

OWGRA e-news, 12 October 2021

A. PLANNING OFFICER

OWGRA has been operating without a Planning Officer for the last year. We have been receiving some help, but the current situation is not sustainable in the longer term. If you have some experience of planning or know someone locally who does, and has an hour or two a week to spare, please contact us on info@owgra.org.uk. This is an urgent and important need, as planning is at the core of OWGRA's work.

B. UPDATE ON TESCO/HOMEBASE REDEVELOPMENT

The planning applications are now with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (the new name for the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government!) for their decision. The new Secretary of State for that department, Michael Gove, has requested more time to make a decision. No-one seems to know how long that will take.

Meanwhile, on Monday 27 September, we delivered our petition with almost 4.5K signatures to overturn the decision by Hounslow Planning Committee to approve these planning applications. Numerous bodies have written to the Secretary of State asking him to call-in the applications and submit them to scrutiny via a public inquiry. OWGRA has written two letters to Robert Jenrick and one letter to Michael Gove. Tony Louki has written on behalf of our Ward Councillors to Michael Gove – please read his excellent letter here <https://tonylouki.files.wordpress.com/2021/09/210926-thb-to-sostate.pdf>

C. OTHER PLANNING NEWS

Park Road Allotments

The latest planning application for the Park Road allotments (between West Middlesex Hospital and Syon Park) goes to Hounslow Planning Committee next Thursday, 14 October. See <http://www.brentfordtw8.com/default.asp?section=info&page=plparkroad013.htm>
We will be watching the proceedings with interest.

Access Storage

The Access Storage building is nearing completion. It's looking very stark from the back (south) side, but we expect to see some green walls introduced on that side (at least that's what was in the planning application!). Those of you living nearby, do please keep us informed of what is happening there.

Meanwhile, we have just found out that Access Storage would like to change a planning condition to allow articulated vehicles to access the site (the original planning condition stated that articulated vehicles were not to be used). Hounslow Planning Officers are recommending approval, but we're not so sure, and have asked our Ward Councillors to call it in which they have done, so we hope it will go to Planning Committee for a decision.

We have sent the details of this proposed change to some of the residents on the Northumberland Estate. If you haven't received anything from us about this but would like the details, please e-mail us on info@owgra.org.uk and we will send you the information. The planning reference no. is P/2021/2692. If you would like to have a look at the original planning applications on the Council website, the reference numbers are P/2018/4691, and there was P/2020/1761 where they asked for a slight increase in height of the building which was approved.

West Cross House

We have been contacted by agents for the developers L&G about proposals to redevelop the frontage of West Cross House on the Great West Road (the building that replaced the sadly demolished fine art deco Firestone building). They state that the redevelopment would include a new Renault car dealership together with a 90,000 sq ft of new industrial building which could be used for a range of industrial or distribution uses, with offices, designed to make optimum use of the site, deliver investment and create jobs in the local area.

The agents have met our Ward Councillors and will be meeting with local residents' associations (OWGRA and Brentford Voice) for our input, so we expect that to happen shortly

This is why we need a Planning Officer on the OWGRA Committee, who can lead for OWGRA on this project. If we don't get anyone volunteering for this position we will not be able to give this proposed redevelopment, or any others that come our way, the attention they require and deserve.

GlaxoSmithKline

Very fresh news that GSK will be vacating their world HQ on the corner of the A4 and Boston Manor Road in the next few years. See <https://www.reuters.com/business/gsk-cement-split-with-two-new-headquarters-2021-10-11/>. This will have huge ramifications on the area, and possibly on the proposed Tesco/Homebase redevelopment. We will be looking into this with other local residents' associations and asking the Council about their plans for that site.

D. OSTERLEY PARK HOTEL

You will have read in our OWGRA e-news of 8 August of the problems local residents have been experiencing with the Osterley Park Hotel. Since then, the situation has only got worse. We suffer from noise nuisance late at night from people attending functions, loud music, ASB, aggressive driving (including frequent illegal use of car horns late at night), illegal parking (including regular blocking of residents' drives). In addition, the hotel has been doing all sorts of building work this year, all without planning permission. And a car wash has been operating illegally for the last year: they've applied 3 times for planning permission, each time it's been refused yet they carry on regardless! The hotel management makes no effort to engage with local residents, and has no regard for the negative impact it is making on our lives and affecting our mental health.

