

Spring 2007 Newsletter

## ***ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING***

THE AGM OF THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT SHAWLEY COMMUNITY  
PRIMARY SCHOOL, SHAWLEY WAY ON THURSDAY 13<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2007 AT 8.00 PM

---

### **AGENDA**

1. Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
2. Matters arising from the minutes
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. To consider the adoption of the Association's Borough Council candidate for election in May 2007
6. Election of Committee  
  
NB: The Hon. Secretary, Mrs K L Edwards, 18 Ferriers Way, Epsom Downs would be pleased to receive nominations to the Committee
7. Any other business

Kathleen Edwards  
Honorary Secretary

---

After the formal business of the meeting there will be a short break for refreshment.  
Then there will be reports from your Councillors followed by an open forum.

### **THE TATTENHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

The R A represents residents living in the Tattenhams Ward of Reigate and Banstead Borough Council. It is non-party political and aims to preserve and improve amenities in the area and seeks to foster good local government by a close liaison with local authorities and other public bodies.

**Any resident wishing the R A to take up questions concerning local matters or interests should write, email or telephone a Committee Member or the Hon. Secretary.**

**This edition of our newsletter is distributed to all households in Tattenhams Ward prior to our AGM, but normally only to R A members during the rest of the year. If you are not a member and wish to join, please contact the Chairman – see the last page for details.**

# FROM THE CHAIRMAN



## Review of the Year

It's perhaps a bit late for a review of 2006, but here goes! As usual, it was rather mixed.

**Roads:** Due to cut backs in County spending and particularly in the way that the highways contract with Carillion is managed, there was not nearly as much work carried out on the local road network as we had hoped. Tattenhams received its share of the funds available, but the performance against the contract standard has been appalling, and stories about the "work ethic" reached the national press.

The County Council has now decided that the best way to manage the contract is to revert to more old-fashioned supervision. It will employ its own highways inspectors to review and monitor the work, rather than rely on self-certification by the contractor. This is informally, and probably politically incorrectly, termed as the "man in a van" approach. The new inspectors will be based on the road, not sitting in offices, with modern, hand-held computers linked up to the central system. They will wear uniforms, and their vans will be branded, to identify them as County Council officers, so that residents can give immediate feed back on local works in progress.

More work is also required to improve the service offered by the County Council call centre (08456 009 009), to deal with the calls more effectively, rather than let them trip over to answerphone, and to get on top of the backlog of road repairs. At present a lot of problems are reported multiple times, because they aren't attended to quickly enough, thus adding to the backlog. Residents want to know when a problem is to be dealt with, rather than just given a reference number. Some road schemes in Tattenhams are now coming forward, which are discussed opposite.

**Local Planning:** Some applications were withdrawn or altered on officers' advice and others went to appeal. As successful appeals can cost the Council (and therefore the taxpayers) money it is fortunate that most – over 70% - fail.

Tattenhams and Nork Councillors have approached the Borough's Chief Executive and I have written to him separately urging swifter action to prevent developers from felling trees willy-nilly to create more building land. Please notify your Councillors of possible developments where trees of value are under threat from unscrupulous operators.

Fortunately, Tattenhams has not been under such sustained pressure as neighbouring Nork and Tadworth, but the Residents' Association remains vigilant to un-neighbourly development. The criteria we use is not a knee-jerk opposition – this would invariably lead to decisions being overturned by a government inspector, even if we convinced the Council's Planning Committee. Rather, we use a more thoughtful approach - "How does this fit in with the area and existing streetscene?" and "How does it affect the neighbours' amenity?"

**Banstead Leisure Centre:** At the beginning of the year there was a strong possibility that the Borough Council would discontinue this facility in favour of a more limited and problematic "dual use" scheme at the Beacon School. As a result of much public outcry the Centre is safe for the time being, provided that County and Borough Councils can get their plans together to regenerate the Preston area in a reasonable timescale. This situation needs to be kept closely under observation.

**The Health Service:** The threat of closure of many of the hospitals in Surrey – especially in the absence of local alternatives - "Better Health Care Closer to Home" - is the most important issue facing local residents.

