

NEWSLETTER

www.portmore.org.uk

SPRING 2007

A voluntary association supporting local heritage, quality of life and community

Residents await new bridge plans Cowey Sale saved... New scheme imminent

Many residents were delighted that the Walton Bridge Public Inquiry recognised Cowey Sale as a special riverside place, and saved it from the proposed cloverleaf junction. Now there is a chance for Surrey CC to create a new bridge people will welcome.

PP&DRA Inquiry evidence 'very persuasive'

The Inspector said of our evidence: "The Association's photographs of Cowey Sale in summer were the first shown to me which illustrated the full recreational use of the area, and I found their content very persuasive. ... I agree with most of their points about the important character of the area and the unnecessarily large scale of the proposed Cowey Sale [twin link junction] which could cause rat-running along Walton Lane."

No to the cloverleaf junction!

The inspector concluded that a traffic-signal controlled single link junction with Walton Lane would have clear advantages over the SCC 'cloverleaf' design, in terms of reduced land take, less impact on recreational use of Cowey Sale, improved facilities for non-motorised users of the A244, and regulating rat-run traffic along Walton Lane & Thames Street.

Thrust Arch design – public not consulted

It emerged at the Inquiry that the Surrey CC bridge plan had changed dramatically from the Tied Arch design shown in the public consultation. Instead they were proposing a much larger Thrust Arch design, some 40% higher, that would need to be anchored in a vast amount of concrete on the riverbank.

Surrey CC announce new schedule

SCC have now issued a timetable for agreeing revised plans, incorporating a single-link junction. **This is a wonderful opportunity to create a new Walton Bridge that fits in with the setting** – a design with merit and an asset for the area. This time, can we make it happen?

Hamm Court Gravel decision soon

PP&DRA has joined other community groups and Elmbridge Council in urging Surrey CC **not** to specify Hamm Court Farm as a preferred site for gravel extraction – it is right next to homes and a school, and would bring heavy gravel lorries onto our local roads. A decision is expected in May. Watch this space.

Share your views at our AGM

Tuesday 22 May, 7.30pm in the Church hall,
Christ the Prince of Peace Church, Portmore Way



A sunny day beside the Thames at Cowey Sale – part of the PP&DRA evidence presented at the Walton Bridge Public Inquiry

Desborough Island spring clean - make it a family day on 12 May

We are looking forward to a good turn-out of Portmore Park & District residents on Desborough Island on Saturday 12 May, to take part in a very welcome return of the Desborough 'Spring Clean' day.

The event is being organised by Elmbridge Community Safety Partnership. The Mayor of Elmbridge, voluntary groups including Scouts and Guides, and a 'Womble', have been invited, along with local residents. Plus practical support from an Environment Agency team.

We hope to see you there! Meet at 10am on 12 May, in the Cowey Sale car park. It should be an enjoyable day out in the fresh air on this lovely island. Refreshments will be available. More details at www.portmore.org.uk

Ladies – a chance to try rowing

Weybridge Ladies Amateur Rowing Club is currently welcoming new members of all ages. No experience needed – read more at www.weybridgeladies.org.uk

Local photo competition

Have you taken any pleasing pictures of our locality? Why not enter! Details overleaf...

Taken any pleasing local photos? Enter our free competition!

Open to local residents of all ages. You could win a prize! First prize includes a 12"x18" enlargement from PR Photographic and an HMV token. And there will be prizes for runners up. Plus the option to have your picture shown on our website. Winners will be announced at the PP&DRA Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 22 May. A selection of entries will be on display.

How to enter

- This competition is **open to all residents** of Portmore Park & District. You can submit any photograph you have taken of a local scene.
- Entries will be judged on how well they capture impressions of the locality, and on artistic merit. The judging panel will be led by professional photographer **Guy Pedliham** (www.guypedliham.net).
- Make sure it is a print that is suitable for display at our AGM (e.g. stiff paper or mounted on card) – there are no specific requirement about size.
- Write your name and contact details on the back of each entry in pencil. **Closing date is 15 May 2007.**
- The competition will be run in the spirit of celebrating our local community and surroundings, and judges' decisions are final.
- Prizes include a 12"x18" enlargement from **PR Photographic** of 39 High St (up to £20), HMV tokens (£10) & free membership of PP&DRA.

Why not share the fruits of your photographic eye with fellow residents?
Deliver entries to Jessica Nolan, 21 The Willows, by 15 May 2007.

Planning matters

Keeping Portmore Park a good place to live

Local residents can have a real influence on planning decisions. All individual letters help make a difference, and PP&DRA can add a stronger voice through collective local membership.

Conserving prominent sites

In the past year PP&DRA has successfully represented residents' views about overlarge proposals for prominent sites, including the Crest Homes site at 39 Thames Street, 20 High Street (by the health centre), and Devonshire Road.

What do you think? If you have views on a planning application, let the planners know early. You can view applications online at the Elmbridge BC website (follow the link on www.portmore.org.uk).

An asset for the community

We always welcome the contributions our Elmbridge Councillors make to improving local quality of life. A development is taking shape on **Whittets Ait**, and the public now enjoy access to an **open space** that has been made available as an explicit condition of the planning permission. Thank you! And more, please.



The Thames in flood at Weybridge in January 2003

All welcome at our AGM

**Annual open meeting for residents
Tuesday 22 May at 7.30pm**

Church hall, Christ the Prince of Peace Church,
Portmore Way, Weybridge, KT13 8JD

Aims of PP&DRA

We are a voluntary association of local residents. PP&DRA is not aligned to any political party. We care about our locality – its heritage, quality of life and community.

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 unspoilt to future generations.

Quality of Life

Keep day to day life safe and pleasant for residents – We help represent local views on 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.

HOW TO JOIN

Membership of PP&DRA is open to residents of the roads listed at the foot of the page. Please send your name, address and contact details, plus a subscription (£3 or more) to:

**Caroline Freeman, PP&DRA, 3 The Swanway,
Portmore Park Road, Weybridge, KT13 8HU**

You can view our website at.

www.portmore.org.uk

Contact us via any committee member,
or email committee@portmore.org.uk

In memoriam The past year has seen the passing away of two people who devoted much effort to the local community. Cllr Gordon Chubb worked selflessly to represent residents. He made a significant difference in the campaign to save Cowey Sale for the community. Ronald Leaver was prominent in Portmore Park & District, for many years keeping a tireless eye on planning matters for the benefit of the neighbourhood. Their work will not be forgotten.