**CHESSINGTON DISTRICT RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION**

42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**All Residents are Welcome**

Tuesday 27th June 2017 at 7.30pm

Chessington Methodist Church Hall

Moor Lane, Chessington

Guest Speaker

Charlie Adan, Chief Executive Officer

Royal Borough of Kingston



**Charlie Adan will talk to us about her new role as Chief Executive Officer in the Royal Borough of Kingston**

**Charlie Adan is Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service for the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames.  She joined RBK in August 2016 having previously been Chief Executive of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, leading one workforce working for two Councils, a joint strategic plan, raising the profile of the districts in Suffolk and at the forefront of District Council reform. She started her working life as a private practice Lawyer and her local government career was as a Monitoring Officer, Lawyer and governance professional. She has worked across a range of Authorities including the Greater London Authority (GLA).**

**Please come and meet her at our AGM**

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**Colin Punch, CDRA Chairman**

**Telephone 020 8397 2659**

**Email – chessingtondra@gmail.com**

**Some of the ways we help our residents**

Our residents association is a voluntary, non political, self funded organisation which works hard for the residents of Hook, Chessington and the South of the Borough. The aim of the association is to ensure that residents have a strong meaningful voice on matters that have an impact on our community.

We attend meetings and participate with health organisations, the Police and Local Councillors. We pass on important information to you, our residents. We monitor planning applications and help our residents to object to any planning applications that will affect their quality of life. This year we have had some successes in this area.

**Health**

As an Association we try to monitor the changes concerning medical and health matters

Several of our members belong to Patient Participation Groups at the Gosbury Health Centre, the Chessington Park Surgery and the Hook Surgery. These are small committee’s who are there to encourage a positive relationship and clear communication between the patients and the surgery staff, both medical and administrative. Any changes or developments that take place within the surgeries are discussed at our monthly residents’ association meetings and printed in our minutes.

We also attend the Kingston Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) meetings . One of the big changes over the last year is that they have taken on board the commissioning of Primary Care i.e. GP surgeries and their services. One of the benefits to come out of this is the three weekend Health Hubs serving Kingston, Surbiton and our local hub at the Merritt Health Centre in Chessington. If you need to see a nurse or doctor at the weekend, instead of going to accident and emergency at Kingston or Epsom Hospital, you can now go to the Surbiton Health Centre which is open from 8am until 8pm, the Merritt Health Centre which is open from 8am until 2pm or Kingston Health Centre which is open from 8am until 8pm on Saturday and from 8am until 2pm on Sunday.

**Mental Health**

We are working with local schools to try and give our children and students more help in being able to speak out if they are being bullied or have problems that are causing them distress.

We had concerns about the outpatients department at Tolworth Hospital. We think the one place patients can go with stress related problems was actually imposing and adding to their stress. Consequently, we went to see the new Clinical Manager of Kingston and Richmond Community Services South West London & St Georges Mental Health Trust. He was very good and listened to our comments and concerns and agreed that there are issues that he will address in the future.

We also made representations at the Kingston CCG meeting regarding the lack of one to one therapies for patients suffering from various personality disorders. At present Kingston CCG only offer group therapies whereas other CCG’s offer one to one consultations. The Kingston CCG say that they will address this.

**Police**

We have attended all of the Ward Panel meetings and have a delegate attending the Kingston meetings organised by the London Mayor’s Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC). Sergeant Simon Baxter is now in charge of Chessington North and South Safer Neighbourhood teams and is good to work with. Our teams are fortunate to have some long serving PC’S and PCSO’S. The community always benefit when our officers build up a lot of local knowledge. Our crime figures are exceptionally low, burglary and motor vehicle crime figures are generally down. They have also been significantly reduced by the management of the Premier Inn, on the Leatherhead Road, finally acting on years of Police advice to improve the security in their car park. Drug usage continues to be a serious concern, not just locally but right across London. In response to the recent terrorist attacks the Police wish to improve communication between the Police and community. We will work hard to help bring this about.