Despite us regularly reporting problems to the Council and the Police since the early summer, the Council has been slow to respond. Even the involvement and support of our Ward Councillors has only had a minor effect on speeding up the Council's response.

The problems culminated in a suspected stabbing on Sunday morning, 3 October, in the early hours, which saw the presence of 8 police cars and 2 ambulances at the scene. See <http://www.brentfordtw8.com/default.asp?section=info&page=concrime176.htm>
We have requested a statement from the police and notification via OWL but have received nothing to date.

Last weekend's problems have resulted in some action, with Planning Enforcement and Licensing visiting the premises. This will result in a change to the hotel's licence where they will have to reduce their hours and there will be additional conditions. The police have put pressure on the licence holder and they've had to accept. This will go out to public consultation so we will be able to ask for additional conditions. We have not been informed of the timescales on this and have asked for an urgent update meeting with the Council.

To be continued!

E. REQUEST FOR VOLUNTEER MARSHALS FOR COVID VACCINATIONS AT THORNBURY ROAD CENTRE FOR HEALTH

Local GP surgeries are starting to deliver 3rd booster doses of the Covid vaccine. Our local surgery, Thornbury Road Centre for Health, is looking for volunteer marshals for the forthcoming vaccine sessions as follows:

- Sun 17th October
- Sat 23rd October
- Sun 31st October
- Sat 6th November

All clinics will be 8am – 8pm and the shifts would probably be 8am – 12pm, 12pm – 4pm, 4pm – 8pm.

The surgery would be very appreciative of any local residents who are willing to volunteer to help with marshalling on those days. If you feel you can help, please e-mail the practice on HOUCCG.Thornburyroad@nhs.net

F. ABUSIVE BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS GP PRACTICE STAFF

We're sure that no OWGRA member would behave as shown in this short video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ru4QhVZ2a8> but it illustrates the types of abuse that some GP receptionists have had to experience since the start of the pandemic. We have been asked to share this video to show what practices are having to experience.

G. YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AMBASSADOR FOR OSTERLEY & SPRING GROVE WARD PANEL.

We are looking for at least one "Youth Engagement Ambassador" for our Ward Panel to help us connect with and hear the experiences and concerns of younger people (under 25 years old). The Ward Panel is a group of community volunteers who work with the Police and Council to monitor and set priorities to reduce crime and improve community safety in the local area. This role would suit someone with knowledge and experience of engaging with younger people both on-line and in-person. The voluntary position would be of interest to those who care about the local community and want to learn more about the way that the Police and community partners work together. Meetings are held every 3 months locally in the evenings, with various activities in between. If you or anyone you know might be interested or suitable for this position, please contact us via info@owgra.org.uk.

H. AIR QUALITY AT GILLETTE CORNER

Since early July this year Breathe London have been continuously monitoring nitrogen dioxide and PM 2.5 particulates levels at the busy Gillette Corner junction, to add to their expanding network of measured locations London-wide. Eventually these data will be merged with the established London Air Quality Network (LAQN).

Do visit <https://www.breathelondon.org>, then click on the map to view 7 days of real-time data from your chosen location. Also see the graphs below of Gillette Corner showing recent data from 20 September to 2 October.

