

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Spring 2019 Newsletter

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THE AGM OF THE ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT
TATTENHAM CORNER LIBRARY, TATTENHAM CRESCENT
ON THURSDAY 28th MARCH 2019 AT 8.00 PM

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. **Mike Fox, Chair Surrey Neighbourhood Watch – Presentation**
SEE OVER
3. Chair's report
4. Approval of minutes from the last Annual General Meeting
5. Constitutional changes to Association Rules
6. Treasurer's report
7. Election of the R A Committee
NB: The Chair, Rue Stanley - Cherrycroft, Tattenham Crescent would be pleased to receive nominations to the Committee
8. Adoption of the Association's Borough Council election candidates for the May election
Break for Refreshments
9. Councillors reports: Jill Bray, Bob Harper and Nick Harrison, including question and answer session
10. Any other business

TATTENHAM CORNER & PRESTON RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

The R A represents residents living in the Tattenham Corner & Preston Ward of Reigate and Banstead Borough Council. It is a non party-political organisation that aims to preserve and improve amenities in the area and seeks to foster good local government by a close liaison with local authorities and other public bodies, including election of its own councillors.

Our local councillors work as a group with councillors sponsored by Nork Residents Association at the Borough Council, and with Residents Association and independent councillors across Surrey at the County Council.

Any resident wishing the R A to take up questions concerning local matters or interests should email, phone or write to a Councillor or a Committee Member.

This edition of our newsletter is distributed to all households in the ward prior to our AGM, but normally only to R A members during the rest of the year. If you would like to join and receive a newsletter please contact us – see last page for details.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018

It has been a challenging year for the Tattenhams R A. Thanks to your support we have been able to successfully represent your interests and ensure that we can continue to do so. A brief summary:

Boundary Review 2018 - A Threat to Tattenhams

Reigate & Banstead Borough Council supported a reduction in councillor numbers from 51 to 45. This raised concerns with the R A as it would mean fewer councillors with a greater workload. We objected to this change. Then shortly before our AGM last year we discovered that the Council proposed that the new boundaries would move 12 central roads close to Tattenham Corner into Nork! As well as ruining the heart of our community, it would also move most of the R A committee and councillors out of Tattenhams (obviously the motive for the Conservative group!)

What happened next was amazing. We announced these proposed changes at our AGM and Tattenham residents immediately leapt into action. Notices were posted on social media, people told each other, and the result was over 70 letters of objection from residents. The Electoral Commission took notice and refused the Council's proposal. They agreed that the "heartland" area by Tattenham Corner should be retained, and joined up with the Preston area of Tadworth, previously a small ward with only one councillor.

Sometimes it seems inevitable that things will happen that we don't want. Please draw inspiration from this event - we can change things when we work together!

Changes in the Association: As a result of the boundary change, we will be changing our name to "Tattenham & Preston Residents".

2018 Review

- **Reduction in road stewards:** We lost more road stewards than we have been able to recruit. However, subscription revenues have remained the same as 2017.
- **Recruitment of additional committee members:** We are delighted to welcome Kathryn Chattelle and Paula Ghinn to the committee, both of whom have good local knowledge and connections and are already proving a great asset. We need more committee members from the whole area.
- **Improved social media and use of technology:** We are looking for a technology officer to help us further increase our use of technology. We have made investments in hardware and software and have successfully complied with our data protection requirements.
- **Events:** in 2018 we hosted two public meetings. At our AGM we announced the boundary changes. At our autumn meeting we hosted a meeting for supporters and volunteers which provided an opportunity to raise local concerns to councillors. In addition we worked with the Red Cross to deliver two free first aid courses to residents. These covered basic first aid and were delivered by qualified practitioners. We are planning to hold more – please contact me for details.
- **Newsletters:** we delivered more rebranded, colour newsletters to both Preston and Tattenhams.
- **Road resurfacing and local improvements:** The budgets for resurfacing were reduced, however some work has been carried out. More details on roads will be available at our AGM.
- **Planning:** We objected to the new arbitrary policy for the lower number of parking spaces provided for new planning applications. We also helped residents fight unacceptable local developments.

Local Challenges for 2019: The County Council's budget cuts to services, local planning, roads, policing, schools and services for the community. We will work hard on your behalf to represent your interests. If you want to help your community, please join us.

Thank you to all our members and supporters for your work in 2018. We would be delighted to see you at the AGM where we will deliver a more comprehensive account of our activities and plans.

Mrs. Rue Stanley ruestanley17@gmail.com

AGM 28 March MIKE FOX - NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH 28 March AGM

We are delighted that Mike Fox, Chair of Surrey Neighbourhood Watch and local resident is speaking at our AGM.