**Council Committees and Public Meetings**

We continue to attend all of the Neighbourhood Committee meetings and the panel meetings which review the Neighbourhood Plan. Last year the political party leading the Council imposed a reduction in the number of Neighbourhood Committee meetings. They were previously monthly meetings. They now take place irregularly every few months. This means that few of our local planning applications are discussed and decided at neighbourhood level, and other issues often relevant to specific groups in the community are delayed.The planning officers, who do not have local knowledge, are making too many decisions. However, if there is an application that we would like to be ‘called in’ and heard at our local neighbourhood meeting we can request it and it may or may not happen. The changes have not worked very well; they appear to have resulted in less, rather than more, local democracy. We strongly support our local Councillors, who all work hard. Their work, and their communication with the community, is unnecessarily made more difficult.

**Major Planning Applications – The Tesco/Meyer Bergman Tolworth Planning Applications**

Work on these planning applications has taken up an inordinate amount of our time this year. We are working in partnership with other local residents’ associations. Together we have developed great expertise in opposing major planning applications. This culminated in a three day Planning Inspectorate appeal hearing at the Guildhall for the fifth planning application to build 705 homes on the Tolworth site. Two of our members deserve special praise. Not only have Dick Ware and Rob Robb worked hard to develop our objection, they also attended all three days of the public hearing! Even if the Secretary of State approves this application for 705 homes a planning application for 950 homes is in the pipeline.

**The Future of our Association**

Last year we wrote ‘In Kingston many civic and community organisations are encountering difficulties in recruiting new members who are willing to spend their time participating in their organisations work.’ Nothing has changed. Our community faces greater problems, our workload grows year on year, and we are all getting older. As we previously wrote ‘ In our more open, freely communicating world the residents’ association, the civic and community groups are ever more important. We need more active people to join our residents’ association committee to undertake the work that is so beneficial for the community.’

**Our Association**

To be able to play a major role in our community we need to be able to finitely say that we represent and speak for a significant number of residents. To be able to do this we need to increase our formal, signed up, membership. The larger our membership is, the more authority we have, to support you with any issues or problems that may exist in your neighbourhood. The cost of membership is minimal, only £3 per household, per year. By making that contribution you are helping to make your voice, and our voice, more strongly heard in community affairs.

**Executive Meetings**

Our meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month at St Paul’s Centre, Hook Road at 8pm. You are welcome to come and listen even if it is only for a short while. If you have an issue we will try to assist you or put you in touch with the appropriate people. We are in regular contact with our local Councillors, our MP and Council Officers. (We do not have a meeting in August).

**Jim Taylor**

Forty-two years ago, Jim was a founder member of our association. He has subsequently been secretary, vice chairman and chairman. For many years he undertook the work relating to planning applications. To occupy his spare time he was also the Resident Member of the Council’s Standards Committee, a committee member of the Kingston Community & Police Partnership and a member of the Patient Participation Group at the Merritt Health Centre. And more! Jim is especially valued for his acute intellect, he has the knack of asking penetrating questions at the right moment. As well as this enormous community workload, he has also been an excellent family man. Jim has now decided to retire. He will be greatly missed.



Jim Taylor

Vice Chairman

**Membership costs only £3.00 per household for one year**

To join or renew your subscription to the Residents’ Association, please complete this form.

**I wish to join the ChessingtonDistrict Residents’ Association 2017/8**

I agree that my details may be kept on computer to be accessed only by the committee.

Name……………………………………………………………………………………

Address………………………………………………………………………………….

Postcode…………………………………….Telephone……………………………….

Email Address…………………………………………………………………………...

Amount £3 per household, or more if you would like to make a donation.

Please return to Mr Jim Taylor, 1, Selwood Road, Chessington, KT9 1PT or

Whitfords News Agency, 1 North Parade, Chessington, KT9 1QL or

Diane Brannan, 38 Angus Close, Chessington, KT9 2BP