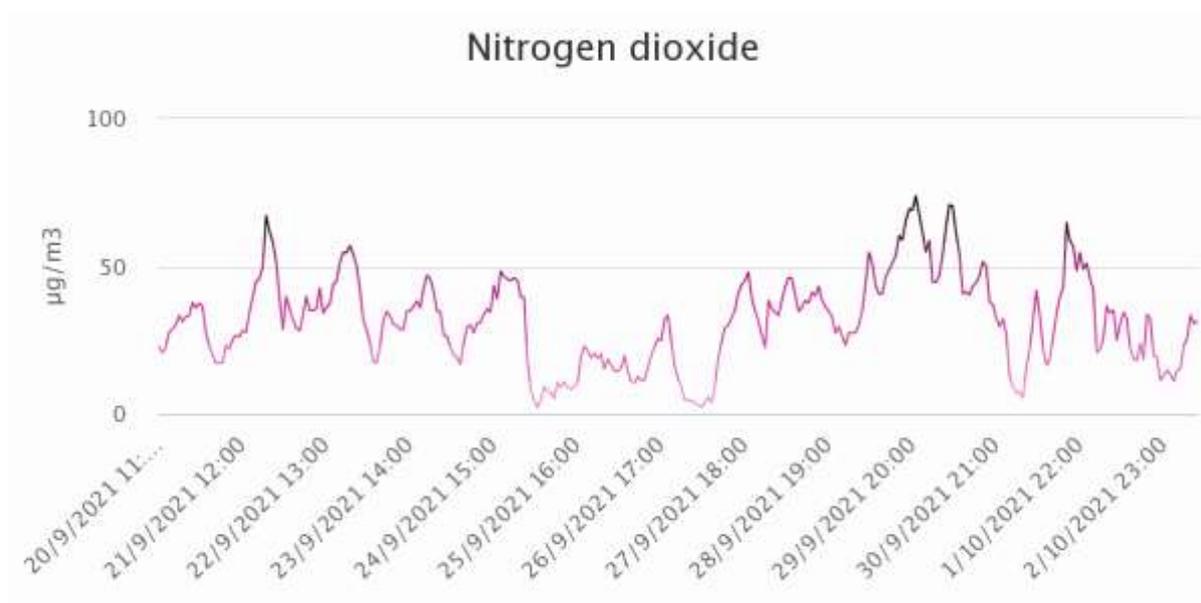
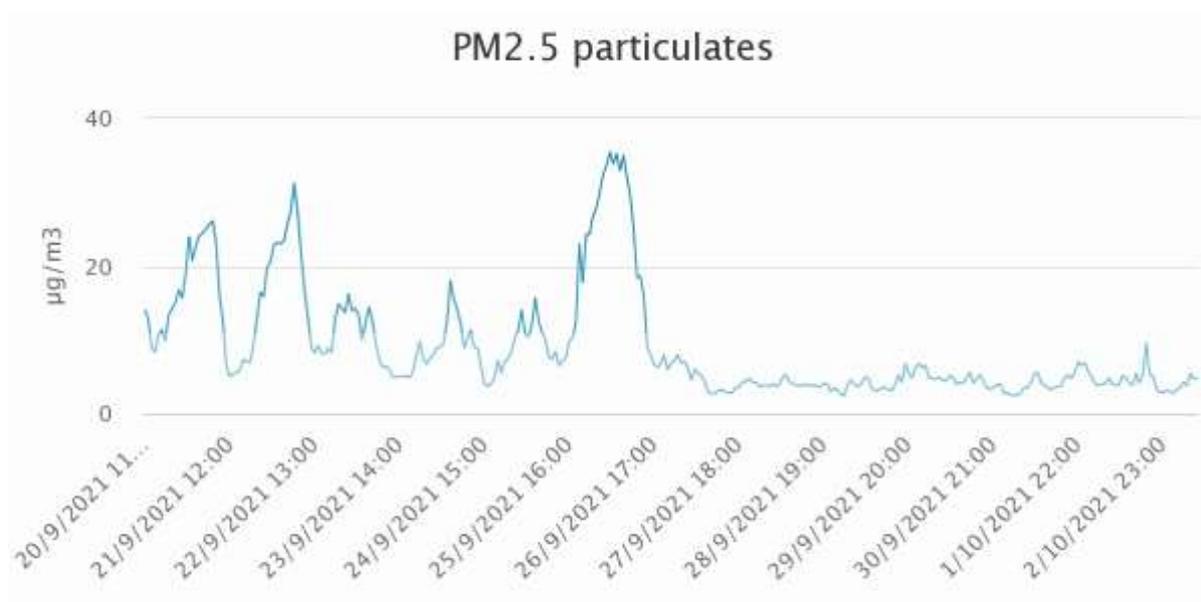
Alarming, on Wednesday 22 September, the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced a huge reduction in its guideline limits for air pollution (see table below), stating that this reflects the large body of recent evidence of the deadly harm to people caused by much lower levels than their scientists thought.

AIR POLLUTION LIMIT VALUES (micrograms per cubic metre)

Pollutant	Current UK/EU	Old WHO	New WHO
NO2	40	40	10
PM 10	40	20	15
PM 2.5	25	10	5

