

LOWER SUNBURY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION 2011 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 22nd June at 8 p.m.

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 2010 AGM
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Proposed amendment to constitution to introduce life membership status
6. Election of officers
7. Talk by Kwasi Kwarteng, MP for Spelthorne
8. Report by Robert Shaw, Chairman of Sunbury Embroidery Group
9. Open Forum
10. Any other business

Please note that we do not circulate the Minutes of last year's AGM or the audited accounts with this notice, because to do so would incur 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 copies of the documents in advance of the meeting, please contact Colleen Cuthbert, LOSRA Secretary, whose details are on the back of this newsletter.

Spelthorne's MP Kwasi Kwarteng makes return visit to the LOSRA AGM

As always, we like to have a special guest at our Annual General Meetings in order to provide residents with an extra reason for making the effort to attend. We were very fortunate last year to have Spelthorne's newly-elected MP Kwasi Kwarteng come to our AGM just a few weeks after the General Election.

This year Mr. Kwarteng contacted us and asked if he could attend again, since with a year's further experience of representing the constituency in the House he feels that there are some greater insights and points of interest on which he can report, as well as having a wider background on which to answer questions.

We were naturally very happy to accommodate Mr. Kwarteng, who as a member of the Select Committee on Transport, will no doubt be able to deal with any questions residents may have on questions of local rail infrastructure, Heathrow Airport development and measures to address traffic congestion, along with any other topics of interest.

We arranged the AGM to take place on one of the dates when Mr Kwarteng told us he was free, but of course, there is no way of predicting what business will be going on in the House of Commons that he

may be required to attend, but we are naturally hopeful that he will be available to come to our meeting.

It is very positive that our MP is keen to keep in touch with the grassroots within the constituency, so we look forward to a good turnout to welcome him once more.

Proposed amendment to LOSRA constitution to introduce life membership option to be proposed at AGM

An amendment to the LOSRA constitution is being put forward at the AGM in order to provide for an option for residents to subscribe to the Association on a life membership basis.

The amendment being proposed is as follows: "The following wording shall be added to the clause dealing with subscriptions: 'As an alternative to paying a subscription on an annual basis, a household may subscribe to life membership, for which the sum payable will be £100.'"

This is being done in order to provide residents with flexibility to subscribe in different ways, and to reduce the Association's reliance on annual fund-raising efforts.

London Irish Public Inquiry begins on Tuesday June 7th. Please attend to demonstrate our opposition

The Public Inquiry into the appeal by London Irish Holdings against the refusal of their applications to build 192 houses on their site in The Avenue and develop a training facility and amateur club base on Hazelwood Golf Course begins on Tuesday 7th June at 10am in the Council Chamber at Knowle Green.

Twelve days during June have been allocated to the proceedings which will consider both issues together.

LOSRA, along with the action groups HAG and SOLID, is presenting the residents' case under Rule 6 representation, and

will be fielding a number of witnesses, with our case being led by LOSRA Chairman, John Hirsh. A huge amount of work has gone into preparing our evidence and, as those who attended the packed public meeting in St. Mary's Church Hall on 12th May will know, we feel we have a strong case.

Public attendance at Inquiries is important in demonstrating to the Inspector how strongly residents feel about the issue, so please try to attend during the Inquiry. Please arrive early on the first day to put on a strong show outside the Council offices.

Planning Committee to consider EcoPark application postponed again until June

In the last newsletter we reported that as a result of legal submissions made by LOSRA and the residents' groups from Shepperton and Charlton village, and along with concerns expressed by the Health & Safety Executive, the meeting of Surrey County Council's Planning and Regulatory Committee to consider the proposal for a gasification plant at a so-called "EcoPark" in Charlton Lane had been postponed.

That meeting has since been rescheduled but subsequently postponed yet again. It has currently been rescheduled to take place on Thursday 30th June.

Meanwhile SITA has submitted to SCC further environmental information and has amended its application for planning permission, details of which can be viewed at Spelthorne B.C offices in Knowle Green. We will be publishing further commentary on this on the LOSRA website once our experts have examined it.

The basic objections will almost certainly remain unchanged, in that the safety implications of

such unproven technology being deployed so close to an area used by the public have not been taken into account, and the authority has not properly investigated the suitability of alternative sites.

If you have already seen it, the text of the letter sent by our legal experts to SCC is available on the LOSRA web site, and will give you much more detail on the technical issues than we can include here. Any representations about the application should be made to Alan Stones, Planning Development Control Team Manager, SCC by 13th June.

Farmers Market back at Sunbury Cross on Saturday 18th June

After its apparently successful initial appearance in April, the Farmers' Market was back at Sunbury Cross on 14th May and is due there again on Saturday 18th June. Presumably, if this proves successful, this will become a regular feature of the calendar.

A big thank you!

Following the appeal for subscription payments and donations the response has been overwhelming.

