

Local Thames riverside in need of TLC

Do you recall how attractive our local stretch of Thames riverside was, up until autumn 2009 (see our top picture)? It was a well-tended riverbank where people could sit on the grass in the sunshine or in the shade of a tree, and enjoy fine views and tranquility.



Autumn 2009: Weybridge riverside, before the moorings work

Then the Environment Agency cut down the trees and fenced off the riverbank, between Weybridge Ladies ARC and the foot ferry, as part of works to install concrete moorings. They left the temporary fence in place for five years, despite local protests, with the riverbank becoming an unsightly bramble patch.



Autumn 2016: The same riverside, looking sadly neglected

PPDRA along with local residents pressed for access to the riverbank to be restored. The mesh fence was finally removed in 2014, and the brambles trimmed.

But it has been left untended again, with brambles and scrub increasingly obstructing access and views.

This is the first length of riverside seen by people joining the Thames Path at Weybridge. It is a valued and well used amenity. Surely it deserves some TLC?

We are lobbying local councillors to bring back regular mowing of the grass along this prime stretch of riverbank, to give residents something they can be proud of once more. A tree or two might be nice too!

[Read more and share your views at portmore.org.uk](http://portmore.org.uk)

Aims of PPDRA: We are a non-political local association, supporting local heritage, quality of life and community. **Join us to help to get the voice of our community heard.**

How to join/renew Please use the form below, or [download a renewal or standing order form from our website](#)
Contact us – contactus@portmore.org.uk – PPDRA c/o 3 Clinton Close, Weybridge, KT13 8NU

PPDRA Committee 2016: Miles Macleod (Chair) Clinton Close, Tel 844449; Jane Heard (Secretary) PPR; Ian Bonnett (Treasurer) The Willows; Pippa Graeme, Elmgrove Rd; Mike O’Sullivan, Wey Road; Diane Phillips, PPR; William Rutherford, Mount Pleasant; Clare Smith, Greenlands Rd; Gillian Stokes, Thames St; Stewart Wright, Dorchester Rd

JOIN / RENEW: Membership of PPDRA is open to residents between the High Street and the Rivers Wey and Thames. We have a nominal subscription of £3 or more, to help cover costs. **Want to become more involved?** Just let us know!
PPDRA Membership Form (Subscription normally due at the time of the AGM, for the following year)

Please return to PPDRA Membership, 3 Clinton Close, Weybridge, KT13 8NU.

Name(s)

Address

PostcodeEmail

(to receive newsletters and any updates)

I enclose (please tick): £3 £5 Other Please enter amount:

I am interested in: Joining the Committee /representing my road Helping with the newsletter Other:

NEWSLETTER

www.portmore.org.uk

AUTUMN 2016

A voluntary association supporting local heritage, quality of life and community

Broadwater Path – agreement at last?

School agrees in principle to original route

After a roller coaster year, Broadwater Path looks to be back on course. The path was all set for official dedication at the start of 2016, about to get an all weather surface thanks to CIL funding – after 14 years of local effort.

Then St George’s School objected, and work on the path had to be put on hold. This came as devastating news for some in the local community. It halted plans to save Broadwater lake from silting up, because they depend on Broadwater having public access to justify funding.

Much care since then has gone into putting to the school the very good reasons for permitting the path. So we are delighted to hear that St George’s has now accepted the path in principle, along its original route. Discussions are still in progress on implementation details, but prospects are far more positive now than earlier in the summer.

See our feature on Pages 2-3

[Read more and share your views at portmore.org.uk](http://portmore.org.uk)

River Thames Scheme progress

RTS, which aims to relieve Thames flooding in Datchet, Egham and Staines via flood relief channels with the final one discharging at Weybridge, is seeking funding. Costs have risen to £476,000,000, with £250,000,000 promised so far. Downstream it plans to widen Desborough Cut and the weirs, to avoid an increase in our local flood risk.

PPDRA has been talking with the RTS team for some time, and has been clear about how important the Thames Path is at Desborough Cut, since the initial plans called it an ‘access track’ and proposed moving it closer to the road.

Read about RTS & local flood plans at portmore.org.uk

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Roads covered by Portmore Park & District Residents Association: Portmore Park Road, Beales Lane, Cedar Road, Church Walk, Clinton Close, The Crescent, Darnley Park, Devonshire Road, Dorchester Road, Dorney Grove, Elmgrove Road, Farnell Mews, Gascoigne Road, Glencoe Road, Grenside Road, Greenlands Road, Grotto Road, Holstein Avenue, Jessamy Road, Lincoln Grove, Minorca Road, Montrose Walk, Mount Pleasant, Oakdale Road, Portmore Way, Radnor Road, Round Oak Road, St Albans Avenue, Thames Street, Walton Lane, Wey Road, Whittets Ait, The Willows.

