

LOWER SUNBURY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

2017 AGM NEWSLETTER



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

www.losra.org

The Annual General Meeting of the Lower Sunbury Residents' Association will take place at The Riverside Arts Centre, Thames Street, Sunbury, on Wednesday 21st June at 8 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Officers and Committee
6. Update on River Thames Scheme by Justine Glynn of the Environment Agency
7. Presentation by Colin Squire of Sunbury & Shepperton History Society
8. Talk by Kwasi Kwarteng, MP for Spelthorne
9. Open Forum
10. 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.

Spelthorne MP Kwasi Kwarteng is guest speaker at AGM

We have invited Spelthorne's sitting MP Kwasi Kwarteng to come and speak at this year's AGM - it is a few years since he last came and LOSRA have been having some useful meetings with him over the last couple of years.

There are a number of sensitive local issues which are affected by central government policy and strategy, such as development on Green Belt, air pollution, NHS resources and the new Local Plan, so it is a good opportunity to get such insight as is available on these and other matters.

Mr. Kwarteng was obviously invited before the General Election was announced, so his attendance might be affected by the outcome of the election, which is not something on which we can make any comment. Presuming he is elected, we have no idea what the state of affairs might be in the House, or what pressing business might be under discussion or subject to

a vote on that day, so we have placed him towards the end of the Agenda to allow for any delays in his arrival.

In order to ensure that we have an interesting and relevant programme for the evening in the event that Mr. Kwarteng cannot get there, we have invited Colin Squire, Chairman of Squires Garden Centres and a long-serving officer of the Sunbury & Shepperton History Society, who is also a Freeman of the Borough of Spelthorne., to give a presentation. It will mainly be devoted to local history topics, and will be tailored to suit the time available.

In addition, Justine Glynn of the Environment Agency will give an update on the River Thames flood relief scheme and related matters, since this is an evolving strategy.

Several local councillors will almost certainly be there, and we are sure it will be busy, interesting and enlightening evening. The bar will be open and we look forward to a good crowd.

Opening hours extended as 'Eco Park' works disrupts Recycling Centre access for six months

Work to build the entrance and internal roads at the so-called Eco Park in Charlton Lane will disrupt access to the Recycling Centre and increase waiting times from April to the end of September.

As a result, opening hours have been extended to 6pm on weekdays - not much use for those who can only get to the site at weekends. As an alternative, the operators helpfully advise that residents that they can use recycling centres at Martyrs Lane, Woking and Lyne Lane, Woking. One hopes they don't ask for proof of residence as they do at Charlton Lane.

Spelthorne aim to reinstate night-time street lighting

In response to Surrey County Council's decision to switch off street lights as a cost-saving measure, Spelthorne have responded to the many complaints they have received, especially from shift workers, by applying to Surrey CC to reinstate lighting for five years on the basis that Spelthorne would find the necessary funds.

This proposal has been referred back to a meeting of the County Council's Cabinet on 30th May. If it is approved a date for night-time lighting to be resumed will be available soon after that date. Once we know that date we will publish it on the web site, and of course you will spot the change when it happens.

Sunbury Embroidery News 'Picnic In The Park Saturday 8th July

This year's Picnic In The Park, organised by the Friends of Sunbury Embroidery, is on Sat. 8th July at 7.00pm in the Walled Garden and features the Panama Café Orchestra (www.panamacafe.co.uk), who were hugely entertaining when they last came. Tickets are £12.50 in advance (£15.00 on the night, £6.00 for under-14s). Organise a party, bring your tables, chairs, and picnic enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the garden as dusk falls.

Friends Of The Embroidery AGM features talk by Dr. Phil Cribb

This year's Friends AGM is on Wed. 12th July at 7.30 at the Gallery, and after short formal business is over, features a talk on Orchids by Dr. Phil Cribb, local expert botanist and naturalist and a Fellow of Kew Royal Botanic Gardens. The Friends are keen to expand membership, and everyone is welcome, so it's an opportunity to come and find out more.

Amended plan for 24 flats on former London Irish site rejected by Planning Committee

Crest Nicholson, the developers of the former London Irish site now known as Park Avenue, applied earlier this year to abandon plans for the last unbuilt four five-bedroom houses and instead build a block of 24 apartments.

