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From: OWGRA info <info@owgra.org.uk>
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To: OWGRA email
Subject: OWGRA e-news, 8 August 2021
Attachments: Ward Panel 2021 July.pdf; Weekday Menu June 2021.pdf; GRASSHOPPER COMEDY 24 September 2021.pdf

Dear OWGRA Members

We hope that you are having a good summer, despite the changeable weather. A longer than usual newsletter today as there is lots to report on. We haven't included anything on Covid this time. Hopefully next time we will be able to include information on the vaccination booster programme and flu jabs.

A. UPDATE ON TESCO/HOMEBASE REDEVELOPMENT

The planning applications for the redevelopment of the Tesco & Homebase sites have still not been sent to the Mayor of London for his approval, and are unlikely to be sent until late August/early September. Despite us asking, the Council is not giving us a reason for the delay.

We held a protest 2 weeks ago on 23 July against overdevelopment in Osterley and the London Borough of Hounslow. For details and photos see the homepage of our website <https://www.thb.owgra.org.uk/> and <http://www.brentfordtw8.com/default.asp?section=info&page=pltesco021.htm>

Within a few days of the planning applications being sent to the Mayor of London we are planning on going to City Hall to lobby the Mayor and London Assembly members with the objective of getting the Mayor of London/GLA to overturn the decision of Hounslow Council to approve the Tesco/Homebase planning applications. This will probably be in early September. We will be in touch as soon as we know the date and will be asking for a delegation of OWGRA members to join us. If you would like to be part of that delegation, please e-mail us now on info@owgra.org.uk.

B. OSTERLEY PARK HOTEL

Residents living close to the Osterley Park Hotel have been suffering from various kinds of disturbance over the last few months as it has opened up after lockdown. These include noise late at night from clients attending functions, loud music, ASB, aggressive driving, illegal parking (including regular blocking of residents' drives). We have sent a detailed report of the various problems to the Council and have requested them to conduct an urgent licence review.

We have just been notified that there will be some special events on 16 and 28 August but have not been informed how late they are due to go on till and we are seeking details. We cannot understand why the Council is allowing these special events to take place when there are so many unresolved problems already.

The hotel management makes no effort to engage with local residents. We have asked our Ward Councillors to urgently organise a meeting with the hotel before 16 August so that the ASB we anticipate can be prevented to some extent. Needless to say, many local residents are unhappy with the situation and that the Council is not responding to our concerns as we would wish.

C. PROPOSED BRENTFORD FOOTBALL CLUB PARKING AT WEST THAMES COLLEGE

Earlier in July, residents in Harvard Road received a letter from Event Support Team Ltd. (EST) informing them, for the first time, of proposals to use the car park at West Thames College (WTC) for match day parking for Brentford Football Club (BFC), and London Irish Rugby Club, who will also use the new Brentford Community Stadium. EST hosted a virtual meeting to give further details and answer residents' questions.

EST, who are based in the stadium at Coventry, manage car parking on behalf of 13 stadiums, including BFC Community Stadium. As part of the Section 106 planning agreement BFC must provide 1000 car parking spaces in and around the stadium, and they have brought in EST to manage this. They concentrated on sites within walking distance first, and then followed main roads and train lines, which led them to WTC. They initially proposed using 200 spaces, all pre-booked via a website.

Local residents expressed serious concerns regarding this, including:

- Free parking would already be available in Harvard Road at match times, leading to this being taken up first,
- With parking on both sides this becomes a very narrow road, and it is also a well-used short cut between the A4 and London Road,
- A large number of cars arriving and leaving over a short period of time would result in congestion and disturbance, sometimes late at night,
- There was concern at how traffic in the road and the car park would be controlled,
- There would be an increase in litter and pollution, and there would need to be provision of toileting facilities,
- This is a conservation area, and the aim should be to reduce traffic, not increase it, and
- There was no indication of what benefits residents would get from this scheme.

EST confirmed that there would be no coaches or minibuses, and that they had similar agreements with 150 schools and colleges countrywide, with no serious problems. It was agreed that EST would come back with further details.

Since the virtual meeting, EST have considered residents' concerns, and come up with a revised proposal to 'test the water around this use'. This would involve a 5-match pilot trial. The Board of WTC will consider this proposal in the coming weeks, in the light of residents' concerns, and proceed accordingly.

OWGRA has asked for information on potential sites outside of our area, but this has not been forthcoming due to 'commercial sensitivity'. We will keep you updated.