The public meeting on the 12th May to explain progress in preparations for the London Irish enquiry generated nearly £1,500 in donations. When taken together with donations made earlier in the year, the total amounts to £2,500. These donations have helped offset continuing costs in evidence preparation and presentation for the London Irish Enquiry and the commissioning of a legal response to Surrey's proposal for the EcoPark.

We are delighted by residents' generous response to this appeal and we thank you for your donation however small. However the call on funds, as these and other processes grind on, remains unabated.

If haven't paid your 2011 subscription yet please do so either using the LOSRA website or by completing the form on the back of this newsletter. Any further donations would obviously be gratefully received.

Sunbury Neighbours Help Scheme needs more volunteers

Drivers and Duty Officers are required to help continue to run this long established Volunteer Help Scheme which organises car journeys for those unable to access their own or public transport, for visits to local Doctors, Hospitals, Shopping Needs, Day Centres, Hairdressers, and various other local trips, as required. Drivers needed on weekdays only, occasionally, and as available, to strengthen our existing team.

Duty Officers, who deal with telephone requests, needed 9.30am to 11.30am occasional weekdays only, as available, to organise the above lifts with Drivers, from their home phone. Contributions to car and phone costs are made periodically. For further details on how the scheme works please phone John (01932 784432) or David (01932 785197) anytime for an informal chat.

LOSRA obliged to object to unsubstantiated claim in local candidate's election literature

With some reluctance, LOSRA found it necessary to become involved in the recent local elections, after Adam Shire, a Conservative candidate in Sunbury East ward, claimed in his election literature that he had "recently published an article in the Lower Sunbury Residents' Association newsletter".

The statement was, quite simply, not true. LOSRA is, of course, strictly an apolitical organisation, and this claim could easily have prejudiced the perception of LOSRA's political impartiality, quite apart from possibly persuading voters to support a candidate with apparent close connections to LOSRA.

We complained to Mr. Shire, who apologised, but did not provide, as requested, an explanation of his reasons for making the statement, nor did he offer any response to our request that the electorate should be informed of the inaccuracy of his

claim prior to the election.

We drew the matter to the attention of Spelthorne's Chief Executive, Roberto Tambini, highlighting the possibility that the due process of the election could be compromised. Having immediately consulted the Electoral Commission, he advised that there was no appropriate action which the Returning Officer should take. We are grateful to Mr. Tambini for his speedy response. We had already satisfied ourselves that no criminal offence had been committed under the Representation of the People Act, although Mr. Shire had clearly not observed the advice in the 'Guidance for Candidates' leaflet that the permission of individuals and organisations should be secured before reference is made to them in election literature.

On this basis, we felt obliged to publish a notice on our web site and in the e-bulletin drawing residents'

A long saga ends as Planning Committee approves revised plan for 72 The Avenue

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the revised plan submitted for 72 The Avenue went to the April meeting of Spelthorne's Planning Committee, and was duly approved.

The plan provides for the existing house to be extended within its existing curtilage, remaining as a 4-bedroom house. This is a source of great relief to the neighbours who, with assistance from LOSRA, fought a long battle against successive applications to build two houses on the site. It is also good news for the community, in that the current street-scene along Hawke Park will be unaffected.

As we noted, this is a victory for common sense, with the Planning Committee and Planning Inspector taking sensible decisions, which should guide Planning Officers in considering similar plans.

Spelthorne consults residents on dog control order proposal

Spelthorne Council are considering introducing a Dog Control order across the Borough, and are asking residents for their views.

The order, designed to deal with a perceived growing problem of dog fouling which is not being adequately addressed by voluntary means, would create a criminal offence for allowing dogs to foul playgrounds or failing to clear up after a dog fouls a park or pavement. The offence would be punishable by a fixed penalty notice issued by a Warden or prosecution in a magistrates court. A full copy of the proposal is available on our website.

If you wish to submit comments on the proposal, you should send them to Julia Sibley, Project Support Officer, Spelthorne Borough Council, Knowle Green, Staines TW18 1XB, or be e-mail to j.sibley@spelthorne.gov.uk.

attention to the situation in advance of the election.

Having pressed Mr. Shire further to explain his claim, we received an e-mail from Cllr. John Packman, leader of Spelthorne Council, offering profuse apologies, but offering no explanation other than ascribing it to the candidate's lack of experience. He also felt that LOSRA's reputation was such that the result would not be affected.

In the event, Mr. Shire failed to be elected by just two votes, the only Conservative in Sunbury East not to get in. As a fairly remarkable footnote to this, Mr. Packman was himself voted out of Ashford Central ward, beaten by the former Mayor, Caroline Spencer, who had been deselected by the Conservative Party and was standing as an Independent.

It was sad that we felt this action was necessary, and also that we did not receive a full explanation of the candidate's claim.

However, we congratulate all the local candidates who were elected to the Council, and look forward to working positively with them for the benefit of the community during their term of office.

