

LOWER SUNBURY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

2018 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 20th June at 8 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Officers and Committee
6. Presentation by Ann Biggs, Strategic Planning Manager, Spelthorne Borough Council on the Spelthorne Local Plan
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.

AGM to focus on Spelthorne Local Plan with presentation on progress and key issues by Strategic Planning Manager Ann Biggs

As we have covered at some length in previous newsletters, the process of preparing the new Spelthorne Local Plan, is moving into its key stages, with the Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) (see article on P2) having been published earlier in the year.

A six-week consultation period begins on 14th May into the Issues & Options associated with the first stage of the Plan preparation, which refers to an Evidence Base comprising documents which include the SLAA, the Strategic Housing Market Assessment and the Sustainability Appraisal/Strategic Environment Assessment, all of which can be found on Spelthorne's web site at <https://www.spelthorne.gov.uk/localplan>.

If that all sounds very long-winded and complex, it certainly is, but it's vital that residents understand what's going on and how to influence decisions, because it involves issues like

the potential development of Kempton Park for housing.

With that in mind, we have invited Ann Biggs, Spelthorne's Strategic Planning Manager, to speak at the AGM. She will explain what the Issues & Options Consultation is about, and how residents can influence the process — this is not about specific sites, but addresses 'strategic options' for a general approach as to where development might go. It is an opportunity to have the complex Local Plan process explained, and how we can get involved to make sure that we can all have our say in decisions.

The policies which will eventually be embodied in the Local Plan are crucial to the future development of sites in our area, so it's important that everyone takes a close interest—the AGM is an important chance to find out more.

There are also informal consultations taking place locally on Fri. 25th May at Tesco from 10-12 and on Sat. 2nd June in Avenue Parade, Lower Sunbury.

Local Plan: 'Strategic Land Availability Assessment' identifies sites likely to be developed for housing

As noted in the front page article, one of the key documents in the evidence base behind the Local Plan, the Strategic Land Availability Assessment (SLAA) was published earlier in the year.

It identifies sites which are available to meet the likely housing need identified in an earlier document, the Strategic Housing Market Assessment. The number of new dwellings required annually in Spelthorne is 590, which is obviously a significant increase on the target in the current plan of around 170.

A broad conclusion which can be drawn from the report is that Spelthorne has enough land from identified sites to meet the majority of their needs for the next five years, but that during the next decade they might need to look to Green Belt sites.

This tends to be confirmed by the fact that the Council has commissioned consultants Arup to undertake a Stage 2 Green Belt Assessment, to individually consider the performance of all the sites in the Green Belt put forward under the 'call for sites' exercise within the larger land parcels. This would include Kempton Park.

We asked Spelthorne if they could provide a detailed list of the sites in Lower Sunbury which were identified in the SLAA. These are the sites (it does not include those where development has already begun): SLAA deliverable sites (likely to come

forward in next 5 years):

115 Staines Road West: 20 units, 147 Staines Road West: 20 units, Sunbury Fire Station: 25 units, Tesco Extra, Escot Road: 50 units (mixed use scheme in addition to current use), Old Police Station, 69/71 Staines Road East: 10 units, St Pauls College: 7 units, Rear of Loyola Centre: 6 units, Inglewood Hall, Green Street: 6 units
SLAA developable sites (likely to come forward in years 6:15):
Park House, 17/19 Park Road: 5 units, 12 Park Road: 6 units, Sunbury Adult Education Centre: 15 units, 77 Staines Road East: 45 units, Saxon House, Downside: 7 units, Telephone Exchange, Green Street: 12 units, Ritzbury House, Bridge Foot: 6 units 108 Vicarage Road, 11 units Strata House, Batavia Road: 6 units.

Some of these sites will no doubt involve some controversial issues if and when planning applications are submitted in the future, but at least we know the context in which Spelthorne is likely to be working as far as it affects our local area.

It all underlines the importance of residents being aware of what is going into the Local Plan, so we urge you to take part in the consultation, and the presentation by Ann Biggs at the our AGM is an ideal opportunity to learn more.