D. CRIME

The Osterley & Spring Grove Ward Panel held a virtual meeting on 28 July where we met with our Safer Neighbourhood Team, Ward Councillors and members of the Panel. Various crime issues and concerns were discussed including several cases of well known "hot-spots" of Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and local crime which occur frequently. The attached report from the Met Police provides an interesting overview of our own area and associated Police activity. Below the item "reported crime figures June 2021" is a link to the **Met Police web site** which when opened provides extensive information on crime in our area. This is well worth viewing and has so much information where one can scroll and view to find out both current and historic information on local crime, plus other areas of interest.

Often, we find that there have been numerous complaints over a period of time, e mails, posts on Facebook, photos taken of incidents of significant concern to residents, but NO reports have been filed to the police via 999, 101 or Crimestoppers! Therefore, looking at the police map or list of crimes, one cannot find any reports filed, hence no police resources can be allocated, to the dismay of many who have long suffered! No actual police reports filed indicate no problems!

All Police reports filed are included in the **OWL listings** which is a very useful official source of Police information. In addition to the actual reports, information on prevention of the various crimes is also listed on OWL and is highly recommended. To register with OWL and receive regular reports about crime in the area go to www.owl.co.uk

Currently local crimes are focused mainly on the following:

- Theft from motor vehicles (often left unlocked and valuables on display!),
- Theft of motor vehicles,
- Theft of catalytic converters (increasing again!),
- Burglaries,
- Bike thefts,
- Car number plates stolen.

All details are included in the police report.

E-scooters are an increasing concern, being ridden illegally on pavements and public roads without concern for pedestrians! Again reports need to be filed as action can be taken.

Tesco Osterley are members of the panel and we have worked with them to improve collection of dumped trolleys in the local area. If dumped trolleys are seen (not only those from Tesco), these should be reported via the "**Trolleywise**" mobile app when prompt removal should take place. Recent ASB in the car park has been reported and effective police action taken.

Idling is another ongoing issue with its anti-environmental aspects and is strongly discouraged with signage. We cannot understand why Hounslow Council seem to be unable to issue fines for idling cars when other London boroughs are able to do so!

Therefore important messages are – sign up to OWL, file reports to the Police and report, report, report!! If you feel that action is still not being taken despite the above, please let OWGRA know so that we can include this in the Ward Panel activity.

Remember, call 999 if considered an emergency or serious situation, where a crime is actually being committed at that time. Otherwise call 101, or report via the Met Police website <https://www.met.police.uk/> or to remain anonymous report via Crimestoppers (0800 555111 or <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/>)

E. CLOTHES AND SHOES RECYCLING

The Salvation Army has placed collection bins for second hand clothes and shoes in the Tesco car park near the pedestrian entrance beside MacFarlane Lane.

F. GRASSHOPPERS

We have received the following information on activities at our local rugby and netball club, Grasshoppers.

“Grasshoppers has lifted all Covid restrictions and is welcoming back all members, players and local residents to pop in and enjoy the fun at the best community Rugby & Netball club in the area.

Opening hours are:

BAR: Mon-Thurs 15.00-22.00, Fri-Sat 12.00-22.00, Sun 09.00-19.00

KITCHEN (sample menu attached): Mon-Thurs 17.00-21.00, Fri-Sat 12.00-21.00, Sun 09.00-17.00.

As you see we remain a little cautious and will probably open up fully in September to coincide with the return to (hybrid) work of the large corporates SKY & GSK.

If you would plug the social memberships for local residents at £20 per adult (kids under 16 free) that would be appreciated - see <https://grasshoppersrfc.com/club-information/join-the-club>

Grasshoppers is hosting the following functions and would like you to share with your OWGRA colleagues and distribution list.

- *Monday 13th September (8pm) – Quiz Night. £2.00 entry.*
- *Friday 24th September (8pm start) – Comedy Evening. £15.00 per person. Tickets on sale at Grasshoppers Bar (see attached poster).*
- *Monday 4th October (8pm) – Quiz Night. £2.00 entry.*
- *Monday 1st November (8pm) – Quiz Night. £2.00 entry.”*

G. OSTERLEY PARK & HOUSE

The following activities are available in Osterley Park during the summer holidays: bike hire trailer, Wednesday to Sunday 10.00-16.30. Ping pong, cricket, badminton are also available from the bike trailer. Kayaks have returned Saturdays, Sundays and Wednesdays from 1.30pm. All subject to adequate staffing levels. For more information see <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/osterley-park-and-house/features/summer-holidays-at-osterley>

Osterley House has also reopened and can be visited from Wednesday to Sunday – see <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/osterley-park-and-house>

H. NISHKAM & BOLDER TRAFFIC

Residents living near to the Nishkam and Bolder Schools in Syon Lane are aware of the large volumes of traffic that arrive in the area in the mornings and afternoons during term time, and some of the illegal and inconsiderate parking by parents dropping off and collecting pupils, despite the various parking restrictions that have been introduced. Most of the additional traffic comes from Nishkam parents rather than Bolder parents.

