

Summary Report of the Open Meeting of the Thames Ditton (TD) & Weston Green (WG) Residents' Association (RA) held in the Vera Fletcher Hall (VFH) on 27 November 2007 at 8pm

1. **Present:** Libby MacIntyre (Chairman), Sue Mayes (Hopin Chairman), Residents, RA Councillors and RA Officers.
2. **Guest speaker:** Sue Mayes informed the Meeting about the registered charity, Hopin. She asked for volunteer drivers willing to assist with the transport of elderly /infirm members of the community.
3. **Matters Arising:** Parking – High Street and Station area parking proposals to be on public display in TD library from 2nd week of December to 18 January 2008. A representative of SCC will be present to answer questions on 11 December (12–8pm) and 12 January (10am– 4pm). The proposed RA parking meeting will not take place as this provides an adequate opportunity for issues to be raised; Estate Agent signs – signs advertising local community events to not be opposed, as long as they are short term and are clearly different from the normal Estate Agent signs; Misuse of riverbank facilities – EBC have agreed, in response to letter written by RA chair, to look into additional signage and enforcement measures in the areas concerned.
4. **2007 Membership:** current membership stood at 1038 and funds received at £6532. This compared favourably with November 2006 figures (1036 and £ 6079 respectively).
5. **Planning:** 13 Queens Drive – appeal rejected on grounds of flood risk; 16-18 Embercourt Road – public hearing for appeal decision to be 13 February 2008; 5 Riversdale Road – appeal date set for 13 February 2008; 27 High Street – a second letter has been written to the developer regarding deviations from accepted planning permission. The Conservation Area Committee (CAC) has written to EBC Executive Committee requesting action be taken; 'Whitegates' Giggs Hill Green – CAC has written to EBC regarding deviation from planned schematics of top floor windows; 29-31 Ember Lane – planning permission for construction of 12 flats has been refused; 18 Sandon Close – permission for construction of side extension and dormer windows has gone to appeal; 1 Lime Tree Avenue – application registered for construction of detached house and double garage; 2 Lime Tree Avenue – application registered for construction of 2, 3 storey dwellings; 71 Ember Lane – appeal in progress for construction of 4 detached 2 storey houses; 5 Ember Lane 'Cranston House' – property to be auctioned as a residential property with guide price of 600K. New planning permission will have to be sought if it is to be a hostel again.
6. **Friends of Thames Ditton Hospital:** official opening of ultrasound and ENT equipment to occur after Christmas, though equipment is already in use. The 4 NHS beds at Emberbrook Hospital remain unoccupied, demonstrating need for in-patient care.
7. **Villiers Road Recycling Centre:** SCC are seeking to negotiate with Royal Borough of Kingston Upon-Thames regarding the restriction of this recycling centre to Kingston residents only.
8. **Car Park charges:** concerns were raised regarding proposed increased car park charges, in particular the effect this may have on local shops/ trades. The Chairman suggested that further discussion be postponed until after SCC's response to the parking survey has been revealed.
9. **TD High Street Christmas Fair:** RA insurance covers this event. Principal charity to be TD Guide Hut appeal.
10. **RA Christmas party:** some tickets still remaining for 15 December.
11. **Audibility of Open Meetings:** the use of a microphone would be looked into for future Meetings.
12. **Tree stumps:** P Hickman agreed to look into firstly, SCC removing tree stumps to ground level, rather than the unsightly 2ft high stump currently on Ember Lane and also into replacing Council felled trees.
13. **Resignation of Highways & Drainage Officer:** the Chairman noted that Ben Ellis had tendered his resignation from the RA due to work commitments. The Meeting thanked him for all his hard work on Highways and Drainage issues.