

NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 2008

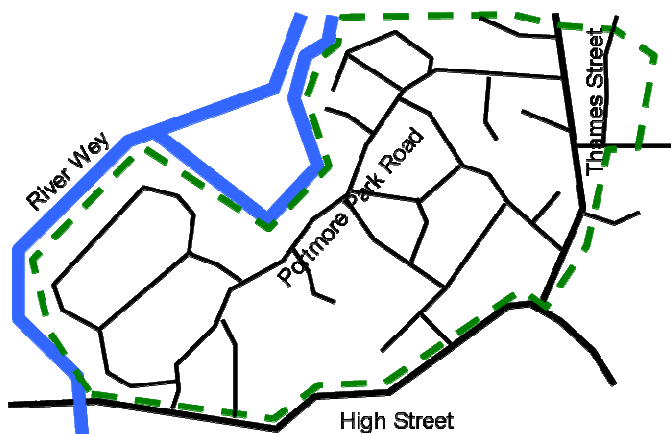
Local Heritage Open Spaces Green Belt Quality of Life Community Liaison with Councils

Residents Parking – consultation imminent

Sign in
Minorca
Road



Since the AGM in July, Surrey has advanced the timetable. Two local Surrey/ Elmbridge committee meetings (comprised of councillors from both) have taken place at which Councillor Macleod and local residents have tabled questions. Miles Macleod, in particular, has been keeping it on the local agenda while Ian Lake has been promoting it at County Council level.



See page two for Surrey's list of roads within the dotted line and more details.

Neighbours leading objections to two major Planning Applications

It may not a great time for developers, and there have been fewer planning applications. However, there is uproar over two ongoing applications concerning flats in Radnor Road and Offices/houses in Thames Street/ Darnley park. Its not too late to write to the council, even if the formal consultation period is over.

See page 3 for more details.

The time-table:

1. Outline design prepared internally within Surrey CC by January.
2. Task Group of council members and council officers (**January**).
3. **February**: public consultation with residents, businesses and other stakeholders.
4. **9th March**: Results presented to the Surrey/ Elmbridge Local Committee.
5. **September**: Detailed design complete, statutory notices required by law and consideration of formal objections to the notices.
6. Implementation (signs, road markings) – from **October, 2009**.

(Timetable with thanks to Cllr Macleod who tabled a supplementary question to the Local Committee and received a written response on the 16th December).

All in place by Nov 2009?

Surrey CC has said it is "hopeful" – but the time-table could slip "if there was a need for further consultation."

People witnessing the local Surrey/ Elmbridge committee meeting in September got a clear impression that Surrey might eventually want to implement a limited scheme if it was unable to go ahead with a major scheme. However, their desire is to identify solutions which avoid creating significant problems for adjoining roads.

Have your say (see pages 2, 3 and 4)

We need to ensure that the task group is aware of local issues at an early stage. Ian Lake has suggested that representatives of the Resident's Association meet with council representatives.

Sign up for the newsletter by e-mail?
Let us know if you are a member and have not received this newsletter by e-mail.

Do you support the aims of PP&DRA?
Have you subscribed this year? Details on page 4...

The Surrey Council Officer Response (8 December)

to a question from Councillor Macleod at the Local Elmbridge Committee

“Work is ongoing in relation to the proposed extension of the existing controlled parking zone in Weybridge (CPZ). In addition to those roads already within the zone, we are reviewing whether the following streets could be included within a wider zone. These are:

Portmore Park Road
Wey Road
Round Oak Road
Devonshire Road
Portmore Way
Oakdale Road
St Albans Ave

The Crescent
Elmgrove Road
Mount Pleasant
Glencoe Road
Radnor Road
Dorchester Road
Gascoigne Road

Darnley Park
Montrose Walk
The Willows
Cedar Road
Holstein Ave
Thames Street (part)
Minorca Road

The objectives are to ascertain whether residents feel that an extension of the current zone would be of benefit in light of complaints relating to other road users parking in residential streets.

