



# The Bulletin

For our members in Putney and Roehampton



June 2021

## Clean Air in London

Webinar for members **NOTE CHANGE OF DATE**  
**Monday 14 June at 7.30pm by ZOOM**



Simon Birkett of Clean Air in London will talk about the challenges facing the new Mayor in reducing levels of NO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub> pollution in London.

Clean Air in London's mission is to achieve full compliance with WHO guidelines for air quality throughout London and elsewhere.

Simon will be joined by a representative from Mums for Lungs, who recently installed the striking billboard by East Putney Station, which shows the impact air pollution has on lungs.

To register for the meeting please email [chair@putneysociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@putneysociety.org.uk)



## Litter Picking

In the run up to Roehampton Community Week, we are participating in a community drive to clean up the grassy spaces that form such an important part of the Alton Estate. Please do try to come along for an hour or so. We will provide the litter pickers and rubbish bags – but please bring your own tough gardening gloves.

Meet at the **Methodist Church Car Park**, Minstead Gardens

**Saturday 5 June, 10.30am**

**Sunday 6 June, 10.30am**

Meet outside **Joy Café**, Danebury Avenue

**Sunday 27 June, 10.30am.**

## Please can you help support Roehampton Community Week (5-11 July)?

Created by the community for the community, this initiative for Roehampton and West Putney has gathered much support and interest since it was proposed in 2020.

Driven by a desire to help people bounce-back from the pandemic and improve the local area the project now has involvement from local schools, faith groups, community organisations and local residents.

A full programme of over 20 community led events covering six key themes from working towards a cleaner environment (see side panel on litter picking) to displaying local arts and heritage is planned – see [www.roehamptoncommunityweek.com](http://www.roehamptoncommunityweek.com) for details.

With initial funding and support from Wandsworth Council, Rackets Cubed and Ibstock Place secured, the organising group set up by the Roehampton

Response Network is in need of further funds to ensure that all planned activities go ahead – and that Community Week leaves a lasting impact for local residents and their families. Please help if you can – visit the JustGiving page <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/roehamptoncommunityweek>



# Open Spaces Panel

**Convenor:** Judith Chegwidden  
28 Howards Lane, SW15 6NQ  
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## Creating pollinator pathways

You may have noticed that across our parks and commons grass is being left unmown to allow wildflowers to bloom. Enable (the company that manage Wandsworth's parks and open spaces) are cutting back on mowing at several locations in Putney including Lower Putney Common Cemetery, Putney Vale Cemetery, Wandsworth Park and Putney Park Lane. Wimbledon and Putney Commons Conservators have been encouraging wildflowers and minimising mowing on Putney Lower Common for some years. When the mower was brought into Wandsworth Park at the end of April to prepare the wildflower meadow, it caused quite a stir, as it was horse drawn.

In between these large green spaces, we need to create more pollinator friendly places. Those of us with gardens can make sure that we introduce plenty of pollinator species – there is plenty of advice on what to choose at <https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>. In addition, look out for the bee sign when buying plants.



Pollinator plants in pots and window boxes are just as valuable as they all contribute to a pollinator pathway.

Some of the green spaces on local estates could be less sterile – there some inspiring community gardens on the Ashburton

Estate, which could be copied elsewhere. Wandsworth are developing a biodiversity Action Plan – and it would be good to see some of the open spaces on the estates that they manage turned into wildflower meadows.

We welcome the fact that the local Planning Application Committee saved the open space at the corner of the Upper Richmond Road and Charlwood Road from development – but we would encourage more wildlife friendly planting by the owners.



# Buildings Panel

**Co-convenor:** Andrew Catto  
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Following Wandsworth Council's refusal last month of the proposed block of flats on the open space where Charlwood Road meets the Upper Richmond Road (URR), I am pleased to report more refusals of applications where your panel had objected, if not quite on the same scale. The proposal for 10 tiny flats on the top of Sylva Court at the top of Putney Hill has been withdrawn (watch this space). A small but significant success was refusal of a proposal for a crossover and front garden parking on the Dover House Road, which would have taken out a stretch of the privet hedges that distinguish this rightly admired estate - in addition to the other damage to the street scene always caused by parking on small front gardens.

Whilst we didn't comment on this one, Wandsworth have also refused conversion of a small office building off the URR into two houses, citing 'unacceptable loss of office floor space. We think that a daytime non-retail working population is important to support town centre shops.

As I have mentioned before, the Buildings Panel's work covers planning policy, which in the long-term influences what is permitted, as well as responding to current planning applications. It is briefly 'all quiet' on the policy front, after the 'new' London Plan, 4 years in the making became current. We hope Wandsworth is now working on the comprehensive feedback on their new plan provided earlier in the year. However, the Planning Bill announced in the Queen's Speech will probably change the whole process of plan making.

