

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED AS STREET REPS AND NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH CO-ORDINATORS

We rely on our network of Street Reps to deliver paper newsletters a few times a year, and to help in other ways when possible. Not all the roads in the OWGRA area have Street Reps. This is an easy way to help us if you can only spare a small amount of time and not on a regular basis. If this is something you feel you could do for the community, please get in touch, and we will let you know if your street or a nearby street needs a Street Rep. Similarly, not all streets have NW Co-ordinators. Please don't wait until a crime has happened in your street before you set up a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. This is another way you can help. It involves a little more work than a Street Rep, but not much. Support and guidance will be provided as to what is required; however, in essence, it involves being aware of what is happening on your street and advising your neighbours of anything that occurs nearby they should know about. Those streets that do have NW schemes find that it's easiest and most effective to communicate via WhatsApp. Again if you're not sure if your street is in the Neighbourhood Watch scheme then please contact us.

## THE FUTURE

There will be changes in our area in the future; we all know we cannot stand still. But our vital role is to ensure that your voice is heard both in deciding what types of changes could occur and then helping to shape those changes so they enhance our area rather than damage it.

There is a major planning exercise now nearing completion within Hounslow Council to develop the Local Plan for the next 15 years. This defines what developments and changes the Council will seek to promote over this period (i.e. a "roadmap" for developers). Part of this is the classification of the Great West Road from the Gillette Building onwards to Gunnersbury Station, and the surrounding areas, as an Opportunity Area (the "Great West Corridor Opportunity Area"). This means there will be 7,500 new "dwellings" (i.e. flats) built and 14,000 new jobs created in this area in that period. There will be a public consultation on this soon (currently planned for May 2019).

The Osterley Station car park re-development into a 12-storey block of flats has gone quiet for now, but has not gone away – we expect to hear more about this at some time and will need to react quickly.

We know that the old Gillette building (a Grade II-listed building, and therefore protected) will not remain being used only as a film set location as it is currently. There are rumours about redeveloping it into offices (plus some retail) for the creative sector (i.e. small- to medium-sized companies that provide services to media companies such as Sky) – no details yet. In addition, the Homebase store is remaining open for at least another year – but it looks like it will be redeveloped at some point in the future. Similarly rumours suggest the Tesco site may gain a few hundred or so flats at some point. And there are rumours around the Wyevale Garden Centre site on Windmill Lane – again all unconfirmed.

And we are also very aware of the evolving development landscape in Brentford, where it looks likely that in 5 years there could be a forest of new tower blocks built ranging from 12 to 22 storeys high (and even 32 storeys if the Chiswick Curve appeal is granted!). We have seen proposals for well over a dozen of these which are currently in varying stages in the development process. The latest one to come to light is an emerging proposal to redevelop the B&Q site at Chiswick roundabout into a complex of 6 tower blocks.

And there is of course the current huge redevelopment of the whole of the south side of Brentford High Street by Ballymore just getting started. This will mean that, for the next few years, there will only be shops on the north side of Brentford High Street, with the south side being a building site.

There are plans (or, more accurately, aspirations) for improvements in public transport to support all of this additional development, but as always the funding for these is not at all clear at the moment. We need to continue to keep the pressure on to ensure that development is not allowed to proceed without the improvements in public transport needed to support these developments (as otherwise the roads will just grind to a halt).

And to add to all of the above, the continuing challenges on funding for local councils means there are ongoing risks to the services you value to maintain the neighbourhood (e.g. we have started to organize litter picks as areas such as green areas next to roads are not being covered). So we will have to keep working with LBH in the coming months and years to see how they can continue to maintain our area.

In addition, similar funding challenges mean we will need to increase our work with the local Neighbourhood Watch to help the Police tackle crime and ASB more effectively.

But there are positives as well. There are many good things happening in our area that all too many of us are simply not aware of. These include walks to see historical landmarks in the area (and talks about the same), charities and voluntary groups providing services to our local area, local sports clubs and other groups that people can use, and one-off events that all these groups organize. In the coming year we will be working to spread the word about all of these and to try and increase the sense of community in our area.

So there is a lot that will happen in the coming years and as a result a lot we will need to do to ensure that your voice is heard, and to represent you as local residents. And a lot that we know we need to do to help Osterley & Wyke Green be a true community of neighbours.

**But please note that we will not be able to continue with everything we (need to) do if more people do not come forward to help the Committee do its work. It won't happen by itself. Please think about this.**



# OWGRA

Osterley & Wyke Green Residents' Association

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Newsletter No. 10 May 2019

THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR AREA.

IF THIS NEWSLETTER IS BEING DELIVERED TO YOUR HOME, THEN YOU LIVE IN THE OWGRA AREA.

