

LOWER SUNBURY RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

2022 AUTUMN NEWSLETTER



www.LOSRA.org

LOSRA celebrates its 50th anniversary!

Join us at a social evening at Sunbury Cricket Club on Thursday 20th October

This year LOSRA celebrates its 50th anniversary, which is a fairly significant landmark, and we felt we could not let the occasion go by without taking the opportunity to join with interested local residents to share that celebration.

Rather than do something formal and structured, we decided it would be more appropriate to simply have a social evening where people can come along for a drink, something to eat and a chance to chat with present and past members of the Committee and with others who support what LOSRA does.

So on Thursday 20th October, anyone who wants to come is invited to join us at Sunbury Cricket Club in Lower Hampton Road at any time between 6pm and 10pm, and spend as much time with us as you wish.

The bar will be open for you to buy drinks, and we will be offering hot food at no cost supplied by the resident caterers Surplus To Supper. We thought this was preferable to a cold buffet, so Surplus To Supper will be preparing a couple of dishes, possibly a curry and a lasagne, for you to enjoy.

Obviously all residents are welcome, but we are particularly keen that past Committee members, our newsletter deliverers, representatives of other local groups like Sunbury Embroidery, Riverside Arts Centre and Friends Of Sunbury Park, local councillors past and present, and others with current or past connections, obviously including current members, should come and join us.

The room will have tables where people can sit and eat and chat, and there will be 'live' music by the Riverside Jazz Trio at times during the evening.

Those who have not paid their 2022 subscription, and are not current members are of course, also very welcome to join us, but be prepared to have someone do a modest selling job, and ask you if you would like to stump up a £5.00 subscription for this year!

Please tell us you're coming

It's not essential, but it would be helpful if you could tell us you are intending to come. Please e-mail:

losra50anniv@btinternet.com

And tell us your name (address would also be useful) and how many are coming. (There will be no reply.) If you don't have access to e-mail don't worry. It's only to give us a guide to numbers.

We hope it will be an enjoyable and lively occasion and that you will feel it is an occasion well worth celebrating.

For those who are maybe new to the community and are not aware of the origins and background of Lower Sunbury Residents' Association, here is a bit of history.

The Association was founded in 1972 with the primary purpose of opposing what was then called TP26, which was a scheme that involved a by-pass road, along the line of what is now Hawke Park, from Staines Road East right through the residential area and across what is now Hazlewood, to link up with the wider road network.

The existing local residents' group, The Sunbury Society, broadly supported the scheme, and the founding Chairman and Secretary of LOSRA, Pat Curran and Frank Burman, both sadly no longer with us, felt that a group was needed to campaign to get what was an outdated and inappropriate scheme abandoned.

Their sterling work, continued by the officers who took over the reins as years went by, finally succeeded not only in having the scheme dropped, but helped prevent building on the land, and persuaded Surrey and Spelthorne Councils to designate the land as public open space, eventually passing into Spelthorne's ownership to become Hawke Park, which is a huge community asset.

LOSRA soon took on a broader remit, seeking to protect the local environment and quality of life, both by opposing inappropriate development and promoting positive initiatives.

One site which was a key focus in those early days was Orchard Meadow, then owned by a local developer, who wanted to build on it, as did subsequent owners. After resisting several such proposals over the years, LOSRA's efforts helped persuade Spelthorne Council to acquire the land and designate it as public open space in the form of a village green.

The association has fought many battles over the years with varying degrees of success, far too many and complex to recount here, although those who read our newsletters will be familiar with many of them.

For those keen to know more, and perhaps to get involved in helping with our work, we will have our displays in place on 20th October event, which set out our aims and objectives, and give some details of issues where we campaigned successfully on behalf of Lower Sunbury residents.

After 50 years of such activity, we hope that LOSRA has established a role and a reputation in the community, which has also made it a respected organisation within the corridors of local government.

Please come and join us to help celebrate those first 50 years .