Key to the Panel's responses is identifying which applications which to follow up. We (more accurately Laura - many thanks for this) trawl through the weekly lists as well as sometimes getting notified directly by the Council. But recognising which matter from the brief descriptions can be tricky. For example, this week a listing for three extra storeys on the Upper Richmond Road (2021/1858) caught my eye. Looking at the full details showed that this to be for three storeys on top of the two storey HSBC, which will simply catch up with its neighbours. So no objection, but we might comment on the lack of balconies. Another proposed raising the roof on a semi-detached house by 600mm (2 feet). This turned out to be a 1950's bombsite rebuild, which will actually look more like its Victorian 'pair' and neighbours if raised. Should we support? But for every red herring fished up, there can be genuine shark that gets away. So, if you hear of something that may set an important precedent or have an impact on more than the immediate neighbourhood please tell us.

For the last year the Planning Application Committee and other meetings have been 'on-line' -this is good for those of us who want to watch without necessarily spending all evening in the Town Hall. But the temporary pandemic rules allowing this have now lapsed. We're waiting to see if the live link remains for the next PAC due on 25 May and other meetings.

# Community Panel

**Co-convenors:** Victoria Diamond 6 Norroy Road, SW15 1PF  
Val Jones Garden Flat, 41 Norroy Road, SW15 1PQ  
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## Update on vaccination roll out

Putneymead Group Medical practice, with over 26k patients, is the largest in the West Wandsworth primary care network. It recently told its Patient Participation Group that it had had a good uptake for the vaccination by the over 60s. Under 50s are currently being vaccinated at the Queen Mary's Hospital vaccination hub.

## New appointment booking system

A new online booking system has been rolled out to all West Wandsworth GP practices – in order to make an appointment, request results or admin information, patients have to complete a simple on-line form. This is a requirement set by NHS England, dating from the beginning of the pandemic to reduce the transmission of Covid- 9. The new online form enables the practice to deal swiftly with patient requests. The response is usually the same day, with a phone call or text from the practice.

The Putneymead practice, at least, hopes to facilitate face-to-face appointment requests where they can, although there will still be measures in place to reduce infection spread which may limit the capacity initially.

GPs also have 'continuity of care slots', which they can book for patients with long term conditions which would bypass

the online booking system. Their website has information about the days on which GPs work, which makes it easier for patients to match up their availability when booking a telephone appointment. The new system has actually enabled Putneymead to devote more time to those with long-term needs, and it has certainly cut down 'no shows'. It is however important, as the Royal College of GPs has recently said, for GPs to see patients face to face wherever possible to check for 'soft signs' of illness which cannot be detected by video and telephone.

At Putneymead, patients are still able to access their patient notes, book a nurse appointment, request repeat prescriptions via, for example, Patient Access and the practice can still be contacted by telephone. We would welcome feedback from patients of other GP practices in Putney and Roehampton, in the West Wandsworth area.

## Outpatient Clinics at Queen Mary's Hospital

Patients have reported concerns about the loss of clinics at QMH such as Ear Nose and Throat. The Putney Society would like to hear from members about any outpatient clinics you have noticed disappearing so that we can lobby St George's NHS Trust to ensure that Queen Mary's retains its clinics and can support the local community as much as it did pre-Covid-19.

# Transport Panel

**Convenor:** Stephen Luxford  
46 Disraeli Road, SW15 2DS  
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

It has been interesting to read the initial impact claimed for the 'City Tree', which is located midway on the High Street, near to the junction with Putney Bridge Road. The 'tree' works by filtering and purifying the air. While it is possible that it will improve the air quality in the immediate vicinity the jury is still out as to any impact on the air quality in the High Street more generally as there has been, as yet, no discernible change in NO<sub>2</sub> levels.

The first phase of the Putney High Street improvement works is almost concluded with a revamped entrance to Lacy Road the final part to be done. This will have a 'raised table'. The Council is giving thought, subject to funding, to phase two, which would include new pavement works down to the Bridge and other measures.

Now the local elections are over there we hope that there will be some progress with the repair of Hammersmith Bridge. Local MPs including Fleur Anderson (Putney) and Sarah Olney (Richmond Park) have been regularly raising the subject in Parliament. In mid-May, in evidence to a select

committee, the most senior official in the Department for Transport struck a conciliatory note and emphasised the close working between the government, Hammersmith Council and TfL in a bid to resolve the issue. After close analysis of the condition of the pedestals, engineers are now inspecting the chain knuckles in the bridge's anchor chain and then will re-assess whether the Bridge can be re-opened to pedestrians. Any decision on this is unlikely before the end of July. By the end of the summer, it is hoped that Thames Clippers (Uber) will be running a ferry service but precisely where passengers will board the boats is yet to be decided.