## OWGRA AGM & PUBLIC MEETING

ON HOUNSLOW COUNCIL AND OSTERLEY PARK

Thursday 23 May 2019, 6.45 pm

Isleworth & Syon School for Boys, Ridgeway Road, TW7 5LJ

All OWGRA members and residents are invited to attend a Public Meeting which will have two presentation and Q&A sessions followed by our AGM.

- The first from Niall Bolger, CEO of the London Borough of Hounslow on their current operations and future plans and
- The second from the National Trust management of Osterley Park on their current operations and plans for the future.

Throughout the last year OWGRA has continued to work for the residents of our area. You can imagine that producing newsletters (and regular e-newsletters), maintaining a website, organising meetings, and preparing detailed responses to planning applications (and presenting on these objections in front of the Council's Planning Committee) does not happen without a lot of hard work. In addition we have had meetings with many local organisations (e.g. Tesco, Sky), organised litter picks, worked on addressing Crime and ASB and worked with the Council on traffic issues. We have also worked with several developers to help them adapt their proposals to reflect the concerns of our residents. In addition we have attended some dozens of meetings with LBH, other Residents Associations, other organizations, etc. in representing the views and interests of our residents and members.

### AGENDA FOR OWGRA AGM & PUBLIC MEETING

Thursday 23 May 2019

6.45 pm	Registration
7.00 pm	<b>The Future Vision for LB Hounslow</b> (LBH Chief Executive: Niall Bolger)
7.15 pm	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
8.00 pm	Refreshments Break
8.20 pm	<b>Osterley Park - Current Activities and Future Plans</b> (Executive, National Trust)
8.35 pm	<b>Q&amp;A</b>
8.45 pm	<b>OWGRA AGM</b>
9.15 pm	Close of meeting

Minutes of the 23 May 2018 AGM are on the website.

### To be able to vote at the AGM, you will need to be an OWGRA member.

Please bring your OWGRA membership card, or *come early so that we can check your membership.*

If you haven't joined OWGRA or renewed your membership for 2019/20, please do so.

### OWGRA MEMBERSHIP - ONLY £5 PER PERSON PER ANNUM

The more members we have the greater our chance of being able to influence local developments. The money is used for producing this newsletter, running a website and organising public meetings. The 2019/2020 membership runs to March 2020. There is a membership form with this newsletter and on our website. You can pay by:

#### BANK TRANSFER

OWGRA Account no. 65291223  
Sort code 08 92 99

(put your house number and street name in the reference)

#### CHEQUE

Payable to OWGRA

#### CASH

Don't send cash in the post

## OWGRA COMMITTEE

Over the last year we have continued to work hard for our area and we explain elsewhere in this newsletter the work we have been doing. However this work is all being done by a very few people and we really need more people to help us to share the load.

Any member can stand for any of the positions on the Committee (details below). Please consider if you can spare the time to come on to the committee to share the work. We also need more helpers who don't feel that they want to carry out a committee role. Even if you can only spare a few hours here and there, that would really help us. If you like what we are doing, please give this some thought. Some committee members are currently overloaded with work. The more active committee members we have the lighter the load.

We have open positions for the SOCIAL SECRETARY, EVENTS OFFICER and PUBLICITY/ADVERTISING/FUND-RAISING OFFICER. In addition, our brilliant SECRETARY is standing down after three years.

### OWGRA COMMITTEE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

#### CHAIRMAN

- Chair meetings, issue agendas, guide the association and ensure jobs are done
- Represent association at external meetings

#### VICE-CHAIRMAN

- Stand in for Chairman in his/her absence
- Liaise with other nearby residents' associations
- Work with Webmaster/Communications Officer to communicate with the press

**SECRETARY** (replacing our current secretary, Barbara, is not going to be easy, so we welcome all offers and suggestions as to how we can maintain our present level of activity. Finding a new person or persons to carry out this role will be critical for the functioning of the Association)

- Arrange meetings, organise venues, take minutes
- Deal with correspondence. e-mails and telephone enquiries
- Oversee production of OWGRA newsletters, e-newsletters and scheduling of other activities

#### TREASURER

- Maintain accounts, manage the finances and bank account
- Prepare and submit annual accounts and ensure accounts are audited by External Auditor prior to AGM

#### MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

- Maintain updated database of members, collect subs and issue membership cards

#### STREET REP CO-ORDINATOR

- Fill Street Rep vacancies
- Communicate with Street Reps and organise delivery of newsletters

#### WEBMASTER

- Maintain and update website with current news

#### COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

- Draft and issue newsletters and content for the website
- Look after social media accounts
- Work with the media in concert with the Vice-Chairman

#### PLANNING OFFICER

- Monitor LBH list of planning applications, alert Street Reps to inform local residents
- Respond to larger planning applications

#### SOCIAL SECRETARY

- Organise social events for membership and local community

#### EVENTS OFFICER

- Organise and co-ordinate OWGRA Public Meetings

#### PUBLICITY/ADVERTISING/FUND-RAISING OFFICER

- Promote OWGRA events and raise funds for OWGRA activities and other local causes

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PUT YOUR NAME FORWARD FOR ANY OF THESE ROLES, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH ANY OF THESE ROLES PLEASE CONTACT US, AND WE WILL GET A NOMINATION FORM TO YOU. WE WOULD ALSO CONSIDER JOB SHARES FOR SPECIFIC ROLES.