Local Plan consultation has ended and LOSRA has made its submissions

The Local Plan is so important to the future shape of Spelthorne, and particularly Lower Sunbury, that we are anxious that everyone is kept in touch with the process and is aware of what happens next.

LOSRA examined the Plan which Spelthorne proposed to submit to the Planning Inspector, and duly made its submissions on issues where we wished to make comments.

We think it important that everyone knows what we said, so our response is set out below:

Representation on the Draft Spelthorne Local Plan 2022-2037 Pre- Submission. By LOSRA (Lower Sunbury Residents Association)

“LOSRA is a long established (50 yrs) and well-respected residents’ association. The Association’s purpose is to optimise and enhance the quality of life for Lower Sunbury residents and one of our key strategies and objectives is to “press for the preservation and extension of Green Belt and public open space”. See <https://www.losra.org/about-losra/losras-aims>

In preparing this submission, we have collaborated closely with Keep Kempton Green, whose principal objective is to defend Kempton Park, rated Strongly Performing Green Belt, against any possible residential development now or in the future, and we have shared legal advice. LOSRA strongly supports KKG’s submission.

There are currently in the order of 4,500 households in the Lower Sunbury area. The Draft Local Plan would increase the number of households in the area by some 770, of which some 270 would be on five separate Green Belt sites totalling approx. 8.5 hectares of existing Green Belt land.

Despite the Association’s concern and general opposition to any Green Belt land being proposed for development, the Association appreciates and understands the serious problems that the Borough has had in trying to accommodate the ridiculous and out of date housing target of 618dpa set by Central Government.

As stated in the Foreword to the Draft Local Plan, that Standard Method uses household growth projections almost a decade old. If subsequent projections were used, the 618 figure would be reduced to 347 per annum – 44 per cent lower. The Standard Method therefore hugely overstates the housing need in Spelthorne.

Also, as set out in the Foreword, to achieve the 618 figure has required very difficult compromises across the Borough. The sentiments expressed in the

Foreword accurately encapsulate those felt by residents throughout the Borough. The Association agrees with the views as expressed in the Foreword.

The Association has never supported the development of our precious Green Belt and the proposals contained within the draft plan are inimical to our published objectives.

Nevertheless, if the impossibly high figure of 618 dpa is to be achieved we have no option but to accept that modest sacrifices are required to be made, and in the spirit of that compromise and with the urgent need to get an approved Local Plan on the statute books the Association is prepared to support the Local Plan as set out in the Pre-Submission.

We believe, as set out in the IDP, that there are still some unresolved infrastructure issues, particularly related to financing the extra burden the additional population will put on health, education, social services and transport.

Lower Sunbury has felt the burden of substantial cumulative development over the past decade or so, none of which has been mitigated by the provision of extra healthcare, educational or other infrastructural facilities, with the result that, for example, the Sunbury Health Centre is one of the most over-subscribed health centres in England; one particularly large development resulted in the loss of a very large public open space in the centre of the village; and there has been growing pressure on school places in Sunbury.

In Lower Sunbury alone the additional households will likely result in an increase in population of some 1,800 – nearly a 20% increase over the plan period. That excludes coping with the additional numbers who will be using the schools and health facilities in Lower Sunbury from other areas.

The proposed 6th Form College, whilst a welcome development from the perspective of the provision of additional choice for pupils from the local area, is likely to attract additional traffic at peak periods.

However, so far as we can assess from the information available, we believe the plan to be sustainable and as stated above support it.

There have been various attempts/approaches by developers to try to obtain planning approval for housing developments on larger Green Belt sites in Lower Sunbury, both at Kempton Park and at Stratton Road.

Development of either of these two sites would have a much more significant impact in terms of loss of Green Belt land and infrastructure requirements – in the case of Kempton Park specifically, the additional traffic that any development would impose on the already overburdened A308 in both directions towards Hampton Court and Sunbury Cross/Staines would be intolerable.