He will talk about scams and how you can protect yourself, how to use communications and social media, Surrey Police's "In The Know" service. He will advise on how to keep you and your area safe, and answer the questions you may have.

COUNCIL BUDGETS AND TAXES

February saw the County Council, the Borough Council and the Police & Crime Commissioner setting their budgets and council tax for the coming year. Both Surrey and Reigate & Banstead put their taxes up by 2.99% - just below the level requiring a referendum. This compares to 5.99% last year for the County, when government allowed an extra 3% as a special adult social care levy.

Borough

The Borough's increase is the same as last year – it has a balanced budget and no downgrades in services are planned. The budget is supported by the Residents' Association councillors, after a thorough review by the Budget Scrutiny Panel chaired by local councillor Nick Harrison.

Police

The Police are raising their take by an inflation busting 10%, after government "allowed" a special one-off increase (not funded by central government but from your council taxes!) They propose to invest this special increase in an extra 100 officers and PCSO's. This will double the numbers in dedicated neighbourhood teams and also to add specialist officers to tackle serious organised crime and drug dealers.

County Council Cuts and "Transformation"

The County Council has approved budget cuts of £82 million, after the government withdrew *all* revenue support grant funding. In the current year the Council has been forced to dip into its reserves to support special education needs after government cuts to school funding. It also has to deal with a Children's Service branded as "inadequate" by OFSTED, and a similar "inadequate" rating of Surrey Fire & Rescue by Her Majesty's Inspectorate; both services require extra resources.

Most of the savings are to be met by a transformation programme of severe back office cuts and efficiencies being launched by a new Chief Executive and her team. However, some have required consultation with the public and this was considered by the Council leadership in February. The results are as follows:

- **Community Recycling Centres** – This was the consultation with the largest number of public responses. Two centres to be kept open permanently; four are being re-assessed to look at alternative ways of meeting cost cuts. No changes to our nearest sites in Epsom, Leatherhead and Redhill. Charges to be brought in for construction wood and roofing felt.
- **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities** – Disappointingly the lowest response. More advice earlier for schools, but funding for schools very much under threat. A raid on school reserves. On a positive note, 350 specialist school places in Surrey to replace expensive out of county schools.
- **Concessionary Bus Travel** – Scheme to revert to 9:30am to 11pm on weekdays, all day weekend and holidays, in line with the national scheme. County backed off withdrawing free companion passes for the disabled. Yet to come - a consultation on reduced bus funding.
- **Sure Start Children's Centres** – Cut back to 19 main centres, meaning 31 to close and another 8 to become satellites. Our local centre at Epsom Downs School in Merland Rise to keep open, with possible satellites in community centres "depending on identified need". However, the Banstead YMCA Sure Start to definitely close. Focus to be help early on for the families with most need, to try to prevent the need for future social care. In line with this, the Centres will now cater for children up to age 11, rather than only to age 5. However, a cut in staffing will mean less help overall.
- **Libraries and Cultural Services** – A huge £4 million funding cut – over 50% of this budget means a threat to the Tattenhams Library (**AGAIN**). A flawed consultation with leading questions.

Because of the threats to the Libraries and Special Education Needs; uncertainty around the prospects for delivery of other transformation projects; the sheer scale of the changes needed in the Children's Service; the County's failure to manage its property service and shortfalls in government funding, the Resident Association councillors felt unable to support the budget.

**WATCH OUT FOR NEWS ON THE FUTURE OF THE LIBRARY –
There will be a fresh consultation on specific closures.**



MERLAND RISE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY



Merland Rise Church has been a part of this community since 1951. We have seen many changes but have always sought to be a welcoming place in the community, for the community. Our weekly activities, most of which are free of charge to attend, reflect this and are open to all.

Examples of how we help



Tuesday mornings are a busy time here with **Foodbank**. We are a local distribution outlet for Epsom & Ewell Foodbank which provides food and basic necessities to those who find themselves in a time of crisis and need a little help.

Various agencies run helpdesks here too on a Tuesday morning. Raven Housing Trust are here every week. Citizens Advice Banstead and Mary Frances Trust are here on the first and second Tuesday (respectively) of each month. There is no need to make an appointment, just pop along and speak to them. Maria

Hewson, the local Community Development Worker, is here most Tuesday mornings too.



For those who would like to know more about how to use new technology, there is opportunity at **Online4all** on Thursday mornings during term time. We run this in conjunction with Raven Housing Trust. Bring along your phone, tablet or laptop and we will give you a little tuition and guidance on how best to use these devices. We can also help with online forms or writing a CV and much more.

From time to time throughout the year, we run a CAP Money course to help with budgeting money and avoid debt.