Community Event

Wednesday 5 October

You are invited

to share your views at our

Portmore Park & District Residents Annual Meeting & PPDRA AGM
Meet other residents and local councillors

7:30 for 8:00 pm

St Charles Borromeo School Hall
Christ The Prince Of Peace (Portmore Way)

7:30 – Chat and light refreshments
8:00 – Hear about and discuss matters that affect our local community

Weybridge Parking Review – local disappointment

Surrey County Council’s Weybridge Parking Review recommendations got such a poor reaction locally that the report was sent back for further work.

The review was billed as a new and comprehensive approach. While some of the things it recommends seem sensible, it looks more like an annual review than a three year plan. Residents were disappointed at how much was *not* covered:

- No strategic analysis of parking needs or of the balance between on-street and off-street
- Roads east of Thames Street ignored
- Impact of displacement parking ignored
- Thin on increasing short-stay shopper capacity
- No strategy for long-stay worker parking

So what will it do for our part of Weybridge?

The revised plans have not been confirmed as we go to press, but it seems there may be residents’ parking in Dorchester and Gascoigne Roads, small changes to existing CPZs, extra yellow lines in Thames Street, and some yellow line adjustments elsewhere.

[Learn more at portmore.org.uk](http://portmore.org.uk), and at our AGM

Broadwater Path – a scenic walk beside the lake

Broadwater Path passes through beautiful and tranquil scenery along the north edge of Broadwater. It connects north Weybridge to Cowey Sale and Walton Bridge. The path has been informally used by local people for as long as anyone can remember, when ground conditions allow. Formal dedication of Broadwater Path has been promised since 2003, but successive delays have held up progress. In 2015 Elmbridge awarded Community Infrastructure Levy funding for Surrey to lay a firm surface, accessible for prams and wheelchairs, and at last to dedicate this footpath.

Work on the path this year came to an abrupt halt when St George’s School objected to it crossing their new land. We are delighted that resolution now appears to be in sight, and we look forward to work recommencing soon on completing this significant amenity.

Historic royal lake

Broadwater is a historic lake, with origins dating back to King Henry VIII’s palace, landscaped into its present form in the 18th century. It can be strikingly picturesque. But it needs regular dredging and maintenance – otherwise it silts up, reed beds extend towards its middle, trees grow in the trapped silt and it evolves into scrubby wetland.

Residents’ groups, the Broadwater Society and angling clubs have raised funds for maintenance over the years. More is needed. Public funding depends on public access to Broadwater, and dedicating Broadwater Path as a public footpath will give that access.

Dedicating the path

The cause was taken up 15 years ago by a councillor, Tim Crowther. In 2004 planning consent for the Weybridge Club included a Deed of Planning Obligation to establish and allow dedication of Footpath 40, Broadwater Path, including the path land recently purchased by the school.

