

LOWER SUNBURY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION 2016 AGM NEWSLETTER



www.losra.org

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Lower Sunbury Residents' Association will take place at The Riverside Arts Centre, Thames Street, Sunbury, on Wednesday 22nd June at 8 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2015 Annual General Meeting
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Officers and Committee
6. Presentation on plans for Sunbury Health Centre by Richard Fryer and Dr. Gill
7. Open Forum
8. Any other business

Please note that we do not circulate the Minutes of last year's AGM or the Association's audited accounts with this notice, because to do so would generate disproportionate printing costs. Copies will be available at the AGM, and will also be posted on our web site. If you are unable to visit the web site but would like to see the documents in advance of the meeting, please contact Paul Thompson, LOSRA Chairman, whose details are included in this newsletter.

Presentation on the plans for Sunbury Health Centre is centrepiece of this year's AGM

As we indicated in our Spring newsletter, because various issues relating to Sunbury Health Centre have had a high profile over the last year or two, and because there are positive steps being taken to address them, we would try to arrange for the Health Centre to be the subject of our main presentation and discussion at this year's Annual General Meeting.

We are delighted to report that Richard Fryer, the Practice Manager, and Dr. Gill, the representative of the doctors' team on the Patient Participation Group, have agreed to come to the meeting to make a presentation and field questions from the audience on subjects relating to the Health Centre.

The topics they will cover are:

- *The background to the practice*
- *Recent developments*
- *Challenges and how the practice is responding to them*
- *The future, the Practice and the NHS Five Year Forward View*
- *Questions*

This seems to provide a broad spread of subject matter, which should ensure that topics which have been a concern in the past will be addressed, and that residents will be able to get a clear idea of what the plans are and what the future holds.

Everybody is aware that most of the Health Centre's problems stem from the fact that it is having to deal with vastly more patients than it was designed for, at a time when budgets are under pressure and resources of all kinds similarly squeezed.

Possibly the most encouraging aspects of recent developments is that through the more pro-active approach of the Patients Participation Group, and the willingness of Practice Management and medical staff to engage with the PPG and residents, it has been possible to improve the exchange of views and information, and have a positive relationship between the Health Centre and the community, so that residents can be helped rather than a source of complaints.

The presentation and discussion at the AGM will help move that relationship further forward, so we are very grateful to Mr. Fryer and Dr. Gill for giving up their time to come to the meeting and provide an extremely pertinent and timely contribution to this process.

Council leader bluntly states Spelthorne's opposition to potential Kempton Park housing development

The leader of Spelthorne Council, Sunbury East Councillor Ian Harvey, wrote an open letter to Redrow Ltd. before the recent exhibition at Kempton Park about potential housing development there.

The letter pulls no punches in telling developers Redrow that Spelthorne will apply Local Plan policies to protect Green Belt. The full text of the letter can be read in the LOSRA web site news section (25th April entry).

We are well aware that Redrow and the Jockey Club's strategy depends on getting the Green Belt status of Kempton Park changed during the Local Plan Review, which is getting under way. Hopefully, Spelthorne will be similarly robust in defending Kempton Park's Green belt status during this process.

Meanwhile, LOSRA is still lobbying to overcome Spelthorne's inexplicable and unreasonable refusal to allow us to participate in the Development Market Panel, which considers issues relating to potential development sites. Their opposition to our perfectly reasonable request, as a knowledgeable and experienced stakeholder, to take part in this aspect of the preparation of the Local Plan, indicates a worrying willingness to accommodate the views of developers while restricting input from residents.

Funding secured for air pollution monitor at Sunbury Cross after LOSRA meets local MP

In our last newsletter, we said that we were meeting Spelthorne's MP Kwasi Kwarteng to discuss various matters, and that we would follow up with Roberto Tambini, Spelthorne's Chief Executive, on his commitment made at the meeting about Kempton Park at London Irish last year that he would treat air pollution as a priority.

As a result of our meeting with Mr. Kwarteng, where we raised the issue of the air pollution monitor at Sunbury Cross having been decommissioned by Spelthorne for financial reasons, he approached Heathrow Ltd., who agreed to fund such a monitor, even though it is not directly relevant to airport-derived pollution.

We got wind that during subsequent discussions between Heathrow and Spelthorne, it was being suggested that there might be a better use for the money, and we stepped in to seek reassurance that what we had been told by Mr. Kwarteng's office would be carried

Their reasoning is that we do not have sufficient expertise, and any professional consultants who might represent us would be biased. So developers aren't biased?

Meanwhile, Redrow's exhibition told us nothing new, apart from the predictable situation that they are now treating the kite-flying forecasts of housing need, produced by the consultants who did the recent Strategic Housing Market Assessment, as cast-in-stone housing targets.

