



Park Langley Residents' Association

To promote and protect the interests of the residents of Park Langley

NEWSLETTER

www.plra.org.uk

SPRING 2020



The PLRA AGM is scheduled to take place on the 14th May 2020.

With the present uncertainty, it is doubtful the AGM will take place on this date. The below notice and the agenda remain relevant with a date to be advised on our PLRA website.

Spring 2020 Newsletter

The **Annual General Meeting** of the Association will take place at **8pm, Thursday, 14th May 2020 at St Peter's Hall, Malmaims Way**

An agenda is printed in this newsletter. Further copies will be available on the night. Your Committee believes it represents the views of the majority of residents on planning, traffic, road safety, visual environment and other matters. However you may have views the Committee has overlooked or possible solutions it has not identified. Please come along on the 14th May, exchange views with fellow residents, elect the officers and members you wish to manage the Association's affairs and let them know your ideas.

PLRA COMMITTEE 2019/2020

Officers

Chair Werner Schlupe 8650 9905 84 Wickham Way
Vice Chair Roger Parry 8658 7233 27 Bushey way
Treasurer Alistair Milliken 8650 1627 34 Elwill Way
Membership Graham Harper 8650 2909 113 Wickham Way
Secretary Janet Newman 8650 0694 71 Whitecroft Way

Members

Elizabeth Barnes 102 Elwill Way 8658 7504 **Litter/Graffiti**
Robert Clegg 39 Overhill Way 8402 4489 **Traffic/Road Safety**
Roger Parry 27 Bushey Way 8658 7233 **Planning**
Graham Pyefinch 19 Whitecroft Way 8658 1413
Jenny Whitehead 22 Wickham Way 8650 1618 **Graffiti**
Fiona Cape 13, Brabourne Rise 8658 2425 **Roads/Pavements**

Ex-Officio (non - voting) Members

Councillor Mary Cooke, 45, Tootswood Road, Shortlands, BR2 0PD
(Tel 3665 0357) mary.cooke@bromley.gov.uk

Councillor Aisha Cuthbert, c/o Members Room Bromley Civic Centre
Stockwell Close Bromley BR1 3UH aisha.cuthbert@bromley.gov.uk

Councillor Mark Brock c/o Members' Room, Bromley Civic Centre
Bromley BR1 3UH. mark.brock@bromley.gov.uk

**If you have any queries, the Committee can be contacted on
mail@plra.org.uk The Committee normally meets on the last Thursday of
each month. It is pleased to consider matters referred to it by residents.
It is also pleased to receive personal representations provided
arrangements have been made in advance.**

Nominations for Officers and Committee Members signed by the proposer and seconder and countersigned by the nominee should be sent to mail@plra.org.uk no later than 10th May 2020. Nomination Forms are available from mail@plra.org.uk and will be sent in Word Format.

Chairman's Report Spring 2020

Writing this during the last week of March in the middle of daily COVID-19 briefings, one cannot be sure what the situation will be when this newsletter is distributed and read. What is written now could be totally irrelevant in a few weeks time, in fact it could be nonsense tomorrow. So little will be said except for our residents being sensible and keeping this virus at bay. A few of our residents have set up volunteer groups to help those who have self isolated with their ordinary needs like shopping or going to the post office. This is now in the process of being set up and lets hope it is successful. However always be cautious – make sure the person helping you is known to yourself or to a PLRA committee member to avoid a scam. There are always people who take advantage of any circumstance to trick people out of their money.

As of now, the Resident Association's Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday the 14th May, but the way things are, this might well be in doubt. The Agenda has nevertheless been included in case St Peters Hall will reopen and life will have returned to normal.

The Residents' Association continues to keep Park Langley as neat and as spacious as possible. There are several new developments on the go where old houses have been demolished and new properties built. This change of street scene has dismayed a number of residents but the new properties built usually enhance the area with their design. A number of extensions have been approved, some causing objections from neighbours. If you are considering extending your house, please be sympathetic – always consider the bulk and the privacy of the surrounding properties.

