

Summer 05 Newsletter

THANK YOU TATTENHAMS !

On May 5th the results of local elections again displayed the faith you have in the R.A. Councillors. This year brought two changes in our team - Nick Harrison adding the County Council to his C.V. and Jill Bray becoming a Borough Councillor, bringing forward the female perspective.

The two outgoing Council members, Norman Harris and Ted Russell, have done a terrific job supporting Tattenhams. Norman remains a Borough Councillor for our neighbours in Nork. Ted is moving from the area but has worked tirelessly over the last year. I wish to thank them both for their commitment and support. Also, I shall miss Ted's wry humour!

Thanks are due again to our road stewards, canvassers, tellers and everyone that gave their time during the election process.

John Butcher
Chairman

Cheering up Tattenham Corner

Following suggestions from residents in the appraisal published last year, the R.A. Committee successfully applied for a Borough Council environmental grant to be used to provide containers with shrubs and flowers adjacent to the shopping area. We now need to identify and arrange for suitable sites.

Doorstep Comments

During the recent canvassing some of the main subjects raised were potholes, uneven paving and grass cutting. We constantly bring these matters to the attention of the Council Officers and will continue to do so relentlessly.

Two further comments concerned **litter** and **overgrown hedges**. It is up to all of us to deal with these matters. We need to educate our children not to drop their sweet wrappers etc on the footways and grass verges, but the management of hedges and trees that encroach on the pavement falls to the adult householders. **Please check your hedges regularly and ensure that they do not obstruct or become a hazard to pedestrians.**

Nork Park Litter Pick

Perhaps due to T.V. coverage of the Grand National and the re-scheduled Royal Wedding for the Saturday afternoon, our joint effort with Nork was low on volunteers. However, we still managed to fill a Council lorry with bottles, cans, various plastic items and metal objects. Jill Bray discovered three handbags amongst the concentrated fly-tipping at the Church Lane/Reigate Road end of the Park. These contained items which were traced to a burglary in Epsom last year.

It was a dirty job and we were very grateful for the pick-up grips, gloves and black sacks provided by Reigate and Banstead Borough Council for their yearly National Spring Clean campaign.

FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

We're very honoured for your voting us in as new councillors, and hope we can repay that support by tackling the issues you think important.

Campaigning on local issues is more difficult when there is a general election going on at the same time. Interest and turnout is much higher than at 'normal' local elections – over 65% voted this time compared to the more usual 35-40%. The results showed that residents distinguish between what they think is important nationally and how they think local matters should be managed.

During the campaign we and our canvassers knocked on all the front doors in Tattenhams – that's more than 3,000! We were frequently told that we were the only candidates who called on residents, and the only ones who set out a schedule of the problems and priorities for Tattenhams in our leaflet.

The state of the roads, pavements and related issues was the most frequently raised on the doorstep (almost 50% of comments), and as mentioned we do continuously chase for repairs. Other issues of concern were grass verges, litter, policing, planning issues and the Preston Regeneration Plan. We will follow up on all of these. One issue which drew an immediate response was a concern reported to us about a structural problem with an unoccupied house. Within two hours of inspection by the Council, they had called in workmen to provide temporary underpinning.

Please feel free to contact us - by phone, post or email. Our details are shown at the end of this newsletter. For those who prefer, we continue to hold a surgery at the Tattenhams Library on the first Friday of each month from 6:00 to 7:00 pm.

Jill Bray

Bob Harper

Nick Harrison



MUSIC IN THE PARK

Banstead West Music in the Park Committee is pleased to announce the date of this year's wonderful free Music in Nork Park event. It is to be held in the park alongside Nork Way on

Sunday 17th July to start at 1 pm ending at 7 pm

Please bring all the family. Apart from all the fantastic bands, ranging from Military, Pop, Jazz and Swing, there will be Punch and Judy, Penalty Shoot out for the boys and face painting for everyone young and old. The barbeque will serve delicious food for the whole event and there will be tea/coffee and cakes as well as a drinks bar.

