



BULLETIN No 120

March 2002

www.shra.org.uk

Representing the views of all who live in the historic Thameside village of Strawberry Hill.

SHRA AND COUNCILLORS PROBE TRAFFIC SNARL UP

Strawberry Hill is targeted for more traffic calming measures and new parking controls this year, Richmond Council's Traffic Department has informed SHRA.

A new priority list for Controlled Parking Zones/Residents Parking is about to be agreed. In the meantime, the Council is undertaking a traffic speed and volume survey in Waldegrave and Strawberry Hill roads to see if parking and traffic problems are getting worse. In depth studies are planned from April, though implementation depends on the money being made available from Transport for London.

The studies result from an inspection of parking problems and commuter traffic volumes undertaken by SHRA with two local councillors Douglas Orchard and Alan Butler in November.

Commuter and parking jams

More traffic in Waldegrave Road and commuters parking in the area, has put heavy strains on local roads. Parking in nearby roads by students from Strawberry Hill College has contributed to the overload. Richmond Council was asked to consider a combination of yellow lines and restricted parking regulations.

Councillor Orchard drew the Council's attention to the following hot spots and possible solutions:

Strawberry Hill Road - commuter and student parking reduces traffic to a single alternate line in places and causes hold-ups and minor accidents. Parked cars on the bend in Strawberry Hill road near the junction cause problems for motorists.

It was suggested that:

- a sharp bend sign be added near the junction with Strawberry Hill Close as the slow sign is nearly worn away

- a single yellow line be added on the side opposite Strawberry Hill Close

Waldegrave Road - residents consider that yellow lines at the junction with Waldegrave Gardens are not being enforced. Problems are caused by visitors to the University. Parking is permitted half on the pavement near the University, but not further along, particularly near the junction with Strawberry Hill Road.

Because of parked cars at that spot, motorists turning right have to turn into on-coming traffic.

It was suggested that:

- consideration be given to permitting parking half on the footway on the college side of Waldegrave Road

- Sureway be asked to enforce the parking restrictions

Strawberry Hill Close - commuter parking causing problems for incoming and

outgoing motorists near the junction with Strawberry Hill Road. It was suggested that the road be restricted up to the first lamp post.

Wellesley Road - as parking is permitted on both sides, the road is reduced to a single alternate line. The Council was asked to propose alternative parking measures.

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS OVER A GLASS OF WINE...

...at the

**Strawberry Hill Residents' Association
Annual General Meeting
on Monday, April 8 2002
in the Gothic splendour of the
Waldegrave Room
Strawberry Hill House**

- q Updates on key local issues: street cleaning; planning and development; graffiti; and many more important issues which affect your lives as residents of Strawberry Hill
- q Your chance to put a point of view about our neighbourhood
- q Meet Cllrs Douglas Orchard and Alan Butler

Time: 7.00 pm for 7.30pm

All residents who receive copies of The Bulletin are automatically members of SHRA - and new committee members are always welcome. Please speak to a committee member at the AGM if you would like to play a part in improving our neighbourhood.

Soothing the eyesore

The shabby patch of land between Threshers and Harjii shoe repairers has been cleared and thanks to Cllr Alan Butler a retaining wall is now being built.

SHRA is obtaining quotes for filling the area with hard core, top soil and shrubs. Residents will be asked to approve this expenditure at the AGM in April.

Playtime suspended

The National Children's Bureau has been approached by SHRA to see if they will help fund playground equipment at the Wellesley Road playground. The approach follows notification that Richmond Council has no resources for further play equipment in the budget.

FLOWER POWER RAIL APPEAL

Railtrack has been approached by SHRA with a view to improving the flower beds on Strawberry Hill Station, but with little positive response.

SHRA believes that roses bought from the Association's funds and planted in the platform flower beds would cheer the station and be easy to maintain.

SHRA seeks the views of residents as well as volunteers to help plant and maintain the flowers.

* Footnote: before privatisation, Strawberry Hill Station regularly won awards for its upkeep and flower displays.

