

# Watch this space

## PETRA News

**Parkhill Estate Tenants &  
Residents Association**

**Number 165 October 2019**



### **The plans for the building site on our doorstep have still not been passed by the Council's Planning Committee.**

Despite no building being built, the demolition work means there has been plenty of disruption, with heavy machinery and lorries coming and going, and parking becoming a problem.

The impact on parking is only going to become worse as construction gets started. And when the new estate is opened, there will be many more residents and visitors looking for parking spaces hereabouts.

Overstrand's car park in particular risks becoming an overflow parking area for our new neighbours and their visitors.

### **Parking survey**

That's why it is vital we get everybody to return the Parking Survey, which we recently posted through every door on the estate. To date, only about a third of you have responded.

**It's no good leaving it until it's too late, and then complaining. We need to act now.**

We must plan now, and to do that we need your input.

The information you give us about your household's parking requirements will help us plan to ensure our residents are not short-changed when it comes to parking allocation in the future.





## PETRA's top team

The following residents were elected at our recent AGM (left)

Jan Davis	Chair
Tricia Fitter	Vice Chair
Marilyn Shepherd	Treasurer
Suzanne Vine	Joint Secretary
Sandra Kinch	Joint Secretary

**Committee Members:** Lee Walpole, Lesley Marsh, Robert Morris, Raquel Amolo, Barbara Davies, Zena Russell, Gemma Phillips, Mike Davis

Cllr John Mylod    Council Representative



## Jan's View



### Representing your interests

As Chair of the TMO, I along with Caroline attend meetings with Council officers and the other two TMOs at Mercury House on a quarterly basis to discuss TMO matters.

Presently we are dealing with our new management agreements, looking into the details of the roles and responsibilities of both the TMO and the Council and the funding we receive.

I'm also attending two further outside meetings at the Town Hall on a quarterly basis. These are the Participation Panel, which has representatives from across the borough to discuss and help formulate some of the Council policies when they are reviewed.

I have recently been part of a working group looking at the

specifications for a contract for the repairs and our input has been incorporated into the tender documents for a new contract which will be awarded next year.

We will be consulted and advised of progress and also included in vetting the prospective companies.

My second meeting is the Leaseholder Forum which is again borough-wide and I have recently been elected as Vice-Chair. These meetings deal with leaseholder issues and we are consulted on current and upcoming policies affecting leaseholders.

If anyone has any issues they would like put forward for me to discuss at any of these panels please let me know.

Regards, Jan

### Gas meters

Starting in early October, gas mains are to be replaced on the south elevation of Parkview House.

This will affect 22 flats and involve moving the gas meters across rooms to under kitchen windows.

Residents will be contacted shortly, to arrange a suitable time and day for this work to be done.

Apologies for any inconvenience this causes and we thank you for your cooperation.

## Letterbox Lotto!

Did you know that every month we give away three gift vouchers each worth £25 PETRA residents!

Go online to find out more.

**[www.Petratmo.weebly.com](http://www.Petratmo.weebly.com)**



Naomi Cooper writes: We met with our accountants recently to discuss the reasoning behind our figures; where we had spent more or less compared to last year, and what we might expect for this financial year.

Our financial data was assessed by our accountants through their own login to QuickBooks online, rather than being handed hard copy or USB memory stick information as in previous years – yay for paperless!

Our financial reports Year Ended 31 March 2019 were produced and presented at the Main Committee on 19 August 2019 - these are available to view if you are interested, a hard copy is held in the office.



## Nitrous Oxide on our estate



# Is this you?

**Just as we all have rights, so we all have responsibilities.**

Yet some residents continually fail in their responsibilities.

If you are one of these people, **PLEASE** change your ways **NOW**.

### The bins

Residents and the disposal teams need access to the bins at all times. **DO NOT BLOCK THE DOORS** of the containers.



### Balconies

A balcony fire at DELTA recently serves to remind us of the dangers of balcony fires. **NEVER THROW RUBBISH**, including cigarette butts, **FROM YOUR BALCONY**.

