



# St Quintin and Woodlands Neighbourhood Forum

Newsletter October 2018

## Grenfell and the possibility of 'toxic soil' in our neighbourhood

The Guardian on October 12th published a report saying that toxicologist Professor Anna Stec *had found "huge concentrations" of potential carcinogens in the dust and soil around the tower in west London, and in burned debris that had fallen from the tower*.

The accompanying map showed an area within a radius of two thirds of a mile from the Grenfell tower, including the StQW neighbourhood. The Council's website has since been carrying updates and more information.

Residents of the nearby Silchester estate have been sent a [letter](#) from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. This states that the claims on contaminated soil come from an unfinished and unpublished study. The letter says that debris from the fire was removed swiftly and that *As in any large city with an industrial legacy, there are potential areas of contamination, but Public Health England has advised that there is very low risk to health.*

For those who would like to ask more questions, the Council has organised a session on **Monday 29th October from 7pm** at the **Kensington Hilton Hotel, Holland Park Ave, W11**. Professor John Ashton, Director of Public Health for Kensington and Chelsea, and Yvonne Doyle, Regional Director for London at Public Health England, will be there to answer queries.

It may prove that the long-term problems of poor air quality in this part of London pose a greater risk to health. The [London Air website](#) maintained by Kings College London publishes daily details from the local monitoring station at Cardinal Manning School in St Charles Square.

Results to date in 2018 do not look too bad, in terms of meeting air quality targets, apart from ozone levels back in the June heatwave. But since children with asthma and older people with heart or lung problems are recommended to start modifying their outdoor activities at even 'moderate' pollution levels, this is not entirely reassuring.

RBKC is not a member of the London Air Quality Network, so daily results on *London Air* for other parts of the Borough are unavailable. This also means that a handy app available on Google Chrome, giving air quality results, does not include RBKC in its list of Boroughs. StQW will try to find out more background as to why the council has not joined the network.

## OPDC has finalised and submitted its Local Plan

The Old Oak and Park Royal Development Corporation has sent off its Draft Local Plan to the Secretary of State. The Plan will be 'examined in public' later this year or early next.

The StQW Forum joined with the Hammersmith Society and the Grand Union Alliance in sending a letter to the OPDC Board before its signed off the Plan. Our letter set out the concerns of local residents on proposed average housing densities of 600 housing units per hectare at 'Old Oak North' (the Cargiant land and Scrubs Lane).



The OPDC Board meeting took no notice of our letter (which you can find on at [www.stqw.org](http://www.stqw.org) with more details on the OPDC Local Plan. Meanwhile the image above (not included in the Draft Plan) gives the most recent idea of how the area will be redeveloped.

There will be plenty of tall residential towers. OPDC has been forced to drop any firm plans for a new office/commercial/retail centre to be built above and around the HS2 and Elizabeth Lane interchange. This phase of development now looks unlikely to happen in the next couple of decades.

From Saturday 3rd November the charity Real Action will be offering their Butterfly Reading Classes for 4-12 year old children, at the Dalgarno Neighbourhood Centre (1 Webb Close, Dalgarno Way).

Volunteers are needed to give up a couple of hours on a Saturday morning to come and help children with their reading. Training (not complicated) will be given.

See for more details at the Real Action website at [www.realaction.org.uk](http://www.realaction.org.uk)