR 6.30 PROMPT.

Speakers:

- ❖ **PHIL CROSS** – Headmaster of Hurlingham & Chelsea School will speak about the achievements so far as well as his aims and plans for the future.
- ❖ **VANESSA HARRIS** – successful fund raiser for neighbourhood projects – how associations can successfully find funding to improve quality of life.
- ❖ **SGT MARK TROWER & SGT MICK MACDONALD** - Safer Neighbourhood team leaders – on the recent spate of street crime in the neighbourhood. (subject to operational requirements.)

- ❖ **RSVP – PLEASE. PHONE: 020 7731 5151 / EMAIL: anntony@which.net OR TO YOUR STREET REPRESENTATIVE.**

Refreshments are available for which a nominal donation would be appreciated

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NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Lance Pierson who regularly attends the Parsons Green & Walham ward Safer Neighbourhood Team quarterly meeting, presents the following report from the two *SNT leaders.

PARSONS GREEN & WALHAM WARD – Sgt. Mick MacDonald

Reported crime for the 4 months Oct - Jan.

- Despite the recent rash of muggings (several of which were of course in Sands End ward), there has been a decrease in that sort of crime:

Major crime (robbery, assault, etc): 83 incidents compared with 118 for the same period last year

Burglary from houses: 82 incidents compared with 90 last year

- But unfortunately there has been an increase in less serious crime:

Vehicle crime: 145 incidents compared with 107 last year

'Beat' crime (= everything else, disorder, etc.): 264 incidents compared with 245 last year

The police are especially frustrated by the vehicle crime, as the majority is preventable, i.e. the fault of careless car owners, leaving cars unlocked or valuables visible in the car. They urge us all to take greater care in ensuring that our cars don't attract crime.

* The role of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams is primarily crime prevention. They would be very happy to visit any PRARA members in Parsons Green & Walham ward to give crime prevention advice. Ring 020 8246 2993 or email Michael.MacDonald2@met.police.uk to make an appointment. (Please note that this is only for members in this ward).

SANDS END WARD – Sgt. Mark Trower

Reported crime for the 4 month period from Oct- Jan (and the comparative figures for the same period 12 months earlier).

Oct - Jan 2005/06

Burglary - 49
Vehicle - 75
Major Crime - 49
Beat Crime - 159

Oct - Jan 2004/05

Burglary - 48
Vehicle - 60
Major Crime - 62
Beat Crime - 202

As you can see there are reductions in both major crime and beat crime. Burglary has stayed static and there has been an increase in car crime. This increase in car crime is mirrored across other wards on the Borough. Sands End suffered an increase in car crime in November 2005 and to combat this we increased high visibility patrols in the target area and delivered approx 2000 awareness and crime prevention letters to local residents. Following this we saw a dramatic reduction in reported crime.

As you are well aware we also suffered from a spate of robberies in a concentrated area around the Sullivan Court / Peterborough Road / Clancarty Road area at the beginning of this year. As a result we targeted this area with High Visibility patrols, delivered awareness and crime prevention letters to local residents as well as adopting other crime prevention methods. I am pleased to report that since taking these measures we have not had anymore reported robberies in this area. We will continue with our pulse patrols in this area.

Between Oct 2005 and Jan 2006 Sands End Safer Neighbourhood Team have managed to shut down 4 'Crack' Houses on the ward, which has contributed hugely to the total shut down in the Borough. According to recent figures, this has placed the Borough second highest of all London's Boroughs, for total number of crack houses shut down. Please don't interpret this to mean that we have a worse drug problem than other Boroughs as we certainly don't. As a Borough we are very pro active in targeting drugs addresses as a large amount of crime is committed to fund drug habits.

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A scam alert just received from Sgt. Mick MacDonald PS 40FH Parsons Green and Walham SNT

I would like to make you aware of an incident in Cresford Road two days ago which should be circulated as widely as possible please. A black male in his thirties knocked on the victim's door stating he had to get to hospital as quickly as possible. By using clever deception he managed to con £20 out of the victim for a cab fare. He claimed to be a neighbour and that he would pay them back the following day. He has not returned the money!

