

The Tonsley Times²⁰¹⁵

The annual newsletter of the Tonsley Residents' Association

tonsleyresidents.org.uk



Also in this issue

The Old York Road Street Party is back on Sunday 7th June

Local playgroup Tonsley Tots celebrates 4 years.

NeighbourWatch news and how to get involved.

What's new in the Tonsleys? Mary's Living and Giving is a great addition to OYR.

There's a new direction for the one way system through Wandsworth. What will it mean for the Tonsleys?

As you may be aware, Transport For London and Wandsworth Council are planning to remove the one-way system from Wandsworth Town Centre and replace it with a scheme that routes the majority of the traffic along Armoury Way and Swandon Way.

The initial public consultation closed on 5th December 2014 and we are expecting another consultation this year on the finalised road layout shortly. Works are scheduled to start in 2017.

The proposed scheme sees the junction between Old York Road, Swandon Way, Armoury Way and Fairfield Street severed to make two independent roads with no junction between them.

Armoury Way and Swandon Way will become the new South Circular road in both directions, while Old York Road and Fairfield Street will be used by local traffic only. Wandsworth High Street will be largely closed to cars and will be available to buses, cyclists and pedestrians only.

This new arterial road layout impacts the Tonsleys in several ways, which are mostly but not entirely positive.

Firstly, the removal of the junction at the end of Old York Road prevents it from being useful for traffic wishing to cut around Swandon Way in either direction, which you may remember caused enormous jams during the summer while Putney Bridge was closed for repairs.

There will also be no traffic light at the western end of Old York Road, removing the temptation for motorists to step on the accelerator to catch the short green light that is visible a couple of hundred yards in advance of the junction.

Secondly, the expected reduction in traffic, especially heavy goods vehicles, on Fairfield Street and East Hill should reduce noise for residents living along the western and southern edges of the Tonsleys. There may still be some sirens to hear though, as it is unlikely that emergency vehicles will be prohibited from using Wandsworth High Street.

Getting involved

The Tonsley Residents' Association is an informal group of local people - including homeowners, renters and even the occasional business - that keeps in touch regularly via email and meets 2 or 3 times a year.

We do not charge membership fees or have any funds. Other than printing costs, this newsletter received no sponsorship or donations.

Our aim is to stand up for the interests of our local community in all its diversity. We want to ensure that the qualities that make our little corner of SW London special and the place we call home, don't get flushed away by thoughtless bureaucrats or faceless corporations.

If you'd like to join, tell us some news, have a moan about something or just say hi, email:

info@tonsleyresidents.org.uk

Please note: we don't take sides in neighbour disputes nor can we answer anything that's sent anonymously.

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The new Wandsworth one way system - CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



Want to head west or south from the Tonsleys? Good luck with that...

©TfL

It will become much easier and more pleasant for Tonsley residents to walk to the Southside, with a reduction in traffic fumes and the need to cross two or three very busy roads largely eliminated.

Lastly, it will become more difficult for Tonsley residents to travel by car in a westerly and southerly direction. It looks like there is no realistic route to the west except to go all the way around the roundabout at the southern end of Wandsworth Bridge, and then along Swandon Way and Armoury Way. Travel to the south will become somewhat harder, with the best route to Garratt Lane being via St. Ann's Hill and Allfarthing Lane.

Circling the roundabout may also become necessary for Tonsley residents wishing to gain access to the tip and B&Q if access to Smugglers Way from Swandon Way is indeed removed. This is not yet certain as the initial consultation revealed that the tour buses garaged behind McDonalds are too tall to fit under the bridge next to the Calor Gas Centre.

In the next public consultation, we are hoping but not expecting to see some information from Wandsworth Council to explain how residential streets might change in light of the differences in the surrounding arterial routes owned and managed by TfL. Our roads have many one-way sections designed to prevent drivers from using the Tonsleys as a rat run. Some of these sections may no longer be necessary, or may need to be reversed to run in the opposite direction.

