

Volume **2** Issue **6**

Saturday 07 March 2009
The WHAG Weekly Update

Don't let Sainsbury's rip the heart out of it.

WHITE LANE

Support the **White Hart Action Group** www.savetheheartofwhitehartlane.co.uk

OVER TO YOU!

After nearly two years of hard work on your behalf, all at WHAG HQ, and the many supporters of this campaign, are taking a well earned break.



And yes, it's hard to miss, the sparkling new Sainsbury's is open, the flats that make up the rest of this striking development are close to completion, and, one day soon, a brave engineer will activate the stacker parking garage. (For an explanation of the architecture, see our last issue).

So, are we downhearted and dismayed? Well, no, not really. For a commentary on the campaign and its impact, see the extended View from the WHAG on page 3. For things you can do now, see below: -

Support your local shops and traders –RICHMOND HERO!

Your local high street incentive and loyalty programme providing members with special offers from independent retailers and small businesses across the Richmond borough. With a growing number (50+) of local retailers, restaurants and businesses involved in the programme there are lots of deals and benefits. Not only do you benefit, for every £1 you spend in a local independent shop, research by the Federation of Small Businesses shows that 80p stays in the area. Shopping locally keeps your community alive:

www.richmondhero.co.uk

What's wrong with this picture??

Free copy of the Highway Code to the first reader with the correct answer-

See page 2 for some clues.....



Free Parking at Sainsbury's ???

'I've only ever seen Sainsbury's trucks in the loading bay....' a quote last week from a parking attendant in the neighbourhood. How can it be that Richmond Council, usually in the vanguard when it comes to robust parking enforcement and control measures, seems to have missed the multiple hourly infringements of the restrictions indicated on this sign?.....and no, not even a **Volvo XC90** is classified as a goods vehicle.



If you are concerned about the environmental and safety issues, or simply baffled by the lack of enforcement, you can contact your local councillors:

Cllr Zoë McLeod. 020 8973 4611 Cllr.ZMcLeod@richmond.gov.uk

Cllr Eleanor Stanier Tel: 020 8392 9366 Cllr.EStanier@richmond.gov.uk

Cllr Anna Davies Tel: 020 8876 5396 Cllr.ADavies@richmond.gov.uk

Cllr David Trigg . Tel: 020 8898 9032 (CPZ) cllr.dtrigg@richmond.gov.uk or:

Chris Smith Transport and Parking Manager, Telephone: 020 8891 7341.
chris.smith@richmond.gov.uk

And another thing.....Remember at the planning stage when concerns were expressed about inadequate parking provision for the development, in particular the 6 places for nine flats? The answer-if a CPZ was introduced (it has been) no permits would be issued to residents in the development. Will the Coach House (it's still there you just can't see it) provide the extra parking, or has it been identified for future expansion? Watch this space.



Drive one of these?

Congratulations!

You own a goods vehicle and the sign means you can park for up to 1 hour

subject to competition from Kingsmill, Warburton's etc

One of these?

Sorry, still a Volvo but not a goods vehicle.

Ideal, however, for crossing the challenging terrain between here and Sainsbury's car park in Manor Road...



The long view from the WHAG

For the last two and a half years, The White Hart Action Group has attempted to act on behalf of local residents who were opposed to the development of flats and a retail store at the top of White Hart Lane.



Now that building is completed and the Sainsbury's store is open, many would say that the battle has been lost.

Local residents (and others who drive there) are indeed shopping at Sainsbury's.

Not in sufficient numbers to make it profitable perhaps, but sufficient to damage and in some cases close, other local businesses.

So yes, those who value the small shops and traders which lend individuality to a community have lost.

Those whose prime concern was about the impact on the local environment have certainly lost.

And those who are not against supermarkets as such, but believe that the views and opinions of local residents have been blatantly ignored by a planning process which is inherently biased towards developers and completely undemocratic; they too have lost.

Was it all a waste of time then ?

Most emphatically not. We have seen some remarkable things in the last two years.

A locally organised referendum, one of the first of its kind, which produced a turnout bigger than the last General Election – not to mention an overwhelming NO vote.

Intensive coverage by both local and national media, including a documentary which appeared on prime time television.

Packed public meetings and events, a generous amount of donations to the Fighting Fund.

The CEO of a national company forced to the negotiating table because of the bad publicity

Above all, a sudden flowering of pride in this area, a determination not to be cowed, a real sense of community which said loudly and clearly we will not be ignored, we demand to have our views listened to and respected.

And for a few short months, it did indeed look possible that some kind of compromise could be reached. The full details of how this hope was cynically destroyed can be found on the website.

It was inevitable that some who voted NO then, changed their minds once the store actually opened and decided further resistance was pointless. It's perfectly understandable ; it's human nature.



However, there are still many people who will not enter the place on principle and we applaud you and urge you to continue the boycott.

You are the people who tramped the streets delivering posters and leaflets in all weathers. Who put up the posters in their windows. Who wrote to the press and badgered local councillors and their MP. And who turned out faithfully to all the meetings, giving your time and money freely because this was something you felt passionate about.

To all of you, the WHAG would like to express our deep gratitude and appreciation.

It would be impossible to name all of you but there are two people who should be thanked publicly for their support : local MP, Susan Kramer and the Conservative Candidate, Zac Goldsmith.

By putting party politics aside and backing the WHAG, they added much needed legitimacy and punch to our campaign ; on behalf of our supporters, thank you both.

Don't let anyone tell you it wasn't a fight worth fighting, even if the result was not what we all would have wished.

The website will remain open as testament to all of you, for all your efforts, and as an encouragement to others around this country who are faced with the same struggle to make themselves heard.

David Rossiter

The WHAG



www.savetheheartofwhitehartlane.co.uk 11,600 visits and still counting.....here you can get all the newsletters, in full colour, and much, much more

Still confused? Try www.tescopoly.org and yes, the new Tesco store in Sheen is now open



**SUPPORT OUR
SMALL SHOPS**

Whilst every effort is made to check the accuracy of information contained in the WHAG Weekly Update, neither WHAG nor any individual member of the group can be held responsible for any loss, damage or inconvenience caused by any inaccuracy in this publication.