Times of relaxation

Some weekly activities are all about relaxation and fun – for adults - as well as children.

Rock Solid is a Monday night children's club (school years 3 – 6) which meets at 6:15pm – 7.30pm, for games, craft and other activities.

On Wednesdays - **Table Tennis Club** starting at 9.45am (all levels welcome) and in the afternoon - **Art Club and Craft Club** between 1pm – 3pm. These are adult classes.

For young families - **Chatterbox**, a weekly baby and toddler session for parents and carers with pre-school children - Friday mornings, 10am – 12noon, in term time.

On the second and fourth Fridays in the month, **Friends** meet for a cup of tea, slice of cake and a chat. Mainly for seniors but all welcome so do come along at 2pm.

For the young and energetic – **Kick Football Academy** at Headley Playing Field, Headley Drive on Saturday mornings at 10.30am. Girls and boys welcome between Yrs 1 – 7. Subs £1.

Rooms for Hire: The venue is available to hire for business meetings, social gatherings and children's parties etc. throughout the week - please contact us to make an enquiry.

Courses for the Curious

There are many people do not identify with a particular religion but do have an interest in spiritual things. Through the year we run relaxed and informal courses for those who are curious to learn more. The first, simply entitled **Journeys** - looks more generally at issues such as - Do we have a spiritual side? Is there life after death? The second course – **Alpha** - introduces the basics of the Christian faith to those who would like to know more.

Celebrations of Faith

Finally, in amongst all of the above activities, we also do all the things normally expected of a church - two Sunday services, opportunities for prayer (either to pray with others or be prayed for), as well as, Weddings, Funerals, Dedications and Baptisms.



Some of our congregation come from the Deaf community and all main meetings are BSL signed. Once a month, our Deaf congregation enjoy Sunday lunch together. All Deaf welcome.



Find out more about any of our activities by emailing mrcadmin@talktalk.net or phoning the church office on 01737 362440.

THE BEACON SCHOOL

I am absolutely delighted to be able to write this piece for the Tattenham Residents Association Newsletter. I'm very proud and humbled to be the Headteacher of The Beacon School and I am now 18 months into my leadership of the school. Nearly 20 years ago I lived in Banstead and got to know the school well as a local resident, so it feels fitting that I have returned to the area where I once lived.

The school has gone through a huge amount of change over that time and I inherited the school that has twice been graded good by OFSTED. My vision upon joining the school was very clear - I want The Beacon School to be a great community school. By this I mean a school that is the local school of choice. This is certainly becoming the case and once again the school is oversubscribed this year. This is a great testament to how far the school has come.

As I have met many local organisations and groups over the last 18 months, we have both shared a similar wish for the school and that is for the school to not only be a key partner in the local area but also for the school to be open to the local community. What I mean by that is that it will be open in the broadest sense. This is a school in the local community serving the local community.

I am confident that the main way that we can contribute to the success of this area is by ensuring that young people leave our school with the best possible grades and qualifications that they can achieve. Alongside this, we want to work with the local community to help our children develop into well rounded young people with a range of experiences. So, this is a school which understands that its core purpose is to focus upon learning and teaching through a curriculum that is both broad and balanced. I have a wonderful team of staff working with me, many of whom have worked at The Beacon School for a number of years. They know this community exceptionally well.

I am astounded by the standard and the ability that the young people in this area show. Our young people achieve in so many ways, both inside and beyond the curriculum. We develop immensely creative young people and our musicals, dance shows and arts exhibitions all show this. Our sports teams are gaining not only a local reputation for excellence, but also a very strong reputation across the county, this is especially the case in football and netball. We run a large number of hugely successful trips including our Science trip to Iceland, Ski Trips to the USA and Sierra Nevada, Madrid for Languages, our Geography trip to Italy and a very successful Duke of Edinburgh scheme to mention just a few. We have partner schools in China and also Sri Lanka and the excitement is growing as we move closer to our first global expedition which will be to Tanzania next year.

From living in the area previously I know many of you reading this will be former students of The Beacon School (formed in 1988) or one of the predecessor schools of Nork Park School or the local De Burgh School. So, if you are a former student, or would like to still support the school you can become a member of our newly formed Beacon Friends Association by getting in touch by emailing bfa@thebeaconschool.co.uk

And finally, there are a number of ways to follow our school:
Website: www.thebeaconschool.co.uk
Email: info@thebeaconschool.co.uk
Twitter: @TheBeaconSch



Keith Batchelor
Headteacher

+++++

CAMERA SHY?