Parking may also become an issue for Tonsley residents, especially those living towards the western end of the area.

The new retail development now taking shape at the Ram Brewery will include parking for residents but not for shoppers, who will be expected to use the existing car parks within the Southside development.

One can imagine that during the weekends those shoppers may prefer to park instead on our streets for free, and so parking restrictions may need to be changed to ensure there are enough spaces for residents. The council normally decides such changes on a street-by-street basis by canvassing residents and taking a majority opinion.

In summary, these changes should prove positive for the Tonsleys in the long term. At the moment, the majority of the traffic that surrounds us is just passing through the area, which means the drivers are less considerate and travel faster – often excessively so. There are heavy construction and haulage vehicles currently rumbling past the ends of Old York Road, Tonsley Place, Tonsley Hill, Alma Road and Dempster Road that simply won't be there any more. The under-utilized retail spaces on Fairfield Street and East Hill should become more attractive given the quieter nature of those streets, and we could see some new shops and restaurants as a result.

All of this can only be good news for relative house prices in the area and it will contribute to the Tonsleys remaining an appealing neighbourhood in which to live and work.



*An artist's impression of how West Hill could look.
(conspicuously missing all the new tower blocks)*

©TfL

The Old York Street Party is on again this summer.

Old York Road used to be a rat run but now it is the heart of a thriving village community and home to many interesting businesses serving the Tonsley Residents.

Back in 2006 Amelia Brady, a Tonsley Resident and local business owner, wanted to improve footfall and raise awareness of our street for the benefit of all local businesses and the wider community.

Together with other business owners she started a small Christmas event outside the station. A local celeb turned on the lights and drew the raffle and the event was covered in the local paper. Due to the need to avoid hypothermia the next year, they decided to attempt an annual summer street party the following year. This has now been held every year and brought in more than 3,000 people, many of whom had not previously explored Old York Road.

The party has evolved over the years. In the early days we had belly dancers, appearances by TV characters, the Mayor, stilt walkers, delicious food, face painters, fashion shows and a waiters race.

The last couple of years has seen different bands and solo artists playing music up and down the street in the sunshine with people sitting at tables sampling the culinary delights of the restaurants of Old York Road. There is a real focus on children too and lots for them to get involved with.

The Tonsley Residents Association traditionally have a stall, often offering oysters while regaling to all and sundry the joys of living in The Tonsleys.

The street party was declared a great success and The Wandsworth Village Business Group decided to repeat the experience every year for all our of benefit.

**This year's party is on Sunday 7th June.
We hope to meet you there!**



New faces...

Pursuing my usual route to the station I noticed a new shop had appeared on Old York Road – it looked rather smart with very professional window dressing and lovely items on display.

Looking more closely I noticed it was a charity shop, despite the fact it looked like a new and expensive boutique. 'Mary's Living and Giving' supports Save the Children with 100% of profits going direct to the charity – it is an initiative from Mary Portas who has established a few such up market second hand shops across London.

On dropping in I found the shop wonderfully accessible; friendly and knowledgeable staff, Eugene the fantastic and professional Manager, colour grouped clothes and beautifully designed space within which to enjoy them and the accessories also for sale.

I have since discovered it is much more than a shop – there are evening Yoga classes each week and talk of a Book Club. Moreover, it offers volunteering opportunities too – do drop in and chat to Eugene if you have any spare hours.

All of us can get involved by donating clothes and gifts to the shop. Just drop them in.

And most importantly, do drop in to the lovely 'Mary's Living and Giving' when you wander down Old York Road.



The chairman writes...

Despite upheavals and changes within our midst and developments further afield to the east, south and west, 'The Tonsleys' remain a delightful and convenient place to live.

We have low Council Tax, a comprehensive public transport system, delightful architecture, good pubs and restaurants on our doorsteps and an increasingly diverse range of shops to tempt us not to stray beyond our borders.

