

Wandsworth Living Streets Newsletter No. 2, March 2015

Dear Wandsworth Living Streets Supporter,

Welcome to our Newsletter No. 2 this year. If you want to see the visual, please open the attachment (it is a pdf; so don't worry!).

How's this for a lovely road sign?



I cannot resist sharing this it with you. I spotted it in a quiet corner of Wiltshire. A bit weatherbeaten, it stood courteously beside the road on the outskirts of a village. Not a dozen miles from Salisbury.

Not relevant to us in congested London perhaps. And as my greatgrandmother once told my mother: "Imagine, dear, if we all did it?" But we don't. And maybe the sign doesn't conform to Department for Transport rules. But it does makes a point. And one that people of all ages will get. Streets are for sharing. And a vibrant street has all sorts of users.

What's in this Newsletter

- **Is 20mph coming to a street near you? – Consultations taking place now**
- **Cracking down on pavements cracking up – The Council takes action**
- **Wandsworth Living Streets Website: What's new on the site**
- **Action by Wandsworth Living Streets – what's happening**
- **Upcoming Meetings**

Is 20mph coming to a street near you? Consultations taking place now

In January we reported that the Council was rolling out 20mph across two wards in the borough – Bedford and Furzedown. In February, the Council issued a press release listing 12 other areas across the borough where residents, having put in petitions, are being asked if they would like a 20mph speed limit introduced. These include (with a handful of individual roads):

East Putney – south of Oakhill Road – ie. Santos, Cromford, Mexfield, Galveston and Schubert Roads.

Fairfield Ward – Wendlesworth estate.

Nightingale Ward – a large part of south of Nightingale Lane and bounded by Ravenslea and Ramsden Roads.

Roehampton -- Putney Vale and Alton Estates in Wandsworth.

Southfields ‘Grid’ area – a rectangle of roads south of Pirbright Road.

Southfields – Girdwood Road area – including Sutherland Grove, Skeena Hill and Combemartin Roads.

Thamesfield Ward – the whole of it.

Wandsworth Common Toast-rack -- 5 roads on western side of the Common.

Taking part in these consultations is easy. Every home has got a leaflet with details of the proposal and a map of the area affected. The leaflets have a pre-paid response slip. All a resident has to do is write Yes or No and put it in a postbox.

If you know anyone in these areas being consulted, do please encourage them to respond.

Cracking down on pavements cracking up – The Council takes action

On February 10, the Council announced it had formed a new team of inspection staff to keep our streets clean and tidy. **The new Street Care Team** combines the Council’s old litter squad and its highway inspectors. The team is larger than before. And will focus on broken pavements, litter, fly tipping, and highway obstructions. This follows on the blitz last year when the Council allocated special funds to tackle the big backlog of broken and uneven pavements across the borough. The new team will “scour the borough for street defects like broken or cracked paving stones that could pose a risk to pedestrians”. We may not like stretches of black asphalt on our pavements instead of proper paving stones. But it is good to see the Council carrying forward its commitment to make our pavements safer to walk on.

Apparently, Wandsworth already has 96% of our local streets meeting national cleanliness standards. We have the cleanest streets in Inner London. What’s more, we have the second lowest level of flytipping in all London. And last year, over 800 people had legal action taken against them for breaching litter laws.

To report a street defect, email onstreetservices@wandsworth.gov.uk

Our Website – What’s new on the Wandsworth Living Streets Website

Susan Hoffman has taken over responsibility for running our Website. It has several additional sections now, including:

- **Transport in Wandsworth – Wandsworth Living Streets Proposals:** WLS produced this important vision statement at the end of last year outlining an ambitious plan for vision for sustainable transport. This revolves around three big ideas – (1) encouraging a ‘mode shift’ from use of the car for short trips to more active ways of moving around; (2) the vital importance of recognising that transport affects our health – steps to improve air quality on our streets, why a lower 20mph speed limit brings so many benefits, and the urgent need to reduce road danger, particularly for pedestrians and cyclists; and (3) recognising that many local streets where people shop and socialise have a strong ‘*place*’ function and need to be treated differently. You can read our vision statement by going to: <https://wandsworthlivingstreets.files.wordpress.com/2015/01/transport-in-wandsworth-wls-proposals-2-dec-2014.pdf>
- **All previous WLS Newsletters** now on the website. Just go to <http://wandsworthlivingstreets.org.uk/newsletters/>
- **Links to other websites** relevant to our Pedestrian concerns: You can straight to **Living Streets’ national website**. Also to the invaluable **20sPlentyforUs** website.

Wandsworth Living Streets Actions – What’s happening

The expanded WLS Committee is busy in various directions. WLS has been invited to be a community representative on **the Wandsworth Health and Wellbeing Partnership**.

We continue to keep a close watch on the gigantic **Nine Elms on the South Bank** development. Transport for London has now released its Public Realm Design Guide for the area. This will hopefully lead all the developers to take the interests of pedestrians seriously, and to achieve high standards in the public spaces created.

One WLS supporter attended the **Tooting Common Heritage Workshop** on 24 February which will envision improvements to the Common.

The WLS Committee is prioritising presenting its Vision Statement on *Transport in Wandsworth – Policy Proposals* to relevant Councillors and Officers. A meeting was held in January with Cabinet Member Jonathan Cook and OSC Chair Councillor Kim Caddy, and they have accepted organizing a meeting where WLS can present its Vision Statement to those Councillors in the majority party who are interested. The Labour Group had a similar presentation on 26 February.

Later this year, after the elections, WLS is going to work with local residents in various parts of the Borough who want to start petitions for 20mph in their areas.

Upcoming Meetings – 10 March and 16 March

Air Pollution on our Streets

What's the situation in Wandsworth? What action is being taken?

Tuesday 10 March, 6.30pm for 7pm start. Wandsworth Town Hall, Committee Room 123

Speakers:

Simon Birkett from Clean Air in London

Samantha Heath from London Sustainability Exchange

Gavin Stedman, Wandsworth Council Area Manager for the Environment

Cllr Jonathan Cook, Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member (Community Services).

Public Meeting & Election Hustings on Transport with special emphasis on policies to promote Active Travel & Public Health

7.30pm, Monday, 16 March 2015. Alma Pub (499 Old York Road, SW18 1TF)

A Panel will comprise a parliamentary candidate from each of the 5 political parties contesting Battersea, Putney and Tooting constituencies. Each will speak for 5 minutes on their party's transport policies. The following have committed to speaking:

Conservative Party – Dan Watkins, candidate for Tooting

Green Party – Chris Poole, candidate for Putney

Labour Party – (awaiting clarification as to which candidate)

Liberal Democrat – Luke Taylor, candidate of Battersea

United Kingdom Independence Party -- Trish Ward, candidate for Putney

This Panel discussion will follow **Joe Irvin, Chief Executive of Living Streets**, who will kick off the meeting by presenting the three things Living Streets is asking all the political parties to commit to in the upcoming General Election on 7 May. **An Active Travel Bill** aimed at transforming our towns and cities into more liveable areas conducive to walking, cycling and public transport; **A National Action Plan for Sustainable School Travel** to encourage and facilitate the next generation of children

walking and cycling to school as the norm; and **A long-term Active Travel Fund** to support walking interventions in the interests of public health and a more people-friendly urban environment.

Finally, there will be an extended opportunity for members of the audience to put questions to the parliamentary candidates.

This Newsletter issued by Robert Molteno, Secretary, Wandsworth Living Streets, March 2015.

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