No evidence has ever been produced to show that this could be mitigated. The Association and other local residents’ groups would very strongly oppose the development of either of these two sites. If, as undoubtably they will, either of the sites are promoted by developers at the Examination in public, the Association would ask that we be given the opportunity to set out its views to the Inspector.”

Next steps

The public consultation concluded on 19th September and now we must simply await the announcement of a date for the Examination in Public (which may be many weeks away yet). The Examination will be a series of open public sessions which members of the public can attend and observe.

At the Examination, officers and expert consultants appointed by the Council will be questioned by the inspector on how the Local Plan meets the tests of soundness.

It is usual for developers and landowners to attend, often legally represented by a barrister, to speak in favour of or oppose elements of the plan. The Council will also be represented by a barrister. There are often complex legal and technical points to be made and defended.

Appearing at the Examination

Members of the public and residents’ associations who made representations during the Reg. 19 consultation will be asked if they wish to appear at the Examination in person and speak to the Planning Inspector directly on issues of importance to them.

Inspector’s report

Following the Examination, the inspector will issue a report to set out whether the plan can be recommended for adoption and if not, what needs to be changed in order for it to be found sound.

Once this has taken place, all Members of the Council will be asked to adopt the plan at a formal meeting. If adopted, the policies in the Local Plan and the Staines Development Framework will carry full weight and supersede former policies in older documents.

Dates of the EIP

We will publish details of when the Examination In Public is taking place on our website and in the next newsletter if the timing is appropriate, so that anyone who wants to go and observe the proceedings can arrange to do so.

It is crucial that the Borough has the right plan in place to prevent predatory planning applications, so the next stages in the process are of huge importance.

Lower Sunbury Christmas Market: Thursday 8th December 5pm-8pm

The weather has started to get distinctly chilly, and the winter months are already looming, and so of course is Christmas! Would you believe that even before the end of September Christmas displays (and music!) are already in evidence in some of the big stores.

With that in mind, we are happy to announce that our friends at the Lower Sunbury Business Community are, once again, organising The Sunbury Christmas Market. The date set is Thursday, 8th December from 5pm - 8pm, the event to be held outside the shops at Avenue Parade (TW16 5HS). Please put the date in your diary.

There will be 30 stalls, including arts and crafts, Christmas gifts, artisan food/drink and hot takeaway food. Avenue Parade will be lit up with Christmas lights to add to the festive atmosphere.

Entertainment for the children will include Santa's grotto, a teacup fair ride and Christmas-themed games stalls. We

also hope that Dennis, at Van Wonderen flowers, will be putting on his Christmas window display, which seems to become more elaborate and complex every year and is an absolute delight to behold!

The Salvation Army's brass band are planning to make their annual appearance to play Christmas carols, with carol booklets provided for those who want to sing along.

The event usually attracts hundreds of locals, who come to enjoy a fun, festive and family-oriented evening, and everyone always has a good time whatever the weather.

LoSRA will have a stall at the event and we look forward to welcoming new and existing members.

The market still has a few stalls to fill, so if you have something special to add to the event, please contact johncairey@active-edge.co.uk

LOSRA in touch with police over concerns about crime and anti- social behaviour

Residents who live in the vicinity of the Orchard Meadow car park will be all too well aware of the criminal incidents which seem to take place there with increasing regularity.

Cars being broken into, what looks suspiciously like drug dealing, and, more recently, a resident walking with dog and autistic son was assaulted by two masked youths on electric scooters. These youths have been spotted elsewhere in the area, but so far have not been apprehended.

Another issue causing annoyance to local residents is the regularity with which car drivers park on the double yellow lines on both sides of the road at the bottom of the Avenue near the junction with Thames Street.

This restricts traffic flow and in some people's view contributes to an increasingly threatening atmosphere in the locality. We understand that as a result of local pressure the closing time of the White Horse pub has changed from midnight to 11pm.

LOSRA has raised these issues with the Borough Commander, who has told us that investigation into the assault is ongoing, writing that they "are dealing with all reports of masked individuals on scooters very seriously", and that they are "very pro-active in ensuring that these cases are followed up".

