

## Wandsworth Living Streets Newsletter No. 1, January 2015

Dear Wandsworth Living Streets Supporter,

Happy New Year. This coming year will hopefully see us making further progress in transforming our streets into safer, more attractive, people-friendly places for us all when we are on foot.

This Newsletter is also attached to this email. **If you want to see the photo of Jacqui's little garden on the pavement, you will need to open this Newsletter as an attachment.**

### What's in this Newsletter

- Our next public meeting Monday 16 March 2015 – Talk and Panel Discussion with Parliamentary Candidates on *Making Walking Safer and Easier*.
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- Wandsworth Society meeting Thursday 12 February 2015 – John Dales *Redesigning our Streets*.
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- Wandsworth Living Streets' vision statement – *TRANSPORT IN WANDSWORTH: Policy Proposals from Wandsworth Living Streets. 'Can we do better?'*
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- 'My little garden on the pavement' – WLS Supporter, Jacqui Bowers describes how she transformed an empty tree plot on her road in Battersea
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- The Wandsworth Gyratory – What's happening

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### Wandsworth Living Streets meeting, Monday 16 March 2015, 7.30pm

*Making Walking Safer and Easier*

*A manifesto for Living Streets*

Joe Irvin (Chief Executive, Living Streets)

&

Panel Discussion with Parliamentary Candidates

(Battersea, Putney and Tooting constituencies)

Venue: The Alma Pub

Upstairs function room

Address: 499 Old York Road, SW18 1TF

**How to get there:** Opposite Wandsworth Town Station; and on Nos. 28 and 44 bus routes; and nearest Barclays Cycle Hire docking station is Podmore Road (right by the Alma Pub)

Streetmap at: <http://tinyurl.com/ygwtk4z>

The general election is on Thursday 7 May. Living Streets has published its Vision for the next five years. It is entitled *Making Walking Safer and Easier -- A manifesto for Living Streets* (see below for where you can read it on-line).

**Joe Irvin, the new Chief Executive of Living Streets**, will talk about the Manifesto's challenge to all the political parties to commit to making walking safer and easier over the next five years. The Manifesto asks them **to legislate** (an **Active Travel Act for England**); **to invest** (a long-term **Active Travel Fund to support walking interventions**); and **to inspire the next generation** (a national **Action Plan on Sustainable School Travel**).

**A Panel comprising a representative from each political party putting up candidates in Battersea, Putney and Tooting constituencies** will follow. Each candidate will speak briefly about their party's approach to making walking safer, healthier, easier and a more attractive travel option for short trips and local shopping. There will be an opportunity to put questions to the candidates.

**Do come to this important opportunity to hear and ask questions about each party's transport policies as they affect us when we are moving around on foot.**

**Please bring a friend.**

Robert Molteno Secretary, Wandsworth Living Streets

(Email address: [Robert.Molteno@googlemail.com](mailto:Robert.Molteno@googlemail.com))

To read the **Living Streets Manifesto for Making Walking Safer and Easier** – go to:  
<http://www.livingstreets.org.uk/make-a-change/library/a-manifesto-for-living-streets>

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**[Wandsworth Society Meeting Thursday 12 February, 7.45 for 8pm](#)**

### ***Re-designing Our Streets***

**John Dales, Trustee of Living Streets & Director of Urban Movement**

John Dales runs a consultancy specialising in transport planning and design of urban streets and spaces. He will discuss:

- How to make streets safer for cyclists and pedestrians;
- How to rid our streets of the plethora of signage;

- “Is 20 Plenty?”.

**Venue:** West Side Church, Melody Road SW18 2QQ (on the corner of Melody Road and Allfarthing Lane, opposite Wandsworth Preparatory School (the former Alvering Library)).

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## TRANSPORT IN WANDSWORTH – Policy Proposals from Wandsworth Living Streets

### Can we do better?

Those of you who were at our very convivial Christmas Party on 8 December – and our thanks once again to the **Alma Pub** for making us so welcome – will have heard Robert Molteno speak briefly about this major working document that Wandsworth Living Streets has drawn up. Everyone present got a copy. You can also read it on our website at <http://wandsworthlivingstreets.org.uk/vision-statement/>

**And if you would like a printed copy**, please send a Stamped & Addressed Envelope (A5 size) to Susie Morrow, 27 Aslett St., London SW18 2BE.

**The purpose of the document** is to raise our level of ambition for how, over the coming years, the travelling environment generally in Wandsworth Borough, and the public streetscape in particular, can be improved. Wandsworth Living Streets does lots of specific things. We work with residents on problems in their particular streets. We press for new pedestrian crossings where needed. We campaign for 20mph as the default speed limit in order to make a safer, quieter, more attractive street environment. We respond to consultations of Wandsworth Council and Transport for London, always making constructive suggestions. But Dave Irwin, a member of our Committee, felt we needed **an overarching framework focusing on the big things that could be done in order to transform what we expect of our streets and transport systems**. A vision of what is possible can inspire everyone to aim higher, and see particular improvements in the context of where we could be going. Of course, a transformed, high quality street environment requires action by various participants – Wandsworth Council, Transport for London, the Metropolitan Police, local businesses, and us as vigilant residents.

