



Peterborough Road & Area Residents' Association

incorporating Clancarty Road, Daisy Lane,
Hugon Road, South Park Mews, Sullivan Road,
Settrington Road and Woolneigh Street
www.prara.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

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- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Local traffic report | 9. "Situation <i>still Vacant</i>" |
| 2. New road representatives | 10. Royal Mail collection changes |
| 3. You can now join PRARA on-line | 11. Peterborough Road bollard |
| 4. Neighbourhood Watch news | 12. Morning newspaper delivery service |
| 5. South Park trees | 13. Community Centre |
| 6. Our Corporate Complaint | 14. Zero emissions last mile delivery |
| 7. Sands End Ward Panel report | 15. Thames Tunnel timetable |
| 8. On street parking charges increase | 16. Wandsworth Bridge works |

1- Local traffic report

PRARA has been requesting action to reduce through traffic in our area, and especially that using the Peterborough Road / Clancarty Road / Settrington Road / Woolneigh Street rat run, for the majority of the 19 years we have been in existence. The reason for the lack of action has always been given as the very limited number of north-south routes through Fulham. Technology in the form of ANPR and its associated computer systems, is now being put forward by the Council as the means to stop through traffic using residential streets. The SW6 LTN scheme - now rebranded as a South Fulham Traffic, Congestion and Pollution Reduction scheme (TCPR) - introduced in July of last year, has achieved this on east side of Wandsworth Bridge Road. It has, though, been detrimental to our area which has seen large increases in vehicles using our roads in direct contravention to what we have been seeking.

The SW6 LTN scheme was introduced as an experimental scheme which meant that the Council could avoid a formal consultation. It has reduced traffic but not all residents are happy with scheme. Its success or otherwise will not be reviewed until July of this year. This means that we are being forced to live with an unacceptable situation in the PRARA area for a year with only some alleviation during lockdown periods. Because of this we have been requesting that the east side scheme should be stopped or suspended until a scheme which addresses our traffic problems can be introduced. The Council either ignores this request or refuses it and hides behind the July review.

The Councillor Ben Coleman meetings last year were intended to seek agreement from residents on the west side of Wandsworth Bridge Road as well as Wandsworth Bridge Road itself for a similar TCPR scheme. The meetings were a failure. Cllr. Coleman has withdrawn and meetings are now being held by Councillor Matt Thorley, from Parson's Green & Walham Ward. A not dissimilar scheme is now being promoted. Initially the scheme was badly presented but at the most recent meeting there was greater context and clarity. As yet there is no residents' agreement nor have the Council reached the stage

PRARA APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

when they can demonstrate that all the necessary elements are in place. These include Transport *for* London re-phasing the traffic lights at either end of Wandsworth Bridge Road and the agreement with any other authorities that have to be consulted. There is no published timetable for any of this.

We are continuing a dialogue with Cllr. Thorley. This has included asking him to demonstrate that the self-appointed South Fulham Residents' Alliance (Sofra) with which he is associated for his meetings, is a genuine community entity. He was initially unable or unwilling to do this. We repeated our request and again requested that the scheme on the east side of Wandsworth Bridge Road be suspended or revoked until there is a scheme for the west side. A copy of that letter can be seen on the PRARA web site. We have now heard from two residents who finally put their names to Sofra, one from each side of Wandsworth Bridge Road, and provided a comprehensive explanation as to how Sofra came into being. That included the reasons why Sofra is an anonymous body, namely unpleasant mis-use of social media.

Sofra has recently added a Mission Statement to its web site. We would not disagree with its aims but we consider that it would not be appropriate for PRARA, which is an open, transparent and constitutionally based residents' association, to formally associate ourselves with a body which has to operate on an anonymous basis. We therefore are not doing so. However as we share the same objectives, which are to deal with our local traffic problems, we plan to support Cllr. Thorley in his efforts to secure agreement for a west of Wandsworth Bridge Road TCPR scheme that will achieve this.

2 - New road representatives

We are very pleased to report that we now have two new representatives. Lynn Baker, who lives in Hurlingham Square, is now looking after Sullivan Road and Hurlingham Square. Jonnie Godfrey has agreed to look after Hugon Road again on an interim basis until we can recruit a new permanent replacement. Their contact details are at the end of the newsletter and on the web site.

