

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT – 2017 AGM**

Since our last AGM I have reported a number of items to the monthly Committee meetings, some of which include:-

Several meetings with the Environment Agency which also included the Surrey Community Resilience Partnership which is made up from the EA, RBC, SCC Surrey Fire and Rescue, voluntary organizations and utility companies.

As many of you will have noticed we now have a substantial fence, erected by Thorpe Park, across the Norlands Lane Bridge. This was a particularly attractive area to fly-tippers who have no respect for the community or environment. If the culverts under the roads are blocked by rubbish they then become susceptible to flooding, which, as we all know, has a knock on effect all the way up to Egham Hythe. Those of us affected by the last flood have no desire to see a repeat of the last disaster.

I am frequently in contact with Aileen Baker of RBC – she works tirelessly arranging for dumped rubbish to be picked up as soon as possible after we have reported any incidence. The Environment Agency has issued a 24-hour, seven day a week hotline to crack down on fly tipping.

Those of you that attended our last AGM may recall that Charlotte Lovett of Thames Water made a presentation - she and I kept in regular contact following the drain cleaning exercise Thames Water undertook and as I have not received any further calls or concerns Charlotte has now closed the file.

On Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May I attended a public meeting and community event at Chertsey Fire Station, which was followed up with a Consultation Document to read and then complete the accompanying form. As with so many authorities these days they are seeking to make savings. I was assured that they would not be cutting back on employing young potential fire and rescue officers.

There are a number of Wet Spots around Thorpe Ward which we highlighted and then invited a representative of SCC to one of our monthly meetings. A map and associated key to the worst affected areas were provided to SCC and we await their attention when resources permit.

Another area highlighted to the committee was the potential for an accident at the top of South Avenue and a request for SCC to install double yellow lines. Surrey Highways have added the request to a list of sites in Runnymede for which people have made similar requests however because of costs, time and the necessary procedures involved in introducing new parking restrictions, SCC do not consider them individually but have a rolling programme of assessments. Requests then go to the Local Committee at Runnymede who decides which changes will go ahead. The next assessments are scheduled to take place this month and the outcome is due to be presented to the committee in June. Once the report is available

anyone interested can visit the SCC website. It is not, however, straightforward as there are legal processes involved in introducing or changing parking controls.

I attended a meeting with the National Flood Forum in September who were anxious to include residents in the Thorpe Lea and Egham Hythe area with a view to setting up a Flood Action Group. They recently held a meeting and whilst I had agreed to represent TWRA unfortunately I was not aware of the meeting date until after the event. I have since spoken to SCC who are anxious that I attend so I am now in communication with the action group we will take this matter forward as appropriate.

Issues with regard to the Meadlake Ditch are frequently discussed and communication with the authorities is on going.

The AGM of the Neighbourhood Watch was held in October – I raised my concerns about the apparent lack of local officers, the alarming increase along the kerbsides and gutters of drug detritus, and the apparent increase in cars and vans for sale that block lay-bys, grass verges and pavements. I was told these are not police issues. We have, since this NHW AGM invited the new Police and Crime Commissioner to attend one of our Committee Meetings and he is available in June. I look forward to raising some of my concerns when we meet.

We have since received a request from Mr K C Bendell, Chairman of Neighbourhood Watch, who is interested in speaking to anyone who would like to set up a Watch in his or her own road. If you are interested I would be happy to pass on your details.

The matters mentioned are but a few of the issues TWRA attend to on a monthly basis. If you were interested in joining our Committee you would be very welcome. If you have any local concerns, please don't hesitate to contact anyone of us on the Committee and we will follow up with the appropriate authority.