I have included a statement from Cllr Colin Smith concerning the increase in Council Tax for this year. As apologetic as this statement might be, the Conservative Council together with three Conservative MPs and with a Conservative Government in power, the time should be right to improve Bromley's Government grant from the second lowest of the London Boroughs. A previous newsletter printed Mr Bob Stewart's speech in

Parliament, yet nothing has come as yet. Surely the time is now? It would seem from his letter something might just happen!

Some of the tree pits on our roads in Park Langley let us down through the summer. They are overgrown with weeds and tree suckers. The solution is a difficult one and some ideas are included later.

Werner Schluep

Chair

*I wandered lonely as a cloud, That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd, A host, of golden daffodils;*

William Wordsworth

.

Membership 2019/2020

There are just over 1000 houses in Park Langley and at the time of writing the Association had received 776 subscriptions which is a very healthy figure. Of that 80% were paid by standing order (619) and the remainder (157) by cheque, OnLine or by mobile phone.

The Association's accounting year starts on the 1st April and residents who do not pay by Standing Order will receive a letter inviting them to renew their membership or join for the first time. If you receive one of these letters please be kind enough to respond swiftly.

Remember a Standing Order can only be cancelled by you through your bank. We as an Association cannot cancel the Order on your behalf. Some residents move away and the yearly payments continue and we accept them as donations as we have no authority to cancel them. £5 a year is probably worth the memory of living in Park Langley.

Thank you to all of you who support the Association. If you have any queries concerning matters relating to membership please contact me on 020 8650 2909 or email gandtharper@yahoo.co.uk and I will be pleased to help.

Graham Harper

Membership Secretary

which meets every few months to consider general issues of criminal activity (including anti-social behaviour) in the area. Such issues are then highlighted with the local police.

As a community, we have established a Neighbourhood Watch network (supported by several volunteer and registered NW Co-Ordinators) to give on a regular basis local Police crime updates and advice. This awareness should help us to maintain and increase where necessary our individual security measures; this in turn helps our neighbours because criminals don't see easy pickings in the area as a whole. Being the "eyes and ears" for the Police and reporting criminal activity or suspicious behaviour is important as it builds up a predictive crime map for the Police and therefore ensures that we have adequate Police protection in the right places.

We should always report crime or suspicious behaviour, if actually happening by calling 999 immediately or, if you simply want to make a report on something that has already past, by calling 101. (Whenever you call, always ask for the reference number and make a note of it for future reference to follow up if necessary). Our local Police check these reports every day; they can see where the hotspots are and take appropriate action calling in extra help if need be.

The local team email address is SNMailbox.shortlandsSNT@met.police.uk (tel 0208 721 2614; Mobile 0790233848). If you leave a message, the local team will always call you back as soon as possible.

As well as the advertised local Police contact points (usually weekly), well attended public Shortlands Ward meetings are held regularly every two months when you can meet our local Police Team (even on an informal basis with refreshments afterwards) and help decide local priorities.

Meeting Agendas are sent out (with other news) with the twice monthly emails on local crime and advice updates.

If you would like to be more involved you will be most welcome - please put yourself forward. In any event, if you would like to join the confidential email network, which already has over 300 residents listed, for Police updates and advice, email me on graham658@hotmail.com with

your details (email and postal addresses, name and contact telephone number), *in confidence*, and I will be pleased to include you.

Graham Pyefinch

Chairman, Shortlands Ward Safer Neighbourhood Panel

Email: graham658@hotmail.com

Useful contacts:

Reporting crime using Police website: www.met.police.uk/ro/report
Shortlands Ward local Police Team – email: Shortlands.SNT@met.police.uk

Or tel 0208 721 2614 or mobile 0790233848 (you may have to leave a message but they will get back to you)

Bromley Trading Standards Rapid Response Team: Tel 07903852090

Bromley Council Public Protection: Tel 0300 303 8657 during office hours 8.30am to 5pm, or out of hours Tel 0300 303 8671 (if it concerns noise, the address of the noise source should be given)

Anti-terrorist hotline: Tel 0800 789 321

Stay anonymous – crime stoppers: www.crimestoppers-uk.org Tel 0800 555 111

Action Fraud: www.actionfraud.police.uk Tel 0300 123 2040

Telephone Preference Service (TPS): www.tpsonline.org.uk
Tel 0800 398 893

From the Leader of Bromley Council, Cllr Colin Smith

Dear Resident

May I start by apologising for this year's above inflation increase for council tax and Adult Social Care precept.