Along with that, they are arguing that Spelthorne, which is many years, and many dwellings, ahead of existing housing targets, have consistently fallen short of such targets, based on the inflated new figures, which have no status at this stage.

You can be sure that developers and their consultants, encouraged by the willingness of central government to override local authorities and Green Belt integrity (see Communities Secretary Greg Clark's decision to rule in favour of a 1,500-home scheme on Green Belt in Cheltenham), will be using this kind of spurious argument with impunity.

The exhibition was an exercise in box-ticking, which will be somehow be used by Redrow to imply that opposition to their plans is minimal. The very narrowly-framed questions in their response questionnaire indicated how the reactions will be manipulated.

through and that essential monitoring at one of Surrey's worst pollution hotspots would be carried through.

We have now had a letter from Mr. Tambini clarifying the position, and it seems that there is no opposition in principle to an automatic monitor at Sunbury Cross, which will measure the one-hour mean of nitrogen dioxide—one of the key measures defined by EU directives.

There will also be a monitor downwind of the incinerator being built at the Charlton Lane "EcoPark", in order to measure emissions of particulates from that site - this is being funded by the operators SITA.

We will stay on the case as far as air pollution and monitoring of it is concerned. Governments, whether national or local, don't really have any idea how to deal with the problem, but if we have the right information we can use it to fight over-development which will inevitably increase pollution.

The most interesting discussions we had there were with consultants for the Jockey Club, who are baffled and miffed by the Council's now robust stance against development, when three years ago they were actively involved in discussions about the idea, as unequivocally evidenced in the mountain of documents obtained under Freedom Of Information requests, which reside at <https://keepkemptongreen.com/>

Although questions about that situation remain unanswered, the Council's current stance is welcome, and we will hold their feet to the fire to ensure it is maintained.

Formal planning Application submitted for gravel working at Watersplash Farm

After what seems an eternity, Cemex have finally submitted a planning application to excavate gravel from Watersplash Farm at the Junction of Fordbridge Road and the A244, between Sunbury and Shepperton.

This has been going on for many years. LOSRA and SSAGE (Sunbury & Shepperton Against Gravel Extraction) fought the proposal through all the processes of the Surrey Minerals Plan, but fairly inevitably, after a public inquiry it was earmarked as the next site to be worked.

We have worked with Cemex to mitigate the impact as far as possible and protect the interests of residents, which is what Cemex have been working on. There will no doubt be many people to whom, after all the publicity and exhibitions, this will still be an unwelcome surprise, and will expect us to fight the application.

The reality is that that has all been done, and permission will be pretty much a formality. All we can hope is that working will not last too many years, after which it will be returned to farmland, with an area to the east of the site by the River Ash designated as a nature reserve.

Housing plan at Old Nursery site refused

As expected, the plan reported in the Spring newsletter for housing on the Old Nurseries in Fordbridge Rd. has been refused by Spelthorne on several very robust grounds. Full details can be seen on the LOSRA web site in a news item dated 11th May.

The potential developers will no doubt keep trying, as they always do, but the land is Green Belt, and they will find it difficult to make a case for "exceptional circumstances" on this particular site.

Why You Should Be A LOSRA Member

LOSRA's AIMS

The Association's purpose is to optimise and enhance the quality of life for Lower Sunbury residents by all appropriate means.

In particular, this involves pursuing these key strategies and objectives:

- To stimulate public consciousness and appreciation of the appearance and character of Lower Sunbury.
- To work for the continued maintenance and enhancement of the Lower Sunbury Conservation Area.
- To prevent housing development which is out of character with the area, especially development which increases housing density inappropriately, and which involves demolishing existing good houses and building on existing domestic gardens.
- To press for the preservation and extension of Green Belt and public open spaces, and work to protect the local environment.
- To support the development of Lower Sunbury's commercial life and public services, consistent with environmental objectives.
- To press for appropriate traffic management or exclusion measures.
- To maintain and enhance the strong sense of community and social cohesion within Lower Sunbury.
- To work with other amenity organisations in support of the Association's aims.

Some of LOSRA's Campaigns & Achievements

Since its foundation in 1972 LOSRA has been involved in many local issues, with its aim always being to promote the local environment and the well-being of Lower Sunbury residents.

