

## Protecting the interests of West Acton residents.

### NEWSLETTER: 2009, Issue 3 (September 2009)

Newsletter prepared by: Margrit Wachnicka, Alan Cartwright and Keith Bird

Dear WARA residents,

Please note the date given below of our next Public Meeting.

#### **NEXT WARA PUBLIC MEETING PLUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING\***

**Date: Wednesday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**Time: 7.00 p.m. to 9.00 p.m.**

**Place: AGVA (Alwyn Gardens)**

off Noel Road

\*The meeting will include the Annual General Meeting, when the posts of Vice-Chair (Colin Logan) and Secretary (Margrit Wachnicka) are subject to re-election. If any member wishes to be considered for either position, please notify the Secretary (47 Cecil Road, W3 0DB) in writing no later than 7 days prior to the meeting.

The public meeting will also include the Neighbourhood Watch item from the East Acton Ward Safer Neighbourhoods Police Team.

We hope to see many of you at the meeting.

#### **Covered in this issue:**

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North Acton Playing Fields and Pavilion  
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Saxon Drive no Entry  
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BTP Neighbourhood Policing  
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Street Watch  
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Ward Forums

#### **A40 GREEN CORRIDOR**

Alan Cartwright

Sheela Selvajothy and Alan Cartwright, together with two other WARA members attended an initial meeting on the A40 Green Corridor on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2009. Other attendees represented residents groups along and in close proximity to the A40, which covered an area between Kathleen Avenue and Western Circus. Two subsequent meetings have since been held; the most recent on 21<sup>st</sup> August. The purpose of the meetings is to develop a strategy that will ultimately achieve implementation of Ealing's A40 Green Corridor policy in Acton.

A new Local Development Framework is currently being prepared. The first iteration of the Plan will be 'Initial Proposals' published for consultation in September by the Council's 2026 Board of Officers. The policies in the Development Strategy 2026 will not merely be statements to use in responding to planning applications on land. They must be action statements about how proposals for land and property will be achieved and the target dates etc. In this sense, it is imperative at this time to promote a positive A40 Green Corridor policy for the Development Strategy. To this end, a letter stating the views of residents groups was sent to the Planning Policy Manager in July 2009.

We have been informed that Jason Stacey (Leader of the Council) is supportive of the Green Corridor plan and that it is officially part of Ealing's local development plan. However the Council cannot do anything while TfL sit on the sites. TfL are determined to make money out of selling the sites in question.

We have also learnt that TfL have appointed Knight Frank (property agents) to prepare a strategic report outlining the best method of taking the sites to market. We understand that they will be recommending how best to market the sites within the next few months once all the site information is available.

At the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> August, it was agreed that we will get the A40 Green Corridor issue raised again as an agenda item at the next East Acton ward forum, with the aim of getting the full backing of local Councillors to the policy.

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### **NORTH ACTON PLAYING FIELDS and PAVILION**

Keith Bird

Following the issues raised at the WARA meeting in May 2009, Cllr. Kumar arranged for a site visit of the pavilion on 3rd July 2009, when two Council Officers met with representatives of WARA. Rowan Schnauer (Parks Area Manager (East)) and Jonathan Kirby (Assistant Director of Major Projects and Development) met on site with Alan Cartwright, Keith Bird and Rosco White.

A number of issues were discussed. These included:

- The resolution of the dry rot problem in the toilets inside the pavilion.
- The condition of the main room, which is now available for use and can be booked on an "as required" basis. Arrangement for access is via the East Ranger Team on 020 8903 3945 (whilst Acton Lodge is being refurbished), then on 020 8740 1855 from September.
- The two smaller rooms that are still in need of refurbishment. Work on these rooms is on hold until the use(s) of the pavilion have been agreed.
- The replacement of the damaged guttering.
- The damage caused by youngsters continuing to kick balls against the walls of the pavilion. Thus defacing the walls and possibly causing damage to the rendering.
- A mesh fence to be installed outside the dressing room side of the pavilion. A hedge will be planted alongside the fence.
- The proposed rail and disabled ramp on the bowling green side that were on the planning application plans for the pavilion refurbishment and were a condition of planning consent. The Council Officers will examine the pavilion planning application designs submitted.
- An area on the bowling green side of the pavilion will be landscaped. (Another condition of planning consent). This will wait until the use of the pavilion is finally decided.
- The installation of new rubbish bins around N.A.P.F, and the rough finish of the concrete bases.

During the meeting, we also requested that some of the trees within N.A.P.F that have very low

overhanging growth over the pavements of the roads surrounding the Playing Fields, which make it difficult for pedestrians to walk under, should have the overhanging growth removed. Some of the streetlights are being obscured by the growth as well.