Housing development likely as Police College goes up for sale

The Police College on the corner of Thames Street and Green Street, which has been vacant and boarded up since October, is up for sale. The Head of Planning Policy for Spelthorne Borough has met the Metropolitan Police and their agents to explain the planning issues relating to the site and has emphasised the high quality that would be required in any development. The marketing is making it clear that residential potential would be the most appropriate future use of the site.

It is understood that the Metropolitan Police are looking to sell the freehold and it is expected that any sale will take place over the coming months. Assuming that the site is bought for redevelopment rather than using the building as it is, we should expect the future owners to bring forward proposals to the Local Planning Authority from late summer/autumn onwards.

Tony Kinsey to premiere new composition at exclusive Embroidery Gallery concert on Sat. June 18th. Tickets now on sale.

The Sunbury Embroidery is staging the first concert of its kind in the Gallery on Saturday 18th June at 7.30pm, when Tony Kinsey, Sunbury's resident jazz luminary, is presenting the premiere of a new composition, his 2nd String Quartet.

The work, along with a selection of popular pieces, will be performed by the Quartet Pro Musica led by Patrick Halling, whose CV encompasses leading the string section on the "live" TV recording of The Beatles "All You Need Is Love" and numerous film, TV and recording projects, as well as an illustrious career performing chamber music.

Tickets are obviously strictly limited because of the Gallery capacity, and this will be a very exclusive event. Tickets are £25.00, including canapés and drinks in the interval, and are available from the Embroidery Gallery.

This promises to be a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable event in the delightful surroundings of the Gallery, and we would expect tickets to be in demand.

THE LOSRA COMMITTEE

David Banks	38 Kenton Avenue	789652
Pamela Cabannes-Barrall	4 Forge Mews	761131
Elleke Carling	3 Croysdale Avenue	882726
Ziz Coltart	161 The Avenue	782277
Tessa Cook	125 The Avenue	700264
Don Cunningham	2 Parkwood Grove	889033
Colleen Cuthbert (Secretary)	8 Maryland Way	783606
Peter Francis	Linden Lodge, Woodlands Drive	770661
Jenny Grant	Riverbank, The Creek	780682
Roger Harding (Treasurer)	Sunmead Cottage, Green Street	782744
John Hirsh (Chairman)	21 School Walk	781363
George Rushbrook		788471
Candy Story	38 French Street	
Paul Watts (President)	87 The Avenue	788449
Chris Wills		
David Woods	47 Sunna Gardens	786806

**Summer events to enjoy in Lower Sunbury
Open Gardens Day: Sunday 26th June
Picnic in the Park: Saturday July 9th**

Familiar events which we know many local people look forward to and which are now a fixture of summer weekends in Lower Sunbury are taking place again this year.

The Open Gardens Day takes place on Sunday 26th June, with six local domestic gardens being opened by their owners for the day between 11am and 5pm. Programmes which give entry to the gardens will be available for £4.00 in advance or £5.00 on the day from Skinners Newsagents in Avenue Parade and the Embroidery Gallery. There will also be a raffle, lunches in the Church Hall and a children's competition. Full details are on the web site at www.sunburyopengardens.co.uk.

The Picnic in the Park event, organised by Friends of Sunbury Embroidery, takes place on Saturday 9th July in the Walled Garden at 7pm, with gates opening at 6.15pm for people to set up and enjoy their picnics. This year's concert features the Panama Cafe Orchestra, with "nostalgia, wit and authentic sounds of the 20s & 30s" (www.panamacafe.co.uk). Tickets are £12.50 (£6.00 for under 12s) from the Embroidery Gallery.

Familiar Sunbury businesses change hands as local business stalwarts Laurie Maskall and Irving Child retire

Two long-standing local business figures have retired, with Laurie Maskall, whose men's outfitters and dress hire shop in Avenue Parade has been a village fixture for many years, and Irving Child of Saul Irving hairdressers in Thames Street, both deciding they deserve a quieter life.

Laurie's son Anthony will be opening a new business elsewhere, and we understand that the new occupant of Laurie's shop will be carrying on a similar business. Irving is still in situ as we go to press but he expects to pass on the hairdressing business to new owners any day now.

Lower Sunbury Business Community and other local organisations hosted a party for Laurie after their last meeting at the Embroidery Gallery. We would like to thank both Laurie and Irving for their many years of service to the community and wish them well in their retirement.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

If you have not paid your subscription for this year, could you please help us by paying your subscription either by credit card using the secure PayPal facility on our website at www.losra.org or by dropping your subscription in to one of our two collection points using the tear-off slip below. You can deliver it to either of the following shops : Skinners Newsagents/Post office in Avenue Parade; Twirltour Travel in Green Street. Our thanks to these businesses for their help in providing this service. As advised in our previous newsletters, the subscription increased to £5.00 from the beginning of January 2008.

Please find enclosed my annual subscription of £5.00 for family membership of the Lower Sunbury Residents' Association for the calendar year 2011. In addition, I would like to make a donation of £..... (AGM11

Name:..... Address :
..... Tel. no. : E-mail address.....