

NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 2009

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

Two dates for the diary in March

St Charles Borromeo Primary School / Christ The Prince Of Peace (Portmore Way)

Saturday 14th March

CPZ: An opportunity to drop in anytime between 10 – 12.30 am.
(in the Committee Room, left of the church)

Surrey County Council is preparing some display boards on their proposals for the Controlled Parking Scheme (CPZ).

We had hoped that Surrey would emulate previous consultations (e.g., Walton Bridge, traffic calming); and be able to have technical staff available to answer queries on design and hear views and suggestions. Unfortunately, this may not be possible. However, Councillor Ian Lake has very kindly agreed to be on hand.

Ian is our representative on the County Council. Although many details of the proposal can only be answered by the officers who will be preparing the recommendations, Ian will also have a book for comments which will be passed to the officers for a response.

Residents will have another opportunity to see the display boards and register comments at our AGM. Comments can also be made directly to the officers in replies to the questionnaire.

SEE LATE NEWS: CPZ UPDATE – PAGE 5

Tuesday 24th March

Come to the AGM: 7.30 for the meeting at 8.00
(Main Hall to the right of the church)

Our AGM has moved to March. Join us and local councillors for a chat and light refreshments from 7.30.

Our traditional date conflicts with the new timing for local elections, and we also try to avoid school holidays.

The agenda should include: the **CPZ, Car Park charges and Parking Strategy, Planning developments in the area, an update on Walton Bridge, Open Spaces (including Desborough Island), the state of local roads.** (See page 2 for draft agenda).

Our local councillors will be present, and residents will have the opportunity to meet with them.

Elmbridge Borough Councillors:

Tim Crowther, Miles Macleod.

Surrey County Council Councillor: Ian Lake

Tim and Ian have been our councillors since the late 1990's. Miles is new to Elmbridge Council, but will be known to many as a past chairman of the PP&DRA. Each takes a very great interest in what is happening locally.

Desborough a "disgrace": fly tipping and other activities

A comment by a resident about Desborough Island was discussed at a recent committee meeting. Members of the committee added a number of anecdotes about events they had witnessed which, unfortunately (even if humorous), cannot be printed on grounds of taste. There have been some recent improvements by Elmbridge (e.g cutting back cover) and we hope that we (and perhaps our councillors) can report some progress on making it more of a community asset at the AGM.

Do you support the aims of PP&DRA?

Have you subscribed this year? Details on page 3...

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.

The AGM Agenda

These are the provisional items for the agenda and, as always, will be subject to the time available. If you have other topics which you would like to be raised, please e-mail or drop a line us (preferably by the 20th). We cannot guarantee to fit everything in, but will do our best. P.S. The order of items will (probably) change.

The CPZ

The consultation will still be under way and residents will have had the opportunity to raise specific issues with our County Councillor. It may not be profitable to speculate on the outcome of the consultation until the "votes" are counted. However, we can review how Surrey's decision making process will work going forward and any further contribution which residents can or should make.

Car Park charges and Parking Strategy

This is not addressed under the CPZ as it is an Elmbridge matter. Cllr Miles Macleod was a member of the all party Elmbridge Committee examining the longer-term Parking Strategy in the borough, and we have asked him to report.

Planning developments

It's not a good time for developers, and there are only two major applications "in the wings" (Thames Street and Radnor Road).

Open spaces

Parts of Desborough Island are owned separately by Surrey and Elmbridge Councils. It has been intended to bring them under one ownership (Elmbridge) and there has been a desire over the years about how to make the Island more of a community asset. We have submitted a question to the Surrey County Council/ Elmbridge Local Committee on plans for the Island, and will have the response by the AGM.

Residents will be able to raise ideas for improvements here and elsewhere in our proximity.

For people who enjoy walking, there was a footpath which disappeared near Broadwater Lake with the development of the Health Club. Its reinstatement, and open space for the public to enjoy Broadwater Lake, were part of the conditions for the granting of planning permission.

Our Elmbridge councillors may also be able to update us on the anticipated completion of any outstanding work in the open area at Whittet's Ait. Planning permission was given to Latchmere for the development, which required certain conditions to be met.

Walton Bridge

Most activity has been behind the scenes since planning permission was granted in 2007 for a replacement. We hope to be able to give an update on where things stand and expect to have some display material provided by the project team. Questions include disruption during construction, any changes to the plan, and what the final result will look like given any changes.

Roads

Walton Lane has problems with potholes and fly tipping. Other roads in the area have long-term issues with condition. We will collect your comments and follow them up with the council.

Any Other Business.

Time may be limited, but there should be an opportunity to raise pressing issues. We are not asking councillors for reports on their councils' activities, but this section may also include any other items where they believe residents can make an input.

Treasurer's Report

A formality. The summary of the accounts will be displayed.

Election of Committee

Have you joined or renewed your membership this year?

How to join

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.

Membership Form

(Subscription normally due at the AGM. Subscription year Jan – Dec)

Please return this form at the AGM or to **PP&DRA Membership, c/o 3 The Swansway, (64)Portmore Park Road, Weybridge KT13 8HU.**

Why not pay by Standing Order? It helps us with administration and helps you to stay involved.

Membership Details

Name(s)

Address

Postcode

Telephone

E-mail

We will not disclose contact details without permission, or use them for any purpose other than contacting you on PP&DRA matters. We will use your e-mail address only to send you newsletters, etc

Please tick boxes to indicate amount and payment method

£3 (minimum) £5 Other Please enter amount

I have enclosed a cheque payable to PP&DRA

I have completed the standing order form below.