- It was originally founded to fight a plan to build a by-pass taking traffic away from Thames Street but directly through the main residential area of Lower Sunbury. The proposed scheme was finally abandoned and it is now the landmark linear Hawke Park which runs between Oakington Drive across French Street and The Avenue to Green Street. LOSRA was intimately involved during the design phase of what is now recognised as a much valued asset for Lower Sunbury.
- LOSRA played a major part in the successful campaign to achieve the abandonment of the Heathrow-Gatwick helicopter link. The development of the Conservation Area, campaigning for Orchard Meadow to be used as a village green, and opposing building development on the unspoilt Rivermead Island, are all examples of LOSRA's local role.
- It gave financial support to the Walled Garden project and supported the Spelthorne In Bloom initiative.
- LOSRA devised and promoted the idea of the Sunbury Trail and produced the official Trail Guidebook.
- The fight to protect our Green Belt includes protecting the area between Sunbury and Shepperton from being turned into gravel extraction sites. LOSRA has attended successive public inquiries on the matter and the work continues today.
- LOSRA are currently holding a watching brief on the possible development of Green Belt areas including that at Kempton Park.
- LOSRA opposed the Council's original decision to demolish the Benwell Community Centre.
- It has supported individuals and groups within the area in their successful opposition to the over-development of sites including the old London Irish RFC site from 300+ proposed units to 194, Lendy Place on Green Street reduced from 57 to 27 units and the old Environment Agency Works on Fordbridge Road reduced from 88 to 37 units.
- Sunbury Health Centre's ability to provide adequately for a growing population is a concern for local residents. LOSRA is actively involved in the Patients' Participation Group which works collaboratively with clinicians to improve facilities and services.
- The commissioning of a feasibility study for the construction of a cycle/footbridge to connect Sunbury to the Thames Path National Trail at Walton, with the help of sponsors, is LOSRA's most recent initiative.
- LOSRA works closely and constructively with the local Council, ward councillors, Surrey County Council, the Police and other bodies, on issues of mutual interest.

For more information about LOSRA, how it works and how you can help, go to the website at

www.losra.org

THE LOSRA COMMITTEE

Shirley Agar (Membership Sec.)	87 Manor Lane	765517	Neil Huntingford	Summer House, Wheatleys Ait	783761
Neale Brickwood	16 Lime Crescent	07798 854867	Mark McCartney	2 Forge Mews, Forge Lane	07557 121844
Colleen Cuthbert (Secretary)	8 Maryland Way	783606	Oliver Parr	Orchard House, Thames Street	765229
Iain Findlay (Treasurer)	58 Thames Street	783739	George Rushbrook	8 Meadows End	788471
Peter Francis	Linden Lodge, Woodlands Drive	770661	Paul Thompson (Chairman)	12 Brackenwood	07788 107500
Michelle Gillham	11 Montford Road	07989 868101	Paul Watts (President)	87 The Avenue	788449
John Hirsh (Vice-Chairman)	21 School Walk	07515 637474			

LOSRA Membership for 2015 Payment Options

By Standing Order

We have introduced the convenient option to pay by Standing Order (see the second slip below). This will save you the trouble of renewing each year as it will automatically be done for you until you request it to be stopped. Once we see that your Standing Order has gone through, we will confirm it. We hope this will make the process easier for everyone.

You can also set up your own Standing Order if you use internet banking. If you do this, please put your post-code and house number as the reference.

By cheque or cash

The annual subscription is still just £5 per household. For payment by cheque or cash, please drop into Skinners Newsagents/Post Office in Avenue Parade, or Twirltour Travel in Green Street

Via Paypal

This can be done on the website www.losra.org.

Life Membership

There is also the option of Life Membership of £100 with a one-off payment.

If you are not sure that you are up to date with your payments or you need further information about membership, please contact Shirley Agar, Membership Secretary, on 01932 765517 or by email shirleyagar1@aol.com and we will be pleased to advise. Thank you very much for your continued support.

Membership payment slip 2016 for CHEQUES OR CASH

I wish to pay the annual subscription to LOSRA for £5.00 per household and a donation for £..... (please enter amount, if you would like to make a voluntary donation)

Name/s.

Address

.....Post Code.....

email

Telephone..... Date

Please make cheques payable to LOSRA. Forward to: Shirley Agar, Membership Secretary, 87 Manor Lane, Sunbury on Thames TW16 6JA, or to Skinners or Twirltour, or any Committee Member

AGM2016

Instructions to your Bank or Building Society to Pay by STANDING ORDER

To the manager.....

Bank/Building Society

Address of your bank

.....Postcode.....

Name of account holder (s):

Please make payments to LOSRA at Barclays Bank, Account number: 90581194 Sort Code: 20 4673 detailed below and debit from my/our account:

Your bank account number:.....

Your sort code:.....

Annual membership £5.00:

To be paid on the DDMMYY, then on 1st January annually

Reference: LOSRA

(Please fill with up to three digits of your house number or house name - this will appear on your bank statement)

Signature (s):

Please send this portion to your bank or building society – DO NOT SEND TO LOSRA

Bank Instructions : Please confirm to : The Treasurer, 58 Thames Street, Sunbury on Thames TW166AF