Foul feathered friends

Pigeon fouling on Strawberry Hill Station, especially over the platform seating, has produced numerous complaints. SHRA have written to Railtrack, with photographs of the fouling, to ask them to eradicate the mess by preventing pigeons roosting in the eaves.



Shackelgate Lane footpath

SHRA will also be writing to Railtrack about the rubbish dumped on the land between the footpath from the station to Shackelgate Lane and the railway track.

Rubbish bins wait

New post box style rubbish bins promised for the centre of Strawberry Hill have not yet appeared, despite assurances from the Council that they would be sited before Christmas.

And then there were two

The strange case of the Christmas tree that disappeared from Wellesley Parade only to reappear in Orford Gardens and then magically return to Wellesley Parade with a friend...

The SHRA Christmas tree received so many favourable comments that the committee has decided to make the placing and decorating of the SHRA Christmas tree an annual event.



More ambitious plans for next Christmas include a taller tree, carol singing and mulled wine.

JUBILEE FESTIVITY

Following residents' enthusiastic response to the questionnaire about celebration of the Queen's Jubilee, SHRA has joined forces with The Friends of Radnor Gardens to hold two events during Music Day on **Sunday June 23rd**.

SHRA plans to invite the Mayor to plant a Jubilee Tree in Radnor Gardens to mark the royal event.

At the same time, SHRA will organise a free children's balloon race with a difference. Instead of the furthest distance, the winner will be the balloon found nearest to either Buckingham Palace or Windsor Castle (depending on wind direction).

DIG AND HOE FOR A LOVELIER RADNOR GARDENS

SHRA and the Friends of Radnor Gardens are planning to hold two gardening days in the riverside gardens on either April 20/21 or April 27/28 to supplement the limited amount of work undertaken by the Council. Volunteers are sought who might have plants, hoe and spade ready for a few hours work on a Saturday or Sunday.

Please call Clare Phelps 020 8892 5863;
e-mail: Clare.Phelps@shra.org.uk

Planning Matters

PLANNING COMPLAINTS

Residents concerned about planning developments will find useful a two page guidance sheet available from Richmond Council planning department. Entitled "**Planning and Building Control, Putting Your Views to the Council**", the guidelines cover:

- General Information about the deadlines for views to be communicated to the Council (the deadline is within 21 days of receiving written notification)
- The Decision and the Considerations taken into account (the interests of the community as a whole; local opposition is not itself justification unless it is founded on planning grounds which can be substantiated)
- Who Decides - some applications are decided by the Council's Development Control Sub-committee. The remainder are decided by Senior Council Officers under Delegated Powers agreed by the Council
- Material Planning Considerations - the guidelines list 25 most common considerations ranging from loss of light and traffic generation to nature conservation and archeology
- Matters which cannot be taken into account - ranging from private disputes, loss of value of property, to problems such as dust and noise associated with construction

TWICKENHAM RIVERFRONT/SWIMMING BATH SITE

In the early hours of Friday morning, 1 March, the Development Control Committee approved the Dawnay Day scheme for the old swimming bath site on Twickenham Riverfront. Six members voted in favour, three against.

However, the Twickenham Society, supported by SHRA and many other local residents' associations and amenity societies, had already written to the Government Office of London on 21 February, requesting a review of the application by The Secretary of State. This was granted on the day of the meeting, and implementation of the decision of the Development Control Committee must await the outcome of that review.

SHRA shares the view that the proposed Dawnay Day scheme is a gross over-development of a riverside site of outstanding natural beauty, and that the public, financial and social benefits claimed for the scheme fall far short of what is to be expected from such a prime site.

The Secretary of State will now consider whether or not to direct that the application should be referred to him for determination.

St James's School and Fortescue House

Plans for the demolition of the existing school and Fortescue House, and the erection of a new primary school on the site were made available for inspection from 6 February.

Objections were registered by local residents at an earlier consultation stage, supported by SHRA, and as a result the buildings have been set further away from the back gardens of the adjacent houses in Shaftesbury Way and the roof lines altered to reduce obstruction and overlooking.