Outline design will be complete by the end of the current calendar year and we intend to engage with residents and other stakeholders in late January/early February. This will involve the distribution of leaflets explaining our ideas and seeking input from those who would be affected. The results of this consultation will be brought to the local committee so a decision can be taken on how to proceed in a way which best meets the needs and wants of residents and other stakeholders.”

(Parking is a responsibility of the County but, if implemented, Elmbridge would administer it).

What happens now?

The devil will be in the detail.

We would like to help Surrey formulate proposals which have the best chance of representing the wishes of local residents. We hope that early feedback to Surrey will assist them to develop a high quality scheme for consultation and reduce the chance of delay.

Some people have already given their thoughts, but we need to hear from many more. **Typical questions have included:**

Will residents all agree –particularly in different roads?

Residents will have different concerns. Many near the town centre find the inability to park near to where they live a great nuisance. For example, they might drop somebody off at the station, to find all places full on their return.

Residents further away may only be concerned about the “displacement” effect if they are not included, with more “all-day parking” in their roads.

What happens if neighbouring roads opt in and we do not?

At a meeting in September, Long Ditton residents were petitioning the Council because they were just outside the boundary. Guess where everybody parked when going to work!

Will there be fewer parking spaces?

Surrey’s early response was that the removal of commuter parking will give more opportunities to residents to park, and counteract the reduction of capacity due to road markings (driveways, corners). This might miss out what happens in the evening when people return from work, and whether people will be able to continue to park across their own driveway.

Will it be all day, or just for particular times?

It is expected that the details will depend upon the current pressures on roads. Free short stays might also be permitted in some areas.

What about visitors to the elderly?

Surrey CC response is likely to be that Visitors Permits can be purchased by residents.

Will residents only be allowed to park in specific roads or anywhere in the CPZ?

This is a question we hope to put to Surrey. Residents in the more congested roads (especially Radnor/ Glencoe) have to park in adjacent roads at the best of times.

Will there be a cost?

The answer is yes, as residents will have to have a permit to park within the hours when the scheme is operating. Examples elsewhere suggest about £50-70 per annum per vehicle, but Surrey should give more details in February.

Portmore Park & District Residents Association

Why is Jessemy Road not included?

Our thought is that Jessemy Road should be included in the consultation, even if residents then decide against it. If you live in Jessemy Road, please let us know. Residents in other areas towards the Thames which are also left out may also want a say. Again, let us know.

Who is consulted?

Obviously all residents, but it extends to all "stakeholders". The latter will include local businesses who will be concerned about parking for employees and shoppers. In Walton, for example, small businesses have been making representations about the effect of a lack of on-street parking bays for passing customers. This obviously will pose a dilemma for many local residents who want to encourage local shops, verses the lack of parking for residents.

Is it linked to the proposed 20mph limit?

In September, the Officer response was:

"Residents will find that when a CPZ is introduced, the removal of commuter parking, will afford residents far greater ability to park on street, and hence less bays will actually be required. The reduced limit will also assist to control vehicular speeds along roads, which will no longer be parked up as extensively as they were previously, which could otherwise increase speeds."

However, a response to a question from Miles Macleod at the Local Committee on the 8th December was that there was no linkage.

What if we decide one way, and then want to change our minds?

We understand operating schemes are reviewed after 3 years.

Please let us know what you would like to be raised with the council. E-mail us, drop us a line, tell a committee member or join in the discussion on the forum (– see page 4).

Current Planning Applications



Left: 41 Thames Street (2008/2651)

- Dormer windows in roof of listed building
- Demolition and replacement of offices to rear on boundary with, and in very close proximity to properties in Montrose Walk.
- 6 Houses to rear of site with access from Darnley Park.

Below: Radnor Rd, Weybridge (2008/2627)

- Replacement of several Victorian buildings with a development of 9 flats.

