The Counties Residents' Association

Protecting the interests of our community

How Does the CRA Help Us?

Basically as our tag line says "*we protect the interests of our community*". The CRA started as a result of the Higgins Development on the corner of Leicester Road and The Avenue which began to be built without local residents realising what was happening. We were too late to do anything about that scheme, but have had many successes since then:-

- We gained Conservation Area status.
- We took over the Counties Neighbourhood Watch when it stopped operating.
- We gained No Cold Calling Zone status.
- We introduced an email and Twitter alert system for members covering Neighbourhood Watch and planning issues.
- We provided a noticeboard on Leicester Road to provide local information - particularly useful for those without computers.
- We defeated the NHS plan in 2010 to close the two rehab wards at Wanstead Hospital.
  The fight continues however - see separate section later in this newsletter.
- We created a local Recommended Tradesman List (by members - for members).
- We fought a long battle to secure the best possible development on the High Cedars site (formerly Chepstow). The final development of six houses and eighteen flats has been universally well received and far superior to the initial proposal of over 50 flats.
- We've been active with other planning applications throughout our estate and have had some other notable successes. The plot at No.3 Leicester Road was reduced from three town houses to the two houses in keeping with the surroundings; the proposal for 12m high fencing around the Nutter Lane cricket pitch was also defeated.
- We obtained corner double yellow lines at two junctions on Leicester Road to improve safety whilst defeating the Council's plans to plaster all our corners with double yellow lines.
- We have built strong links with the Wanstead Society and Carlton Terrace Residents' Association, enabling us (as WaSRA) to provide a stronger voice on issues of wider interest within Wanstead.
- We aim to keep local residents informed about issues affecting our community, through newsletters such as this and more localised bulletins for specific planning applications close to you, as well as the noticeboard on Leicester Road.

Like any community organisation, we can only be successful with your support, so please join/rejoin using the form at the end of this newsletter. If there are issues you think we should be aware of, please let us know using webmaster@countiesresidentsassociation.org.uk, or by dropping a note into 43 Leicester Road.

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Policing in Wanstead

Wanstead Police Station closed on Monday 16th September. Our police officers are now based at Woodford Police Station and are transported from there to Wanstead. For obvious reasons their shift patterns are not publicised, but they tell us there will be more late shifts under the new system.

Wanstead and Snaresbrook Wards share a Sergeant and each have a permanent PC & PCSO. Each ward also has a second PC & PCSO attached, but which can be called away to other wards if needed. Similarly, if our wards require additional police presence, these secondary officers can be drawn in from other wards to assist. We're also led to believe that further officers are being deployed soon and overall there will be over 80 additional officers throughout Redbridge by 2015.

Redbridge now only has two Police Stations with public access, Ilford which operates 24 hours and Barkingside which operates Monday to Saturday, 7am to 11pm. Wards have also been provided with local Police Surgeries and ours is at Wanstead House on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 7pm-8pm and Saturdays between 2pm-3pm. Appointments can also be booked for the police to visit you to report non urgent crime.

As always, if there is an emergency, then dial 999. However, the Police non-emergency number of 101 is there for non urgent or even just suspicious matters. The police are encouraging members of the public not to hesitate to ring 101, as many crimes have been detected and suspects arrested through this system. As they say "*if you see it, report it*".

No Cold Calling Zone

Do you get tired of those uninvited knocks on the door as you're trying to put the tea on the table? We've a *No Cold Calling Zone* on the Counties Estate but many sales people still ignore the lamppost signs and door stickers telling them that cold callers are not welcome.

Cold callers are anyone who knocks on your door without a prior appointment - including charity collectors. If you want to discourage them and you'd like a *No Cold Calling Zone* sticker, please email webmaster@countiesresidentsassociation.org.uk or drop a note in to 43 Leicester Road.

It's also worth knowing that there are two situations classed as criminal offences reportable to 101:

- If a cold caller says they are authorised by the council - councils don't authorise anyone!
- If a resident asks a cold caller to leave and they refuse.

If you feel you're in danger, ring 999 or, if you feel intimidated or threatened, ring 101 for assistance. If you'd like advice on your consumer rights, ring Consumer Direct on 08454 04 05 06.

Finally, if you find unwelcome charity collectors knocking on your door, please let us know the charity's name and we'll contact the organisation. Again, please email webmaster@countiesresidentsassociation.org.uk or drop a note into 43 Leicester Road. We also have a few spare door stickers if anyone needs them.

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Update on Wanstead Hospital

There are two rehabilitation wards at Wanstead Hospital (Heronwood and Galleon) which provide a highly valued local health service for Wanstead which has a large number of elderly residents. We've recently learnt that when some Wanstead residents have been discharged from Whipps Cross, they've been taken to the rehabilitation facility at King Georges in Goodmayes, even though there were free beds at Wanstead Hospital.

We feared a stealth tactic to close beds by saying they were not needed and so made representations to the Redbridge Health Scrutiny Committee who discovered plans to close 14 of the 46 beds. Bearing in mind that we stopped them closing both wards in 2010, this could have been a precursor to closing them again.

We suggested that our local MP, John Cryer, visit the wards and when he did he was assured by the Chief Executive running the hospital, that no beds would be closed. As usual, we and the Carlton Terrace Residents' Association, will keep a close watch on the situation. If you've any information please contact chair@countiesresidentsassociation.org.uk or drop a note into 9 Gloucester Road.

Buttercup Field

As many residents will recall, Telford Homes as part of their development of Chepstow, were obliged to provide the council with a sum of £5000 for enhancing the Nutter Lane Recreation Field (known locally as Buttercup or Daisy Field). As with most things council related, progress has been painfully slow, but we're assured that a final decision will be made during the next Area 1 Committee meeting in January and the approved scheme implemented immediately.

The CRA Committee

wish all our residents a

Merry Christmas

and a Happy New Year

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Membership Application Form

The Counties Residents' Association (CRA) is a non-political, non-sectarian and non-profit organisation which represents the residents of the following streets within Wanstead, London:-

- Buckingham Road
- Gloucester Road
- Hereford Road
- Leicester Road
- Nutter Lane
- Preston Drive
- Reydon Avenue
- Rutland Road
- Warwick Road

Membership costs £5.00 (£1.00 for OAPs) and runs from 1st July-30th June regardless of the application date, with applications from January entitled to a 50% discount. Membership is per household (not per person) and the membership fee + any donation should be remitted to 27 Hereford Road. To ensure our records are kept up to date and you continue to received notices etc, existing members should also use this form to renew.

Payment can be in cash, by cheque made payable to "The Counties Residents Association" or by standing order (form on request). A receipt and membership card will be issued shortly afterwards.

By completing this form and returning it with your fee, you unconditionally accept the terms of the Constitution of the CRA (details on our website) and confirm that your contact details may be kept on a secure and private computerised register of members (for internal use only).

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY IN **BLOCK CAPITALS** & PLEASE RETURN ENTIRE SHEET

Household Address: . . . . . Wanstead, London, E11 2 . . . . .

Occupant(s) Names: . . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

E mail Address(es): . . . . . .

. . . . . .

. . . . . .

Telephone Number(s): . . . . . Application Date: . . . . . .

It is each member's responsibility to inform the membership secretary of changes in their contact details.

Full Year Membership (Starting Dec) ☐ *£5.00* ☐ *£1.00 (OAP)*

Half Year Membership (Starting Jan-Jun) ☐ *£2.50* ☐ *£0.50 (OAP)*

Additional Donation

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This really helps!

www.countiesresidentsassociation.org.uk