SHRA has been informed by Mohsen Nekouzad - the architect advising residents, and himself a resident affected by the development - that they will not be objecting to the revised scheme.

The Melting Pot, Wellesley Road

The Council advise that an application has been received for modification to the flue of the cooking range at this premises, and they imagine from this that the premises will be re-opened as a cafe some time in the near future.

35 Tower Road

Permission for work to proceed on this site was given some while ago. Soil has been removed from the site for testing, and it is anticipated that building work will commence at the beginning of June.

41 Tower Road

An application to open a fish & chip shop on this site has been approved. However, we are informed by the agent that the shop may not go ahead after all due to a dispute over terms between the freeholder and the applicant. The whole terrace from the railway crossing to 53 Tower Road is up for sale.

317 Waldegrave Road

An application to build a block of 5 apartments on this key peninsular site at the junction of Waldegrave and Tower Roads was rejected by the Planning Sub-committee against the recommendation of the planning officers. However, the case went to appeal and was passed by the Inspector subject to approval by the Council of certain details regarding the surface finish of the building.

SHRA took the view that the design of the building, though modern, was likely to receive approval, and we concentrated on trying to ensure that the building would be finished to the highest standards. The developers have submitted a detailed specification of the proposed finish, and are awaiting approval from the Council. The scheme must then pass building regulations and be put out to tender. Some building work may commence later this year.

46 - 48 Grange Avenue

SHRA supported residents of Grange Avenue in their objection to a development of 5 town houses at the end of this narrow cul-de-sac. Try Homes have withdrawn after three failed attempts to get an application approved.

2 Pope's Grove

Demolition of the rear two-storey extension of the existing building has been completed. A new two-storey extension will be built, and the whole building will be converted into four flats. In addition, a separate two-storey house will be built on the site. Work is due to be completed by the end of October.

YOUR COMMITTEE FOR 2002

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STRAWBERRY HILL HISTORY

Copies of 'Strawberry Hill – A History of the Neighbourhood' written by **Anthony Beckles Willson**, can be purchased for £5 from The Secretary, Clare Phelps, at the address on the front page.



The history has a topographical bias; much has already been written about Pope and Walpole. This book is mainly about the place they lived in and where we live today.

BULLETIN DISTRIBUTORS NEEDED

SHRA's gallant distributors of the Bulletin need refreshing from time to time. Volunteers are sought to distribute the Bulletin in their street four times a year.

Please contact The Secretary, Clare Phelps, at the address on the front page.

Joint SHRA and Friends of Radnor Gardens annual meeting

This popular annual meeting held in Strawberry Hill House in November ranges in subject from local history to cultural quizzes.

In preparation for next November's meeting, SHRA and the FRG are looking for subjects of broad general interest to residents. If you have a topic which you find entertaining or enthralling, or a suggestion about format or content, please let us know.

TWICKENHAM MUSEUM SEEKS HELPERS

Twickenham Museum, open on Tuesdays and Saturdays between 11am and 3pm, is seeking volunteers to help with reception, secretarial duties and maintenance.

Situated at 25 The Embankment, the three story house, built in 1720 and occupied over the centuries by local watermen and boat-builders, is itself a fascinating part of local history. The museum captures the history of the Middlesex riverside settlements of Twickenham, Whitton, Teddington, Hampton, Hampton Hill, Hampton Wick and Hampton Court.

Strawberry Hill figures among the exhibits, but the museum curator is seeking many more pictures, documents and artifacts from our neighbourhood on loan or as gifts.

Contact Geoffrey Morgan: 020 8894 3858.

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION OF £1.00 PER PERSON FOR YEAR 2002

This subscription renewal may be made by cash or cheque made payable to Strawberry Hill Residents' Association. Hand to either:

- (a) Richard Spires, 70 Pope's Avenue, TW2 5TT
- (b) Costcutter by the station

DONATIONS ALWAYS WELCOME!

Name(s):	
Address:	
Date:	
Amount:	