This is clearly not something that we take any pleasure whatsoever in passing on to Bromley residents and neither does it serve as any consolation to understand that the vast majority of the capital's other 31 boroughs are presenting the same level of increase to their residents as well. On a far brighter note, the Brexit process' glacially slow process through parliament last year, has served to produce one unexpected and extremely welcome windfall. With virtually all other legislation being delayed at Westminster as a result, the government eventually passed a more favourable one year Local Government settlement for 2020/21, effectively freezing the previously announced 'cuts'.

Although we must take nothing for granted given the temporary nature of

this year's settlement, should the current arrangement be made permanent , in conjunction with a favourable outcome for Bromley from the government's long awaited 'fairer funding' review later this summer, my message, this time next year, could potentially be far more upbeat. All eyes now nervously turn towards this year's impending budget at the time of going to press...

Councillor Colin Smith
Bromley Council Leader

Your bill

The current challenging financial situation means residents will see a 3.91% increase in council tax 2020-21.

This is made up of a 1.99% increase in the Bromley element of the council tax, plus 2.00% precept to help protect Adult Social Care services.

Allowing for the Major of London's Greater London Authority (GLA) increase of 3.61%, the combined effect equates to an increase of £60.07 a year on a Band D property, with other bands calculated pro-rata.

Councillor Colin Smith
Bromley Council Leader



Our Park Langley Street Tree Pits

Driving on our roads in Park Langley, Hayes Way, Elwill Way, Bushey and so on, one cannot fail to notice our street trees and the tree pits they

stand in. Street trees are such an important factor in enhancing the pleasant environment we live in, yet it is such a struggle to maintain both the trees and the pits properly.

As an Association we constantly ask the Council to examine and replace lost and empty tree pits even to the point of submitting a survey (after the strong winds) as well as offering a sizeable donation from our funds to plant new trees. The Council in the meantime have appointed a new contractor and the proposal is work in progress.

Returning to the state of our tree pits through the year. It is doubtful if any of us can feel proud of weed overgrown tree pits and the PLRA always attempts to find a solution.

We ask the Council to manage the tree pits and with stretched budgets, this request for the affluent residents of Park Langley is the lowest of priorities. It is difficult enough to obtain spraying the weeds on our pavements so the best they can do for tree pits is apply the same spray. This turns the pits into unsightly squares of dead weeds.



Our second approach has been to engage gardeners at enhanced rates of pay to go round and clear the worst pits. This has not been successful as gardeners do not fancy parking their van, clearing two

pits and then driving on. Difficult work and they prefer one whole garden to work on. Some residents might remember the PLRA engaging youth offenders but this failed as the youths needed toilets and there were none available. **So the last option remains.** Asking residents to maintain the tree pit in front of their property. This does not mean digging over and planting flowers, but simply spending fifteen minutes cutting down and removing the weeds with gloves. Even cutting suckers from street trees.

This would make a remarkable difference to our community and be well appreciated.

As in previous newsletters, we have asked our residents to write about their experiences.

From Park Langley to Barcelona - the 2019 European Ironman Competition"

The following tale is by Ian Parry who lived for his first 21 years with his parents in Bushey Way. He now lives in Tooting but makes frequent visits back to Park Langley.

On the 06th October 2019, I crossed the finish line in Barcelona after swimming 2.4 miles, cycling 112 miles & running a marathon. I had two finish times, one was 11hrs 20mins, the other was 11 months and 6 days. The second is how long I 'trained' for. I have put trained in quotation marks because I always felt training for an endurance event would be something you do at the detriment of something else. You always read of athletes who don't drink, only eat kale and hit the gym for five hours a day - all of which scare me. So when I signed up for the Ironman I wasn't too sure how I would complete such an event due to the daunting distances facing me. I wasn't even sure I could still swim! So I did the only thing I could think of, I put my running shoes on and went for a run. The next day I cycled to work. The day after that I went to a swimming pool. The distances were always short to begin with but I would incorporate them into my day for the next 11months.