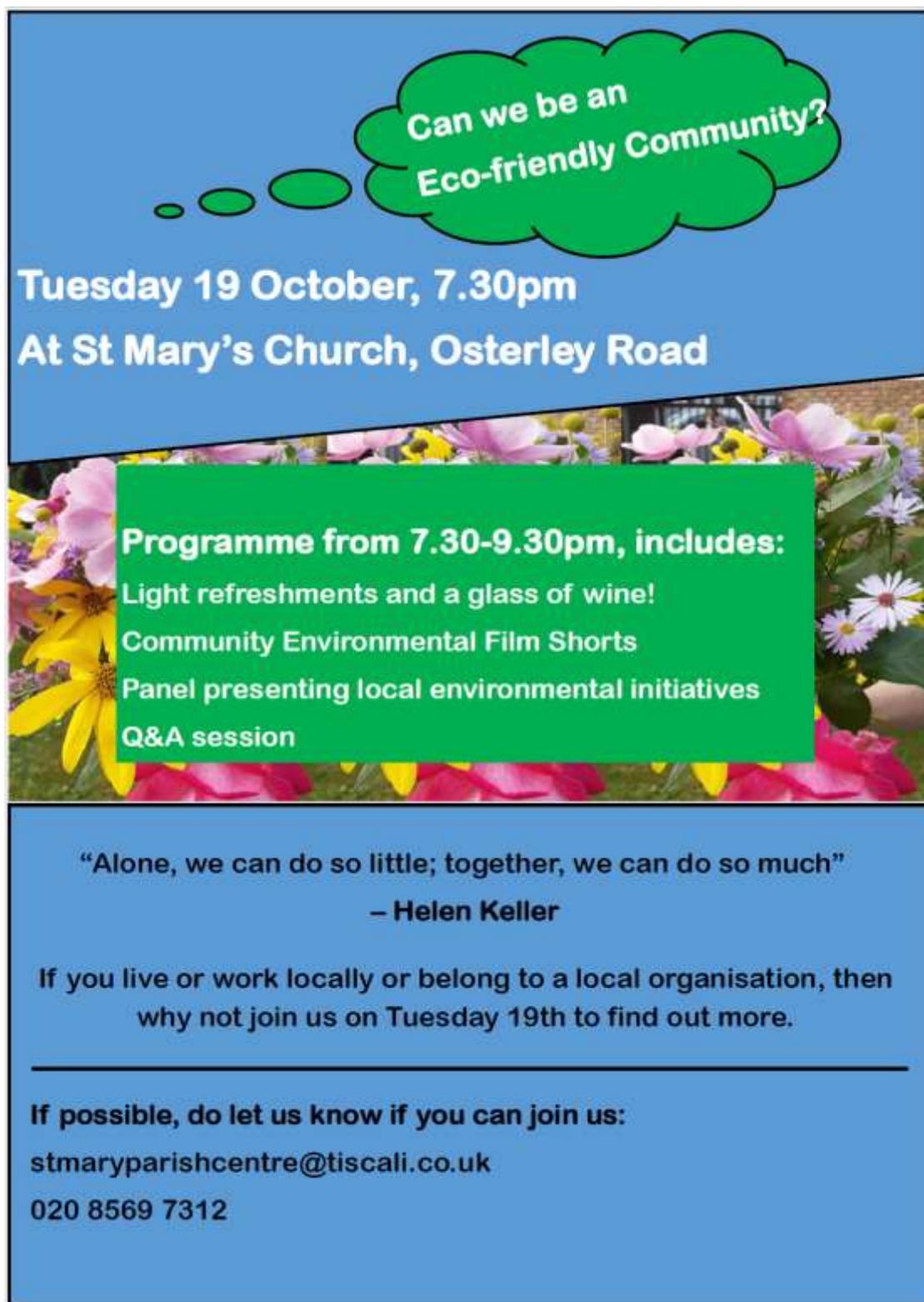
Of course, this chimes well with the urgent need to massively cut carbon emissions (much of which is transport-linked) in order to slow the rate of global warming. In other words, **cutting emissions will help improve air quality** (but it is not the only solution).

Looking again at the attached graphs from the Gillette Corner module, surely it is a big mistake to contemplate putting a high-density residential development adjacent to such a notoriously-congested junction, especially when we finally have hard evidence of existing pollution and the health damage it causes?



I. ECO-FRIENDLY EVENT, Tuesday 18 Oct, 7.30 pm, St Mary's Church

A group of local residents is trying hard to energise interest in being environmentally aware in the local community and finding out what more we can be doing to influence politicians before COP26 (31 October to 12 November). Such an important subject for the benefit of future generations and the planet. See below for details of this meeting.