New residents who had paid very high prices for houses on the site were naturally unhappy about this, as it would entirely change the character of the development they had bought into, and we also objected, with local councillor Alfred Friday adding his voice at the Planning Committee meeting.

Despite the fact that the planning officers recommended approval, the Committee rejected it on the basis that *"The proposed development, which is in a prominent location when entering the site through the southern access via The Avenue, would, by reason of the location and the scale, massing and height of the building, represent an overdevelopment of the site which would be out of character with and have an unacceptable impact on, the surrounding locality and would fail to make a positive contribution within the street scene, contrary to policy EN1 (a) of the Council's Core Strategy and Policies DPD 2009"*.

Crest Nicholson have six months in which to lodge an appeal.

Sunbury cricketer Toby Roland-Jones makes England debut in ODI v. South Africa at Lord's

On Bank Holiday Monday, Middlesex fast bowler Toby Roland-Jones, who is a member of Sunbury CC and learnt his cricket as a colt there, made his debut for England in a one-day international against South Africa at Lord's.

Coming in to bat at No. 9 after a disastrous collapse, he scored 37 not out, and was second highest scorer, and then took the first South African wicket when he bowled top batsman Hashim Amla. It was an auspicious debut in what was a heavy defeat for England.

He is the second ex-Sunbury colt to play for the full England side, after Richard Johnson, now the Middlesex bowling coach. Wicket-keeper/batsman David Nash, still a Sunbury CC member, played for Middlesex and the England 'A' team and Andrew Poynter, another former Sunbury colt, is in the current Ireland international squad. Toby's brother Oliver is a former club captain and still plays there.

Many congratulations to Toby, his family, and Sunbury CC.

Improvements to Health Centre reception area get under way

If you have visited the Health Centre recently, you may have noticed that things are on the move in the reception area, which has already been enhanced with new furniture (acquired from within the NHS system at no cost) and more relevant wall displays.

The patient records, which were housed in the reception, have been moved out into the container unit which has been installed at the side and rear of the building, and it is carefully screened so does not affect the appearance of the Centre. This means that the structural improvements which have been planned can take place once the funding is in place.

Things are moving, and the Centre management are clearly working hard to improve the patient experience and outcome from every point of view.

Next Patient Participation Group

The next Patient Participation Group (PPG) Open Meeting will be on Monday 19th June 6.30-7.30pm at the Health Centre.

Dr. Gill will give a short presentation on the Nurse Practitioner Service which has recently been introduced.

Staff from the Practice will also give an update on developments at the Health Centre, including the new building works that should finally be under way by the middle of June thanks to financial and planning support from our local and County councillors.

Richard Fryer, Business Manager, will also shed some light on how the massive increase in maintenance charges being imposed by NHS Property Services across the country are affecting the Health Centre.

This is an issue that is finally gaining national press and BMA interest, as these charges could bring some practices to the brink of closure.

There will, of course, be the usual Q & A session to round off the meeting.

LOSRA objects to proposal for a block of flats at junction of Green St. and Manor Lane

LOSRA has objected to a planning application for a development of nine flats with an underground car park on the site of Manor Farm Cottage, a bungalow at the busy junction of Green Street and Manor Lane. Many applications relating to development of single dwellings imply an improvement of the housing stock, but we feel bound to object when a proposal is likely to adversely affect the wider community, and we think this proposal is especially inappropriate and out of proportion.

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 Kemp-ton Park.
- LOSRA successfully 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	Alan Lacey	19 The Pines	07733 003169
Neale Brickwood	16 Lime Crescent	07798 854867	Andy Morgan	4 Parkwood Grove	785184
Colleen Cuthbert (Secretary)	8 Maryland Way	783606	Mark McCartney	2 Forge Mews, Forge Lane	07557 121844
Iain Findlay (Treasurer)	58 Thames Street	783739	Oliver Parr	Orchard House, Thames Street	765229
Peter Francis	Linden Lodge, Woodlands Drive	770661	George Rushbrook	8 Meadows End	788471
John Hirsh (Vice-Chairman)	21 School Walk	07515 637474	Paul Thompson (Chairman)	12 Brackenwood	07788 107500
Neil Huntingford	Summer House, Wheatleys Ait	783761	Paul Watts (President)	87 The Avenue	788449
Pam Ibrahima	36 Maryland Way	07715 808666			

LOSRA Membership for 2017 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 or debit/credit card

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 2017 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

AGM2017

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 46 73 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