I would see a run home from work as only 10 minutes of exercise as this is how much longer it would take compared to the tube. When my friend in north London had a BBQ, I simply told him I would need to use his shower when I arrived as I was running the 15miles to his. My reward was a fantastic BBQ. I think rewarding yourself for your hard work is something people overlook in their pursuit of greatness.

I would happily knock back 7 pints with my mates after a long bike ride down to Brighton and not feel one ounce of guilt as I was safe in the knowledge I had more miles under my belt than one day earlier. My mind would wander when swimming/cycling/running and I remember thinking that Nikes slogan 'Just do it', is probably the best bit of advice given for anyone wanting to challenge themselves. I didn't get bogged down with the science, I didn't even own a watch, but I would always get out there and just do it. I often thought greatness was reserved for the few, but I have since discovered everyone is capable of greatness, it just depends on if you have the self belief and willingness to put in the hard work to achieve it.

On the day of the event I was understandably nervous when eating spaghetti bolognese at 6am knowing that this was the culmination of a years worth of exercise and worried about what people would think of me if I didn't cross that finish line. I finished 1,365th out of 2,771 finishers (229DNI's). I use to laugh when people said it's the journey that counts and not the destination, but I definitely feel that's the case when training for an endurance event and I would recommend anyone to try one. You'll get more out of it than just a medal.

My Peruvian adventure

In 2010 I set off on my own to Peru as my hubby fell in the snow and hurt his shoulder. I had joined a status 4 trip with Gap Adventures which meant difficult climbing in order to prepare for the 4day Inca trail to Machu Pichu. I joined up with my group in Lima and found I was the oldest in the group - the others being under 35.

We toured Lake Titicaca, visited Taquile Island then stayed with local people on the island of Amanti. We knew that the islanders were poor but they had a lake with an abundance of fish, a horse, a few sheep and grew all their own vegetables plus the quality of air was first class. We then visited the Islas de los Uros – 67 islands made up of reeds and the locals use these for everything they need including boats to get around in.

Next stop Cuzco and coca tea was given to help with altitude sickness but

luckily I was not affected. We all went to a local restaurant and guinea pig was the local delicacy! Pisco sours were the drink of the week. Cuzco is the oldest inhabited city and hub of the South American travel network . Visitors experience an age old culture where Inca built stone walls line most of the central streets and the main ruin is Coricancha once the Inca Empire's richest temple.

Next stop the Sacred Valley of the Incas plus the impressive Pisac ruins. Every day for 6 days we had climbed higher and higher. Many of the heights and drops were horrendous but our local guides were very experienced. At the end of the day we stayed in the picturesque village of Ollantaytambo overlooking the wondrous Urumbamba River Valley. This major site is known as the best surviving example of Inca urban planning and engineering. We then divided up and 8 of our group plus a guide went to walk the 4day Inca Trail to Machu Pichu which they had booked and paid for 6 months beforehand.

Fast forward 3 days where rain had descended on us non stop and we are on a train to Aguas Calientes a town where everyone gathers before taking the bus up to Machu Pichu. The river seemed very high out of the carriage windows and on arrival we were told that the train track had collapsed after us and several bridges were down in the Valley. Next day and it is 7am waiting at the foot of Machu Pichu for our group to arrive through the Sun Gate. By then I was used to hardly any sleep, no wine and lots of water to drink to keep the altitude sickness at bay plus being very fit having climbed so much for a whole week.

