



The Bulletin

January 2019



Happy New year to all our Members

Front Gardens, Parking & Basements

Open meeting, **Monday 28 January at 7.30pm**
Community Church, Werter Road, SW15 2LL

All over Putney front gardens are part of what make our streets so nice to live in. But they are under pressure from the continuing desire of residents for off street parking, and the growing trend to dig basements under even small houses.

Wandsworth Council are about to start the process of reviewing the Local Plan which controls what gets planning consent. This evening we will celebrate our gardens and ask you if the Society should ask the council to take a stronger line on protecting them from parking, basements or both.



We are hoping to be joined by a representative of the planning team as well as the Fulham Society to tell us about their award scheme for gardens.

What is the ULEZ?

The Central London Ultra Low Emission Zone (**ULEZ**), which covers the same area as the Congestion Charge, comes into effect on **April 8th 2019**. Vehicles which do not meet the standards will have to pay £12.50 a day. This applies at all times and is in addition to any Congestion Charge payable.

To check if your vehicle meets the required standards you can use the Transport for London at <https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/vrm-checker-ulez> you simply enter the registration number.

Many older vehicles, especially those with diesel engines, will not meet ULEZ standards.

On 25 October 2021 the ULEZ will be expanded to inner London, the area up to but not including the North and South



Circular Roads, and therefore, on this basis, would divide Roehampton and those areas of Putney south of the South Circular Road from the areas north of that road, including Putney High Street. In June, Wandsworth Council welcomed the ULEZ in principle but want more clarity about what happens around the border of the scheme (the South Circular). *“Cllr Jonathan Cook said tackling poor air quality is a top priority for the council and it is broadly supportive of the proposals, but issues raised by the council with the mayor about a possible negative impact on people living near the border have not been addressed.”*

Time to say thank you!

Over the past year production of the Bulletin would have been much harder without:

- The layout skills of Steve Bowles of London Print
- The use of some amazing photos from Andrew Wilson - to see more examples of his stunning pictures go to www.wildlondon.co.uk
- The careful eye of David Radcliffe who ensures we avoid any potential legal traps
- The proofing skills of Carolyn McMillan – making the Bulletin so much more readable!
- Our panel conveners who (with very little encouragement) provide their reports month after month.

Regular readers of this report might think that the panel now spends most of its time dealing with matters on the High Street. To some extent this is true. The redevelopment of the Upper Richmond Road (**URR**) between Putney Cross and East Putney station is now mostly a 'done deal'. The continuing poor outlook for shops has changed the dynamic of High Street property. Owning a 'shop and upper parts' was once seen as an investment in the shop rent. As demand for shops declines owners need the upper floors to work harder. At the time of writing in December there are at least three sets of scaffolding in place on the High Street alone to add extra floors and modernise the flats, as well as the recently completed flats above the new Holland & Barrett. My own office has three such schemes (two on the URR and one on the High Street) at various stages of preparation.

On a larger scale, piling has now started in the car park opposite Waitrose, but this is to secure the planning permission granted in 2016 by Boris Johnson so that development can happen some years hence when TK Maxx's lease runs out in 2025. Opposite we need to wait until June for the inquiry that will decide the fate of the Putney

Bridge Road corner sites. Also on the way, maybe even live by the time you see this, are applications for a revised food court / drinking venue on top of the Exchange, for a new hotel on the corner of Werter Road and revival of the scheme of another hotel in the long closed White Lion opposite St Mary's.

Despite, or perhaps because of, the economy development continues in our residential roads. Often this includes paving over the front garden for parking and adding or extending a basement. From the householder's view this is all extra space and value, but slowly it is eroding the qualities that makes our residential areas so desirable. Our members meeting on the 28th January (*see notice elsewhere*) will introduce a competition to encourage and reward great front gardens and discuss with you how the Putney Society and the Council should deal with parking, drives and basements. Should Wandsworth bring in restrictions matching those now in place in Kensington and Westminster?

Buildings Panel

Convenor:

Andrew Catto
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk
020 8785 0077

According to new rail passenger statistics, Putney station was used by 8.8 million people in the year up to March 2018. To give this some context, this is higher than the mainline stations serving Manchester, Newcastle and Nottingham!

2018 was expected to see big changes on our rail services with a new timetable heralding extra services into and out of Waterloo. In the event, our operator, South Western Railways, got cold feet when they witnessed the poorly implemented timetable changes on other franchises. Hopefully their plans have only been deferred and not shelved for good. On a positive note, catching a train shortly before Christmas I arrived at Platform 22 at Waterloo in what was formerly the old Eurostar platforms. Amazingly, after ten plus years, this part of the station is not yet finished but it is a

good sign for the future.

2019 will also we hope see the roll out of the Council's plans to enhance the High Street. One element is a proposed 'green wall' on the side of the Odeon due early in 2019. Uplighting improvements to St Marys Church and 14 Putney High Street should already be in place.

Don't forget to respond by 11 January to the Council consultation on its plans to support the Mayor's Transport Strategy. It involves improvements to all forms of transport in the borough, from walking and cycling to catching buses and taking the train.

Transport Panel

Convenor:

Stephen Luxford
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

All members welcome
www.putneysociety.org.uk

COMMUNITY:
10 January, 14 February
at 6 Norroy Road,
SW15 1PF (18.30)
Co-convenors:
Vicky Diamond
& Val Jones
vickysw15@aol.co.uk,
jones.val@gmail.com
T: 07746 022654

TRANSPORT:
8 January, 12 February
at 46 Disraeli
Road, SW15 2DS (19.30)
Convenor:
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

BUILDINGS:
9 January, 6 February
at 154 Putney High Street,
SW15 1RS (19.00)
Convenor:
Andrew Catto
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk

OPEN SPACES:
3 January, 7 February
at 28 Howards Lane,
SW15 6NQ (19.00)
Convenor:
Judith Chegwidan
judith.chegwidan@gmail.com
T: 020 8788 4489



A not-very-festive season for some... how can we help those without a home?