- **We take as our starting point in this vision statement** the sharp rises in traffic congestion that TfL predicts by 2031.
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- **We set out why walking is an important mode of travel**, and why TfL and Wandsworth Council should recognise this in all the actions they take affecting our streets.
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- **We summarise the ways in which the current state of streets in Wandsworth impacts negatively on us residents. We set out a three-pronged approach for a better transport future for everyone in Wandsworth.** The suggestions we make are offered in a constructive spirit. And they comprise practical steps that need to be taken. The first prong focuses on encouraging a shift away from people using their vehicles for short, non-work related journeys. The second highlights the health dimensions of transport – in particular, road safety, speed and air quality. And the third prong calls for a recognition by the Council and TfL that some of our streets, in particular local shopping streets, serve a ‘place’ function (ie people use these streets not primarily to get from A to B, but as *places* where they want to shop, socialise and spend time).

We will be organising a meeting for all WLS Supporters to discuss this vision statement so that everyone has an opportunity to contribute their views as to what it should propose.

We intend to use the document in discussions with Councillors and Officers. And if any of you are likely to meet a Councillor, do please hand them a copy and chat to them about it.

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### My little garden on the pavement

**by Jacqui Bowers**

After the tree outside our house died, it left an empty plot, which I decided to use as an extension to my window boxes rather than just leave it for weeds to grow. With the help of 'free plants offer', 'free seeds offer' in newspapers, Wahaca's matchbooks of chilli seeds and cuttings from plants in my garden, I started to use the plot to brighten up the street.

This small plot contains a wide variety of flowering plants and has attracted much attention from people walking past. People will frequently stop and chat and say how much they enjoy the flowers when I am outside watering or weeding. The street cleaners have very kindly helped to keep the plot free of various take-away packaging and it is a real pleasure to see children stop and enjoy the flowers.

The only time that anyone has taken anything from the garden was Christmas a year ago – I planted a very small Christmas tree. It survived a week, but disappeared on Christmas Eve.



As I was writing this, the plot contained beautiful Victoria Cross poppies alongside chrysanthemums, polyanthus and pansies.

If inspiration hits me I might do something for Halloween, or I might just wait and try a Christmas tree again.

If you want to know more, you can contact me at [Jacqui\\_bowers @yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Jacqui_bowers@yahoo.co.uk)

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### The Wandsworth Gyratory – What's happening

Almost all of you know the road that the *Big London A-Z* calls, in a box with capital letters in blue, **WANDSWORTH GYRATORY**. And most of you – whether driving, or in a bus, or on foot in

Wandsworth High Street – will have experienced the noise, gridlock and offputting ‘feel’ of this one-way, multi-lane road round the Town Hall. Transport for London (TfL), in conjunction with Wandsworth Council, has decided to try and replace it, and have allocated funds for this purpose.

The essence of the idea is three-fold:

- **To turn Wandsworth High Street, Armoury Way and Swandon Way into ‘normal’ two-way roads** with traffic moving in both directions;
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- **To divert all traffic along this stretch of the South Circular** If you are going westwards, this means all vehicles, except buses, coming from Battersea Rise and St. John’s Hill turning into Trinity Road towards the River, round the huge Wandsworth Bridge roundabout there, into Swandon and Armoury Ways, and coming into West Hill (the A3) a few hundred yards before that road forks into the Upper Richmond Road and West Hill. (And, of course, vice versa, if you are coming from the West in the direction of Central London.)
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- **To transform East Hill and Wandsworth High Street** past South Thames College and the Southside Shopping Centre **into a quiet pedestrian- and cyclist-friendly zone, along with buses**, which will hopefully restore Wandsworth Town Centre into being a place where we locals will enjoy shopping and using the other facilities, including access, once again, to the River Wandle as it flows through the Ram Brewery site which is going to be completely re-developed.

The first round of consultation – about this idea in principle – has now taken place. Over 14,000 leaflets were distributed to homes and businesses in a wide area. Getting on for 2,000 responses, mainly from householders but also from organizations, were received and are being analysed. The result is expected to be made public at the end of January.

Wandsworth Living Streets has engaged with Transport for London in a series of meetings in recent months. Our concern is that, if the outcome of the consultation is broadly in favour of getting rid of the Gyratory, the detailed plans which TfL draws up really deliver **a less air-polluted, less noisy, and much more attractive, greener, and safer town centre for all of us, especially when we access it on foot, or bicycle, or public transport.** This rejuvenated town centre has the potential to boost local businesses and become a model for the whole Borough of how our other town centres can be transformed. In particular, Wandsworth Living Streets has urged TfL and Wandsworth Council to facilitate Active Travel ways of accessing the town centre. We have urged, in the interests of people living along Armoury Way, that through traffic should be calmed by various measures, including a 20mph speed limit. And we have suggested that Wandsworth Council should consider changes to Garratt Lane as it passes the Southside Shopping Centre in order to make it into an environment consonant with the ‘feel’ of a local town centre where people will want to spend time.

Removal of the Gyratory, if it is approved by local people, is going to take several years. There will be a further round of consultation on the details of TfL’s plans late this year (autumn 2015). Construction would probably start only in 2017. Completion – and this is possibly being a little optimistic – would be in 2019.

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**STOP PRESS: Rolling out the 20mph speed limit in Furzedown and Bedford Wards**

Work starts this month (January) on putting up the necessary signage to give effect to what nearly four out of every five residents living in these two wards asked for in the consultation last year – namely a 20mph speed limit.

Which wards will be the next to follow suit?

Robert Molteno

Secretary, Wandsworth Living Streets ([Robert.Molteno@gmail.com](mailto:Robert.Molteno@gmail.com))