Tributes paid to Gerry Ceaser, former Sunbury Councillor, Spelthorne Mayor, and Council Leader

We are sad to report the death of Gerry Ceaser, who was a Sunbury Councillor for over 30 years, served two terms as Mayor of Spelthorne, and was Leader of the Council for two separate two-year periods.

It's fair to say that Gerry did not always see eye-to-eye with LOSRA, but even if we were on different sides of an argument our dealings were always courteous.

It was clear not only from his work as a councillor, but also his involvement in many other voluntary roles that he had the best interests of the community at heart. Among the many hats he wore, he was a Governor of Bishop Wand School, set up and served on local and South East Regional sports bodies, in particular Surrey Sport and Surrey Youth Games, Trustee of the National Association of Clubs for

Young People and Chairman of the Middlesex Young Peoples Clubs.

As a councillor, he was closely involved in the process to secure Orchard Meadow, and after he left the Council, he was Chairman of the Friends of Sunbury Park, for many years running the annual Carols In The Meadow event, and knowing him in these more informal relationships, one came to appreciate his warmth and dry humour, as well as his readiness to offer help wherever he could.

LOSRA was represented at a memorial service which was held at St. Peter's Church, Staines, and attended by around three hundred people from all the many walks of life whose activities Gerry was involved in. We were privileged to be asked to write a brief contribution to the Order Of Service. Gerry will be a sad loss to many strands of Sunbury life.

Planning Inspector rejects appeal for development of flats at 126 Green Street

We are pleased to report that the Planning Inspector has rejected an appeal by the applicant against a decision by Spelthorne Council to refuse permission for a development of seven flats in a 2.5 storey building on the site of Manor Farm Cottage at 126 Green Street, the bungalow on the north side of the junction of Green Street and Manor Lane. LOSRA had submitted a strong and detailed objection to the plan.

His reasons include the impact on the character of the area, the living conditions for occupants in terms of amenity space, the impact on amenity of neighbours, and car parking provision. A link to his full report is available at www.losra.org.

This is good news, although we were disappointed about some lack of robustness on street parking. There is also every possibility that the developer will come back with a revised and scaled-down plan.

Land promoter pursuing development on Green Belt land at Bugle Nurseries

Angle Properties, a land promoter, has been doing a PR job punting the idea of a development of a 78-bed care home and 57 dwellings on the site of Bugle Nurseries on the A244 in Halliford.

The land is strongly performing Green Belt, and is not, as some reports have stated, a "brownfield" site. There are unauthorised activities on the site, and it is unsightly, but that cannot justify accepting the thin end of the wedge of building houses on local Green Belt, so beware such siren voices.

Spelthorne tell us that, contrary to the PR stories, they do not support the idea. There will no doubt be a planning application in due course.

Cows return to Sunbury Park for the summer

Cattle were re-introduced to Sunbury Park in late April as part of the management programme for the Park, primarily to help improve the biodiversity of the grassland. They do this by keeping rank grasses down, and through their grazing habit, exposing patches of earth which wild flowers and herbs are able to colonise more easily.

There are eleven of them this year, one fewer than last year, and they seem a bit smaller than before. They will be here until October. Inevitably, it's a long-term process to change the health of the grassland, but the technique seems to be having a positive effect. We trust that residents will continue to use and enjoy the Park while the cattle are, in turn, enjoying their stay.

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 are closely involved in the consultation process on the Local Plan and will seek to influence in accordance with the Association's objectives.
- LOSRA opposed the Council's original decision to demolish the Benwell Community Centre.
- It has supported individuals and groups within the area in their opposition to the over-development of sites including the old London Irish RFC site, Lendy Place on Green Street and the old Environment Agency Works on Fordbridge Road.
- 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
Colleen Cuthbert (Secretary)	8 Maryland Way	783606	Mark McCartney	2 Forge Mews, Forge Lane	
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
Alan Lacey	19 The Pines	07733 003169			

LOSRA Membership for 2018 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 2018 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

AGM2018

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 D D M M Y Y , 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