We understand from Cllr. Kumar that a consultation and an open day will be organised in the near future. This will give residents the opportunity to submit ideas for the use of the pavilion. However, this should have happened long before this time. Wasted years!

### **MULTI-USE GAMES AREA AT NORTH ACTON PLAYING FIELDS**

Ealing Council has recently distributed consultation documents to a sample of properties in the area concerning a proposed multi-use games area for North Acton Playing Fields. The games area will include a basketball and football practice zone, and an outdoor gym fitness area.

### **SAXON DRIVE NO ENTRY**

Alan Cartwright

Immediately following the WARA meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009, Alan Cartwright spoke with Cllr. Barchuk on this matter. Cllr. Barchuk explained that a re-alignment of the kerb at the Station Parade end of Saxon Drive is proposed, which is expected to make it harder for motorists to drive in through the No Entry. Funding is available, but before the re-alignment of the kerb-line can be undertaken work needs to be carried out in re-routing the electrical connection to the existing illuminated No Entry sign.

In an email from Cllr. Barchuk, dated 11<sup>th</sup> August 2009, he informed us that he had been out with a Highways Officer the previous week to inspect the location. The Officer will prepare a drawing showing a build out of the kerb on the side nearest the island, with the No Entry sign also moved. However, no date for the re-alignment is currently available.

### **JUNCTION OF WESTFIELDS ROAD WITH NOEL ROAD –**

Keith Bird

We wrote to Cllr. Barchuk on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009, and asked him to provide us with a date for when the safety improvements to this junction will be carried out. To date, 12/8/09, we have not received a reply to the letter.

In the email from Cllr. Barchuk on 11<sup>th</sup> August he also informed us that he is waiting for a drawing of the traffic island at this junction.

### **ALLIANCE ROAD WIDTH RESTRICTION**

Keith Bird

What should have been a fairly minor repair to the width restriction gate post hinges took 4 months to carry out, and the gate was eventually reinstated in early July.

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### EASTFIELDS ROAD STREET LIGHTING UPGRADE

Keith Bird

In the letter to Cllr. Barchuk, 12<sup>th</sup> June 2009, we also asked when the existing street lighting will be replaced. As stated above, we have not received a reply to the letter.

### GYPSY CORNER CPZ

Keith Bird

Residents not currently in the zone received a consultation form on 24<sup>th</sup> / 25<sup>th</sup> June 2009.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH / WARD PANEL –

Alan Cartwright

At a Ward Panel Meeting of the East Acton Ward Neighbourhood Police Team, held on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2009, we were informed that the number of burglaries in April-July 2009 had dropped by 69% when compared with the same period in 2008. However, Motor Vehicle Crime had increased by 72% between the same periods.

The Police have produced a leaflet that gives advice on protecting your car. The leaflet itself can be opened out and left on display in your car. It says "ATTENTION – No valuables have been left in this vehicle". The Police advice is to:

- Remove all your valuables from your vehicle then display the notice on the dashboard.
- Consider leaving your glove-box open to show that there is nothing worth stealing. Don't leave your valuables on display – most items stolen are visible to a thief from the street.
- Lock all doors, shut windows and sunroof when leaving the car.
- Never leave keys in the ignition – for however short a time paying for petrol, buying a paper etc.
- Use car Parks which display the "Park Mark" sign, indicating that they are part of the police-approved Safer Parking Scheme.

Some residents may already have received this leaflet, placed under their windscreen wipers. The car advice leaflets can be obtained from the Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams.

### BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE – NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICING

In addition to the ward-based Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams, teams have recently been introduced by BTP on the

Underground. The team that works closest to the WARA area is the Central Line North West, which covers the line from East Acton to Ealing Broadway / West Ruislip.

It is likely that many residents use the Central Line. If anyone has any comments about local issues the team, headed by Sgt Tony Drew, can be contacted on 07850 235315 or by email [Centrallinenorthwest.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Centrallinenorthwest.npt@btp.pnn.police.uk). A crime or incident can be reported on 0800 40 50 40. Please remember that in an emergency dial 999.

### STREET WATCH

Alan Cartwright

At the WARA meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> July 2009, Susan Wyatt (Street Watchers Project Manager, Envirocrime Prevention Team, Ealing Council) gave a presentation on the STREET WATCH scheme run by the Council.

Street Watchers are required to be on the look-out for and to report envirocrimes such as graffiti, fly posting and fly tipping, abandoned vehicles, antisocial behaviour, overgrown hedges etc. Street watchers are set up with a freephone telephone number and a contact email address.