**Your Local Councillors:** The good news is that Residents' Association Councillor Bob Harper was successfully re-elected in May. Together with Councillors Nick Harrison and Councillor Jill Bray, he has worked hard to ensure that the residents of Tattenhams get as good a service as possible. You can contact them by phone, email or letter – details on the last page.

*John Butcher*

# **HIGHWAYS SCHEMES**

## **Asda, Reigate Road**

We're aware of plans to install two new speed cameras; one near the Asda supermarket on the Reigate Road, and the other a red traffic light violation camera at the Burgh Heath lights. Hopefully, the camera at Asda will only be for a limited period, as an alternative scheme is being brought forward (and paid for) by Asda. This will involve traffic lights at the exit; a welcome development. Most of us will be aware of the difficulties in seeing left past traffic on the bend, not knowing when to move out into the limited gaps created by the traffic lights at Great Tattenhams and Burgh Heath. It's been the site of eleven accidents in the last five years. The scheme will incorporate a pedestrian phase for people walking over Burgh Heath from the Chetwode Road and Long Walk areas.

## **Great Tattenhams**

We've been pressing for a scheme in this road for many years. A design has been prepared to include pedestrian refuges to cross Great Tattenhams near to the Merland Rise and also the Chapel Way junctions. These are on the walking routes to Shawley, Epsom Downs and The Beacon Schools. The scheme will include hatched lines in the centre of the road for most of its length, discouraging wild overtaking, and serving as an encouragement for motorists to keep speeds down to 30mph. Marked waiting areas for traffic turning into these side roads will also be marked out. We're hopeful that the design will be approved at the County Council committee in March, and that construction can be scheduled in the coming year.

## **St Leonards Road**

This narrow through road by the main entrance to Epsom Downs School has been one of the worst roads for parking in our area. The verges on the school side have been destroyed, and the opposite side resembles the Somme. At our urging, heavy duty stakes have been installed on the school side of the road. On the opposite side the verge is being replaced by asphalt, allowing residents to park 'half on, half off' the road. Raven Housing Trust is also looking to see if they can provide additional parking spaces, as discussed below.

## **Raven Housing Trust**

When the Borough Council spun off its council housing into a separate Housing Trust, the new body (now called Raven) made a series of promises. These included property improvements which are now largely complete. The one promise to be fulfilled is 500 off-road parking spaces, covering the whole of the borough. These could be parking in front gardens, parking lay-bys next to the road, new car parks and upgraded garages. Residents in Long Walk and St Leonards Road have identified three such areas for parking, and no doubt there are other suitable sites. Consultation is important, hopefully with nearby residents reaching a consensus on any proposals. Do contact the Trust if you have an idea. They are likely to give priority to schemes which mainly benefits residents in properties owned by Raven, rather than owner occupiers. Residents' Association Councillor Jill Bray represents the Borough on the board of Raven and can advise.

## **Tattenham Corner Car Park**

It's all change, with our successful campaign to reduce charges for long-term parking, encouraging commuters back from clogging up the local streets. Short-term parking remains free, but charges for stays of over three hours are now £1 maximum. The Council has retained a charge to ensure that some spaces remain free for shoppers, and will if necessary segregate an area specifically for them.

## **Yellow Lines**

Back in the summer we told you about the Council's plans to change local parking restrictions, to eliminate a few obstructions and danger spots, and to add/move disabled parking bays. We do not support wholesale additional yellow lines, as we feel this would merely move commuters to new streets, rather than 'solve' the parking problem. It would also be negative for residents and affect the viability of local shops. The County Council should be writing to local residents impacted by these proposals, with notices on lamp posts, and advertisements in the local paper, so people have the chance to object. If you are concerned, we have a list of the roads impacted on our two Noticeboards, at the Library and the Tattenham Way shops.