Both applications reduce the opportunity for sites to continue to provide employment in Weybridge and both will greatly affect people who live nearby. In the case of Radnor Road, the increased height and roof windows will change an unspoilt street scene which has survived like a time capsule for over 100 years. There are also common issues with people being overlooked, gardens dominated, parking, traffic, and so on.

Radnor Road has about 70 objections, while Thames Street has also attracted objections from every neighbour. While the greatest impact usually comes from objections by people affected, other residents can add their concerns about the effect on the wider community and the character of the town. Residents associations such as PP&DRA help present the case to the council. To lend your support to the objectors, write to Head of Town Planning, Civic Centre, High Street, Esher, KT10 9SD or email tplan@elmbridge.gov.uk





Did you see the announcement about "Enhanced Bin Collections"?

We wonder about the use of English. "Enhanced" means that the normal refuse bins will be collected once every two weeks from next Autumn. **If you have any comments, please send them to our councillors. (We will also forward them).**

Thieves targeting sheds in our area – take precautions.

Local police have been informing people of a problem, which is continuing. One resident has just told us of his bad experience: "My (mountain) bike was stolen out of my shed last night. The scumbags came across a couple of 6 foot high fences then ripped open the locked shed door to get to it."

The PP&DRA On-Line Discussion Forum

A new way to lodge your views and exchange ideas about local issues

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From December, residents and friends of the area can register to meet 'virtually' in our new online discussion forum. Designed to help residents talk about local issues, plans and activities that affect us, the online forum will serve as a new way for us to share thoughts on just about anything!

To join the conversation – visit the forum website address (<http://portmoreparkdra.ning.com>).

The forum is live from today but missing your input. Have a go! Take the plunge and get involved. Be generous and make valuable contributions. It's our community – parking and roads, council services, planning issues or just shooting the breeze – let's talk about it! But do remember you are in public.

If you have any questions about the forum or would like some help getting started, please contact committee member Jeremy Francis (Thames Street) at jezfrancis@gmail.com

Special interest groups can be established over the next few months.

How to start: You will be asked to sign up with a few mandatory questions which appear on two screens. The first screen asks for your e-mail address (this is how the system will know you, although no other participant can see it). You also need to set your own password.

The second screen includes: your name (as it is our community, it should be a name that others recognise you by); your postal address (which does not appear on-line but is used only for administrative purposes); your road; and you can even load a photograph if you want to.

The first screen also asks for your date of birth, but it is a characteristic of the system and many may choose to be 21 (again). It is governed by USA child protection laws and nobody under 13 is permitted. Your request goes to our administrator and you should receive an e-mail within 24 hours to say that your sign-in has been activated.

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Aims of PP&DRA

We are a non-political association for local residents and focus generally on issues which disproportionately affect us and visitors to our area, compared to residents elsewhere in the borough.

How to join

By joining, we have the ability to make our voice heard.

Membership of PP&DRA is open to residents between the High Street and the Rivers Wey/ Thames. We have a nominal subscription of £3.00 (minimum) while many contribute £5.00 or more. This goes towards the cost of meetings and the Newsletter.

Getting involved

We are always keen to hear from people who would like to get involved, whether it be representing and liaising with your road, establishing a special interest group, or helping in any other way.

Contacting us

You can view our website www.portmore.org.uk (due to be updated 2009)

Contact us via any committee member, or email committee@portmore.org.uk

Visit our on-line discussion forum <http://portmoreparkdra.ning.com>

Or write:

3 The Swansway, (64) Portmore Park Rd, KT13 8HU

Portmore Park & District Residents Association Committee for 2008-9

Michael Freeman (Chairman) 856973; Ian Bonnett (Treasurer) 856971; Gary Busteed; Tukur Chatterjee; Jessica Nolan; John Phillips; Wendy Hoole; William Rutherford; Brian Scholey; Nick Patrick; Pippa Graeme; Jeremy Francis.