

# “Too high, too close”

## PETRA News

Parkhill Estate Tenants &  
Residents Association

Number 161, October 2018

### PETRA’s Chair responds to Council’s proposed new development

The Council’s plans for the redevelopment of the site currently occupied by Sunrise, Solar and Serena Courts have emerged.

It is proposed that this ‘landscape-led design’ for a ‘vibrant retirement community’ will comprise of five buildings, ‘sitting within landscaped gardens and courtyards’ supporting ‘healthy, active lifestyles’, and including ‘community facilities for residents and local people’ alike.

The reality is perhaps better expressed in these pictures envisaging the newly completed development. As you would expect with such images, the buildings look smart and the sun is shining, but what else do you see?

‘The height of some of these buildings concerns me,’ say PETRA Chair, Jan Davis. ‘As well as how close they will be to the estate. Some of those facing the estate will be nine stories high.

‘Parking is another issue. According to these plans, there will only be 78 parking spaces on site, and yet there will be 178 households. More and more elderly people drive these days. It is quite possible that some of these will be two-car households, with both husband and wife still driving. Where will they park?’

Then there is the issue of anti-social behaviour. From time to time, our estate attracts antisocial elements from outside. PETRA monitors this and, in liaison with the Police, deals with it.

‘Looking at these plans,’ says Jan, ‘alarms bells start ringing. The high density of the buildings, coupled with the elderly population housed there, means troublemakers could have a field day in there.’

Finally, Jan worries about the upheaval caused by the construction of this development. ‘We could be living on a building site for up to two years. The health and wellbeing of our residents could be affected. Access to and from the site of heavy goods vehicles and machinery is a particular



concern, given the narrowness of our access road and the problems that already arise with parked cars and visiting Lorries.’

If you share Jan’s concerns about these proposals, or have some of your own, please make your views known to the Council. We have consultations forms in the PETRA office for you to submit. Alternatively, talk to Jan so that she can represent your views at the next meeting.

**Please don’t delay. If local residents are to have any influence over this development, we must act now.**



Jan's



View

# Your last chance to vote - Please don't waste it

With the closing date for the five-year continuation ballot fast approaching it has been really heartening to receive some of your positive comments about PETRA. For example, one kind person simply said, 'You are the best and you have my vote, kid.'

Do please have your say and vote one way or the other, most people recognise that we are a plus to the community with a face you know or a welcome voice at the end of a telephone. We are, at the end of the day, people who really know and care about the estate and understand the problems.

Your Committee all work hard to make this estate a pleasant place to live and most of our residents 'own' their space and try to keep it clean and tidy. Of course we wouldn't be able to keep up these high standards without our staff.

Finally, as we show on page one, we are nearing a time when the building of the new 'Elderly Persons Village' is about to start and this will have an enormous impact on us all in many ways. I am keeping an eye on the planning and would welcome your comments, so that I can make these known when the formal plans are submitted for approval.

Regards, Jan

The 5-yearly Continuation Ballot - where residents get the chance to vote on whether PETRA or the Council should oversee the day-to-day running of the estate - is nearly over.

**PLEASE NOTE: The ballot closes on Friday 26th October.**

We thank all those of you who have already voted. And to those of you who are yet to vote, we say:

Please don't waste your vote. The future of the estate rests with you. Please vote today!



## **Residents Survey**

Thank you to everyone who completed our recent residents survey.

As has become a habit, not many of you bothered with it this year, which we here at PETRA find frustrating because we genuinely want to know what you think and what you think our priorities should be.

On the other hand, we figure that you are not motivated to tell us what you think, then you must be fairly satisfied with things as they are.

**PETRA'S VISION**  
A safe, pleasant neighbourhood where people want to be part of a vibrant,

Anyway, from those of you who did respond there were several interesting points to emerge.

The vast majority of you were satisfied with the services provided by PETRA.

However, a significant number of you expressed concern about drug dealing and usage on the estate. Some of you are troubled by noisy neighbours. And some of you are annoyed by litter and the slapdash way in which some residents dispose of their rubbish.

PETRA will take this feedback on board and make sure that it influences our priorities in the months ahead.

Meanwhile, the draw for the shopping vouchers has taken place, and three lucky survey-takers will be enjoying their richly deserved prizes.



# News in brief

## Enhanced CCTV

In response to your suggestions, PETRA recently paid to enhance our CCTV coverage around the estate, including in the lifts.

These new cameras are now operating, and have already captured several acts of anti-social behaviour around the Estate.

**A warning to any readers prone to anti-social behaviour:** These cameras aren't for show. Where appropriate, action will follow, so, for example, those of you who think it's ok to smoke in the lift, or indeed gob in it - think again.