We have been having 6 monthly meetings with the Nishkam School Principal and Hounslow Transport Officers about the continuing problems. Many of us are amazed that there hasn't been a serious accident, and are concerned that the situation will get even worse when an additional 162 children will attend the school from September (bringing the total to 1050). The full complement of 1400 pupils at Nishkam won't be reached until Sept 2024, and the full complement of 1150 pupils at the Bolder School won't be reached until Sept 2024.

It is worth remembering that the planning application for Nishkam was approved on the condition that parents would only drop off and pick up in 3 agreed 'Park & Stride' sites. In reality, there were only ever 2 sites, the Osterley Garden Centre (which has now withdrawn agreement for parents to park there) and Tesco, where there is only an informal agreement for parents to park. The forecasts in the Travel Plan in the planning application for Nishkam were that

15% of children would arrive by car, whereas the figure has been closer to 70% (which we predicted, but our accurate forecast was ignored by the Hounslow Planning Committee).

The School Streets Scheme to prevent Nishkam parent parking was initially installed along Syon Lane, Gower Road, Oaklands Ave, the eastern end of Jersey Road and Wood Lane (north). It was extended in September 2020 to the A4 slip road (between Jersey Gardens and Wood Lane) and Leigham Drive. However there is no CCTV there so some parents are ignoring the signs and continuing to do drop-offs and pick-ups there. We were promised by Hounslow Transport Officers throughout last year that CCTV would be installed, but the date kept moving back, to spring 2021, then to July 2021, but it still hasn't happened. As the cameras would be installed on TfL posts it required structural surveys to be done by TfL but that kept getting delayed. As we have no contacts at TfL, and Hounslow Transport Officers seemed incapable of getting TfL to do the necessary surveys, we escalated the matter to our new London Assembly Member and asked if he could help us. Meanwhile Councillor Tony Louki got involved and we are keeping our fingers crossed that these cameras will be installed before the start of the new school year.

However, the problem of continually increasing Nishkam traffic continues and has spread across to the other side of the A4 to Wood Lane (south) and the Northumberland Estate. While we continue to experience concerns with the pandemic, we do not expect to see an improvement in the Nishkam traffic situation in the near future.

I. HOUNSLOW MATTERS

In addition to the quarterly printed Hounslow Matters magazine delivered to all residents of our borough, the Council also publishes a weekly e-newsletter which is full of useful information. We urge you to read the latest version here <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHOUNSLOW/bulletins/2eaf4c3> and to register to receive it regularly via e-mail.

J. ULEZ (Ultra Low Emission Zone)

ULEZ is being extended from 25 Oct 2021 from Central London to include the area within the North and South Circular Roads, see <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/ulez-expansion>

This could affect quite a few OWGRA members. If you have a diesel vehicle you should have already received a letter about this. If you are not sure if your vehicle meets the required standard to enable you to enter the extended ULEZ you can check here <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/cars>

A practical example is that if your car does not meet the required standard of emissions, if you drive to Kew Retail Park or Mortlake Crematorium, which will be inside the extended ULEZ, you will need to pay a charge of £12.50 per day, or a penalty charge of £160 (reduced to £80 if paid within 14 days).

There will probably be a lot of publicity about this in the local media in the run up to the start date of 25 October!

K. POSTBOX ON RIDGEWAY ROAD NORTH

Those residents who have been inconvenienced by the disappearance last year of the post box on Jersey Road close to the junction with Ridgeway Road North, will be pleased to hear that a new post box has been installed at the top end of Ridgeway Road North. The new mini-box is not yet open for use (it has yellow tape all the way round) but opening is expected soon.

Thank you to Ed Locke and Colin Hume from the OWGRA Committee for their contributions on Brentford Football Club parking and Crime respectively, and to Lis Guest for information on Osterley Park & House and the Salvation Army clothes and shoes collection bins.

Kind regards

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