

**Newsletter
March
2022**

OLD WINDSOR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



**Old Windsor Ward
Borough Councillors**

Lynne Jones

Neil Knowles



Who are Old Windsor Residents Association (OWRA)?

OWRA's purpose is to serve the whole community of Old Windsor Ward by being dedicated to obtaining value for money and improvement of local facilities and services, the quality of life and the environment in and around Old Windsor. To work with the Borough and Parish Councils to strive to influence all matters of local government in the Ward of Old Windsor and the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead in keeping with the interests and concerns of local residents.

Our committee is a small group of residents who work hard to deliver the objectives of the Association and we have had a core of excellent members who support us during the elections and at events over the year.

Lynne and Neil are committed to being the voice of Old Windsor Ward residents within RBWM. They will continue to challenge and influence decision making in the best interests of residents in our Ward and residents across the Borough. They will use their experience to encourage further transparency & financial stability at RBWM and to ensure Old Windsor Ward is a great place to live.

As with all organisations we would welcome residents who would like to be more involved, whether that is being a committee member (attending 4 meetings per year and contributing your views) or helping with newsletter/leaflet deliveries in your road.

We cannot do this without you and your views are important to us.

Please contact Lynne Jones, Email: Jonesy.lynne@sky.com Tel/Text 07939376182

OLD WINDSOR RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION GENERAL MEETING

7.30pm on April 25th 2022

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Your chance to hear from our Councillors Lynne Jones and Neil Knowles, enjoy a complimentary drink and ask any questions you have, regarding the latest financial challenges, flooding and local issues such as schools, traffic and local services.

At Old Windsor Club, St. Lukes Road.

Our **Annual General Meeting will follow from
8.30 p.m**

**OLD WINDSOR
OWRA
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

Find us on

Facebook - Old Windsor Residents Association
Website - Owra.org.uk - Twitter - [@OldWindsorRA](https://twitter.com/OldWindsorRA)

The Boltons

Since we were elected as your Ward Councillors we have tried to apply the same level of service to the Boltons area that we have historically given to the rest of Old Windsor and surrounding areas. Key to this is to represent your views, not ours, and to listen to your concerns.

We picked up a lot of issues on the doorstep during 2019 and followed this up with meetings with Residents' groups and representatives and this continues to be our pattern of work. Unfortunately there has been almost two years where we could not get out and speak to you

What we have been doing:-

- Resurface of Bolton Road East end, remaining sections placed on the council's Capital projects list.
- Replacing removed Trees
- Requesting enforcement of Parking restrictions during the day.
- Meetings to regularise the maintenance of the Trevelyan car park and the Battle Bourne ditch, & installation of a Height Barrier.
- Assisted in preserving the character of the area by supporting the objections to the redevelopment of Essex Lodge.
- Supported a petition to look at ensuring the safety of pupils and other pedestrians near Trevelyan school. A scheme has been put forward by highway engineers to replace the current zebra crossing with a set of pedestrian controlled traffic lights.
- Resolved issues regarding the waste collection during covid including problems with Victor Road and Bourne Avenue. Having attended multiple times on collection day we met with the waste contractors representative and RBWM officers. This resulted in new road markings to ensure the waste vehicle could negotiate the roads and also a greater focus on completing the deliveries.
- Resolved issues with lighting around the Long Walk roundabout.

We are told that the promised '**A308 review**', started in early 2019, is now in draft form. Our concerns regarding the ever increasing traffic along the Straight Road, and how we can mitigate against it, were put on hold until this full review has taken place. We wait, with interest, as to the findings of the draft study.

We asked our Highway engineers to investigate whether a 'refuge' on Bolton Road near its junction with St Leonards Rd, to allow pedestrians to cross safely, was possible. Unfortunately, due to the nature and constraints of the junction, this is not feasible

We have undertaken the very delayed consultation on parking restrictions and we extremely pleased at the number of responses we received. At the time of writing we have collated all the responses and are looking at trends geographically within the area. We should have a good idea by the end of March as the proposals we will present to you, based on those responses. We are hopeful that the Trevelyan Car Park will be part of the permit zone for Bolton Road and also the St Leonards Road houses that back on to the Car Park



Borough Finances

In 2019 we informed residents that a lack of financial prudence had resulted in unsustainable budget setting in 2018/19 and put huge strain on council officers to maintain services, across the board, while having to off-set a £10.6 million deficit in the 2019/20 services budget.