We pride ourselves on the quality of the raffle prizes. Through the generosity of the audience last year we were able to provide seed funding for a Fitness Trail in the Park which should be ready for you all, particularly for teenagers, to start getting healthy by June. This year we are hoping to raise funds through a raffle to refurbish the picnic area in the Park.

Please come and have a superb day and help foster the community spirit and at the same time enhance the local area.

Carol Stead

Chairman, Banstead West Music in the Park Committee

NATIONAL CYCLE ROUTE

You may not have realised that you may shortly be living on cycling's equivalent of the A3! The London to Portsmouth leg of the National Cycle Route is due to run through Banstead: down The Drive, Great Tattenhams, Tattenham Crescent and then over Epsom Downs.

In theory it should mean that these roads are maintained to a higher standard (!), and the scheme will also assist our local cyclists. The cost is to be met by central government.

There will also be improvements to the crossings over from Tattenham Corner to the Downs – to benefit horse riders and walkers, as well as the cyclists.

MAKE A CHANGE RECYCLE

From Cycling To Re-cycling

We have mentioned in previous newsletters the priority given by the Council to recycling initiatives. You may well have seen the extension of the recycling sites at Tattenham Corner, The Horseshoe Banstead and at Asda, so that now they handle plastics and textiles. The Asda site also takes shoes.

We probably all see recycling as a 'good thing' in principle, but question whether it's really worth the effort and what it really achieves. Whatever your views on the environmental issues, it's going to get a lot more expensive for us in Surrey unless we do increase our recycling efforts or reduce the waste we produce. This is because each year the Government is increasing the target percentage of waste recycled, and in the not too distant future there will be a penal increase in the landfill tax on the Council unless we meet these targets. This cost will inevitably be passed on to residents.

Reigate and Banstead is one of the top performing councils when it comes to recycling, and we asked Rachel Phelan, Recycling Officer to remind us below of the basic facts on recycling and on the recent changes in the service.

Recycling - What You Need to Know

Every household produces about a tonne of rubbish each year. This ends up buried in a landfill site located in Redhill. By 2011 all landfill in Surrey will be full. We need to look at different ways of dealing with our waste.

Part of the solution is to recycle. Are you aware that over 60% of your household waste can be recycled or composted? The Council offers a convenient weekly kerbside recycling service collecting all grades of paper and cardboard and mixed cans. Kerbside boxes are free of charge.

There is also a pre-paid weekly garden waste service. Sacks are available for 25p each or 5 for a £1 from council offices, Help shops and Tattenhams Library. Simply place them at the edge of your property for collection on the same day as your regular refuse & recycling collection. Home composters are also available.

There are also many other recycling facilities around the Borough for other materials. The average family in the UK each consumes 330 glass bottles and jars each year. These can be totally recycled into new bottles by colour segregating them at the glass banks. Unusual colours can be placed in the green glass container.

Plastic bottles can also now be recycled at some recycling centres. We can only accept plastic bottles at present. Please remove the lids and squash them. These are recycled into items such as drainpipes and packaging. We cannot recycle all types of plastic. To reduce the amount of plastic you use, try to buy reusable items, rather than items such as throw away razors. Buy fruit and veg loose, or re-use your carrier bags.

Clothes, shoes and textiles can be placed in the large banks. If they are in good condition then they will be resold at SCOPE charity shops. Otherwise they will be recycled into filling of upholstery or J-cloths.

