

## The BOAT Finally Sinks ...

... but it's 'full steam ahead' for those wanting to travel along Esher Park Avenue.



Following lengthy discussions with members of the local community, the Esher Park Avenue Residents Association (EPARA) and other residents of Esher Park Avenue, the ERA has secured an agreement that allows local residents to continue to travel freely along this important route until at least 2112!

Esher Park Avenue is a private road, owned by its residents. In February 2010 they were granted permission to replace the two sets of existing static gates, at the junctions with Sandown Avenue in the north, and Littleworth Avenue in the south, with new automatic gates.

At this time it was discovered that there was no 'Right of Way' along the road and so immediately the ERA, supported by local residents, made an application to Surrey County Council to designate the Avenue as a 'Byway Open to All Traffic' (a BOAT).

Members of the local community undertook a huge amount of work to assemble evidence in support of the application, however after long deliberation, Council officials decided to recommend that a byway be created for non-motorised vehicles only.

In September of last year the Surrey Highways Committee met, rejected their officers' recommendation and decided not to grant any right of way at all!

Fearing that this decision could lead to the Avenue being closed to all but those living along it, the ERA formally appealed to the national Planning Inspectorate and immediately initiated discussions with ERARA and local residents to see whether a compromise, acceptable to all, could be achieved.

We are delighted to report that, as a result of these discussions, the Appeal has been withdrawn

and a formal agreement has been reached that secures the status quo and enables the Avenue to continue to be used by all for at least the next 99 years.

More recently the ERA has reached a similar agreement with the residents of the upper part of the Avenue and so the ability to travel freely along the whole length of the Avenue has been secured.

The ERA would like to thank the local residents and the EPARA Committee members who worked hard with us reach this conclusion. Their active collaboration, goodwill and support have enabled us to achieve this great result in the best interests of both local residents and the wider Esher community.