**Stop Press** – there is now speculation that the Government and TfL will agree a £40M strengthening package, which could possibly allow pedestrians and cyclists to use Hammersmith Bridge by the end of the summer. While this development is a relief for residents of Hammersmith and Barnes, it will do nothing to reduce the additional flow of vehicles over Putney Bridge.

## FUTURE PANEL MEETINGS

For the moment all panel meetings are held on Zoom. We will let you know as soon as the guidance allows us to meet in person. If you are new to panel meetings, please contact the panel convenor by email if you want to take part in the Zoom meeting and they will send out an invitation.

### COMMUNITY

10 June, 8 July  
by Zoom (18.30)

**Co-convenors:**  
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### TRANSPORT

8 June, 13 July  
by Zoom (19.30)

**Convenor:**  
Stephen Luxford  
Stephen.luxford46@gmail.com

### BUILDINGS

2 June, 7 July  
by Zoom (18.30)

**Convenor:**  
Andrew Catto  
ac@andrewcatto.co.uk  
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### OPEN SPACES

3 June, 1 July  
by Zoom (18.30)

**Convenor:**  
Judith Chegwidan  
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# More from the Wandsworth Heritage Festival

The 2021 Wandsworth Heritage Festival continues the emphasis on homes and housing. Events this year are either online or outdoors in response to the Covid-19s pandemic. Some highlights include:

## Tour and talk: The Power of Home – a 1950s estate in 21st century lockdown

Organised by the Friends of Wandsworth Common. Photographer and curator Sharon O'Neill leads a virtual tour of the Fitzhugh Estate on Wandsworth Common and tells the story of how one architect's vision of the 'modern world' is realised today through the homes and lives of the current residents. **Monday 7th June, 6.30pm.** Booking

required please contact [sharon@sharononeill.co.uk](mailto:sharon@sharononeill.co.uk)

## Self-guided walks devised by the Buildings Panel of the Putney Society

Following the Putney Society meeting on 'Modern Architecture in Putney & Roehampton' the Society has designed two walks, which you can take to view examples of 20th and 21st century buildings which you may love or loathe! The walks are organised by local geographic area - the first covers **East Putney** and the second **Putney Heath**. **Watch out for two new walks** – on buildings in Roehampton and on historical buildings along part of the **Upper Richmond Road** – due to be published on the



Putney Society website by the end of May.

To view or print out a walk follow these links: [https://putneysociety.org.uk/putney\\_society\\_files/BuildingsPanel/Modern\\_Architecture\\_Walk\\_1\\_Putney\\_East.pdf](https://putneysociety.org.uk/putney_society_files/BuildingsPanel/Modern_Architecture_Walk_1_Putney_East.pdf)

[https://putneysociety.org.uk/putney\\_society\\_files/BuildingsPanel/Modern\\_Putney\\_Walks\\_2\\_Putney\\_Heath.pdf](https://putneysociety.org.uk/putney_society_files/BuildingsPanel/Modern_Putney_Walks_2_Putney_Heath.pdf)

**Ubuntu Museum in Roehampton** held a fascinating exhibition of work from its "Kids Recycled Art" project on Saturday 8 May. The project, Ubuntu's second residency at Portswood Place, was due to start in January, but due to Covid-19 restrictions had to be redesigned. Instead of children going to the centre for weekly workshops, four different recycled art packs – including the wonderful pop can elephant kit (shown below) were created for families to collect. Over 170 packs were given out. The children's work was displayed at the exhibition, and over 40 people visited. Jackie and her team (pictured) received many compliments and congratulations, like this one – we couldn't have put it better ourselves!

"The arts and crafts have been wonderful, and the children have loved it.

Jackie and her team have been great. Well done all!"



## Age UK Wandsworth (AUKW)

is expanding their DigiPals service which offers drop-in digital support for older people in local libraries and sheltered accommodation. The expanded service will offer a "try before you buy" service which will see 35 older people loaned devices for three months at a time. These devices will be equipped with remote support so volunteers can continue to offer one-to-one training.

For more information, please contact [digipals@ageukwandsworth.org.uk](mailto:digipals@ageukwandsworth.org.uk) or phone 020 8877 8940.



From Monday 17 May, many of the businesses in Putney reopened for the first time since last year; others have now expanded their dining to indoors as well as outdoors and the cinema and event locations started to open up. To check out what is now open go to <http://positivelyputney.co.uk/lets-talk-reopening/> New businesses include The Source – a bulk foods, zero waste store at 135 Putney High Street and two new cafes where you can sample bubble tea.

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