3 - You can now join PRARA on-line

We are always looking for new members, especially newcomers. In our area we do seem to have more than a few new arrivals, many of whom are renting. They have usually signed leases for two or three years so are candidates for membership.. Our road representatives invite as many newcomers as possible to join, but the best possible recruiters are existing members. If you have a new neighbour please tell them about PRARA and give them our web site address. And if you have an existing neighbour who is not a member, invite them as well. They just have to use the **Join up !** link in the horizontal menu at the top of every page. That will take them straight to an on-line form to join.

4 - Neighbourhood Watch news

Many more of us now have video cameras and video door bells on the front of our houses. These have sometimes revealed people trying to gain entry to a house in the early hours of the morning. It is essential that one keeps the sash windows securely bolted and the front door double locked and if you have an alarm system, put on night alarm, when you go to bed. Many people are desperate for money during these difficult times, you should make sure that any bicycle kept in front of your house is extremely well secured.

As you will probably have seen on the news there has been a big increase in the number of car exhausts being sawn off, for the precious metals in the catalytic converters. There is unfortunately not much you can do to prevent this happening. The Police are now trying to crack down on this crime and are targeting the scrap metal depots.

The Police say that 40% of thefts from cars are due to the car not being locked. They advise never leaving anything in the car at any time, even an old shopping bag, which may be

taken, as the thief might think there is something in it. This results in an expensive repair to a car window. The Police also advise parking at night in a well-lit area, if this is possible.

Neighbourhood Watch is not just informing each other about crime, but also to be helpful, friendly and offer assistance to those who need support, which I am sure we all do. One of our members is alerting us to night time intrusion as shown in a video from his Ring doorbell camera. He has given us permission to include access details here:

<https://ring.com/share/c634a2fe-818c-4a99-a456-b607801162e6>

Jeremy Gilkes

5 - South Park trees

The London Plane trees lining the east side of South Park, and border the houses in Settrington Road, were last pollarded over 15 years ago. Since then, they have much increased in size. In view of this, many of the residents in Settrington Road felt they presented a health and safety problem. The Council on several occasions have dismissed any request to have the size of the trees reduced. The Council will only remove branches from a tree if it is diseased.

However, at the beginning of this year the Council did agree to remove the branches of any tree which overhung a Settrington Road garden. This work was carried out in February 2021 by ATS (Advanced Tree Services) on instruction from the Council, on the understanding this would be paid for by the residents of Settrington Road. Twenty-two households kindly agreed to share the cost. Jeremy Gilkes deserves a large thank you for achieving this. The size and overall height of the trees remain the same, we keep our fingers crossed that they remain upright during any severe storm such as we had in 1987.

6 - Our Corporate Complaint

On the 2nd November PRARA made a Formal Corporate Complaint to the council in response to the SW6 LTN traffic scheme which we consider dramatically increased the amount of vehicles driving through our area, causing frequent gridlock on Wandsworth Bridge Road with cars backing up in Clancarty, Settrington, Woolneigh and Hugon Roads. As the Council failed to adhere to its own Complaint Policy document we exercised our option to refer our Complaint to the Local Government & Social Care Ombudsman (LGO). The LGO Investigator examined our complaint and obtained further information from the Council but concluded that it could not be taken further at this time for procedural reasons. Our action has, however, demonstrated to the Council how serious and determined PRARA can be, and if necessary and appropriate we would invoke the Complaints Procedure again.

7 - Sands End Ward Panel report

The Panel, which had become dormant, has been re-established and held its first meeting on 17th February. Its main activity is to hold a quarterly meeting with the Police at which they present the crime statistics in our area. The Panel members then set policing priorities for the following term. The current priorities (and the most common types of crime in our neighbourhood) are: 1) residential burglary 2) robbery and 3) theft of/from motor vehicles.

The Panel currently has 15 members, three of whom are PRARA committee members: Marjorie Simonds-Gooding, Jeremy Gilkes and Luiz Motta. It is very pleasing to report that Luiz Motta was elected as Chairman. The next Panel meeting is scheduled for May 19th. If you have any specific concerns that you would like addressed please let Luiz know. His contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

In discussions at the February meeting the police advised that violent crimes or situations that endanger people always have higher priority than the regular policing. They also told us that although antisocial behaviour comprises the bulk of complaints to the police, such behaviour is not a crime in itself, so it is not included in the ward panels priorities.