Recent changes have seen the departure of Wandsworth Tyres and a whole new development arising in its place; the corner, ground floor looks like becoming another eatery. The derelict site on the western end of Old York Road at the junction of Morie Street is finally being developed paving the way for perhaps more interest at this end of the street. The changes outside the station are now complete with new landscaping and a permanent home for 'Pop-up Kitchen'

We have the new Mary Portas charity shop in our very heart. We should celebrate what we have and to that end we will be supporting the Street Party on June 7th as we have done every year it has been held.

However, perhaps bigger threats to life in this corner of SW18 lie beyond our immediate boundaries.

To the east, the developments at Nine Elms with the arrival of the new American Embassy will have far reaching and as yet untold consequences. South of us the routing of Crossrail 2 under Wandsworth Common is already a hotly disputed issue for residents in the neighbouring areas.

To the west, the Ram Brewery development is finally under way and it remains to be seen whether the tower will be an asset or an eyesore. Around the whole site, the new one-way system will soon start to be put in place and who can tell how this will work.

We have been in touch with the Council to express some of our concerns and are waiting to hear whether our suggestions have been incorporated. Then, even further to the west, the controversy over a third runway at Heathrow and the flight paths over south west London causes many to have sleepless nights.

A lot of decisions have to be taken on all these issues and let's trust that the conclusions reached will ensure a high degree of future contentment for us all.

JAMES SMITH
Chairman

Four years young: Tonsley Tots.

Liz Crowley, a local mum to 6 year old twins and a 3 year old, set up the popular 'Tonsley Tots' play group, held in upstairs room in the Alma on Thursday mornings, in May 2011.



With the four year anniversary, we thought we'd chat to Liz about the group, firstly asking **why she set up 'Tonsley Tots'?**

I had twins in 2009 when I was looking for playgroups to take them to I quickly discovered that most groups had really long waiting lists and none were very local to the Tonsleys. I thought it would be great to have a Tonsleys playgroup to meet local mums and their children.

With the help of my sister, Beckie, we leafleted all the Tonsley doors and were overwhelmed by the response. Seven other mums (Jenny, Sophie, Alex, Elly, Amy, Nicky and Nicola) immediately volunteered to help set it up and the demand was so great that we had a waiting list before we'd even started!

The Alma were incredibly supportive at the outset and continue to be so, allowing us to meet there and providing space to store our toys. It would not be possible to meet without their support.

How has the group changed since its inception?

Not massively. At the heart of it, it's basically a place for mums/carers and their little ones to connect. I'm really passionate about that connection. It can be a lonely time for a new Mum, especially first time round. Many go from being an independent, busy career woman to someone who wipes bottoms for a living and is supposed to suddenly know how to look after a tiny baby.

While it is an amazing, incredible time it is really important to be able to connect to other new mums for both advice and sanity reasons.

Why do you think that it's so popular?

All playgroups are popular but 'Tonsley Tots' is small, friendly and everyone is local so it's a great way to get to know your immediate neighbours. Oh, and we have real coffee rather than instant. That might be the clincher actually!!!

Any future plans?

When I have time, I would definitely like to develop the 'Tonsley Tots' brand. Watch this space!

If anyone is interested in finding out more please email Liz for more information at tonsleytots@gmail.com.



Liz also helps to run Little Teds, a drop in baby group at St Anne's Church on a Tuesday morning from 9.30 until 11.30. Email teddybearsgroup@gmail.com for more information on that one!

There's an 'I' and a 'U' in Community.

We're a tiny part of a big borough in a massive city. No one is going to ensure the Tonsleys remain the great place to live except ourselves.

Children are **everywhere** in the Tonsleys, please drive carefully.

Observe speed limits and the one way streets signs – they make the area safer.

Manage our limited car parking space – park right up to the line at the end of bays and don't leave big gaps.

