**Chessington District Residents’ Association**

**AGENDA**

**For the meeting to be held on 7th May2019**

At St Paul’s Centre, Hook Road – 8pm

1. CHESSINGTON DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NOTICES
2. AGREEMENT OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING
3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES
4. VISITING MEMBERS QUESTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS
5. MAJOR NEW ISSUES ONLY
6. MINOR NEW ISSUES
7. HEALTH ISSUES
8. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES
9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

10.PLANNING NEWS

11. POLICE REPORT 12.ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**MINUTES**

Of the meeting held on the 2nd April2019

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Chairman- Colin Punch, Mike Hoare – Vice Chairman, Treasurer - Diane Brannan, Francis Brannan,Colin Dance, Brian Ekins, Graham Hedley,Rob Robb,Peter Shakeshaft, Colin Suckling, Sue Towner, Dick Ware.

**VISITORS PRESENT**

Lily Hands

**APOLOGIES**

Councillor Margaret Thompson, Jenny Lewington, Sheila Watkins.

**1.CHESSINGTON DISTRICT RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NOTICES**

Diane announced that we are lucky to have Jim Morford, the Borough Commander of Surbiton Fire Station to be our Guest Speaker at our AGM on the 27th of June at Chessington Methodist Church Hall.

**2.MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record of that meeting.

**3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

There were several comments concerning 4B, The Malden Rushett By-Pass.

At our March meeting we were told that the residents of Malden Rushett are against a by-pass. However, at this meeting Colin Suckling advised that they are in favour of a by-pass as long as it does not impinge on the ‘green belt’ area. A cut through from the A3 to the back of Chessington World of Adventures would possibly be an acceptable solution to the hours of slow moving traffic that they currently encounter.

Councillor Margaret Thompson sent us an email. She wrote:-

*‘The Hook bypass, as you know, has a long and sorry history. I know that we have brought this idea forward a number of times and that Ed Davey has raised it. The problems have been that other local authorities object, the huge cost, unpopularity among a surprising number of residents, destruction of Green Belt, landowners objections. It hasn't gone away and we are not doing nothing, but I know it looks like that because nothing has happened!’*

Councillor Sharon Young also sent us an email. She wrote:-*‘Re the relief road, the long-standing residents of Chessington know this as been discussed for the last 40 years! Main objection to relief road is that is goes through green belt land.*

*However I was interested/ surprised to see that in the Local Plan there is a “potential relief road” on the plans should any development happen in SoB. It is worth stressing that although Caroline Shah has some very passionate thoughts about the Local Plan, it is only an outline of possibilities,  not permitted or planned development on any specific sites. And the document is open for comments and consultation to allow residents to shape this.’*

**4.VISITING MEMBERS QUESTIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS**

There were none.

**5. SUMMARY OF MAJOR ISSUES**

There were none.

**6.MINOR NEW ISSUES**

**Meeting with Chessington North Post Office** – In response to the discontent from residents about what was considered to be negative changes at the Chessington North Post Office our residents association contacted their management to arrange a meeting. The meeting was attended by our Chairman Colin Punch and Executive Member Rob Robb with Carl Farnham the Head of Post Office Operations and Karl Oliver the Commercial Partnership Retail Manager from Mc Colls who own Martins. Our members explained that residents were unhappy that the Post Office section has now moved to be part of the Martins counter. They claimed that people did not realise that the Post Office was still operating. They also said that there were no trained Post Office staff and the staff available did not always know what services were possible. As a consequence, many residents now use the Hook Post Office located in Tesco’s. Here the staff are very knowledgeable and helpful. Their hours of opening are 8am to 8pm seven days a week which I am sure we would all agree is very impressive.

Colin and Rob were told that it was now quite common not to have specific Post Office staff in stores. It was necessary to cut costs as in FY18 they made a loss of £3,000. However, they agreed that better signage should be used so that customers know that the Post Office is still available. Our residents association also suggested that they advertise their services in Chessington Chat so as to make us all aware of what is possible.

We have just received our May edition of Chessington Chat where Chessington North Post Office have bought space to advertise their long opening hours of 6am to 7pm Monday to Saturday and 7am to 2pm on Sunday. They also list the wide ranging list of services that they offer. Well done to Rob and Colin for taking the initiative to arrange the meeting. We hope that people using this Post Office branch will see an improvement.

( )**Evans Halshaw Showroom at Malden Rushett**–For a long time the car showroom has been causing long tailbacks of traffic when they unload their car trailers. Residents of Malden Rushett have been complaining about this. On the 2nd of April a meeting was arranged between residents, Councillors, Transport for London and Evans Halshaw. Unfortunately, Evans Halshaw did not turn up.

There were various suggestions made. However, nothing was resolved. The Council will now carry out a consultation of residents preferences.

**7. HEALTH ISSUES**

**8. EDUCATIONAL ISSUES**

**( ) Ellingham School**– Several of our members met with the Headteacher Maggie Fairweather, Deputy Headteacher Laura Brooks and Paula Peters who teaches children in the reception classes on the 13th of March.

Ellingham is a two form of entry community primary school with a nursery. They provide education for over 400 children from 2 to 11 years old in a state-of-the-art new building.

Maggie is an interim Headteacher. We were told that RBK and the Head of Governors are currently interviewing candidates for the position of a permanent Headteacher and preparing a short list.