## OUR WORK OVER THE LAST YEAR

We've had a busy year (again!). In all of this we work closely with our three Ward Councillors (Tony Louki, Richard Eason and Unsa Chaudri), with our local Police (Safer Neighbourhood Team - SNT), and with other local organizations and Hounslow Council.

<b>Newsletters</b>	Since our last AGM in May 2018 we have published 22 e-newsletters (up to 23 Mar), which are e-mailed to OWGRA members and provide useful and topical information as to what is happening in our area. These are highly-rated by our members, with unsolicited comments including "Brilliant", "As a local resident, I should like to thank you for your very informative newsletter and the time you and the rest of the team put in.", and "Thanks for this excellent newsletter. Very informative." They are all on our website. If you are not a member you are missing out on having these sent to you every few weeks! Also we have published 2 paper newsletters and delivered them to 5,000 houses.
<b>Website</b>	Over the last few months OWGRA has been working hard to update and extend our website ( <a href="https://owgra.org.uk/">https://owgra.org.uk/</a> ) as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We have new sections on the website including the History of OWGRA, updated/new sections on Planning, Our Area, and the local Neighbourhood Watch and Crime.</li> <li>• The Our Area section has sub-menu items on Traffic and Transport (rail, bus, etc.), Local Facilities and Reporting Problems (details of all the sports clubs in our area and how to report problems), Charities and Support and Our Councillors.</li> <li>• To find out about significant developments and our response to them, look under the Planning (which also has explanations on how the Planning process works).</li> <li>• Our e-newsletters and printed newsletters are under OWGRA Information.</li> <li>• It also includes details of our committee meetings and the minutes of past meetings.</li> <li>• And if you ever wondered who the legendary (infamous?) OWGRA committee is, then you will find our details, complete with mug shots under the Home menu.</li> <li>• We are currently working on new website content for the History of our Area, Crime and Neighbourhood Watch, and a new section on Recycling, Pollution and the Environment coming soon.</li> <li>• We hope that you agree that the website is a great source of information. We think that few residents' associations have been able to provide information on this scale.</li> </ul>
<b>Public Meetings</b>	We held two Public Meetings this year, one on Crime and ASB at Sky's offices, and our AGM (details in this newsletter). A report of the meeting at Sky can be found on our website .
<b>Planning Applications</b>	Planning applications continue to take up much of our workload, as developers are always looking to build ever taller, denser developments, and to build on our open spaces that we all value so highly. This year we have successfully objected to a number of proposals, including the Adini redevelopment to a 6-storey office and a separate 4-storey block of flats and Osterley Park Hotel's application for a Shisha lounge (and are now fighting their appeals). We have worked with the Council and/or developers to amend proposals to achieve a much better outcome for residents on the Nishkam school netting right next to residents' gardens, the redevelopment of Brentford FC Training Ground on Jersey Road and the Access Storage development at Syon Lane/Great West Road. In addition we have opposed several conversions of family houses into a number of small, low-quality flats. Our website includes a comprehensive section on Planning, including how you submit Planning Applications and how to comment on ones that impact you.
<b>Traffic</b>	As more people move into the area, and more jobs are created, traffic levels rise in response. Congestion increases along with more gridlocked roads and more parking problems. We have worked with local residents to address these issues in several areas, including the Red Route parking control scheme around the new Nishkam school, Controlled Parking Zones (CPZs) in several areas and traffic jams at rush hour in some back streets. We have a good relationship with the Traffic & Transport Team at the Council, and work through our Councillors to deal with TfL.
<b>Litter</b>	We have started organizing Community Litter Picks to clear up litter from areas badly affected by people throwing rubbish on the street. So far we have targeted the undergrowth on Jersey Road and on Windmill Lane, yielding over 100 bags or litter. Further details are on our website.
<b>Community Liaison</b>	There are many different groups that we have to liaise with as part of running OWGRA. This involves us in attending on average a dozen or more meetings every month, including other residents associations, community councils, various parts of Hounslow Council and public consultations.
<b>Crime and ASB</b>	We have increased our focus on Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour in the area through working closely with the local Neighbourhood Watch group. We regularly include topics in our e-newsletter about how to reduce the risk of being a victim of crime. We have a section on our website giving advice on how to report crime or suspicious activity and steps you can take to protect yourselves. We organized a Public Meeting for the local Neighbourhood Watch to present their ideas on installing CCTV and ANPR cameras to address crime problems in the area and are continuing to work with them to help them address crime and ASB in our area.