To obtain a box or learn more about the recycling and compost scheme contact the Council help line on 01737 - 276000 or visit www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk

Recycling In Flats

If you live in a flat and do not have any recycling facilities then contact Lizzy Jones, Waste Minimisation Officer. Lizzy is employed until March 2006, funded by Surrey County Council's Waste Challenge Fund. She will be liaising with residents and management companies to install paper, card and can banks. So if you live in a flat and want to make recycling easier then you can contact her on 01737 - 276153 or via email her lizzy.jones@reigate-banstead.gov.uk

NEWS FROM OUR PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Merland Rise Community Primary School

This term we are very pleased that the new Rainbow Unit has opened for children aged 3 – 5 years. A dedicated area of the school has been created for the children which provides a stimulating learning environment both inside and outside. There are still places for children to start in September, and if you are interested, please contact the school office to arrange a tour.

All of the children have been involved in live willow weaving. Two structures have been created which we look forward to seeing grow in the school grounds. The children will be able to enjoy spending time exploring their new creations. We have a turtle in the Rainbow Unit and tunnel on the playing field.

Our steel band starts this term and we hope members of the community will join in. We have a teacher ready to start lessons, and children who do not attend Merland Rise School will be able to join the band. Look out for the children performing at the Preston Fun Day in September.

The school was recently awarded a Quality in Study Support Award in recognition of the range of educational activities that take place out of school hours. We were very pleased to achieve this award and are currently looking at ways to extend further. Full day care both before and after school will be available from September.

The children were very moved by the tsunami and have been busy raising money to help those who suffered in Sri Lanka. Working with local schools in the North Downs Federation a considerable amount of money has been raised and this is now being used to help schools and children. Long-term projects have been established and the children are keen to help in the future.

The sports field in Headley Drive is used during the school day and out of school hours. We have football taking place during the weekend and in the evening, when there is enough light. The sports field is available for hire through the school office.

If you would like to look around the school or receive a copy of the school brochure please contact the school office on 01737 - 354313.

Sally Leach, Headteacher

Shawley Community Primary School

The summer term got off to a very exciting start when all the children in years three and four experienced what it would have been like to be an evacuee during World War Two. All the children took part in a themed day at the school where they had to carry their most prized possessions along with their gas masks, and be told they were moving away to a place of safety. An ARP warden visited the school to help explain what life was like for everyone during the war and also put the children through their paces while marching on the playground.

The children followed up their work in school with a visit to the Imperial War Museum where they could see many of the artifacts they had been learning about for real.

We have recently launched our new menus for the term which proved to be very successful at a recent food tasting session at the school. All the parents attending the session were very impressed with both the variety of meals on offer and the quality of the food.

We will be having Open Afternoons at the school during the week beginning 13th June every afternoon apart from Tuesday, starting at 2pm. Parents of children who will be 3 by the 31st of August 2005 are invited to come along to have a tour of the school and listen to a short presentation by the Headteacher followed by a question and answer session. If you are unable to make these dates, we are happy to show you round on a separate occasion. Please call us on 01737 - 350344 for a brochure.

Chris Gill, Headteacher

REPORT FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

The AGM in March covered a lot of ground, including residents' concerns and other issues. Since many are unable to make the meeting we thought it useful to summarise some of the key issues under debate, and to notify you where action has been taken.

Closure of De Burgh School

One of our members, who had served as a governor initially of De Burgh and latterly of The Beacon School, gave an interesting summary of the events leading up to the closure of de Burgh and the reasons for it. Members gained an insight into the problems now continuing in terms of lack of space and facilities at The Beacon. The RA has raised again the issue of the lack of County funding for improvement of The Beacon's facilities, particularly in the light of the profit to be made from the sale of the de Burgh playing fields.

Preston Regeneration Plan

John Butcher urged residents to attend the upcoming exhibition of proposals and make their views known. The issue of a possible extension over Burgh Heath to Asda is reviewed on the next page. The consultation period is now closed, and the final report is expected later in the Summer.

Police

PC Louise Bowen described the increased use of CCTV cameras, and progress in dealing with anti-social behaviour in the Headley Grove area. She said that the police are willing to set up 'Beat Panels' with residents as a good focal point for information and problem solving local issues.

