

Kilburn Vale TRA & RTA Meeting – 24th September 2015

Names have been left out for DATA Protection purposes.

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. The TRA are thrilled to announce that the PLANTING DAY is going to go ahead very soon. This is the next stage of the Improvement Project that residents requested to improve the Walled Garden Area. Since the area was cleared of overgrown shrubs etc last year, it is now ready for the Planting of bulbs. The aim is to have “colour” in this garden, all year round. The TRA will arrange a Planting Day together with Camden’s Ground Maintenance staff who are kindly going to teach us and help us plant the 3,000 bulbs in this area. All are keen for this to take place. Over the next couple of weeks, a couple of residents will be drumming up helpers for the day. We need as many people as possible to attend. We will announce the date as soon as we have confirmation of the order and this should be on a Saturday so that all adults and children are available. All children who attend and help will be given their own plant to take home in a pot and nurture. The TRA will provide drinks and doughnuts or biscuits and will set up tables within the Walled Garden for us all to muck in together and have a nice day. Even if residents can’t bend down and do planting, no matter what age – they can still help out with tea and coffees or at least meet each other. This is an opportunity for us to meet some of the older residents who may not often get to our meetings. Spread the word, talk to the neighbours on your staircase and we will keep you posted as soon as we have the date.
3. It was reported that lately there had been small groups of youths loitering and smoking within the estate causing a disturbance late at night. Residents are advised to call Police on 101 – every time, so that this can get logged. The matter appears to have subsided just lately but residents should report every time as the more times this is reported, the quicker something can get done. Some residents suffered very badly recently. Please don’t leave it to someone else to call – every call adds weight to the complaint and is more likely to get quicker attention.
4. The issue was raised that some residents (especially in Lorton) are throwing rubbish and food from their windows. This is NOT allowed.

Please report any such goings on to the Caretaking Team by calling our (new) caretaking supervisor Michael Raybe – 07770 326705 michael.raybe@camden.gov.uk He can then arrange for our caretaker to visit and it can be dealt with immediately.

5. Fly tipping – many have complained about this which seems to be endless mattresses and fridges and other items being dumped on the estate. From what we can tell, it appears to be by people who DO NOT live here. If you have bulk items you need to get rid of, you MUST contact our caretaker via the Supervisor Michael Raybe (details above). The TRA are looking to arrange a meeting in the new year which will cover this specific complaint and have some solutions which are being put in place.
6. A resident explained that her balcony requires a repair and this still hasn't been done. The Secretary will intervene and chase this.
7. One resident was unhappy with the Cleaning Contract hours and various aspects surrounding this. (Post mtg, the secretary suggests a meeting to be called, probably in the new year, specifically to deal with Cleaning and Veolia issues –more on this later).
8. It was raised again that it would be very useful for each block, if not each staircase within the block, to have a Representative. This would help a lot. Particularly when there is something specific to explain which is easier said face-to-face, rather than a long email. The Secretary would be happy to arrange mini meetings with the Reps who can then pass on the information first-hand and be a point of reference within the block. This is particularly important for those residents who do not have email or for whom English is not their first language and so they would find a conversation easier. If you are prepared to be a Rep, please contact the secretary.
9. The TRA would like to thank the Treasurer for his work as Treasurer. He, his wife and their new born baby have just moved away from the estate. We wish them well in their new home and if they want to come along to the Planting Day – they're very welcome!! We are therefore looking for a new Treasurer. If you are interested PLEASE contact the secretary as soon as possible. The duties are minimal but important. Emails and notice via the website will go out soon with information about this.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION post meeting:

- Our excellent Caretaking Supervisor Jacquie Scharschmidt has been transferred to another area and unfortunately we were not given any notice of this. I know that a lot of you will be very sad that she has gone as she was always pleasant and professional to deal with and did her best for all the residents on this estate. Camden informed the Secretary that the new Caretaking Supervisor is Michael Raybe – Michael.raybe@camden.gov.uk – the secretary has been attempting to contact Michael to introduce him to our estate and bring him up to speed on what is still outstanding but has not managed to get hold of him yet. I'm sure that all will welcome Michael and help him understand how our estate works so that he can deliver the service we expect.
- Shed/Garages – You should all have received a letter from the Parking and Shed services. If you have a shed/garage please note whether a notice has been placed on it for your attention. They will need to be vacated if they are not required anymore so that these can be re-distributed to those in need. Thank you.
- A BIG THANK YOU FROM the secretary – *“I would like to say a big thank you to those Leaseholders who contributed to my surprise gift. This week, realising that I could not be present at the meeting due to my work commitment, a leaseholder visited me to present me with the unbelievably generous gift of - A HOLIDAY Break!! This is for having challenged Camden on everyone's behalf and on occasion managed to get reductions and refunds due to pointing out mistakes made in Camden's accounting, for liaising with Camden to get all the improvements and attention that our estate deserves, as well as just “dealing” with some departments at Camden which can be very tricky sometimes. I am overwhelmed at your generosity. I am truly looking forward to taking this mini break as soon as my play is over. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I am most grateful.*

Next meeting will be announced via Website and Notice Boards as usual.

With thanks – (Chair)