

## **The Putney Society presents your May 2020 email Bulletin**

Dear Putney Society Members,

### **Message from our Chair, Robert Arguile**

We have all adjusted to life with the coronavirus pandemic and you will know that the Society has had to cancel all face-to-face activities. However, we are attempting to continue to work as best we can and so:

- we plan to continue to publish a monthly email Bulletin albeit on a reduced scale.
- we plan to hold the scheduled Panel and Executive Committee meetings online or by email.
- we will continue to monitor and comment on local planning activity. (Wandsworth Council held its first online Planning Applications Committee meeting on Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> April).
- the Society social media accounts and website will be used to disseminate information about local services including council initiatives, shop opening hours and delivery services.
- we will use our Facebook account to provide some light relief and entertainment including links to online events.

In addition, the Executive Committee has agreed to make appropriate donations to local charities supporting the Putney & Roehampton community.

Please let me know of any other ways in which you think the Society could help. In the meantime, I hope that you are staying well and safe.

Best wishes

Robert Arguile

### **From the Buildings Panel**

From recent conversations it's clear that many of you are wondering what is happening to the planning system whilst we all sit at home? The answer is 'business as unusual'.

Planning officers are working from home and no longer visiting sites, but applications are still being processed and to date the target times for decisions are unchanged. I have even seen some April dated public notices on local lampposts. The enforcement team too are still working, but without visiting. If you do need to report anything support this with lots of photos.

March's Planning Applications Committee was cancelled because they could not meet. The emergency Coronavirus Act has now allowed on-line meetings and there was a PAC on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April starting at 4.00 pm. The public can watch via a video link – see the [Wandsworth.gov.uk](http://Wandsworth.gov.uk) website. Maybe this will mean a bigger audience than the few who normally venture to the Town Hall gallery.

What has stopped is any work on large scale applications because of the need to exhibit these for public consultation. Fortunately perhaps the revised proposals for the demolition and rebuilding of the heart of the Alton estate had not yet emerged, and this looks like being delayed to the point where we can point out that the proposals are no longer able to comply with the Council's own Climate Change policies or the (yet to be seen) 2020 Building Regulations energy targets.

One additional item that the Planning Applications Committee will be debating is a proposal to amend the rules about what goes to committee to require 5 objections (up from 3) for minor matters and to no longer automatically debate some smaller development applications. I welcome this because Wandsworth's existing rules made the agendas far too long to allow real debate, and nearly all smaller sites are decided as recommended by officers.

What Covid-19 will almost certainly mean is a further delay to the updating of the local plan, already set back by the local Government minister Mr Jenrick refusing to approve Sadiq Khan's revised London Plan just before it was due to be published after several years in development.

Sadly as a result of the coronavirus rules the Wandsworth Heritage Festival and the walks I mentioned last month have now been postponed to 2021.

We are now pleased to say that the slides from the February Putney Society meeting talk on "Putney:- At the Heart of London Rowing" are now available on the Society website.

### **From the Community Panel**

If you live in Putney and in these extraordinary times are finding it hard to make ends meet and put food on the table, OR you want to help support those who are struggling, The Wandsworth Food Bank is the organisation to contact.  
<https://wandsworth.foodbank.org.uk/>

Because of the steep rise in demand, and the logistics involved obtaining and supplying food, YOUR help is needed to raise money. If you can afford to, please consider making a donation to them, which will help them get the food distributed. The foodbanks themselves have had to shut due to Covid19, and instead they're now delivering food directly to those in need. You can understand how this changes everything. You can also make a financial donation to have the right food delivered to the foodbank via <https://bankuet.co.uk/wandsworth>. BANKUET source what food is specifically needed and so avoid any waste.

There are still the food bank collection boxes in local supermarkets where you can add items when you do your shop. Please check the list there to see what items are wanted. Online delivery services also have donation options.

Please consider donating to one or both of these, as every little bit makes a difference. The Putney Society will be making a donation too.

## One or two useful sources of information

**The Police Digital Security Centre** has some good advice for avoiding online scams and keeping your devices safe. <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/home-working>

**Wandsworth Council Community Hub** has been established that is working to help coordinate the support offered by the Council working in partnership with Wandsworth's many voluntary organisations. A helpline has also been launched as a first response for residents. It can signpost you to the latest information and government advice, as well as other services the council can provide. If you or someone you know needs this support and they don't have existing family, friends or other support that can step in, then please contact 0208 871 6555 or [covid19support@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk](mailto:covid19support@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk)

**National Cyber Security Centre** provides good advice on how to stay safe when video conferencing <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/section/advice-guidance/all-topics?topics=video%20conferencing&sort=date%2Bdesc&start=0&rows=20>

### Your Executive is here to help

Please do contact us if you think we can help – some of us can get out and help with shopping – or you may just need a friendly voice at the end of the phone. Just email me and I will co-ordinate our response ([judith.chegwidden@gmail.com](mailto:judith.chegwidden@gmail.com))

**Finally** apologies to those of you for whom we have email addresses but who prefer to receive a paper bulletin – we are trying to minimise printing while our commercial printer is in lockdown, but will revert to posting your Bulletin as soon as we can.

Best regards

Judith Chegwidden  
Bulletin Editor

**The Society's website contains more information about many of the issues in the Bulletin.**

**It also shows updates and changes to meetings. Please use this to keep in touch with what is happening.**

[www.putneysociety.org.uk](http://www.putneysociety.org.uk)

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