# WHAT A LOAD OF RUBBISH

## Recycling Targets

The County and Borough Councils are moving ahead with a new strategy for dealing with waste. It sets binding targets for waste minimisation and recycling, and for diverting the residual waste away from being dumped in landfill sites. The targets, and a comparison with current performance, are as follows:

<b>2005/06 actual</b>	<b>27.9%</b>	<u>al Average</u>	<b>27%</b>
<b>(of which, for 2005/06</b>	<b>1.6% - Reigate &amp; Banstead only)</b>		
<b>2010 target</b>	<b>40%</b>		<b>40%</b>
<b>2015 target</b>	<b>50%</b>		<b>45%</b>
<b>2020 target</b>	<b>55%</b>		<b>50%</b>
<b>2025 target</b>	<b>60%</b>		<b>not set</b>

## The Surrey Waste Strategy

Key actions are as follows (see [www.surreywaste.info](http://www.surreywaste.info) for more details):

- Set up teams to run community and business waste minimisation programmes. This includes staff to implement communal recycling facilities in blocks of flats, develop more “bring sites”, work with supermarkets to reduce packaging, and educational programmes, for instance in schools. The aim is no growth in waste per head of population – quite a challenging target in fact, as historically waste per head has grown relentlessly by about 1% a year.
- Develop three or four composting facilities for green waste in Surrey. These will be modern “in-vessel” plants, avoiding the smell, mess (and fire risk) of composting on open sites. It’s possible that one of these sites will be next to the “civic amenity” site in Horley Road, Earlswood, south of Redhill.
- Improve local civic amenity sites (a fancy name for what we used to call “the dump”), so recycling improves. This will include site redesign, additional facilities to separate materials, plastics recycling, as well as extra staff to help residents off-loading.
- Organise additional organic waste collections (for instance kitchen waste collection trials are underway in certain boroughs). We have asked why our borough has declined to participate so far in this.
- Build two “Energy from Waste” plants (another fancy name for what we used to call an incinerator). They will convert mixed residual waste into electricity to power about 17,000 homes. One of these is likely to be in the brick works at Capel; the other in north west Surrey – possible sites are in Shepperton and Longcross.

## Carrots and Sticks

All this will cost more money – with an extra 1% on council tax. However, whatever you think about the environmental or other aspects of recycling and reducing waste, central government is forcing the pace by levying a tax on waste being dumped into landfill. This tax is being ratcheted up, year-by-year, so that recycling and alternative treatment will be cheaper for Councils than continuing to put the waste into the ground. We are in any event running out of landfill sites.

At the household level, besides it being somewhat easier for us to recycle more, there will be dis-incentives if we don’t. For a start, the Borough Council has announced a supplementary charge for households who have a large wheely bin, even for large families – although a free trade-in for a smaller bin will be possible. Secondly, it is likely that in Reigate & Banstead we will move to “Alternate Weekly Collection”, so that the general rubbish will only be picked up fortnightly – so you won’t have room in your bin, unless you do recycle more, or take your own rubbish to the dump. This scheme is already in operation in Mole Valley – you may want to ask friends in Ashted, Leatherhead and Dorking how they manage with the smell and overflow of rubbish in the height of summer.

## **The Dump in Epsom**

Residents have frequently mentioned the problems of using the dump in Epsom. Recently, with the site being overloaded and the bays for green waste being continually closed over the winter period, Councillor Nick Harrison met on site with Richard Parkinson, Operations Manager for Surrey County Council, and representatives from SITA, who actually run the site, for answers to residents' questions:

### **Why are there such long queues at the site in Epsom, particularly at weekends?**

The site is used for both residents to bring their own waste, and as a transfer / collection centre for all of the municipal dustcarts in the north of the County. It is intended to divide these two functions, so there are separate sites for residents' waste and for the transfer station. The two sites could then be designed for their different needs. The difficulty is finding a second site, and getting planning permission; owners of suitable sites are often reluctant to make them available for waste. We haven't yet found a site.

### **What about redesigning the site in Epsom for both uses - there seems to be a fair area of underused space by the railway, and on the left-hand side?**

This space is earmarked for the new Epsom relief road – the Kiln Lane link – which it is hoped to build, when the government provides the funds. A road tunnel will go under the railway at this point.

### **You're trying to encourage residents to recycle, yet they see that the 'green windows' are closed and all the rubbish is mixed together and goes to landfill. Why should the residents bother?**

You're right. SITA has a planning application in process for a separate green waste area, at least on a temporary basis, in front of the railway line. Some changes are required, as regulations now require such areas to be covered, and we need to separate the drainage to ensure that liquids do not flow into the main sewers.

