



# Welcomes & Uplands Road Association

## Winter Newsletter 2004



Dear Residents

I won't state the obvious that it does not seem possible that yet another year has nearly shot past with 2005 looming on the horizon but --- where DID 2004 go? Hopefully this missive finds you and your families in rude health and happy with your lot in life.

One of our main topics on our agenda this year has centred on the possible increased usage of our roads by future residents of the developments on Kenley Aerodrome and Kenley House. (The latest news is that Tandridge Council have refused the building of a further 210 units on the Aerodrome and Croydon Council have refused submitted plans for Kenley House - unfortunately these decisions do not preclude the developers from submitting revised plans). We fear there is a strong chance that motorists may be tempted to use Welcomes and Uplands as 'rat-runs' as an alternative route to avoid the congestion on the Godstone Road at peak times. The usage of Royal Lane (it connects Kenley Lane to Welcomes and exits opposite Uplands) by future Kenley House residents could be a tempting albeit a rough alternative option to the narrowness of Kenley Lane. Welcomes is designated a public footpath and thus it is illegal for motorists to use it unless they have business in the area and we doubt that, given time, any signage to this effect will not deter most. The proliferation of more 'street furniture' would probably be either ignored or pass unnoticed and an alternative regime of stop and question at peak times, maybe involving residents displaying permits on the windscreen, could in time lose its effect through impatience thus eventually leading to loss of support.

We are not totally bereft of ideas but feel that possible solutions could, understandably, lack the support of most due to frustration and inconvenience to both residents and other legitimate users. The construction of additional road humps has been muted as has the erection of a barrier between Maryhill and Simone effectively transforming the lower half of Welcomes into a cul-de-sac although motorists from the Hayes Lane end could 'escape' along Uplands. (Any barrier would have a card-activated system for residents?) It is worth bearing in mind that we all contribute to a fund for the upkeep of the road surfaces and additional wear and tear would obviously increase the frequency and extent of repairs. This will affect us all so please enter the debate and make your views and possible solutions known to us. We have had many a spirited discussion resulting in divergent views not least whether to proceed with a somewhat draconian system or adopt a 'suck it and see' attitude.

To avoid a repetition of last year's debacle that saw our roads unswept for most of the autumn, we approached the Council back in July requesting a quote from their contractors, Cleanaway, to carry out the work. (the appropriate Council department was very helpful). The quote has only recently been forthcoming and has resulted in a 100% increase on last year. In frustration our secretary contacted Kent Sweepers who consequently swept the roads in October and appear to be efficient, much cheaper and more amenable. Hopefully, by the time you read this, the roads will have been swept again.

At the AGM in May a resident suggested that signs at the bottom of Welcomes warning motorists of pedestrians walking up from the station at dusk and beyond would be beneficial as the area is poorly lit. We applied to the Council for funding but, not surprisingly, were refused and so we are paying for their erection which hopefully will be carried out in the near future. One Committee member suggested that, in addition, regular walkers may find it comforting to purchase highly visual arm-bands. (I purchased mine at Halfords for £7.99)

We have spent a lot of time discussing options to control the meanderings of rainwater at the lower end of Welcomes during heavy downpours and may extend the gully that presently stops near number 12. Whilst this will not completely solve the problem we are assured that it will go some way to alleviating the situation. The cambering of the road around that last bend may be the final solution although this alteration will have to wait until total resurfacing is required.

An application has been recently approved for 'Chestnuts' (157 Welcomes) to be demolished and the construction of two detached houses in its place. This will necessarily generate a lot of constructors' heavy vehicles and associated movements over a long period of time and the Committee will try to ensure that the majority of the vehicles enter and exit Welcomes from Hayes Lane thus minimising inconvenience to residents. We will also seek to ensure that any damage caused by said traffic to the road surface be made good or paid for by the contractors.

The Treasurer thanks the vast majority of residents for their prompt payments of the road levy although the usual small number (eight) have so far failed to pay. (Perhaps we should name and shame!)

If you have persevered and read thus far - well done! - but we feel strongly that you should be kept in touch as much as possible for we, the Committee, are all fellow residents trying to ensure that our environment is preserved to the high standard that we all treasure and enjoy. Therefore any questions, suggestions or complaints that you may have will benefit us all and so do not hesitate to contact one of the Committee members - telephone numbers listed below.

It only remains for us to wish each and every one of you a very happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year when, hopefully, the World starts to become a safer and more environmentally friendly habitat.

From the Committee of the Welcomes & Uplands Road Association

Colin Brown (Chairman)	8668 2101	Dave Barrell	8668 9555
Bill Tolman (Treasurer)	8660 1130	Doug Haigh	8668 1741
Irene Prosser (Secretary)	8660 7723	Robin McCallum	8763 2738
Peter Runacres	8660 4542	Brian Clinton	8668 4700
Liz Copeland	8763 8947		