**Can we be an
Eco-friendly Community?**

**Tuesday 19 October, 7.30pm
At St Mary's Church, Osterley Road**

Programme from 7.30-9.30pm, includes:
Light refreshments and a glass of wine!
Community Environmental Film Shorts
Panel presenting local environmental initiatives
Q&A session

**"Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much"
– Helen Keller**

**If you live or work locally or belong to a local organisation, then
why not join us on Tuesday 19th to find out more.**

If possible, do let us know if you can join us:
stmaryparishcentre@tiscali.co.uk
020 8569 7312

J. NEW SCAM HOTLINE 159

A new hotline number of **159** is being trialled for dealing easily and quickly with suspected telephone banking fraud. For more details see <https://stopscamsuk.org.uk/159> and <https://www.which.co.uk/news/2021/09/can-the-new-159-anti-fraud-hotline-stop-impersonation-scams/>.

K. BOLDER ACADEMY LITTER PICKING

OWGRA in partnership with Bolder Academy and Hounslow Highways has finalised a community project that will see up to 20 Bolder students on weekly litter pick outings in the Osterley area along with accompanying teachers and volunteering local residents. Hounslow Highways have provided all the equipment needed such as gloves, litter pickers and green bags and they will be collecting the litter after every outing. The project is part of the school's Duke of Edinburgh awards program and the litter picks will be carried out every week over a period of 36 weeks during the school year. These litter picks have already started and you might have seen the students out and about doing a great job clearing litter.

If you would like to help on one of these litter picks, please contact OWGRA at info@owgra.org.uk

L. POST BOX ON JERSEY ROAD/RIDGEWAY ROAD NORTH

You may remember that a few months ago we wrote about the post box that had disappeared a year ago from Jersey Road near to the junction with Ridgeway Road North. Well, the saga continues, as the new smaller post box that was installed on Ridgeway Road North is too small to take the COVID kits so a larger post box will be installed somewhere else on Ridgeway Road North. We were told that it might take 6 months, so we have responded with suitable indignation that that is far too long to wait and is unacceptable!

To be continued...

M. SYON LANE ZEBRA CROSSING

While we're on the subject of fiascos, some of you may have noticed that the 'new' zebra crossing across Syon Lane near the junction with MacFarlane Lane is closed off and the crossing is temporarily controlled by traffic lights. This zebra crossing has not been operating properly or safely for some months now. We won't go into the details of the fact that the zebra crossing almost didn't go in, despite being part of the approval of the planning application for the Bolder Academy. Anyhow, the Belisha beacons were to be powered by solar panels, but two of the solar panels were shaded by trees and didn't produce enough power to light the beacons. We are now waiting for them to be connected to mains power, but it seems to be taking an age.

To be continued...

N. NEWS FROM WARD COUNCILLOR TONY LOUKI

Lifts now installed and operating at Osterley Station: My Tweet - <https://twitter.com/tonylouki/status/1446430661888430087>

TCV volunteers at Jersey Gardens this week, shout for next session on Saturday 30.10.202: FOJG Tweet - <https://twitter.com/JerseyGardens10/status/1446257280106762247>

Pothole Pledge update with a local focus as well as whole list: from my website - <https://osterleyspringgrove.org/2021/09/30/pothole-pledge-2021-programme-continues-in-osterley-and-spring-grove-ward/>

South Western Railway timetable consultation and promoting the Windsor Lines Passenger Association: from my website - <https://osterleyspringgrove.org/2021/09/18/24-hours-left-to-respond-on-train-timetable-proposals/>

My letter response to the South Western Railway timetable consultation: link to my website where it's stored - <https://tonylouki.files.wordpress.com/2021/10/210918-tl-to-swr-consultation.pdf>

Tesco Homebase: Ward Councillors' letter to Secretary of State Michael Gove MP - from my website <https://osterleyspringgrove.org/2021/09/28/tesco-homebase-ward-councillors-letter-to-michael-gove/>

O. HOUNSLOW LABOUR RESIDENT SURVEY 2021

Many of you will have received a flyer with a survey through the door a few weeks ago from Hounslow Labour. It is difficult to read (capital letters and small white type out of a red background), but you can go here for a more legible and easier to complete version of the survey <http://www.hounslowlabour.co.uk/manifestosurvey/>.

It's interesting that although the building and housing programme is mentioned in the flyer, there is not one mention of the Tesco/Homebase development, and that it was approved by Hounslow Council despite overwhelming opposition from the local community! Yet they state in the leaflet that *"The Council is here to serve our residents and what you want to see will shape our ideas"*. Really?

The questions they ask are a bit odd, but please do complete the survey and say what you think! It will be interesting to see if the results of this survey are ever published.