Susan informed us that currently there are 386 Street Watchers in the Ealing Borough, to-date there is no-one active in the West Acton Area. Susan said she would appreciate if some residents came forward; the scheme is highly appreciated in other areas. Anyone that wants to become a Street Watcher or would like further details please contact Susan Wyatt (tel: 020 8825 5225). Details on the Street Watch scheme can be found on the Ealing Council website:

[http://www.ealing.gov.uk/services/transport\\_and\\_streets/street\\_watchers/](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/services/transport_and_streets/street_watchers/)

Comment – Keith Bird

Whilst there may not be any actual Street Watchers in the area, we acknowledge and thank all those residents who do regularly report graffiti, fly tipping etc. to Ealing Council's Customer Services call centre.

Perhaps Ealing Council should consider being more proactive and appoint Neighbourhood Management Officers / Inspectors, like some other Local Authorities. Their role is to inspect their patch on foot on a very regular basis and report defects to the road surface, pavements, blocked roadside gulleys, graffiti, flytips, abandoned vehicles, over-grown hedges etc., rather than rely on unpaid volunteer Street Watchers. Surely that is partly what we pay Ealing Council council tax for.

### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK CONSULTATION

Alan Cartwright

The Council are working on a blueprint for the future of the area, called the Local Development Framework. This looks

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at how planning will be managed for a range of subjects. Four consultation meetings have been arranged for people to go along and find out more details and give their views.

Ealing Area: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2009, 7-9pm, Liz Cantell Room, Ealing Town Hall

Greenford Area: Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2009, 7-9pm, Greenford Hall, Ruislip Road

Southall Area; Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2009, 7-9pm, Dominion Centre, The Green

**Acton Area: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October, 7-9pm, St Mary's Parish Church, The Mount**

The meetings give communities the opportunity to express how they would like their area is developed, e.g. the environmental improvement of the A40 Green Corridor.

### WARD FORUMS

Alan Cartwright

Dates for the next ward forums:

**East Acton** – Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September 2009, St Gabriel's Church, Noel Road, Acton W3, 7.15pm

**Acton Central** – Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2009, St Mary's Church Hall, the Mount, Acton W3, 7.30pm

In 2008 the Council voted to abolish the old area committees in favour of 23 ward forums, with the aim of getting more people involved in their local community.

Each forum is led by ward councillors and each ward is also able to influence an annual budget of £40,000 for local improvements.

It has been brought to our notice that this was a one year pilot scheme, with the first of the new ward forums beginning in September 2008, and now we must decide whether or not to continue with the scheme.

The Council's Overview and Scrutiny Panel will consider the effectiveness of the ward forum approach on September 24th and there are a number of ways in which you can contribute to the review.

Please email [mywardmatters@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:mywardmatters@ealing.gov.uk) to tell the Council if you think ward forums should continue, adding any comments to support your view.

If you want to attend the Overview and Scrutiny meeting in person please contact the Head of Scrutiny, Keith Fraser on 020 8825 7497 or [fraserk@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:fraserk@ealing.gov.uk) to discuss.

For information about Scrutiny in Ealing, including meeting dates and work programmes, go to: [www.ealing.gov.uk/scrutiny](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/scrutiny)

### WHEN CONTACTING EALING COUNCIL

Residents are reminded that they must ensure they get a reference number from Customer Services, or whoever they speak with at the Council, when making a complaint or enquiry. No reference number equals no official recording on the system, and the inability to efficiently track the complaint/enquiry.

## Useful contact details for Ealing Council & Police

### When reporting any incident, ensure you ask for a reference number.

Main switchboard:	020 8825 5000	Graffiti removal:	020 8825 6000
email:	<a href="mailto:customers@ealing.gov.uk">customers@ealing.gov.uk</a>	Envirocrime Prevention Area Mgr	020 8825 8111
in writing:	London Borough of Ealing	Recycling & Refuse:	020 8825 6000
	Perceval Hse,	Road and pavement defects:	020 8825 6222
	14/16 Uxbridge Rd	Street lighting:	020 8825 6555
	Ealing W5 2HL	Acton Police Station	020 8246 9763
	Out of office hours:	East Acton Ward Police team	020 8721 2708
	020 8825 5000	Acton Central Ward Police team	020 8721 2921
Abandoned vehicles:	020 8825 6010	Noise & pollution control:	
Environmental Health:	020 8825 9654	Mon to Thurs 08:30 to Midnight	020 8825 8111
Street cleansing & maintenance:	020 8825 6444	Fridays 08:30 to 23:00	020 8825 8111
Gullies flooding/blocked:	020 8825 6000	Friday & Saturday 23:00 to 04:00	020 8825 5000
		email: <a href="mailto:pollutioncontrol@ealing.gov.uk">pollutioncontrol@ealing.gov.uk</a>	