CCTV Cameras

After the knifepoint robbery at the Tattenham Corner Co-op store on 21 January, we have been asked if the two CCTV cameras around the shopping parade are both working. The Council has confirmed they are in operation, and linked up to Surrey Police.

Average Speed Cameras

Whatever you think about speed cameras, the new average speed cameras on the A217 between the M25 and the Banstead cross roads seem to be doing their job in keeping speeds down. You seldom see any vehicles speeding. So it is surprising to find out that 3,989 motorists have been caught in their first year. Any fines go to the courts and HM Treasury.

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TATTENHAMS RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST DECEMBER 2018

| <u>2017</u> | Income | <u>2018</u> |
|---------------|--|---------------|
| 2,065 | Subscriptions | 2,092 |
| 657 | Advertising Revenue | 90 |
| nil | Grant Funding | 1,020 |
| 694 | Donations | 175 |
| 61 | Nork R A – County Election Costs Share | nil |
| 3 | Bank Interest /Credit | 3 |
| £3,480 | | £3,380 |
| | Expenditure | |
| 25 | Electoral Commission Registration Fee | 25 |
| 1,301 | Newsletters/AGM Notice | 1,258 |
| nil | Computer Consumables & Licences | 402 |
| 203 | Hire of Hall | 294 |
| 36 | Campaign for Protection of Rural England Fee | 36 |
| nil | Borough Council Election | 207 |
| 269 | County Council Election | nil |
| 25 | Banstead Federation of Residents Assns | 25 |
| 20 | East Surrey Transport Committee | 20 |
| 50 | Music in the Park | 50 |
| 101 | Charitable Donations | 25 |
| nil | New Dedicated Computer | 304 |
| 116 | Printing & Stationery | 63 |
| 366 | Post, Telephone and Sundries | 81 |
| £2,512 | | £2,790 |
| £968 | Surplus for the Year | £590 |

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2018

| ASSETS | | |
|---------------|--|---------------|
| 5,813 | Cash at Bank | |
| 995 | in Deposit account | 6,634 |
| 9 | in Current account (less unrepresented cheque) | 773 |
| | Cash in Hand | nil |
| £6,817 | | £7,407 |
| FUNDS | | |
| 5,849 | Income and Expenditure Account | |
| 968 | Balance as at 31 Dec 2016 | |
| | Plus: Surplus for year to 31 Dec 2017 | 6,817 |
| | Plus: Surplus for year to 31 Dec 2018 | 590 |
| £6,817 | | £7,407 |

R Mantle
Hon Treasurer

2018 - 19 Committee

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Chair | Rue Stanley, Cherrycroft, Tattenham Crescent, KT18 5NR ruestanley17@gmail.com Tel: 07799 626596 |
| Vice Chairman | Martin Beard, 6 Sherborne Close, KT18 5UU Tel: 01737 216655 |
| Hon. Treasurer | Richard Mantle, 27 Shawley Way, KT18 5PG Tel: 01737 357055 |
| Hon. Secretary | Jill Bray, 27 Shawley Way, KT18 5PG Tel: 01737 357055 |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| John Butcher | 72 Shawley Way KT18 5PG | 01737 351572 | Bob Harper | 68 Upland Way KT18 5ST | 01737 211315 |
| Kathryn Chattelle | 11 Chetwode Drive KT18 5TL | | Nick Harrison | 105 Tattenham Crescent KT18 5NY | 01737 215405 |
| Paula Ghinn | 16 Northview Crescent KT18 5UR | 01737 371779 | Bob Harper | 68 Upland Way KT18 5ST | 01737 211315 |

Borough Councillors

| | | | |
|------------|----------------|---|----------------|
| Bob Harper | 68 Upland Way | e-mail: bob.harper@ntlworld.com | T:01737 211315 |
| Jill Bray | 27 Shawley Way | e-mail: cllr.bray@reigate-banstead.gov.uk | T:01737 357055 |

County and Borough Councillor

Nick Harrison 105 Tattenham Crescent, e-mail: nicholas.harrison@surreycc.gov.uk T:01737 215405

About the Residents Association

- **Who are we?** A voluntary organisation concerned with improving and maintaining the amenities of Tattenhams & Preston
- We have 3 councillors for Reigate & Banstead Council including 1 serving on Surrey County Council as well
- We campaign in local elections every year- in 2019 all Reigate & Banstead councillors are up for election
- NO PARTY POLITICS – our mission is to serve your interest. We work with other political parties for your benefit.
- We rely on an annual subscription of £3 per household to pay for our newsletters & campaign costs
- We are completely staffed by volunteers
- **JOIN US TO HELP BUILD COMMUNITY!**
- **Email:** Rue Stanley – Ruestanley17@gmail.com
- **Telephone-** 07799 626596

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