### **The site has often been overloaded with rubbish for weeks on end, with all types of rubbish mixed together. Why is this? And why continue to accept trade waste in these circumstances?**

In particularly wet weather, the landfill sites do close, otherwise lorries get stuck in the mud. When this happens we do have to stockpile waste on site. We then also close the site to ad hoc trade waste, but we have to honour long-term contracts for trade waste.

### **But this happened last autumn when it wasn't particularly wet.**

The problem initially occurred when the large loading shovel vehicle was vandalised, but SITA has also had other equipment breakdowns, outside the regular maintenance shut downs. Epsom is the busiest site in Surrey, and equipment is worked at close to capacity. SITA has engineers on call out for breakdowns, and replacement plant can be brought to site; however it can take three days to arrange a movement order on the roads for these very large pieces of equipment to be moved..

### **Shouldn't you improve these arrangements? What about a back up machine on site?**

SITA is doing just that as part of changes to the contract with Surrey County Council. A second loading vehicle came permanently on to site at the beginning of February, and we're also looking for more locally based service engineers on call. There is now much less chance that the waste windows will be closed because the tipping hall is full. Other changes – improved facilities and extra staff on site to assist residents – will come into place on 1 April. SITA will also have to meet the much higher recycling target rates set out in the new Surrey Waste Plan; penalties will apply for failure.

## **Residents are often sceptical about where all the recycling materials go. Is it actually recycled?**

*Metals (iron, copper etc):* separated on site and sent to metal merchants.

*Drinks cans:* sent to a specialist plant to separate the steel electrically from the aluminium.

*Paper:* sent to Kent and made into newsprint – you can be reading the paper again within 8 days!

*Cardboard:* another factory in Kent, typically used in corrugated packaging.

*Glass:* sent to British Glass, and made into more glass bottles.

*Green waste:* if it's separated from the general waste, it goes to open composting in West Sussex, or a tunnel / blown air system in Berkshire.

*Plastic:* the U K hasn't been creative enough yet in reusing plastic, and markets are still new. It can be made into an extruded paste that is used, for example, in garden furniture and piping/trunking.

## **POLICE CHANGES**

Yet again it's all change. Your local contacts – and the terminology - are:

Neighbourhood Inspector:	Clive Davies, based in Reigate (2726)
Neighbourhood Sergeant:	Fiona Mead, based in Banstead (2210)
Neighbourhood Specialist Officer NSO (local PC):	Dan Henderson (3657)
Police Community Support Officer (PCSO):	Simon Watson (11453)

Besides most of Tattenhams, Dan Henderson and Simon Watson also look after Preston and Burgh Heath. Please note that the area to the north of Tattenham Way, around The Beacon School, is actually policed as part of Nork, and your contacts are:

Neighbourhood Specialist Officer NSO (local PC):	Sue Roe (3027)
Police Community Support Officer (PCSO):	Gina Porter (12452)

The number after the officer's name is their 'fin' number, and can be used for email contact. Individual email addresses are surname and fin, followed by @surrey.pnn.police.uk. For example, Dan Henderson's email is [henderson3657@surrey.pnn.police.uk](mailto:henderson3657@surrey.pnn.police.uk). Do not use the email for urgent matters.

For **emergency**, dial **999**      For **non-urgent**, dial **0845 125 222**      **Crime stoppers**, dial **0800 555 111**

## **Burglaries**

January 2007 saw a serious rise in burglary in and around Tattenhams. Nork suffered a particular spate of break-ins, mainly from the rear of premises at various times in the day and evening. Keep windows locked and secure sheds to deny thieves access to tools used to break into houses.

### **Neighbourhood Watch**

The police are putting more resources into 'neighbourhood policing' and are developing their ideas of working with local residents. We hope to tell you more about this in future newsletters. The Police do have a much improved periodic Neighbourhood Watch Information Newsletter, which is available electronically through the Residents' Association. Contact Nick Harrison on [cllr.harrison@reigate-banstead.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.harrison@reigate-banstead.gov.uk) – to add your name to the distribution list.