In the meantime, we ask all our responsible residents to remain vigilant. If you see inappropriate or anti-social behaviour taking place around the estate, report it to the office. Providing you tell us the time and place of the incident, we will have a 'window' of up to 30 days in which to check the relevant cameras for evidence.

## Letterbox Lotto!

Every month we give away three gift vouchers worth £25 each to residents who go online and spot their door number on our home page.

Play Letterbox Lotto today!

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

## PETRA's Gripes & Swipes

### Ugh - chewing gum!

Who doesn't regard discarded chewing gum on our pavements and around our doorways as Rubbish? Not to mention an Eyesore?

The answer, apparently, is many of us!

The pavements surrounding the three tower blocks, and around the basement areas doorways in particular, are littered with the stuff.

If you're a gum-chewer, please dispose of your sticky residue the same way you (hopefully!) Get rid of all your other rubbish: ie, with consideration for others and the environment.

### Speed kills

The access road on to the estate is narrow and bendy, with at least one obvious blind spot. In addition, there are always likely to be walkers in the vicinity, including young children.

That's why we have a five miles an hour speed limit on the estate. Most drivers abide by this rule, but most is not good enough - we all need to drive slowly here. Please make sure you drive with due care and attention.

## Begging in Hornchurch

The Police have been in touch with advice around the issue of begging, which, sadly, seems to be a growing problem in Hornchurch as elsewhere around London.

The Police tell us some of those who claim to be homeless are not homeless but simply wish to fund their drug habits. They know where they can go to sleep and eat, but choose to stay in and around High Street, Hornchurch.

The message from the Police is as follows:

- Begging is a criminal offence.
- Giving money to beggars will not help them get off the street.
- By giving money you may be inadvertently funding organised crime.
- The money you give could be spent on drugs and alcohol.
- You can help the homeless by donating to registered charities.
- If the person begging claims to be homeless, contact the local authority outreach team who will be able to help them.

## Fire alarms

**Fact:** those most at risk from fire in their own homes are 1) those with no working smoke alarm in their home, 2) people who smoke, and 3) those who could not escape from their home in the event of a fire unaided.

The London Fire Brigade carries out home fire safety visits in Havering as part of which they will fit a free smoke alarm.

Do you have a smoke alarm in your home? If so, is it working properly? If the answer to either of these questions is no, the Fire Brigade can help. Pop into the PETRA office if you want us to arrange a fire safety visit for you.

## Fun Day thank you

Back in July, we celebrated PETRA's 15th birthday with a Fun Day on the Green. The money raised would be donated to the charity CRY - Cardio Risk in The Young.

With an additional contribution agreed to by the Committee, we managed to raise a total of £2,200 for this worthy cause, and will be presenting a cheque to the charity in the very near future.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to this donation.

# Events

## Welcome signs

The new signs in the entrance lobbies provide a fresh look, clear information, and a friendly welcome to residents and visitors alike.

Uphavering House was still awaiting its makeover when we went to print, so here are Parkview and Overstrand modelling the new look.



## Coffee Morning

First Wednesday of the month. Our recent 'Afternoon Teas' proved not to be as popular as our morning get-togethers, so from now on it's coffee mornings only, friends. Please join us, in the Concierge, from 11am to 1pm on the first Wednesday of each month.

\*And a big THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our recent *Macmillan Coffee Morning*. We raised £135 for that great cause.

Forthcoming dates:  
**Wednesday 7th November**  
**Wednesday 5th December**  
**Wednesday 9th January**

## Pamper Evening

**25 October, 7pm**  
Back by popular demand, it's our ladies' only evenings!

## Halloween Night!

**Wednesday 31 October**  
Especially for the children, the fun and games start at 5pm, and continue till it's dark...

## Christmas Market

These are always great fun, and we are hoping to arrange a coach trip to one of the big ones shortly but have yet to finalise arrangements. Keep an eye on the notice boards for details, and make sure to book your place(s) as soon as possible.

## Christmas Open Evening

**Friday 21st December, 3pm to 7pm**  
The PETRA team welcomes residents to join them for some festive cheer.

## Committee meetings

**29th October, 7-30pm**  
**26 November, 7.30**  
No meeting in December  
**28 January 2019, 7.30pm**

## Office opening hours over Christmas

The PETRA office will close on Monday 24th December at 12.00. The office will reopen on Monday 31 December, but only until 12.00 that day. The office will reopen on Wednesday 3rd January. The usual out-of-hours emergency numbers will apply during these holiday periods - see below.

## CONTACTS

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

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Out of Hours Emergency telephone number: 01708 756699  
(We answer the PETRA office phone up until 5pm.)