

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter – Nov/Dec 2009

www.ogres.org.uk

Chair: David Duncan

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

**OGRES CAROL SINGING
THURSDAY 17 DECEMBER 2009**

Starting from 36 Marchmont Road
Gathering from 6.45pm for a 7pm start

Refreshments will be provided at the end of the route

Welcome to all the new residents in the OGRES area. We hope you settle into your new homes and enjoy the community environment that is Onslow Garden's Residents Association!

OGRES AGM

At this year's AGM we had two guest speakers, Councillor Jayne McCoy, Chair of the Beddington & Wallington Local Committee and Peter Le-Shirley, Sergeant of the Wallington South Safer Neighbourhood Team.

Jayne spoke on a number of points and then answered several questions from the floor. During her presentation she covered the following topics:

- Planning Projects
- Current Improvements
- Future Improvements

Peter spoke of the formation and organisation of the SNT outlining their latest tasks set by the panel and their roles in the community. He also spoke about the current crime statistics. Peter also answered several questions from the floor.

Safer Neighbourhood Team

If you have concerns about day-to-day crime and disorder issues, please contact a member of the local team either by phone on 020 8721 2730 or via email: wallingtonsouth.snt@met.police.uk. In an emergency call '999'.

For more information about the Safer Neighbourhoods Team visit their website: www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods

Update from Peter Le-Shirley

Sutton police are always looking at ways in which we can work in partnership with local communities to tackle local issues which really matter to them.

Following a recent survey carried out on the Wallington South Ward it was clear that road safety was an area of concern to the residents who commented on problems with speeding motorists and those who use their mobile phones whilst driving. As road safety is obviously an extremely high priority for the police we have been looking at ways that we could possibly work together to help make our streets a safer place to be.

A new initiative involves volunteers from the community observing the traffic flow at specified locations on the ward and noting down the registration number of any vehicle where they see the driver using a mobile phone. This information would then be passed to the police and letters of warning would be sent out to the registered keeper of the car. The initiatives would take place on days when the safer neighbourhood team are on duty and able to assist at the sites if required.

Any thoughts on this new initiative would be greatly appreciated and any volunteers welcomed. If you have any views on the scheme that you would like to discuss with me please call me on 0208 7212730.

Planning Update

The Council is now proposing to present its Local Development Framework Core Strategy Development Plan Document to a Council meeting in December 2009 so that it can be formally adopted. Following the Examination in Public (EIP), which took place in the summer 2009, the Planning Inspector has found that the document is sound, provided a number of minor changes are made.

The Inspectors Report can be found at <http://www.sutton.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=6905&p=0>. The main changes appear to require Sutton Council to protect Metropolitan Open Land, which it had previously proposed to release for development.

The Council has consulted on the early stages of a number of other Development Plan Documents and it is likely that further documents will be released for consultation in the near future. It is important that both OGRES and also other interested residents comment on these as necessary, as they will have a direct relevance on how the borough changes in the coming years and how the Council will respond to future planning applications.

Road Resurfacing – Blenheim Gardens

As you will have noticed, Blenheim Gardens has recently been resurfaced. There were a number of complaints made by residents directly to the council and to OGRES. Tom Brake MP, has also expressed his concerns about the quality of the resurfacing and approached the council directly.

A response has been received from the council, which can be viewed on the OGRES website. The letter received briefly describes the type of material used and the reasons for its use.

The type of surfacing system used is for roads that are showing signs of wear but do not require conventional surfacing. The material used fulfills a number of requirements for extending the life of a road by at least eight years.

Community Groups News

OGRES representatives attend various Sutton Council meetings on behalf of you, the resident. These meetings are open to the public if you wish to attend and all the dates are published on the Sutton Council website. Links to the council site are also available via the OGRES website.

Local Honey – The Bee's Knees

by Steve Cook

I was listening to BBC London radio recently and heard a doctor reporting on the benefits of eating local honey ... grown, reared, developed (or whatever the term is for making honey) near to your home. Apparently it helps if you suffer from digestive problems, burns and is particularly good in fighting seasonal allergies such as hay-fever.

The theory being, the pollens you are most allergic to are those found in the area where you live and work. Local honeybees harvest pollen and nectar in your own neighbourhood and are therefore collecting that exact kind of pollen but in small, tolerable doses which help increase your immune system when eating this honey.

The more local the better is advised... so I went in search for the local stuff and found a supplier in Mount Park, Carshalton and looks like there are several other bee-keepers (or apiarists) around this area. I even found Wallington Honey available on the internet (sadly all sold out) but will definitely try that next season.

Apiculture or beekeeping as it is commonly known, is thankfully alive and well in our area. A bee-keeper (or apiarist) keeps his bees in an apiary in order to collect honey, bees wax or produce bees for sale to other beekeepers.

It's not cheap like the mass produced stuff but it is good. I bought two pots, (they like it if you can return the empty jars, good for re-cycling) and the couple who sold to me were both at least in their mid eighties and seemed full of the joys of Spring and were very sprightly. He was a D-Day navy veteran.

Buzz along...or check out the websites below for more information:

www.honeybeekeeping.co.uk

www.wcyh.org.uk/nutrition/food/honey-health-benefits

<http://www.urbanbees.co.uk>

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/obituaries/1563805/Eva-Crane.html>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beekeeping>

OGRES Website: www.ogres.org.uk

If you have any suggestions for material that could be included on the website please contact either David Duncan (david@wsigotwebsolutions.com), or Lisette Scott (lisettegraham@hotmail.com).