I am interested in: *Joining or coming to the committee (approx. 5 per year). It's a great opportunity to keep up with events, raise local issues and influence actions* *Contributing to the newsletter* *Representing my road* *Other*

Standing Order (We can forward this to your bank on your behalf)

To the Manager

Bank name

Bank address

Name of my account

Bank Sort CodeAccount number

Payment details

Please pay HSBC Bank plc, Weybridge for the account of the Portmore Park & District Residents Association (Sort Code 40-46-22 Account Number 20674117) the sum below annually on the 1st May until further notice.

Amount in figures: £ Amount in words:

Signed Date

Name in Capitals

Aims of PP&DRA

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

We care about our locality – its heritage, quality of life and community. One of the strengths of the association is that it provides a means for residents to respond to issues when they arise.

Key issues change over the years. At one time a more grandiose scheme for Walton Bridge could have turned our roads into a major traffic route. At the last AGM, residents voted overwhelmingly to lobby Surrey to expedite consultation on a parking scheme.

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

Local Heritage

Help safeguard the long term character of our locality – Our part of Weybridge is graced with attractive homes, tree-lined roads, and the Wey & Thames riversides. We want to hand it on to future generations. We want future development to be sympathetic to our surroundings and maintain the character of the area.

Quality of Life

Keep day to day life safe and pleasant – We help represent local views on general issues including planning applications, antisocial behaviour, traffic, parking, street cleanliness, local amenities and services, and anything else that affects residents.

Community

Support neighbourliness – Participating in PP&DRA is a way to help build the sense of community.

Liaison with Councillors

Represent local concerns to decision makers - We encourage meetings between the Committee (and Members) with local political representatives at both Elmbridge and Surrey County Council level. We ensure that councillors are aware of issues, and they in turn tell us about things which may affect us.

CPZ consultation at last?

Will you have received the questionnaires by the time you receive this newsletter? People who receive our e-mail updates or visit the on-line forum will have noticed how the time-table has slipped several times since it was first announced by the County Council last year. The questionnaires should now be delivered to households during the week of the 9th March.

Some residents have been concerned that the slippage may result in less attention being given to the results of the consultation.

Last Year's AGM

Not surprisingly this was dominated by the then recent news that a **Residents Parking Scheme** was being proposed. Councillor Miles Macleod had just been elected, and was able to report that, while canvassing, he found that roads closer to the town centre were very positive, but enthusiasm was less the further away. The Chairman had been informed that the scheme could be three years or more away due to the queue of schemes under consideration, and the question was raised at the meeting whether some roads could be fast-tracked. There was much interesting discussion and many points made. More people at the meeting were in favour than were against, although further details were needed to help people make up their minds.

An overwhelming vote (there may have been one vote against) was carried that the Chairman should write to Ian Lake and exert any influence possible to bring the consultation process forward. Nobody liked the uncertainty.

We heard that the **20 mph speed limit** was to be implemented before the end of the financial year. It was possible to confirm that the **museum** and **library** would remain in Weybridge. Other subjects included the **museum** and **library** (now to remain on their current site), the possibility of designating **Cowey Sale** as a village green, and feedback on meetings with **St. Georges College Junior School**.

Flood risk features in objections to Planning Applications

In an apparent change in practice, Elmbridge is now taking flood risk more seriously. Some applications on sites near to the River Wey have escaped scrutiny on grounds of flood risk due to the interpretations of new Environment Agency rules by Elmbridge.

A couple of high risk cases finally came to the attention of the Environment Agency, with the result that the presumption is now against significant applications in very high risk areas. Areas affected include Bulldog Island and Wey Road.

Miles Macleod nominates the clearing of litter along the Thames

Cllr Miles Macleod has brought to our attention that Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership (01372 47 4399 / 4398) are seeking nominations from the public on locations in need of some additional tender loving care during 2009. A minimum of twelve projects will be undertaken in Elmbridge for the year starting 1 April 2009 using the the Probation Service's "Pay Back" scheme. The work can be varied such as conducting a litter pick, cleaning and repainting surfaces subject to graffiti, cutting back vegetation or repainting or repairing a community building.

Miles' proposal for litter has to be approved.

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How to Contact 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>

(see the December Newsletter on our website or e-mail us for details on how to sign up)

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

Portmore Park & District Residents Association Elected Committee for 2008-9

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

Newsflash: LATE CPZ UPDATE

As misfortune has it, we heard about some of the details of the proposed scheme after we went to press. "Gobsmacked" was the reaction of one person who had a preview, and that may well summarise the reactions of many.

Residents will draw their own conclusions when they see the map in the questionnaire. Key points to note are that Thames Street and roads off it are no longer included (ie, it stops at the Pillars), while the extent of no waiting zones may exceed even the "worst" case for many. At first sight, the reader may conclude that much of Portmore Park and Wey Road are to be made no waiting zones during the day. If true, this will remove much of the capacity available to residents throughout the area, create major problems for the Church and St. Charles School, and encourage through traffic.

It is as if much of the pre-consultation did not happen and information supplied earlier by Surrey totally discarded. Councillors will be as surprised as residents, since even they have not been kept informed of the changes. Some of the organisations which they propose to consult will also raise eyebrows. For example, they intend to talk to Oatlands Infant School and Mamby Lodge, and not to St. Georges!

It all may make for an exciting AGM.