Please make as many of your networks/neighbours/friends/colleagues as possible aware of this scam. The clever bit is not asking for too much money. People don't tend to think twice about "lending" such a relatively small amount to someone who "lives in the same street" as they do. We had a spate of these incidents last year, many of which were not reported at the time, possibly because of embarrassment.

This was circulated on 10 February to all PRARA members by email by NW coordinator, Lance Pierson.

**** Car-drivers take note!**

Hammersmith and Fulham Council have started to fine anyone who drives into box junctions when their exit is not clear.

BROOM FARM

The occupants of one of the houses in this Shepherds Bush Housing Association development in Clancarty Road have been responsible for a series of thefts, minor vandalism and antisocial behaviour which has affected many residents of the Road, as well as some in Settrington Road and Studdridge Street, over an extended period of time. Complaints by PRARA, combined with the concerns of the Police, Social Services and others, eventually resulted in a court eviction notice being served last November. The eviction was secured with the help of two PRARA members in Clancarty Road to whom we are most grateful. PRARA has endeavoured to seek reassurances from both the Housing Association and the Council Housing Department (who are primarily responsible for the selection of new tenants) that the new occupants will not be ones who are also likely to behave in an antisocial manner.

SOUTH PARK

Since taking over the responsibility for South Park in mid 2005, Beth Patrick has had several meetings with council officials, but despite requests for maintenance work to be done, and some action to repair damage to buildings and deal with the results of vandalism in the park, there is no progress to report. The problem appears to lie with the organisational structure relating to the Direct Services department, (which includes upkeep of parks), in which specific responsibilities are delegated to a variety of people and no one person appears to be responsible for overall upkeep of individual parks. The parks budget is not specific to any particular park, so there is a constant problem with prioritising funding. It is hoped that the merging of Direct Services department with the Environment department in April 2006 will result in a more efficient administration able to deal with specific problems. Beth has written to Stella Coombe, Head of Direct Services, listing PRARA's concerns, and noting that there is scant mention of parks in the Council brochure entitled *Your Borough Your Future*.

Beth is considering getting up a petition signed by residents and park users to press for improvements if there is no response to PRARA's concerns.

PLANNING NEWS: 28 Peterborough Road

This is the former Chandlers bottling plant site whose new owner wants to redevelop it for business use. Nearby residents and PRARA successfully objected to the first proposed scheme for which planning permission was refused. The architects consulted PRARA on a revised, smaller scheme and we were able to achieve an improvement of the Peterborough Road elevation. However, we considered that the amended scheme was still too obtrusive and that the buildings should be moved further back on the site, mainly to reduce their impact on the houses opposite. We also sought an increase in on-site parking.

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PRARA therefore supported the two Peterborough Road members who led objections to the planning application, Paul Leonard and Richard Brown, and their and other residents objections were also strongly endorsed by local councillors. Regrettably the scheme as submitted was approved at a Planning Committee meeting on 24th January. It is subject to a number of standard conditions for such developments but also has the following restrictions: the development must commence within three years; the premises must not be used for the servicing, valeting or repair of motor vehicles, nor the preparation or processing of food; no deliveries, refuse collection or any other servicing may take place between 20.00 hours and 06.00 hours the following day; and the premises may only be used between 07.00 hours and 21.00 hours. More details can be found on the Council's web site, reference Application No: 2005/02674/FUL

February 9th edition of the Fulham & Hammersmith Chronicle reported on 28 Peterborough Road and specifically mentioned PRARA and our objections.

On the front page the Chronicle reported that Kensington & Chelsea Council are considering a High Court battle with Prescott over the Lots Road development. PRARA (represented by then Coordinator Patricia Hicks) objected to the scale of this scheme because of traffic, although H&F eventually granted planning permission. The matter is now being taken up by Hammersmith & Fulham MP, Greg Hands.

STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

This is the Council policy document for the planning consultation process. PRARA has generally welcomed the policy but requested the following two amendments:

1. *That for planning applications, or pre-application consultation, the extent of the notification should always include all premises within 100 metres of the site and all people or organisations who have previously made representations in respect of the site.*
2. *That Residents' Associations should be notified of all planning applications and not just those categorised as being Tier Level 1 or 2.*

LIVING STREETS AUDIT

Following the talk by Living Streets at last year's Open Meeting and members' desire for a community audit, the Standing Committee have continued to press the Council for one to be commissioned. Currently the Council is advising that their new STREETSMART design guide would fulfil the same purpose but without any indication of a timescale. The Standing Committee has therefore arranged to meet with Phil Nicholls, the Assistant Director Highways and Engineering, who is responsible for STREETSMART, on 27th February to discuss this further in person. We hope to be able to give a brief report at the Open Meeting on 14th March.

HUGON ROAD - THOMAS'S SCHOOL

We are pleased to report that the school is managing the traffic well and so far residents have not experienced any problems. We do not yet know whether the increased pupil numbers from next September will alter this.

THE DUKE ON THE GREEN

Licensed premises began operating under the new licensing regime from 24 November 2005. One of the features under the act is the ability of a 'responsible authority' such as the Police or an 'interested party' such as a resident living in the vicinity of the premises to ask the licensing authority to hold a review of a premises license because of a matter arising at the premises in connection with any of the four licensing objectives. (Prevention of crime and disorder, public safety, prevention of public nuisance and protection of children from harm).

Young & Co's Brewery Plc made applications for conversion and variation of its current liquor licence and supper hours certificate for the Duke on the Green, (formerly the Duke of Cumberland). Relevant representations were made in connection with the variation application from the Metropolitan Police, the

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Environmental Protection Service within the Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham Council and fifteen local residents. A hearing was held on 8th September attended by the responsible authorities and four residents.

After hearing the submissions, the sub-committee decided that the application for extended hours should be granted, having taken into account the guidance issued by the Secretary of State. The sub-committee considered that in this instance the extension of hours should be granted having regard to the nature of the premises, the type of clientele and the service provided by the licensee, and the conditions set out below which it considered necessary to ensure that the four licensing objectives are met.

The applicant and each party who has made relevant representations have a right of appeal against this decision to the Magistrates' Court.

Applying for a review involves completing a prescribed form which can be found on the LBHF website (www.lbhf.gov.uk under 'licensing'), or one can be sent if you contact the licensing authority. The form and any supporting information has to be sent to the premises licence holder and to each of the responsible authorities – seven in total. Details of all this is available in a booklet obtained from the council, and will also be posted on the PRARA website in March.

CALLING ALL MEMBERS : New Coordinator needed.

We have been hoping for the past two years that a PRARA member would come forward to be the Co-ordinator. Anthony Williams has acted as coordinator since founder member Patricia Hicks stood down two years ago. He has now advised the Standing Committee that he intends to stand down as acting co-ordinator at this year's AGM in June. He will remain a member of the committee and continue as vice-coordinator and Clancarty Road representative.

The Coordinator role is not time consuming. It is essentially that of chairman at committee and Open Meetings plus ensuring that issues are followed up and supported as necessary. Most specific tasks are undertaken by the relevant member of the committee. The committee is extremely harmonious, friendly, and mutually supportive. Communication is by e-mail.

PRARA has achieved a lot since it started, and there is even more to do now that so much of Fulham is undergoing high density residential development. This will have an impact on the quality of life of everyone in the area. The Neighbourhood Watch membership has assisted those who have had need of help and advice from the police, and PRARA has forged good links with the local police. PRARA members also offer mutual support and are a pool of local knowledge. South Park is an ongoing problem through under-funding and neglect, and PRARA is fighting to improve this valuable amenity for all.

Please do think about the value to our community of this association and not lose the benefit of all the work done by the committee over the past few years. They have all given generously of their time. Give Anthony a ring, (without any obligation), and he will explain the role. It is in all our interests to keep PRARA active. The demise of the Sands End Residents Association, (ARISE), when their Chairman retired means that everyone living near the new developments on the riverside have no collective voice, and therefore no say in what happens on their doorstep. We don't want that situation to happen here.

THE PRARA KITTY

...is running low. Your voluntary donations of £5 pays for this newsletter. If you haven't paid recently and/or you are feeling generous – please give your donation to Hon. Treasurer, Crissy Stenning with your name. Her address is at the bottom of page.

Thank you.

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