

# NEWSLETTER

Representing local residents and supporting our heritage, quality of life and community

## Come to the AGM – 3 June 2008

### Topics (time permitting)

#### - Proposed residents parking zone between town and rivers

Proposed area defined, but little information on what the consultation document may contain. This may be our opportunity to put some points forward to be included. It is a big issue for 2008 (and 2009 and 2010...?)

#### - Major planning developments

These include the Crest Nickolson site (55 flats), Radnor Road (11 flats).

#### - Riverside news

Bulldog Island, Thames towpath, Whittet's Ait, etc. Enhancement or conservation?

#### - Extension of remit to cover flight paths

Should we be able to add PP&DRA's name to objections to any increases in flights over Weybridge?

#### - Local Amenities

When the museum moves to Walton, the future of the library is a concern.

#### - St George's College Junior School

We meet twice yearly with the Headmaster. What would you like to be raised?

#### - Conservation Areas

Is it time for us to make the case for extending existing conservation areas or creating new ones?

#### - Election of the Committee

Any resident is welcome to participate. Some long serving members are standing down and new people are sought for undemanding roles.

#### - Issues to be addressed next year

Please feel free to e-mail us before the AGM at [committee@portmore.org.uk](mailto:committee@portmore.org.uk) or raise them on the 3<sup>rd</sup>. All ideas, issues, concerns are welcome.

### Where and when

7.30 pm for 8.00 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June, at the Parish Hall, Portmore Way, Weybridge  
(St Charles Borromeo RC Primary School and Christ The Prince Of Peace Church). Join us for an informal chat and light refreshments beforehand from 7.30. We have limited time at the AGM, so coming early will give an opportunity to exchange views and see some background.

**Do you support the aims of PP&DRA?**  
Have you subscribed this year? Details on page 4...

## Residents' Parking

The big issue of 2008/09?  
Make your voice heard!

A Surrey County Council consultation is planned – help us put questions to Surrey now.

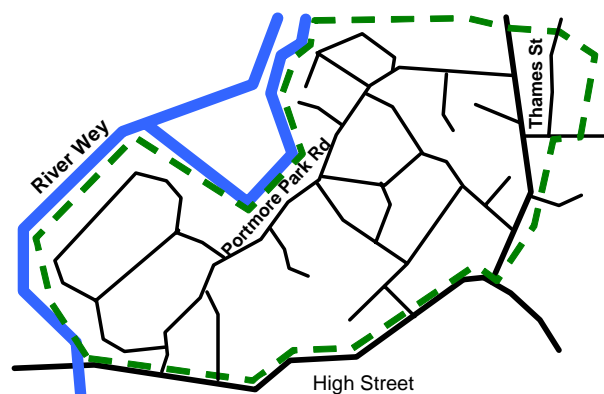
**The problem:** Where do people coming to Weybridge park for the day? The answer is in the residential roads around the town centre.



**The result:** Many residents can no longer easily find parking places near to their homes. It is now an acute problem for many in Holstein Avenue, Elmgrove Road, Oakdale Road, and the lower part of Dorchester Avenue. The effects are spilling over into other roads.

**What's going to happen?** Surrey intends to issue a consultation document as an early step. It affects a large area because parking could be displaced under a more limited scheme.

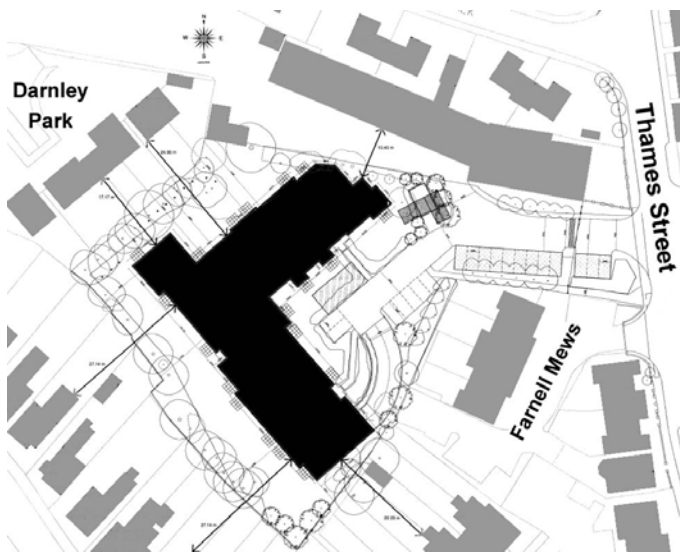
**WHO WILL BE AFFECTED?** Everybody living within the dotted line (which may form the boundary).