### Rubbish chutes

Throwing **UNBAGGED** dirty nappies, dog poo, and cat litter down the rubbish chutes is unacceptable. All items should be **BAGGED** before being thrown away - **ESPECIALLY THOSE ITEMS!**

### Washing

Please do not hang your washing above the parapet. Do not hang it from the pigeon netting. **HANGING WASHING ABOVE THE PARAPET IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN.**

### Anti-social noise

Please show consideration for your neighbours - including those above and below you - by **NOT PLAYING LOUD MUSIC** late at night, and restricting your DIY activities to daylight hours.

**You may have seen silver gas canisters discarded in the streets and wondered what they are.**

Sadly, they are the evidence of drug taking in our area, and we are not alone in having this problem. Across the country, there is growing concern at the number of young people using nitrous oxide, also known as hippy crack, laughing gas and balloons.

The drug became a craze at festivals and concerts, where it could be bought in balloons to inhale for £2 or less, and is becoming more common as a recreational drug. It works by blocking signals to the conscious mind from other parts of the brain, giving users a brief feeling of intense euphoria and relaxation.

#### Is it legal?

Under the Psychoactive Substances Act 2016, it is illegal to supply nitrous oxide for its psychoactive effect.

#### Is it dangerous?

Yes. Short-term side effects can include headaches, dizziness and unconsciousness, while long-term, excessive use has been associated with anaemia, incontinence, depleted bone marrow and numbness in fingers and toes. Deaths are rare, but there have been tragedies.

In 2012, A 17-year-old art student from north London, suffered a cardiac arrest, fell into a coma and died after inhaling the gas. In 2015, a 22-year-old University of Brighton student was found dead with about 200 spent canisters in his room.

#### Parents beware

Parents, if you see your children with things like this, please take action – your children's health and well being could be at stake. And if you see these canisters lying around the estate, please alert us to them and we will ask the Police to check these areas during their patrols.





## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thanks to everyone who helped make our recent coffee morning in aid of Macmillan Cancer Care such a success. We raised £100 for this excellent cause, and had a lovely time too. Our regular coffee mornings continue as usual on the first Wednesday of each month (see below). Do join us!



## Events

### Coffee Mornings

Usually held the first Wednesday of each month. Please join us, in the Concierge (Parkview House) from 11am to 1pm.

### Committee Meetings

Monday 28 October, 7.30pm  
Monday 25 November, 7.30pm

### Christmas Market

We hope to arrange a trip to one of the popular Christmas Markets for early in December. Details to follow on the notice boards shortly.

### Christmas Open Evening

Friday 24 December, from 3pm to 7pm  
Join us in the office for a celebratory drink and festive chinwag.

### Christmas arrangements

The office will be closed from midday on 24 December through to, and including, New Year's Day. We will reopen on Tuesday 2 January 2020.

Phone lines: During normal weekday office hours during this period, we will answer phones. Aside from those times, the normal Council out-of-office emergency phone line will be in operation (see left).

### Office hours - a reminder

Our staff are available during office hours to field all manner of calls, but we all need some down time for rest and recuperation. Please do not call PETRA staff on their mobile numbers out of hours.

## CONTACTS

**PETRA Opening Hours:**  
7.30am - 1600pm (Closed 12pm - 13.00 for lunch)

Jan Davis, Chair  
Caroline Edwards, Estate Manager  
Bradley Pavey, Repairs and Grounds Maintenance Officer  
Micky Hughes, Repairs and Ground Maintenance Officer  
Naomi Cooper, Bookkeeper

All based at the PETRA office  
Tel: 01708 475358  
Email: [petratmo@aol.com](mailto:petratmo@aol.com)  
[www.petratmo.weebly.com](http://www.petratmo.weebly.com)  
Homes and Housing,  
Havering Council. Tel: 01708 434000  
Email: [homes@havering.gov.uk](mailto:homes@havering.gov.uk)  
Website: [www.havering.gov.uk](http://www.havering.gov.uk)  
Out of Hours Emergency telephone number: 01708 756699  
(We answer the PETRA office phone up until 5pm.)