At the time of writing, no specific response has been forthcoming with regard to the car park issues, including whether or not the CCTV is actually working or monitored.

LOSRA has also taken these issues up with Buddhi Weerasinghe, our County Councillor, who is trying to arrange a meeting with the Police & Crime Commissioner and Borough Commander, to see what action can be taken to bring about an improvement.

In the meantime Spelthorne have announced a consultation on whether to implement a borough-wide Public Space Protection Order to tackle anti-social behaviour. The full story is at <https://spelthorne.inconsult.uk/StainesPSPO/consultationHome>

We will report on progress through the LOSRA website – if you haven't already done so, you can sign up for our weekly e-bulletin at www.losra.org

The Borough Commander will be attending LOSRA's Committee meeting on 13th December, so if you have issues you would like us to raise with her, please contact a LOSRA Committee member – details are on P4.

Jury is out regarding noise nuisance from Apps Court music events

There has been a fairly regular programme of music events during the summer at Apps Court Farm, directly across the river from Lower Sunbury in Walton.

Most of the events have lasted a whole weekend, occupying Friday evening, plus all day and evening on Saturday and Sunday, so there has been plenty of opportunity to assess the level of noise intrusion, or otherwise, in our area.

We know that Spelthorne have deployed noise monitors at various points and times of day along the Sunbury riverside, apparently with 'phone access to the event producers to advise them if the noise levels were exceeding permitted limits.

LOSRA has maintained something of a watching brief on this issue, knowing that one or two events last year caused considerable nuisance, but also conscious that these are events which are enjoyed by large numbers of people, including Sunbury residents, and there is no reason to oppose them for the sake of it, if the impact they have is broadly tolerable.

We took the view that it would make sense to see how things panned out across the summer, and then take a view regarding future events, depending on how intense a programme of events the promoters might be planning for 2023.

It's fair to say that the experience has been mixed, varying from day to day, event to event, where you are in relation to the river, and indeed the prevailing wind. As far as the last point goes, the Tribute band festival on the last weekend in September took place when there was brisk

north or north-west wind all weekend, and the noise was mostly carried towards Walton and Molesey.

Most of the problems seemed to be caused by the dance-flavoured music where the thump-thump of the bass was often particularly noticeable and pretty tedious, even a fair distance away.

Inevitably, most negative comments came from people living close to the river, although some riverside residents reported only a modest level of intrusion. However, one or two further away from the river reported being affected.

There was also one weekend where an event at Apps Court coincided with a music event at Kempton Park, and on this occasion it can be reported that at Sunbury Cricket Club, close to the river, the noise from Kempton Park was more noticeable than from Apps Court.

What is interesting is that the clientele of the events locally is by no means restricted to younger age groups. One or two regulars at the Cricket Club Music Nights, who tend to be of a certain age, reported going across on the ferry to the Tribute Bands event and having a very enjoyable time.

So the jury is out, and it's by no means clear that there is a compelling case to adopt a negative attitude. However, we have the winter to take stock, so if people have strong views either way, and maybe also have relevant experience to report, it would be helpful to hear from you, so that we can frame our stance accordingly.

Friends of Sunbury Park **Illustrated guides for Birds, Butterflies, Flowers & Grasses and Trees now available**

We mentioned earlier in the year the range of informative booklets about the flora and fauna of Sunbury Park, Orchard Meadow and Hawke Parke which The Friends of Sunbury Park are producing, and which are available to buy in the Embroidery Gallery and Skinners Newsagents in Avenue Parade.

With the recent additions, there are now four booklets available, all with beautiful colour illustrations, with guides about Birds, Butterflies, Flowers & Grasses and Trees. The Birds, Butterflies and Flowers & Grasses booklets are £3.00 each and the Trees booklet, which is particularly substantial, running to 48 pages, is £5.00, a testament to how many extremely interesting trees there are in Sunbury Park. As a special offer, you can buy all four of the booklets for an inclusive price of £12.00 instead of £14.00.