## Keeping alert to Planning Applications

**Sign up to our alert service (see page 4)**

**Replacing older buildings:** Many sites within our area are attractive for development. These involve flats of increasingly higher density and little on-site parking, to meet "brown field" development and profit targets. The definition of "brown field" includes houses and gardens, as well as commercial premises.



*Application for 55 flats currently under appeal*

Over the years quite a few flats have been built in the area where the developer has ensured that they are in keeping with the surroundings. However, this may not be the starting point and may be the result of earlier plans being rejected.

**Green belt:** At the same time, much of North Weybridge is green belt which keeps us separate from Walton. One significant area of green belt in particular has been under the eye of developers for some time.

Local residents often do not hear of applications until after the 3 week consultation period has closed. There is very little warning and little time to react. Time scales are always very short for people to respond with support or objections. There are rumours of another "brown field" site for which a planning application is imminent.

The plan is for the alert service to begin on July 1<sup>st</sup>. It will monitor larger scale applications or those which may have the greater local impact, usually made by developers. Typically there may be about 6 applications per year. Elmbridge Borough Council informs close neighbours of smaller applications made by residents.

## Our Area

The area of Portmore Park perhaps can be dated from the time of the 6th Duke of Norfolk in the 1670's, bounded in the east by the ancient route (now the High Street) which connected London to Chertsey and in the west by the Wey and the Thames.

## Its Character

Much of it is defined by the expansion of Weybridge in Victorian and Edwardian times. Its importance is already recognised by the fact that it is bordered in part by the three existing conservation areas in Weybridge to the west and east which demonstrate much of the character of the area from this period and earlier.

## Pressures and Potential

We occupy a unique position between town and green belt. Together with the rivers, it is the cause of pressures and the source of potential.

Meeting housing targets, and the availability of large sites occupied by residences and factories of a bygone age, means that there will always be proposals for new buildings and new use of land/rivers. These are accentuated by our location at the edge of the green belt.

## Essential Facilities

Meanwhile, the town centre is changing. Shops have been disappearing, followed now by the adult education centre. There are questions about what will happen to the library. We all have to accept high levels of traffic because the road network is physically restrained by the rivers.

## Recreation and convenience

It is the combination of the town centre and the narrow band of green belt near to the meeting of the two rivers which gives the area so much pleasure for residents and visitors alike. People can take delight in these river corridors for nature and recreation in semi-rural surroundings.



Portmore Pillars – all that remains from the original Dorchester House (renamed Portmore House) around 1690. Moved and given to Weybridge by the landowner circa 1890 on the condition that they were preserved.

## Some events of the past year:

### Walton Bridge

Some members met with the project manager before the revised scheme went out to wider consultation. The new scheme had fully taken into account the findings of the public inquiry. We made suggestions about the intermingling of pedestrians and traffic on Walton Lane, traffic calming and landscaping/ environmental issues. All these were outside the scope of the planning application, and will be pursued as the scheme develops.

### Planning developments in our area

In line with our remit for sympathetic development, representations were made on a number of proposals. Our contributions (as well as those of individual residents) are sometimes significant, because local council processes are often only triggered if council officers and elected representatives can cite local views. There is an unfortunate fact that developers often try at first to see how much they can get away with, before scaling down their proposals.

Proposals have included:

The Crest Nickolson site (55 flats or 14 houses refused but under appeal). Binfield Bakery (a complicated story, with a requirement for detailed planning permission still ongoing). The Dental Surgery/flats (refused). Radnor Road (11 flats on a very small site – pending).

Our contribution in helping represent residents' views is frequently acknowledged by planners and councillors.

### Riverside and Environment

We have given our support to schemes to improve the riverside - and suggested modifications where there would have been unintended consequences (e.g., removal of hedges in Walton Lane as part of the Thames Gate-Wey project). Desborough Island and Cowey Sale are long-term issues, and we help local councillors keep it on the agenda.

Of particular note was a proposal to establish moorings at Whittets Ait. In addition to the normal planning considerations such as impact on neighbours, it would have had an irreversible impact on the natural riverbank along the Wey.

**Miles Macleod** stood down as Chairman of the Association earlier this year. Many will appreciate his efforts on behalf of the association over the last few years. He has been replaced for the interim by Michael Freeman, and a Chairman will be elected at the AGM for the forthcoming year.

Congratulations to Miles on his election as a councillor for Weybridge North. Perhaps it is fitting that he will now be on the receiving end of our representations, rather than making them.