To balance the accounts we have seen a number of cuts or increase in fees

- downgrading the residents parking discount scheme
- charging for parking permits
- cancellation of capital projects
- reducing the council tax subsidy for low earners
- cuts to funding for Early Years/Youth Services
- Increase in parking charges
- cuts to Library opening hours
- removal of grants to community groups.
- Reduction in Community Wardens from a promised 25 to 6



The basics of this budget is that there is no option but to **raise council tax by the maximum allowed, this year and for the next 4 years.** Despite these increases it is still necessary to find another 13 million savings by February 2026.

‘With low levels of reserves & one of the lowest levels of Council Tax... coupled with increasing levels of borrowing’it.. ‘has made the position more challenging’

‘the position... is more acute than other councils due to... low levels of reserves.... Insufficient to cover future projected funding shortfalls.’

This year’s budget was set in place by decisions made up to 5 years ago. Outsourcing..... pushing for cheaper and cheaper contracts without assessing the impact on the quality of service. The loss of knowledge and control through redundancies. Spending on projects (and running up the councils debt) without having guaranteed income that could be realised.

Our debt is estimated to reach over £230m this financial year and our borrowing cost will grow to £8.6m annually

Being Independent we have been challenging the decisions made by the ruling Conservative administration but were ignored.

The stranglehold that the administration continues to place on the Overview & Scrutiny process, **despite two consecutive Peer Group reviews calling for change, restricts the only mechanism that enables true challenge to take place.**

Now the Conservative administration need to take responsibility for the situation they have created and not just make excuses.

You can find Cllr Jones’ response to the budget on behalf of the opposition on our Facebook page
Old Windsor Residents Association
or website
owra.org.uk

To become a member of OWRA and support our Independent councillors please visit our website **owra.org.uk**
Or contact Cllr Lynne Jones
Annual Membership £5, Direct debit available

Old Windsor Carnival

Along with all residents we were pleased to hear that the Carnival will be held in June this year. It takes a number of committed people to ensure that the Carnival is a success and due to the Covid pandemic this is another organisation that has lost members, both on the committee and to help on the day. There are over 2400 households in Old Windsor, please get involved, support the committee or we may not be seeing a Carnival next year.

Contact: Jonathan Stacey 07825 372443 jonostac@hotmail.co.uk

Our Committee

Lynne Jones (Leader)
RBWM Appointments

Leader of the RBWM Local Independents Group
Audit and Governance Committee (Vice Chair)
Corporate Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Full Council
Member Standards Panel
Constitution working group

Other positions held
Kings Court School Governor
Parish Councillor

Neil Knowles (Nominating Officer)
RBWM Appointments

Windsor & Ascot Development Management Committee
Windsor Town Forum
Aviation Forum
Full Council
International Partner Towns Committee
South East Employers—Board member

Other positions held
St Peters School Governor
Parish Councillor
Old Windsor United Charities—Trustee

Malcolm Beer (President)	Parish Councillor
Whing Hnoi Chan	Parish Councillor
Jane Dawson	Parish Councillor
Robert Elmes	Treasurer & Membership Secretary
Roger Perkins	Secretary

RBWM online—My Account

There are many of council services available online, allowing you to communicate with the council 24 hours a day. You now have the ability to create an online account, giving you access to many of your requests and **allowing you to track the progress**. The services available via your account are:

- Make a complaint, pay us a compliment or leave a comment
- Report a missed bin collection—Order a new bin or replace a damaged bin
- Sign up to a Green Waste subscription
- Get help to put your bins out
- Request a collection of large items
- Renew your bus pass
- Apply for a blue badge
- Apply for school transport
- Appeal a school place decision

Please visit www.rbwm.gov.uk to sign up.

You can access the 'My Account' link on the home page, below the 'Services' icons. It is helpful to us if residents could keep an eye out for pavement defects and overhanging foliage. These issues can also be reported, along with other issues, via the RBWM website. The report-it link is again available when accessing services on the front page.

Contact details

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