



OSTERLEY AND WYKE GREEN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## Threat to Osterley Library and Bowls Club



Dear Osterley Resident

### **Threat to library and bowls club by developers**

We are writing to residents in St Mary's Crescent and the surrounding area to alert you to the threat posed to the Osterley Library and Bowls Club sites by the London Borough of Hounslow. It appears that the council wants to remove the Bowls Club from the Club site, relocate the library to Osterley Leisure Centre and redevelop the entire site for housing. This is suggested by a large council property report, of which this site is just one of a long list, but given top priority by the report. Given the council's current enthusiasm for tall buildings, **it is possible that developers may seek to build a large block of flats citing the St Mary's Church spire as a parallel**, in the same way that they are hoping to develop the old Syon Hill Petrol Station site at Gillette Corner with a block of up to 14 storeys, quoting the current height of Gillette's Clock Tower as justification.

### **Council exceeds its housing target**

There is no need for the council to build or oversee the creation of such buildings to address the problems of housing need in the area. Over the period 2003-2013, Hounslow Borough was one of only four London Boroughs to exceed its housing building target set by the London Mayor by more than 60%, as flats sprang up all over Brentford and to a lesser extent in Isleworth.

## **OWGRA's opposition**

OWGRA is opposing this move and seeks to have alternative uses identified for the sites such as a community centre and / or personal fitness centre if the library does not stay on site, and an alternative sports use if the Bowls Club leaves. For the time being the Club is able to pay the rent the council charges, but that may be massively increased as a way of forcing them out.

## **The CPZ hours in St Mary's Crescent**

OWGRA is of the opinion that the 09.30 to 17.30 CPZ hours in St Mary's Crescent have possibly contributed to the decline of the Library and Bowls Club, as they make it difficult to visit the sites from any distance unless you live on the H91/H28 bus route or the Piccadilly Line. We know of at least one former resident who now visits the club from her new home near Richmond and obviously needs somewhere convenient to park. Residential usage of the spaces outside Jersey Gardens is very low indeed. For this reason, we have asked Councillor O'Reilly to approach the council traffic staff with a view to getting the CPZ hours changed to 10.00 -12.00, at least along by Jersey Gardens.

## **Forming a Friends' Group**

OWGRA would like to see a Friends of Osterley Library and Bowling Club (FOLB) formed to defend the site from complete closure and inappropriate redevelopment. Please can you email OWGRA at the contact address [info@owgra.org.uk](mailto:info@owgra.org.uk), cc [treasurer@owgra.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@owgra.org.uk) or call us on 07562 385269. Please also contact your local councillors [sheila.o'reilly@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:sheila.o'reilly@hounslow.gov.uk), [tony.louki@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:tony.louki@hounslow.gov.uk) or [peter.carey@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:peter.carey@hounslow.gov.uk).

## **Public Meeting at Thistleworth Club 24<sup>th</sup> September**

An inaugural meeting of residents to create the FOLB group will be held at The Thistleworth Tennis and Social Club bar at 129a Ridgeway Road **at 10.30am on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September**. All Osterley residents are welcome to attend.