Research by Heriot Watt University for the charity Crisis shows that over this festive season an estimated 12,300 people are sleeping rough on the streets in our country, with a further 12,000 sleeping in cars, sheds, bins or night buses. They believe that homelessness in England has increased by 100% since 2010 – this is a startling figure and one that causes real concern. We have certainly seen evidence of this in Putney – and local charities are doing their best to reduce the numbers.

Glass Door (www.glassdoor.org.uk) run by churches across West and South West London, runs night shelters from November until April for homeless people. In Putney, Glass Door is based at St Mary’s Church, and offers a warm place to sleep, hot cooked meals, a shower and, through its trained caseworkers, advice, advocacy and access to practical support.

Spear (www.spear.london.org) works with homeless people in South West London, offering accommodation, advice, a rough sleeper outreach team (working across five boroughs including Wandsworth), training opportunities and access to health services.

Both organisations would appreciate our help now, when demand for services is high. There are many ways to help - see Glass Door and Spear websites for current needs – which usually include new socks, gloves, warm hats, scarves, toothbrushes, small tubes of tooth paste, disposable razors, hand-wipes, deodorant, women’s sanitary products – and certain non-perishable food items (Spear only).

Glass Door: items can be left at St Mary’s on Mondays (**only!**) **Spear:** phone 020 8288 6506.

Community Panel

Co-convenors:
Victoria Diamond
& Val Jones
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Is it possible to stem the greying of Putney’s front gardens?

A quarter of the UK’s front gardens are now paved over – and in London things are even worse with GLA research showing that two thirds of the capital’s front gardens are either fully or partially paved over. This despite the fact that research collated in the RHS Science Review shows that gardens:

- Help control urban temperature by creating shade and absorbing heat
- Help protect flooding (very few paving schemes are porous)
- Provide habitats for wildlife
- Improve human health – both physically and psychologically

In an effort to reverse this greying of our landscape, the

Putney Society is launching a front garden competition. We want to encourage attractive planting in front gardens – or where paving is irreversible to encourage the use of containers. Could you plant an attractive climber (which could help deflect heat in summer) or even plant a small tree or bush? Containers are not just for the height of summer but can be planted up with bulbs or small bushes. For more ideas check out <https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/greening-grey-britain/getting-started> where you will find plenty of ideas for planting in small spaces and advice on porous paving solutions.

In this first year of the competition we will be focussing on homes in the SW15 1 and SW15 2 post codes. In order to make sure that information about the competition is distributed widely we are seeking volunteers to help out with door-to-door leaflet delivery in April. If you can help please contact judith.chegwidden@gmail.com

Open Spaces Panel

Convenor:
Judith Chegwidden
020 8788 4489
judith.chegwidden@gmail.com

PUTNEY SOCIETY CONTACTS

See website for full details:
www.putneysociety.org.uk

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Will 2019 be the year when we manage to reduce waste?

The Western Riverside Waste Authority (WWRA) has revealed that the cost of disposing of food waste from homes in South West London is £12.5M per year - but this could be reduced by £3.5M. On average households in the UK throw away a third of the food that they buy – the majority of it still edible. Imagine buying three new shirts and then throwing one away – that is just what we are doing with food. An image to keep in mind when we are in the supermarket or on-line. Think of what you could do with an extra £840 per year – in London that is what the average household spends on food that is thrown away.

Locally, Wandsworth do not collect food waste separately – so it goes to the incinerator (where it adds to the production of methane) instead of an aerobic digester. If the Government's Waste Strategy, published in December, is implemented, councils will be forced to collect food waste separately.



Today, the Royal Statistical Society report the winning international statistic of the year was 90.5% - the proportion of plastic waste that has never been recycled. Yet only 12% of the energy required to convert petroleum into plastic is needed to recycle it. Only 45% of plastic bottles bought in the UK are recycled. It is easy to recycle domestic plastic waste in Wandsworth – but why don't the council provide recycling bins in busy High Streets?

(Plenty of scope for New Year's resolutions – perhaps this is the year I will finally take the plunge and set up a compost heap! Ed.)

Wandsworth/GLL Heritage Awards for Schools

For the fifth year running, children at the borough's schools are being urged to take part in the **Wandsworth/GLL Heritage Awards for Schools** competition. The competition is designed to inspire greater knowledge of and interest in the borough's rich history and heritage, help young people develop a sense of place, and promote teamwork.

The competition is aimed at Key Stage 2 pupils and there are two award categories – Best Class and

Best Individual. The winners of each category will secure a cash prize of £750 for their school.

Submissions must be related to the history of Wandsworth (for example, the history of the Alton Estate, how and why have our local shops changed? or Wandsworth in wartime).

To find out more about the competition and to submit your entries email heritageawards@wandsworth.gov.uk.



Calling all members that pay by cheque or cash

In 2018, just 11% of our membership paid by cheque or cash while most of the remainder paid by direct debit. Just to remind you of the current membership rates:

- Payment by Direct Debit and receive the Bulletin by email - **£12.00 pa**
- Payment by cheque and receive the Bulletin by email - **£14.00 pa**
- Payment by Direct Debit and receive the Bulletin by post - **£16.00 pa**
- Payment by cheque and receive the Bulletin by post - **£18.00 pa**

If you want to transfer to the less costly Direct Debit please use the facility on the website or print out the membership form* and fill in the direct debit instruction.

Otherwise please could you send your subscription before the end of January to:

The Membership Secretary, 22, Pentlow Street, Putney, London SW15 1LX

* On our website or from the Membership Secretary