

SOUTHBOROUGH NEWS

Newsletter from the Southborough Residents' Association

EDITORIAL CHANGE, AND THANKS TO SUZIE

Suzie Buller has produced the newsletter for some 8 years now and is hanging up her pen. Isobel Porter and Edwina Littleton have flexed their fingers and taken over the task, aided on this first effort by Suzie. So thank you, Suzie for past effort and current assistance. Dear Reader, prepare for Editorial change and 3 mature scribes.

YOUR COMMITTEE, WHO ARE WE AND WHAT DO WE DO?

We are a mature group, mainly retired with the time to spend. In our salad days, we were so busy working we hardly had time to notice what day it was, let alone consider Southborough matters. We benefitted from the work of others and now it is time to pay back.

SOUTHBOROUGH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE 2011/2012

SRA Committee Members

Chairman	Jeremy Porter	8399 2596
Hon. Treasurer	David Edmonds	8399 1612
Planning	David Morgan	8399 1268
Neighbourhood Watch	Edwina Littleton	8399 1444
Conservation	Anne Ivison	8390 5834
Newsletter Editors	Edwina Littleton	8399 1444
	Isobel Porter	8399 2596
Webmaster	John Parry	
Minutes Secretary	Theresa Dovey	
Social Secretary	Rachel Braine	
Special Projects	Margaret Harker, Suzie Buller	
Hon. Solicitor	Keith Howell-Jones	
Hon. Auditor	Laurie Bower	

SRA ROAD REPRESENTATIVES

Corkran Road, Hailsham Close	Isobel Porter & Margaret Harker
Malcolm Drive, Redwood Walk, Dunton Close	Ann Mercer
Southborough Close	David Edmonds
Ashcombe Avenue	Liz Scales
Langley Avenue [up to junction]	Paul Bevan
Langley Avenue [beyond junction]	David Morgan
Southborough Road	Suzie Buller
Ditton Road	Tom O'Donnell
Woodlands Road	Rachel Braine & Theresa Dovey
Sylvan Gardens	
Croylands Drive	Pam de Kare
Upper Brighton Road	Sam Collocott

REFLECTIONS OF SOUTHBOROUGH

This is a book of photographs and stories of Southborough, produced for presentation to Ken Peay by Suzie Buller and Edwina Littleton. To view or purchase the book on-line, the link is on the SRA website.

STREET TREES

Leon Parry, the RBK Tree Officer, has been most helpful in identifying the sites and types for new trees. The Big Tree Plant is a scheme to provide matched funding for tree planting. Our plan seems to meet their criteria and a successful application would mean we could plant up to twice as many new street trees. We need to show that local residents support the application for funding. A voting form is attached. **Please return this form to our Chairman at 7 Corkran Road or to your local Road Rep before the end of November.**

17 CORKRAN ROAD

This poor old Edwardian house was allegedly bequeathed to the Council as a refuge for women. The tenants have been moved, the property abandoned and vaguely secured, although we felt it could become a squatters' paradise. The Council announced in May 2011, they were to sell it, but this is taking time, the ivy is pulling the house to pieces and the broken window on the top floor remains waiting for winter!

At the end of September Cllr. Houston told us that 'the grounds will be maintained very shortly'. This has now begun, and asbestos has also been removed using approved methods. He has also advised that Lambert Smith Hampton, a central London firm of chartered surveyors/agents will be instructed with marketing commencing early November with a view to sale being completed by 31 March 2012. Offers will be invited by a fixed date; we do not know whether a guide price is to be provided. Cllr. Houston thinks it unlikely planning permission would be granted for anything other than existing residential use. The planning statement will include guidance on what might be acceptable, for instance use as a single family dwelling, conversion to flats or redevelopment of the site.

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THE OAKHILL DEVELOPMENT

Since the last newsletter planning permission has been granted for the redevelopment of the Surbiton Hospital site. The application was controversial in that many local people felt that trying to put the school and the Health Centre onto one site represented over development and could result in operational difficulties. Time will tell. The planning Heritage Statement noted that it was not necessary to demolish a building of townscape merit in a conservation area, 1 Oakhill, in order to achieve the public benefit of redeveloping the Surbiton Hospital site. Planning policy and law only permits such a demolition where it is necessary to achieve the public benefit. SRA made a submission bringing this to the attention of RBK, but this appeared to be ignored in the planning decision. We hope for better standards in the future.

ELECTION OF A NEW COUNCILLOR

Umesh Parekh has resigned his position as a local Councillor to take up an alternative position, and we send him our best wishes for the future. We welcome John Ayles as our new local Councillor. John lives in Corkran Road, and we look forward to him taking a particular interest in matters that affect Southborough.

SEPTEMBER SOCIAL

Sincere thanks to Rachel and Rob Braine for hosting this annual party for a number of years. Attendance levels over the last two years have been disappointing so we are rethinking the concept.

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

After a peaceful year, burglaries are on the increase. **Residents should review their Security.** Some have no burglar alarms, despite police pointing out they have saved us in the past. Doors are left unsecure, windows left open while residents go out, ladders left out, garages open, and bicycles in front gardens. **Take care and, above all, look after each other.** Tell your neighbours when you are away, react if an alarm goes off – ring 999 giving your postcode. Check you know who your Neighbourhood Watch representative is, and that you have your useful fridge magnet. **The telephone number for Surbiton Hill Safer Neighbourhoods Team is 020 8721 2518.** Dan Harris (our PCSO) still comes into Southborough every day he is on duty. For advice, just ring and ask him.

Finally, with Christmas coming don't tempt thieves by leaving empty boxes and packaging on display advertising lovely new gifts received.

WHITE VANS

Residents have noticed parked vans, thought not to be associated with Southborough, particularly over weekends. Unfortunately there is little to be done if the van is licensed and legally parked. We own our beautiful houses and drives, not the street. If you do have reason to be concerned, ring police; better to ring, than ignore and assume all is legal.

ROYAL STAR AND GARTER HOME

Preliminary work is in hand preparing site access for the contractors. The purchase of all four properties (only three to be demolished) has been completed and house sitters are in residence to deter squatters. Mike Barter, RS&G Chief Executive Officer, has indicated that site work may start in January 2012. Further update on this will be advised as confirmation and contact details are received.

PLANNING MATTERS

Reminder: Planning Permission is only granted in respect of what is specifically shown on the original proposed plans submitted to RBK. If you wish to make any change an application for variation is required.

BEST WISHES ----

Wishing you and your families happiness and joy at Christmas and all good wishes for 2012.

USEFUL COUNCIL PHONE NUMBERS

RBK main Tel. No:	020 8547 5757
Blocked street drains/leaks	
Thames Water	08459 200 800
RBK Environmental Health	020 8547 5536
Planning Applications/enquiries	020 8547 5330
Conservation	020 8547 5302
Tree Conservation	020 8547 5929
Abandoned Cars/Holes in the road	
Environmental Services	020 8547 5929
Fridge Collection	
Waste Management	020 8547 5560
Pest Control	
Environmental Health	020 8547 5536
Graffiti Line	020 8547 4646

SRA website and e-mail
www.southborough-residents.org.uk

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