## Aims of PP&DRA

We are an association for local residents. We are non-political and focus generally on issues which disproportionately affect residents and visitors to our area, compared to residents elsewhere in the borough.

We care about our locality – its heritage, quality of life and community. We ensure that councillors are aware of issues, and they in turn tell us about things which may affect us.

**By joining, we have the ability to make our voice heard.**

## Local Heritage

*Help safeguard the long term character of our locality* – Our part of Weybridge is graced with attractive homes, tree-lined roads, and the Wey & Thames riversides. We want to hand it on to future generations. We want future development to be sympathetic to our surroundings and maintain the character of the area.

## Quality of Life

*Keep day to day life safe and pleasant for residents* – We help represent local views on general issues including planning applications, antisocial behaviour, traffic, parking, street cleanliness, local amenities and services, and anything else that affects residents.

## Community

*Support neighbourliness* – Participating in PP&DRA is a way to get to know people, and help build the sense of community.

## Liaison with Councillors

*Represent local concerns to decision makers* - We encourage regular meeting between the Committee (and Members) with local political representatives at both Elmbridge and Surrey County Council level.

## How to Join

Membership of PP&DRA is open to residents between the High Street and the Rivers Wey/ Thames.

See the back of the newsletter for details.

## Contacting us

You can view our website at

**[www.portmore.org.uk](http://www.portmore.org.uk)**

Contact us via any committee member, or email

**[committee@portmore.org.uk](mailto:committee@portmore.org.uk)**

## How to renew your membership or join

(subscription normally payable in May)

**Please return this page** with your name and address, plus a subscription - minimum £3, optionally £5 or more to help cover our costs - to us at the AGM, or to any committee member, or to **PP&DRA Membership, c/o 3 The Swansway, Portmore Park Road, Weybridge KT13 8HU.**

**Why not pay by Standing Order?** It helps us with administration and helps you to stay involved.

### Membership Details

Name(s) .....

Address ..... Postcode .....

Telephone ..... E-mail .....

We will not disclose contact details without permission, or use them for any purpose other than contacting you on PP&DRA matters.

#### Please tick boxes to indicate amount and payment method

£3  (minimum)      £5       Other  Please enter amount .....

I have enclosed a cheque payable to Portmore Park and District Residents Association

I have completed the standing order below:

### Standing Order Form (We can forward this to your bank on your behalf)

To the Manager

Bank name .....

Bank address .....

Name of my account .....

Bank Sort Code ..... Account number .....

#### Payment details

Please pay HSBC Bank plc, Weybridge for the account of the Portmore Park & District Residents Association (Sort Code 40-46-22 Account Number 20674117) the sum below (i) immediately and (ii) annually on the 1<sup>st</sup> May thereafter until further notice.

Amount in figures: £ ..... Amount in words: .....

Signed ..... Date .....

Name in Capitals .....

PP&DRA  
admin ref:

### Are you interested in:

Our e-mail planning alert and/or receiving newsletters by e-mail.

Joining or coming to the committee (approx. 6 per year). It's a great opportunity to keep up with events, raise local issues and influence actions

Contributing to the newsletter

Representing my road

Other .....

Printed by MBE Weybridge:



**MAIL BOXES ETC.**

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www.mbeweybridge.co.uk

e-mail: info@mbeweybridge.co.uk

## Community

### Leaders urgently needed to avoid Oldest Scout Group (1907) closing

1st Weybridge (Brooklands Own) Scout Group began in the same year as the Scout Movement and they need help.

There are many boys and girls age 6-14 in central Weybridge who would love to try scouting, but without leaders they cannot enjoy this experience. If you think you can help please contact the Group Scout Leader on 01932 842312.

### Annual Regatta - Sunday 1st June 2008 Weybridge Ladies Amateur Rowing Club

The all-day regatta takes place along the river from Cowey Sale (start) to the Canoe Club (finish) from approx 9am - 5pm. Spectators welcome and refreshments are available at the Canoe Club. A programme will be published.

### Portmore Park & District Residents Association Committee

Michael Freeman (Chairman) 856973 The Swansway, Portmore Park Rd; Ian Bonnett (Treasurer) 856971 The Willows; Gary Busted 858428 Dorchester Road; Tukun Chatterjee 831414 Darnley Park; Jessica Nolan 821526 The Willows; John Phillips 847984 Portmore Park Rd; William Rutherford 850971 Mount Pleasant; Brian Scholey 843121 Mount Pleasant; Tricia Scott 888843 Montrose Walk