Make a difference – there's a load of local charities and organisations to be a part of.

Unusual behaviour must be questioned – support the Neighbourhood Watch and keep a look out for anything odd.

Neighbours: get to know each others at the Street party, by joining the TRA, or by just saying hello over the fence.

Improvement is possible, share your ideas with us.
Email: info@tonsleyresidents.org

The Tonsleys Rock!
Smile...

You live here.
Good 'innit'?

Dog sitting group.



Do you own a well behaved dog that's with you most of the time? Would you like them to have somewhere to go occasionally during the day or even overnight, in return for looking after the odd one back?

Email: info@tonsleyresidents.org.uk



The Tonsley Residents' Association produces this newsletter annually and delivers it by hand to every address in 'The Tonsleys'.

We are, as always, hugely grateful to Nick Cound and his team, who have kindly covered the printing costs.

020 8877 1166
cound
.co.uk

The Tonsley Neighbourhood Watch

In April 2014 Gemma Lippiat and Suki Copeland decided to take on the challenge of establishing a Neighbourhood Watch Group for the Tonsleys as a whole. We all benefit from living in a great little community, unique in the centre of London, and we felt there was a need to be more active in protecting the essence of the area.

At our kick off meeting in The Alma we explained that our two key motives are enhancing both crime prevention and community togetherness. The more we work together and look out for each other the easier it will be to protect our area.

Supported by PC Mike Downey, our local policeman, we held a great discussion and, as a result, established Road Representatives to collectively raise and address specific issues. The Road Reps have subsequently met once a month in Konnigans and worked on various issues.

Our key issue in crime prevention is awareness – we have distributed the well recognized stickers for windows and are working on a crime prevention event at The Alma, establishment of a no-cold calling zone and informative top tips documents which we will distribute by post.



Useful contacts:

Safer Neighbourhood team officers:
020 8785 8874
Fairfield.SNT@met.police.uk

Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

Graffiti Hotline: 020 8871 7049



In relation to community, we hosted the Tonsley Tea Party in Coleford Road on 1 June 2014. This was our first venture in getting our community together and we drew you all in with a Tea Tent, a Bake Off, bouncy castles, face painting, a BBQ, drinks on offer and more.

We were blessed with the most fabulous day and many great bakers resulting in tea, cake and Pimms oiling many new friendships within the Tonsleys.



With the latter, we were so grateful to the Coleford Road residents who agreed to their road being closed off (and did a lot of work to support the day) and to many local businesses who donated to the event.

Funds raised will be used within the local area to support useful projects and a further community event.



We will continue to keep you informed – if you wish to have more information or know who your Road Rep is please email us on tonsleywatch@gmail.com.

Our next event will coincide with the start of the Rugby World Cup in September 2015 – watch out for notices later in the year.

Tonsley Residents' Association members:

This list is updated regularly on our website: tonsleyresidents.org.uk

Alma Road
Ben Godwin
Kate Tittley

Ballantine Street
Fiona Mills
Lisa Part

Birdhurst Road
Melanie Mounsdon

Bloomsbury Place
Liam Donnelly

Bramford Road
Dani Banerjee

Coleford Road
Sally West

Dalby Road
Amelia Brady
Polly Huggins
Jonathan Masters

Dempster Road
Steve Brown

Dighton Road
Brian Galloway
Liz Galloway

Fullerton Road
Savio Barros
Suki Copeland
Jeremy Dennison
Lizzie Dennison
Brenda Ferry
Jane Figgis
Dieter Vagts

Ebner Street
Andrew Le Sueur
Kevin Victory
Nick Chouksey

Tonsley Hill
Nicholas Frost
Richard Hagar
Gemma Lippiat
Vijay Patel
Damon Reynolds
James Smith

Tonsley Place
Dave Higginson
Theo Bell

Tonsley Road
Anita Hamilton

Tonsley Street
Lizzie Duckett