It was still raining hard when our group arrived; we then explored the site and spent all morning taking photos waiting for the sun to come out. Then we descended to the local town. On arrival it appeared that landslides had taken out roads, the whole train track had collapsed, airports were closed and we were stuck in the town of Aguas Calientes with no way out. There were hot springs high up in the town and although it was still raining hard we all plunged into them. Then a section of the local restaurants were washed away and those who had been camping locally also disappeared. Suddenly over a tannoy our group were asked by the mayor

to meet in the local football field. All the tourists were herded together and local police asked to see our passports. There was a wire fence all round and we had to stay inside – I felt as if I was in film! We were informed that Peru had only 4 helicopters, the sick would be taken down to Cuzco and the rest of us would have to stay until the army arrived. As my group were all young our guide decided he wanted to walk back to Cuzco – a mere 10 hours walking in the rain plus 8 hours on a bus and the river rising all the time! I gulped but put on a brave face until another more experienced guide said we would all be killed by the landslides! The small number of hotels were all full with American cruise tourists so we camped on the stone floor of a gym underneath the football field with only one toilet and nothing to sleep on!

3 days we stayed there with little food, little water (I had only taken money for a day). On the 4th morning our guide said I would be a very happy lady – people over the age of 65 were allowed to leave! You can imagine the looks from my companions! I was herded into a train where they checked our passports every 3 hours- if married and your wife was younger than you you could not go. 65 and over only. The air was so humid and then we were called and ran like mad to a waiting helicopter. It was terrifying seeing the narrow space for the landing, with water from the rivers rushing past. I just hoped they would clear the huge hills as they took off. Suddenly we were up in an army helicopter and the views were fantastic; we all shouted with joy and eventually landed back at Cuzco. I had to walk for a good hour to my old hotel where a group of reporters were waiting as I was one of the first tourists to come back. I just burst into tears!



PARK LANGLEY GRAPEVINE

The Association cannot itself recommend a particular tradesman. However, we are grateful to residents who have volunteered to share their recommendations with others.(Correct 04/09/2019)

The list is as follows:

Types of service	Resident to Consult	Phone Number
Builder/Carpenter	Craig Wibberley	07803 237539
Bespoke Carpentry	Bob Clegg	8402 4489
Decorator	Fiona Cape	8658 2425
Electrical Work	Mrs Webb	8650 0502
Fencing	Craig Wibberley	07803 237539
Osteopathy	Gill Clegg	8402 4489
Painting/Decorating	Monique Bello	07920 586996
Physiotherapist	Graham Pyefinch	8658 1413
Pest/ VerminControl	Alison Van't Hoff	8650 0698
Plasterer	Pat Cliff	8650 2843
Plaster/Renderer	Monique Bello	07920 586996
Plumber	Pat Cliff	8650 2843
Solicitor	Fiona Cape	8658 2425
Tiler (kitchen/Bathroom)Mike Mann		8650 5613.
Tiler (kitchen/Bathroom)Michael Mead		8650 3888
Window Cleaner	Alison Van't Hoff	8650 0698
Alteration tailoring	Laura Knight	8650 0656
Double Glazing	Werner Schluep	8650 9905

Members making recommendations in the Grapevine are asked to ensure the tradesman understands that it is a personal recommendation and should not be attributed to the Association in any advertisements. **Please advise of any changes to mail@plra.org**

Remember there are websites (www. checkatrade.com and www. trustatrader.com) which offer details of local tradesmen which have been vetted by Bromley Trading Standards.



PARK LANGLEY RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

8 pm Thursday 14th May 2020 St Peters Hall Malmaims Way

Agenda

1. Chairman's Report

2. Minutes of 2018 Annual General Meeting. Copies available in the Hall before the meeting.

3. Treasurer's Report.

- To endorse the Committee's decision to retain the annual subscription at £5.00 per household for the year 2019/2020.

- To appoint an auditor. Audited Statement of Accounts will be available at the meeting.

4. Membership Secretary's Report.

5. Election of Officers and Committee Members

The following appointments are to be made:

Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Association Secretary.

Members 7. Nominations should be received at mail@plra.org.uk no later than three days before the meeting signed by the proposer, seconder and nominee. In accordance with rule 7.3 nominations at the meeting will be acceptable and considered only if vacancies remain to be filled after all nominations have been processed.

6. Planning.

7. Safer Neighbourhood Police

8. Traffic and Road Safety.

9. Environment .

10. Possible talk of 30 minutes of general interest.

11. Any Other Business.

All residents attending will be invited to enjoy a drink afterwards.