8 - On street parking charges increase

Without any warning or any form of consultation, the Council introduced increased on-street parking charges at the beginning of last month, with differential charges linked to vehicle emissions. There are problems with this scheme as parking meters do not recognise the type of car so charge all cars £6 per hour. The free RingGo app, however, can (usually) discern the type of vehicle and consequently charge the appropriate amount (£3 for low CO2 emissions, £5 for high, an additional £1 for diesel). More information is on the LBHF web site. If you have not already done so the advice must be to download the RingGo app and to apply for visitor parking permits which are still £1.80 per hour for all vehicles in all zones.

9 - “Situation still Vacant”

Sue Pierson has been doing sterling work taking the Minutes at our Standing Committee Meetings on a temporary basis. She would very much like to handover to the PRARA Secretary - which we don't have at the moment. Will you come to her aid? If you would like more information about the role please contact Anthony Williams.

10 - Royal Mail collections

You may have noticed that some red letter boxes are being labelled as PRIORITY POSTBOX. For the box in front of Sullivan Court this means that it will have both a Saturday **and** Sunday collection. The time is not shown but is around 1 or 2 pm. A parcel drop box has been installed at the west end of Sullivan Road.

11 - Peterborough Road bollard

The installation of the bollard at the Peterborough Road / Clancarty Road junction to stop lorry use and control car use was PRARA's first success. Even though the bollard is prone to faults putting it out of action for a time, it has continued to be very effective. We witnessed its last repair which was followed by another failure. Our bollard warden actively pursued the Council officer responsible and the bollard resumed action on 9th April. Further action is being taken as the bollard was out of service again on Monday, 12th !!

12 - Morning newspaper delivery service

TD News is now a delivery only newsagent service for residential properties across London as well as to hotels, clubs, restaurants and offices. It began many years ago as a Fulham newsagent with a kiosk on the corner of Parson's Green. The business is still run by the founders, Tony & Diane. All deliveries of papers and magazines are completed by 6.30am. In Fulham they are usually made around 5.00 - 5.30am, slightly later on Sundays. TD is a very reliable service which operates every day of the year except Christmas and Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Details at tdnews.co.uk or call 0800 0439780.

13 - Community Centre

This is officially called the Sands End Arts and Community Centre. For the time being a use has been found for it as a Covid-19 testing location. There is no official opening date. At the time it was announced by the Council they stated the centre would be built and established with £2million of section 106 receipts from Thames Water and a £1.6million grant from Chelsea Football Club. However, a report presented to the Full Council at the end of last year revealed a further sum of up to £400,000 would now be provided by the Council for the fit-out and initial operation of the Trust that will manage the centre. This money has been taken from section 106 monies from the development at Chelsea Creek which otherwise would have been available for other community benefit

14 - Zero emissions last mile delivery

A TCPR scheme is intended to reduce pollution as well as improve local traffic. A PRARA member has reported on a recent demonstration on Wandsworth Bridge Road of e-cargo bikes which would help this reduction in pollution. The bikes are designed to replace non-electric van deliveries and can deliver as much as a van in an eight-hour shift. Such a service is being trialed by the Co-Op store in the King's Road and initially available to shoppers within a four kilometre radius. More information at <https://e-cargobikes.com/>

15 - Thames Tunnel timetable

There is now limited work above ground on the Carnwath Road site, but there is considerable activity below ground at the tunnel level. The current timetable for completion of works remains valid:

Current Programme

Key dates

- Main tunnel milestone achieved – September 2020
- Connection tunnel – January 2021 to December 2021
- Secondary lining – April 2021 to January 2023
- Shaft works – February 2023 to September 2023
- Surface civil works – September 2023 to January 2024
- Landscaping works – January 2024 to April 2024
- Site demobilisation – January 2024 to August 2024
- BMB vacate site – Autumn 2024
- System testing and commissioning continues until 2024, though minimal on-site activity



16 - Wandsworth Bridge works

The current works, which are maintenance of the structure of the bridge below road level, are scheduled to continue until September. Both ends of the bridge are shrouded from the river while this work is undertaken. The work has required large amounts of scaffolding on the underside of the bridge to be hung from the bridge. The weight of this scaffolding is the main reason why there are only single traffic lanes in each direction plus the southbound 'bus lane. This is to reduce the load on the bridge to compensate for the weight of the scaffolding.

The former PC World / Curry's car park is back in use as it is temporarily being used by the bridge contractors employees. Tideway have made similar arrangements for their staff. Other cars are connected to the Food Bank which has re-located from St Matthew's Church because of increased demand.

Details of the PRARA Standing Committee and Main Contacts are on page 6

14th April, 2021

PRARA APRIL 2021 NEWSLETTER

PRARA STANDING COMMITTEE AND MAIN CONTACTS

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