

Good Evening and thanks for coming.

The committee keeps an eye open for planning applications (via the Sutton council website) and we check them while there is still time to mount opposition or suggest changes if necessary. Committee members regularly attend the bi-monthly **Beddington and Wallington Area Committee** meetings, where a range of topics of local interest are discussed, and decisions made on how public money is spent in the area.

We have regularly attended steering group meetings regarding the recent re-development of the high street, and I personally feel this work, now finished, has made a great improvement to the area. Sadly, the overall impression is somewhat diminished by the current financial downturn, with so many shops remaining empty. We hope this situation improves sooner rather than later.

Looking ahead, the committee will continue to keep a close watch on the planning activity and we find that our representation at these regular meetings is one of the most effective ways there are of making the views of residents known to the Council. You can monitor planning applications by visiting the Sutton Council planning site through the links on the OGRES web site.

We are particularly concerned about applications that demand the development of back gardens and the resultant effect being potentially damaging to us as residents, in that one of the main arguments for this area being designated as an 'Area of Special Local Character (ASLC)' is that it is an area with a distinctive landscape characterised by verdant front and back gardens. Removal of a significant proportion of gardens could result in this distinctive character being lost and a review of the ASLC could result in a loss of this status. The overall impact is potentially an increase in the number of successful developments within the OGRES area that are applied for and granted by Sutton Council.

Please remain vigilant if you do see planning notices on lamp posts or receive flyers in the post. Notify a committee member as soon as possible, either by contacting one of them directly or via the contact button on the OGRES website.

We are increasingly aware of the overgrown trees in the area and the effect they have on neighbouring properties. We have a meeting tomorrow with the management of Marlborough Court, where we hope to resolve such an issue. We contacted Sutton Council recently to discuss the trimming of street trees in the area, and I now understand this has begun in Onslow Gardens and will take a few months to complete.

I have already read out a statement sent from Sgt Peter Le Shirley from the Safer Neighbourhood Team. We wish him well and hope he has a successful outcome in the up-coming re-organisation for SNT sergeants.

You will all by now be aware of the closure of Wallington Police Station and the emergence of the new Safer Neighbourhood building in Stafford Road.

Our committee members attend the **Wallington South Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel** meetings which take place quarterly and help to identify issues of local concern which have an impact on the fear of crime or quality of life in an area. This then helps us to set the priorities for policing through our area.

We also have members active within the **Sutton Neighbourhood Watch** which involves the Police, Community Safety departments of local authorities, and other voluntary organisations as well as individuals and families who want to make their neighbourhoods better places to live.

This year we again walked around the area singing carols and raised £190 for the Diamond Riding Centre. It was a very cold night with thick snow still falling. I would like thank all those who turned out and enjoyed drinks and pies afterwards. We are particularly keen to find more volunteers who have a good voice or a persuasive manner on the doorstep to help collecting cash.

Onslow Gardens Residents Association is run by residents who all have other commitments and give their time in order to help to retain the unique character of our area. We urgently need some extra volunteers to serve on the committee. If you have not yet put your name forward may I urge you to do so when it comes to the elections later in the meeting.

One last thing, please ensure your subscriptions are handed in to your road reps, as soon as possible as we need to balance our accounts ready for the next term.

I would like to express my thanks to all members of the committee (Glenise, Jim, Hilary, Mary, John) and our Road Reps, who have given so much of their leisure time to these activities and to attending the various meetings and other activities throughout the year.

Special thanks to David Duncan, who has helped me extensively in my first year in the chair. And Robert Landeryou for taking up the Hon Secretary role and Anne Penberthy who has managed the Treasurer position last year.

And finally, thanks to Dick Embury for providing the excellent refreshments as usualand Tom Brake for taking time out of his busy schedule, to be with us tonight.

Thanks

Steve Cook
15/07/11