

CHARLTON GRAPEVINE

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the newsletter of the Charlton Central Residents Association

Thames Water's Deluge in Charlton

Charlton Grapevine Report

Thames Water and their contractors, Skanska McNicholas, have begun work in the area to replace ageing and leaky water mains with new plastic pipes. Two committee members attended a consultation meeting recently with Thames Water and another is planned. CCRA is keen to ensure that residents face as little disturbance as possible. The works will involve periods without water supply; disruption to parking; and, in some homes, concerns about electrical earthing.

Top of the agenda for CCRA must be earthing issues in order to ensure that health and safety concerns are being fully addressed. Our local councillors are taking a tough stance and we will work closely with them. As you will have seen on Woolwich Road recently, this work can cause major disruption. However, the contractor, Skanska, is using modern pipe-laying techniques in some places which will help to reduce the amount of trench digging required. This technique also has the advantage of not reducing water pressure. Some homes may experience reduced pressure where supply is fed through a new, smaller pipe inserted within the old one.

A concerned member of the association who also attended the meeting said that "although the forthcoming water mains replacement is vital, Thames Water's handling of the project and provision of information to date are disappointing". The resident also expressed deep concern about the problems in relation to electrical safety implications commenting that "few of us have expert knowledge, and, as individuals, could fall prey to every rogue trader in London. Whilst Thames Water is not involved in electrical safety first hand, surely it has responsibilities and a duty of



care towards its customers and should be offering more assistance? The ideal way to secure goodwill would be for Thames Water to commission and fund an impartial electrical safety survey, so that each household has a clear, unbiased assessment of its needs."

CCRA is keen to take any positive steps possible to secure more consideration and a better deal from Thames Water. A booklet and DVD is available from Thames Water and further information is on their website: <http://www.thameswater.co.uk>. The CCRA Environment group also has copies of this information and they can be contacted at ccra_environment@yahoo.co.uk or by telephone on 0208 858 4942. ***The company is offering another consultation meeting for local residents on 10th January at Charlton House from 4 to 7pm.***

Any concerns you may have can be raised directly with the contractor via their helpline (0845 641 0011) or the project office (0207 732 3664). Alternatively you may wish to contact Skanska's Customer Liaison Manager, Sarah Sobers at Sarah.Sobers@skanska.co.uk. Currently planned works affecting CCRA streets:

Elliscombe Road

16/01/08 to 19/03/08 and 11/04/08 to 18/04/08

Nadine Street

24/06/08 to 05/08/08

Coombe Lodge

05/03/08 to 04/04/08 and 19/03/08 to 11/04/08

Wellington Gardens

11/06/08 to 09/07/08 and 25/06/08 to 16/07/08

Charlton Central Residents Association

CCRA is planning some social events but we need your help!

See inside for further details

Local Congestion Charge?

Charlton Grapevine Report

In recent months, concerns have been raised by a roads campaigning group, the Association of British Drivers (ABD), about a possible extension of the Congestion Charging Zone (CCZ) to the east, similar to a recent extension to the west of London. ABD claim that Transport for London (TfL) and Greenwich Council are considering making a charge to an area bounded by the A2 and the A102 and have been canvassing local residents for their opinion on a number of options. At the moment, it is not clear whether the Blackwell Tunnel would be included in these arrangements, what the times of operation would be or what the charges might be, were such an arrangement to be put in place. ***At the time of writing, Greenwich Council have said that there are no current plans to introduce the congestion charge into the area.*** Requests for further information on the matter from TfL have not been responded to. London Mayor Ken Livingstone has announced that there will not be a toll at the Blackwall Tunnel. CCRA will be monitoring progress and is interested in your views. *Contact Chair of CCRA, Colin Brown on 0208 244 2405.* Rest assured we will keep residents posted of any developments. Further information:

Association of British Drivers, www.abd.org.uk

Transport for London, www.tfl.gov.uk

Greenwich Council, www.greenwich.gov.uk.



Coming soon?

Greenwich Getting Greener

Early in the New Year there will be a change in the arrangements for rubbish collection from houses in our area; for flats the position will be reviewed at a later date. The blue top bins or clear sacks will still be used for recycling of dry materials, glass, cardboard, cans, paper and plastic as at present. But from January 21st they will be collected every week and go to the recycling facility in Thamesmead.

The green bins will also still be collected weekly but they will be for garden and kitchen waste such as cooked and uncooked food, teabags, plate scrapings, grass, leaves and plant cuttings. They will go to a depot in Kent for in-vessel composting. What's left over, such as polystyrene and waxed cartons which can't normally be recycled, will be collected once a fortnight in sacks and will go to the Combined Heat and Power incineration plant next to the main railway line in Deptford.

All three collections will take place on the same day.

The blue bin and sack collections will be in the morning; the garden and kitchen waste will be in the afternoon. Every house in the area can expect more details through the post in January. In a few years time councils that do not recycle at least 50% of their rubbish will be subject to large fines. So by recycling as much as possible you will help to keep your council tax down.

Don't forget the disposable nappy collection service. *If you have young children using disposable nappies you can register by calling the Council's contact centre on 0208 921 4661 or email centre@greenwich.gov.uk.* The council will also provide orange nappy sacks – one free for every week of the year, which should be put out with your other waste and recycling containers.

CCRA would like to hear from you when the service is up and running and will make any views known to the local council. *This issue is being dealt with by the Environment Group – key contact for CCRA is Dave Picton on 0208 858 4942.*

Keeping Safe in Charlton

CCRA has formed a Law and Order action group to tackle some of the issues raised by you at our launch in September. Our aim is simply to help make Charlton a community in which young and old alike can feel comfortable going about their lives and individual pursuits free from worry and intimidation. We are busy making links with groups as diverse as Greenwich Council, local pubs, the police, housing associations and local shopkeepers. We feel a large part of our job lies not just in pressurising public and private-sector organisations into accountability for their decisions but also to help keep people in Charlton fully informed of positive developments in relation to incidents such as burglary and street crime. This will enable people to build a better picture of the area in which we all live.

Officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) have welcomed the formation of CCRA and looked forward to working with us in the future. *If you have any concerns you want to share with SNT Charlton's Officers can be contacted on 0208 721 2734 / 07766 992 585 or by email on charlton.snt@met.police.uk. Free crime prevention advice is available from the local crime prevention officer on 0208 3164188.*

Letters to the Editor



In the last ten years many roads in Greenwich have seen the introduction of road humps, 20m.p.h. limits or both; the roads covered by our association have neither. Both devices are intended to reduce speed and make an area safer. They don't deter everyone

from high speeds but they do make a difference and slow traffic down.

At rush hours, in particular, almost every one of our local roads is used as a cut through, especially when there are traffic jams on the bottom road. Both then and at other times of day, some vehicles travel through the area at dangerous speeds and, though I don't know of any recent serious accidents, minor incidents, bumps and scratches are common.

A 20m.p.h. limit would not stop this altogether but would help. It would require 20 m.p.h. signs at every entrance to our area from Victoria Way and Charlton Church Lane and I would also like to see some slight narrowing of the width of the road at those junctions and possibly a low flat hump. *D.P.*

"I heard it on the grapevine..."

Social Activities

CCRA is keen to develop a range of social activities for residents but we need some help. *If you could spare some time to help organise events please contact Jacqui on 0208 853 1811 or Linda on 0208 858 7377.*

Open Garden

We are hoping to hold an Open Garden event in June to raise money for CCRA. If you are interested in helping or offering your garden to visitors.

Please contact Siobhan on 07931 382011 or email ccra_social@yahoo.co.uk if you would be interested in taking part.

Launch Party

Plans are still in hand for a family event soon! Are you the oldest resident or have you lived here longer than anyone else? If so, we would like to invite you to our launch party. We would also like to create an exhibition of pictures, articles or interesting documents that relate to our area. We promise to scan documents and return them safely. *Contact Jacqui on 0208 853 1811.*

Editor's Note

What do you think of the Grapevine? What would you like to see in it? Has it been helpful? Do you have a letter or an article for the next edition? Please let us know as we want the newsletter to be of use to residents and to celebrate our unique area.

Contributions to:

Linda Pound

26 Wellington Gardens 0208 858 7377

Elaine Picton

12 Wellington Gardens 0208 858 4942

Email to:

ccra_communications@yahoo.co.uk

Deadline for content 15/3/08

Births

Welcome to...

Inigo – Born August
to Katrin and Andrew (Wellington Gdns)

Buddy – Born August
to Dominic and Corinne (Wellington Gdns)

Megan – Born October
to Colin and Sarah (Wellington Gdns)

William – Born October
to Michelle and James (Elliscombe Rd)



Did you know...

Match day problems – you think that it is bad now but on 12th February 1938 75,031 turned up for FA Cup 5th round match against Aston Villa!

Elliscombe Road is named after its builder and Nadine Street was named after his wife Nadine.

Classified Ads

Do you want?

Free – babies' bottle steriliser – hardly used?
Contact Linda on 0208 858 7377

Have you got?

Any items that could be donated for the Launch Party prize draw?

For Sale

Winnie the Pooh Wardrobe and drawers for sale. Beautiful hand painted artwork, would look great in any child's bedroom. £100 ono for both.
Please call James on 07957 448506

New Japanese Restaurant

Charlton Grapevine Report

Greenwich is very fortunate to have a new licensed restaurant and what an unusual restaurant it is. Ginza Japanese restaurant has opened on the Woolwich Road in what was the Maze Hill Working Men's Club. Whilst it is very sad to see a social club go the restaurant is an interesting addition to culinary experiences locally. Japanese restaurants are normally to be found in Central London and are at the luxurious end of the restaurant market so one that is reasonably priced and offering such good quality is to be welcomed. Ginza offers traditional sushi and sashimi, bento boxes, shabu-shabu and a range of meat and seafood dishes. All served in a beautifully decorated interior with attentive staff in a pleasant atmosphere. Booking is advised as the restaurant was quite busy when visited on a Tuesday night.

CCRA members, on production of membership card, will be offered Ginza's special VIP card.
Ginza is at 139 Woolwich Road, SE10 0RJ
Tel: 0208 269 2833 Email: mail@ginzarestaurant.co.uk

View across the Valley

At the moment Charlton are near the top of the Championship but the team's progress recently has been less than steady, runs of wins followed by runs of defeats and particular poor home form so things are still quite tight. It is clear that the attempt to escape from the Championship, at the first attempt, is going to be a nail-biting affair. We are still in a good position and hopefully the fans will rally behind the players, even when they have off games.
Addicted from the West Stand



Charlton Central Residents Association



Charlton Central Residents Association (CCRA) is committed to ensuring a safe and

friendly community. Please join us! Currently residents from the following roads can join CCRA: Calydon Road, Coombe Lodge, Delafield Road, Elliscombe Road, Gollogly

Terrace, Inverine Road, Nadine Street, Priolo Road, Sundorne Road, Swallowfield Road and Wellington Gardens. Additional roads may be added at a later stage by agreement of the management committee. *If you would like your road to be included or to be a street representative call the officers below or email Charlton_residents@yahoo.co.uk.*

Chair Colin Brown 0208 244 2405
Secretary Len Weir 0208 858 4920
Treasurer Dave Picton 0208 858 4942