A CDRA member asked about identifying children with learning difficulties. We were told that if a member of staff is concerned about a particular child it will be discussed by a staff committee. It will then be necessary for them to gather evidence so that help can be given to the child.

They currently have three children with ‘special educational needs’. They are taught in smaller groups and supported by the Local Authority to ensure that all pupils, regardless of their specific needs, make the best possible progress in school.

If a child behaves badly in the classroom they will be taken out of the class.

We were pleased and surprised to hear that prior to starting their nursery or reception class the child will receive a home visit, usually from Paula w,ho will be teaching them. This is so that they can meet in familiar surroundings so that when they start school, they will already be familiar with the teacher.

Ellingham buy back professional sports coaches who deliver skills based activities. Each class has two hours of PE weekly. In these sessions children work to develop skills which are then put together to, for example, perform a dance or gymnastics routine or play a larger game of hockey, football or basketball.Whilst the children do sports the teachers receive 10% free time for planning.

There is an after school club for child care.

One of our members asked if Malden Rushett children are still given first choice of Ellingham school if they wish to go there. We were told that it is still the case as it is their closest school.

We were told that after Easter parents travelling by car will no longer be able to access Ellingham school via Harrow Close. This is because a lot of children from St Philips School have to travel by bus. The large number of parents travelling by car are causing severe congestion and causing children from St Philips to have to sit on a bus for an extra half an hour. We understand the stance taken by Ellingham School as this situation is clearly unfair to the children of St Philips.

**9. PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

**10.PLANNNG NEWS**

**( g ) Over Development in Kingston** – Last month we discussed the work that Caroline Shah is doing to try and fight ‘over development in Kingston’. She believes that the Council were wrong to agree with the Mayor of London for Kingston to become an ‘Opportunity Area’ which means that we will have to build more homes in Kingston.

Councillor Margaret Thompson sent us an email commenting on this item in our minutes. She wrote:-‘*Caroline Scott Shah has not fully understood what is happening. She has not believed the explanations. The call for sites was an exercise started a couple of years ago where developers - not the Council - were invited to put forward any ideas they might have for land that could theoretically be developed. This is entirely independent of who owns it and what's on it now. Legally, you could ask for planning permission to build in my back garden! This is part of looking for possible sites for development so that we can start to fulfil the house building targets that the Mayor has set, although we are also lobbying against them.*

*The consultation has now begun and everyone will have a chance to respond. This is the time for response - the earlier document was not one to be consulted on. So for instance, a developer might look at Churchfields on a map and imagine a new estate. The council would never allow that, quite regardless of any covenants etc. However, there may be areas of land that could be used for housing that residents suggest from the list of sites. For instance, personally I think that Five Acre Farm is a disaster area and a properly thought out development with access that doesn't involve Clayton Rd could be a possibility. The Crossrail 2 issue is also a consideration but so long delayed that it probably won't be in my lifetime! Caroline is spreading a great deal of alarm that isn't justified’.*

Although we accept Councillor Thompson’s explanation that the sites previously identified were not necessarily chosen by the Council. Our residents’ association believe this is a big subject and a lot of what is written appears to be factual. For instance the undemocratic way that the Council decided that we would become an ‘Opportunity Area’. Dick Ware who manages our planning issues has done a lot of work on this subject. You can find his reports on our website

<http://www.chessingtondra.org.uk/the-new-london-plan-nlp/>

You can also find more about what Caroline calls the flawed ‘Direction of Travel’ consultation that decided our future as an ‘Opportunity Area’, written by Caroline Shah on our website <http://www.chessingtondra.org.uk/how-many-councillors-did-it-take-to-destroy-our-royal-boroug>

Despite the possible criticism of the Council. They have now published the consultation document “Kingston – Looking forward together” to start the conversation on how a new Local Plan for the Royal Borough should be  shaped and developed.  
Our residents association would urge you to take part in this consultation as it will affect our future in Chessington/Kingston.  
 Please visit: [www.kingston.gov.uk/newlocalplan](http://www.kingston.gov.uk/newlocalplan) for more details.

**11.POLICE REPORT**

There was none. However, there is a report being circulated in the near future.

**12.ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was none.

**Dates for your Diary –**

**The next Chessington District Residents Association Meeting.** Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday the 2nd of April followed by the 7th of May. The meetings are held at St Pauls Centre in Hook Road which is the small hall attached to the side of the Church.

**South of the Borough Neighbourhood Committee meeting** - 4th of June – Venue to be advised.

**------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------**

**Iwish to join / renew my membership of the Chessington District Residents’ Association 2018/2019**

I agree that my details may be kept on computer to be accessed only by the committee. I confirm that I wish to receive minutes of meetings together with any other information thought to be of interest and relevance.

Name……………………………………………………………………………………

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

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

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

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

**Please return to Francis Brannan 296 Hook Road, Chessington, KT9 1NY or**

**Whitford News, North Parade, Chessington, KT9 1QL or**

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

**Sign..............................................................**

**You can pay directly into our bank account. Please put your address in the reference. If you are a new member please scan in the completed membership form and email to chessingtondra@gmail.com**

**Bank Account Details:-Name – Chess Dist Res Ass**

**Sort Code :- 40-17-39Account No. 51022687**