Planning and Development

Nick Harrison outlined the increasing pressure for new housing in the South East, from both central government and from the unelected South East England Regional Assembly (SEERA). Reigate and Banstead has recently been obliged to accept an additional 5,000 houses with accompanying loss of Green Belt. More is to come. He also outlined the current situation with controversial building applications in the Tattenhams area.

Council Taxes

The RA group of councillors had recently opposed the above inflation increase in Council Tax, detailing realistic savings which could be made to keep down the increase, but unfortunately these were not accepted by the majority party.

Epsom Hospital

The RA is keeping this under review, as the approved scheme to move to Sutton does not seem realistic, and it continues to be possible that cuts will be made, for example, in Accident & Emergency services in Epsom. More information is expected in the Autumn, when the NHS must produce more detailed plans and budgets.

Dial-a-Ride

This service is being assessed by the Borough, as the existing vehicles are reaching the end of their useful life. This service is crucial to many and the RA is opposed to closure of the service.

Roads Issues

Members brought up specific issues with potholes in Shawley Way and Headley Drive. These have been pursued with Highways Department, and some repairs have now been made to Shawley Way. As we go to press, we are still awaiting attention to Headley Drive. Specific problems with street lighting were also raised, some of which have been fixed.

Recycling Area

The enlarged recycling area was welcomed by most. In response to members' queries, we have been told that the wood to the compound has been pre-treated; and it is acknowledged that the surrounding bushes are now mostly dead and will need replacement in the Autumn.

CHETWODE ROAD EXTENSION

In our last newsletter we sought your feedback on the possible extension to Chetwode Road and the matter of the Tattenham Corner Car Park. We had a good response – about 50 residents wrote in, and the matter has been discussed at the AGM and at the RA committee. In this newsletter we report on Chetwode Road, and will cover the Car Park in our next newsletter.

Your views on this were clear. **85% of you were against this extension.** You felt the benefits of the new road are marginal at best, and certainly insufficient to justify the loss of Green Belt land.

Loss of Heath Land: The impact of a road would be quite severe, bearing in mind that Burgh Heath is already under strain from the busy roads which divide and border it. A particular concern was the separation of the area of heath between West Drive and the new road, which would leave a relatively small strip cut off from the remaining heath land, and open to environmental degradation.

Impact on Chetwode Road: There was a concern that Chetwode Road and nearby streets would become a ‘rat-run’ for through traffic to Tadworth and Epsom and beyond. Although a route to Asda might help relieve the volume of traffic in some of the residential roads in the area, it is undeniable that the total volume would increase by providing this new through route.

Chetwode Road is a narrow road, and has parking on both sides in many places. To cope with the extra traffic, it would need to be widened (but houses are already close to the road) and/or off-street parking would need to be provided, (but garage sites are underused for security concerns). Residents pointed out there would be increased congestion, traffic fumes and additional safety concerns.

Junction with Reigate Road: Some residents expressed concerns about the impact of the new road on traffic flows on the Reigate Road, with yet another junction on the short stretch which already has two sets of traffic lights within a quarter of a mile.

Only Modest Benefits Achieved by a New Access Road: For those with cars, the new road to Asda will save at most some 2 – 3 minutes on their journey.

For those without cars, a new improved, pathway/cycle route (with some lighting) over the Heath to Asda would be of real benefit. There would need to be a pedestrian crossing over the Reigate Road; existing users of this route take their lives in their hands when currently crossing this road with many carrier bags. This crossing would have some impact on traffic flows, but probably not significant. Most of you supported an improved footpath.

With respect to general access to the Preston Estate, for those without transport, it is the cost and standard of the bus service which is more important than the precise route the bus takes. The 460 (Epsom/Redhill) and the 420 (Sutton/Redhill) bus services have been eliminated in the evenings and on Sundays/Bank Holidays.

We have passed your comments on to the consultation, and also to the Conservators who are responsible for the upkeep of the land. Encouragingly, the Conservators have replied, emphasising their commitment to maintaining the commons and heath.