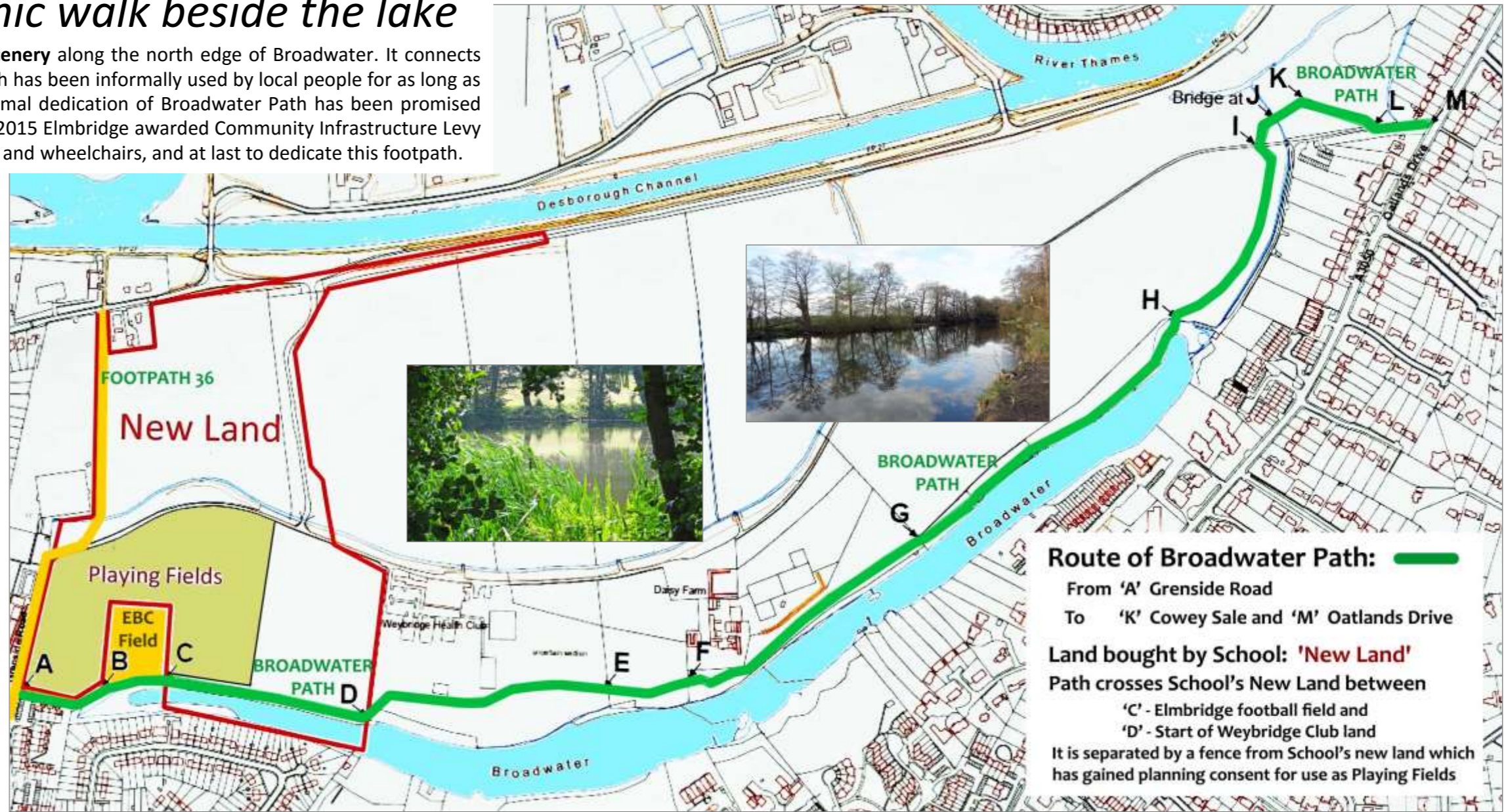
Path progress was then delayed by a small broken bridge at its Cowey Sale end, which was finally replaced as part of the Walton Bridge scheme. Full funding for the path became an obstacle until last year, when a CIL grant of £110,000 was secured to lay a crushed stone surface. Work was scheduled to be completed this summer.

School concerns

Plans were put on hold this year when St George’s made a formal objection, citing concerns for the safety of their pupils, and lack of benefit to the charity from having a second public footpath across their land (the existing well-used Footpath 36 links Greside Rd to Walton Lane). Residents felt that the school may not have appreciated the full significance of Broadwater Path, or the very good reasons for permitting it. PPDR along with other local groups sought to present the case to the school.

Bright future

It is excellent news that the school has now accepted the principle of the path along its original proposed route, and is discussing details of implementation. We look forward to Broadwater Path being enjoyed by all.



Other news

School traffic and pedestrians

Construction work at St George’s Junior has been completed with the opening of the new Nursery on Thames Street – a building which succeeds in not dominating – together with an off-street drive-in for school buses, plus some extra parking. This should help reduce the level of traffic obstruction in Thames Street at school run times, in combination with the use of multiple school access points.



While there are benefits from multiple access points, some residents are less positive about the 'kiss and drop' vehicle access from Walton Lane, which exits via Greside Rd. They report congestion, and obstruction of Footpath 36 during the school run.

There is a safety issue where Footpath 36 is shared with school vehicles: we would like to see at least a marked footpath. Do you have a view?

Email PPDR at: contactus@portmore.org.uk

Portmore Park history question

Do you have a picture of a building demolished in 1822, variously known as Dorchester House, Ham House/Farm and latterly Portmore Park? Prof Timothy Mowl is researching its history. *If so, please email contactus@portmore.org.uk*

Thames Street warehouse plans permitted

Conversion of the old warehouse building in Thames Street into residential dwellings under permitted development rights may have moved a step closer with two recent planning decisions.

The Planning Inspectorate overturned Elmbridge’s refusal of consent for glazed frontage and roof lights, saying light pollution of neighbours would not be an issue in a single height building in commercial use. Elmbridge has now given consent for underground parking with a car lift, although restricting hours of lift use to between 8am and 9pm.