The booklets would make ideal stocking-filler Christmas presents, offering something which will enable recipients of all ages, families in particular, to get more enjoyment and interest from the Park throughout the year by being able to appreciate the plants and wildlife. and make the most of this priceless local asset.

Temporary closure of woodland path

Park users will be aware that the path through the woodland between the ha-ha and Thames Street has been closed for a week or two. This is to allow the work to be undertaken to repair the wall adjoining Thames Street, which was in danger of collapse, involving the removal of trees and the digging out of a deep hole to gain access. Well done to Spelthorne for getting the work done as soon as the problem became obvious. The woodland area will be opened up again as soon as the wall is repaired.

THE LOSRA COMMITTEE

John Carey	07801 635106
Colleen Cuthbert (Secretary & Membership Secretary)	
8 Maryland Way, TW16 6HR	01932 783606
Iain Findlay (Treasurer) 58 Thames Street	01932 783739
John Hirsh (Vice-Chairman) 21 School Walk	07515 637474
Neil Huntingford Summer House, Wheatleys Ait	01932 783761
Chris Hyde 29 Queensway	07854 147935
Oliver Parr Orchard House, Thames Street	01932 765229
Stacey Pinto 37 Sutherland Avenue	07894 834277
Nigel Spooner 36 Kingsmead Avenue	07887 898874
Paul Thompson (Chairman) 12 Brackenwood	07788 107500
Sebastian Usher 1 The Avenue	07879 624108
Paul Watts (President) 87 The Avenue	01932 788449

LOSRA to beef up its social media presence via Twitter

As part of a move to be able to respond more quickly to issues and events in Lower Sunbury, LOSRA is freshening up its social media presence.

We plan to use its existing Twitter feed to tackle issues that residents find most pressing, and aim to build more direct engagement with the local community, as well as being able to call officials to account.

In order to do this, we need to hear from people about what is affecting them in the neighbourhood - both positively and negatively. LOSRA wants to celebrate all the good things about the village, but also to be as active as it can in helping remedy problems that concern residents.

If there is an event to be publicised or an issue that needs to be brought to wider attention, please let us know.

We feel that there is scope for bringing the community closer together to resolve problems or simply enhance the experience of living in Lower Sunbury.

By the way, if you follow us on Twitter, we will follow you back.

The address is @Losradotorg.

Please help by paying your 2022 LOSRA subscription

Although we have been rather more visible this year, with a full newsletter programme, and a presence at the Regatta, it's taking a while to get back up to speed with gathering subscriptions.

We've got one or two chances coming up to collect from you in person at the 50th Anniversary event at the Christmas Market, but if you haven't paid a subscription for 2022, it would help us greatly if you could do so using one of the methods set out below.

LOSRA MEMBERSHIP FOR 2022 PAYMENT OPTIONS

By Standing Order

You may pay by setting up a standing order with your bank. Please make payments to Lower Sunbury Residents Association at Barclays Bank, Account number: 90581194 Sort Code: 20 46 73. Subsequent payments to be made on 1st January each year.

Please use LOSRA with your house number and post code as a reference.

By cheque or cash

The annual subscription is still just £5 per household and voluntary donations are always welcome. For payment by cheque or cash, please use the form below and deliver to Colleen Cuthbert, Membership Secretary, 8 Maryland Way TW16 6JHR or any other committee member as listed. Alternatively drop your payment into Skinners Newsagents/Post Office in Avenue Parade, or Twirltour Travel in Green Street. Please make cheques payable to Lower Sunbury Residents Association .

Via PayPal

This can be done on the web site at 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 Colleen Cuthbert, Membership Secretary, on 01932 783606 or by email colleen.cuthbert@btinternet.com and we will be pleased to advise.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Membership payment slip 2022 for CHEQUES OR CASH

I wish to pay the annual subscription to LOSRA of £5.00 per household or a Life Subscription of £100.00

I wish to make a donation to LOSRA of £.....

Name/s.

Address

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

email