

## Protecting the interests of West Acton residents.

### NEWSLETTER: 2006, Issue 2 (May 2006)

Newsletter prepared by: Margrit Wachnicka, Alan Cartwright, Ulrike Dehmel, Sheela Selvajothy and Keith Bird

Dear WARA residents:

Plenty of things are happening in our area, the width restriction in Alliance Road is being implemented; CPZ is up and running in certain roads; new street lights are being put into service, and the pavilion is coming along nicely.

In this newsletter you can find insight into the following issues:

- Gowing & Pursey / Waste Transfer Station
- Rats / Fly-Tipping / Rubbish
- Gypsy Corner Bus Depot Public Inquiry
- Gypsy Corner Controlled Parking Zone
- Alliance Road Width Restriction
- Public Inquiry: TFL Sites at the Junction of Western Avenue (A40) and Allan Way
- May 2006 Council Elections
- Neighbourhood Policing

Several residents spoke in opposition to the Bus Depot at the recent hearing at Acton Town Hall. Many thanks go to (in order of presentation) Kristina Januszajtis, Colin Logan, Ursula Clugston, Sheela Selvajothy, Mike Krefta, Donald Allwright, Ulrike Dehmel, Gabriela Legocka, Alan Cartwright, Vlodya Barchuk and Fr. James Alcock. Thanks also to Andrew Slaughter MP, and Councillors Portwood, Evans and Delaney for their contributions at the Inquiry.

Finally thanks go to those residents of Cecil Road, Cloister Road and Park View who allowed the Inspector in to their homes, so that he could appreciate the visual impact that the Depot would have on their lives.

If you have any burning issues that concern you, please bring them to our attention, either by email to [westactonresidents@hotmail.com](mailto:westactonresidents@hotmail.com), or drop a note to the WARA Secretary at 47 Cecil Road London, W3 0DB.

Kind regards  
WARA committee members

The WARA Committee meets every two months to review ongoing and new issues. The next meeting will be on June 8th, 2006. The next Public Meeting is expected to be in early July; details will appear in the June Newsletter.

#### Gowing & Pursey / Waste Transfer Station

Bridgemarts Ltd (trading as Gowing & Pursey) has been prosecuted for failing to submit details as required by a Statutory Nuisance abatement notice. A trial was held at Acton Magistrates Court on 30th March 2006. The details were to enable the London Borough of Ealing (LBE) to specify and approve works and dust control procedures which should be brought into effect within two months of the approval.

The outcome was a conditional discharge for 24 months with costs to the Council of £6750. The bench advised a Director of the Company to comply with the Local Authority's request for full details to be submitted, and to talk with the LA.

If the Director was to come before the Court any time during the next 24 months, for any offence, the March 2006 decision would be taken into account. The Clerk made it clear that he could end up in Court again for not supplying the information. If the information is not supplied, LBE will be going before the Court again.

Assuming that it will be supplied as directed by the Court, the next stage is for LBE to issue approval for works to comply with the notice. A failure to comply with this approval by not carrying out the works would then result in further legal proceedings, provided that LBE are able to prove that nuisance is still occurring.

LBE want to speak with all nearby residents and request that they keep records of all dust nuisance observed on dust assessment sheets and to notify the response service on 0208 825 8111. The forms could be used as evidence in any future case.

The Environment Agency has received an application for the waste management licence to be modified. LBE have been notified and supplied detailed amendments to the draft conditions, which if applied will ensure more enforceable and stronger conditions for the Environment Agency.

#### Gypsy Corner Controlled Parking Zone

The CPZ was scheduled to become operational on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2006, but delays in installing the signs in participating streets put the start date back to 8<sup>th</sup> May. Enforcement of the parking restrictions commenced on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Residents within the zone will have received notification from LBE, and an invitation to apply for residents and visitors parking permits. The scheme will be reviewed after six months, when residents both within and outside the zone will be able to pass comment

#### Useful contact details for Ealing council and Police

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

<b>Main switchboard:</b>	<b>020 8825 5000</b>	<b>Graffiti removal:</b>	<b>020 8825 6000</b>
<b>email:</b>	<a href="mailto:customers@ealing.gov.uk">customers@ealing.gov.uk</a>	<b>Noise &amp; pollution control:</b>	<b>020 8825 6633</b>
<b>in writing:</b>	London Borough of Ealing Perceval Hse, 14/16 Uxbridge Rd Ealing W5 2HL	<b>out of office hours:</b>	<b>020 8825 5000</b>
		<b>email: <a href="mailto:pollutioncontrol@ealing.gov.uk">pollutioncontrol@ealing.gov.uk</a></b>	
<b>Abandoned vehicles:</b>	<b>020 8825 6010</b>	<b>Recycling &amp; Refuse:</b>	<b>020 8825 6000</b>
<b>Environmental Health:</b>	<b>020 8825 9654</b>	<b>Road and pavement defects:</b>	<b>020 8825 6222</b>
	<b>email: <a href="mailto:mcneicei@ealing.gov.uk">mcneicei@ealing.gov.uk</a></b>	<b>Street cleansing &amp; maintenance:</b>	<b>020 8825 6444</b>
<b>Gullies flooding/blocked:</b>	<b>020 8825 6000</b>	<b>Street lighting:</b>	<b>020 8825 6555</b>
<b>Acton Police Station</b>	<b>020 8246 9763</b>	<b>East Acton Police Ward team</b>	<b>020 8721 2708</b>

## Protecting the interests of West Acton residents.

### Rats / Fly-Tipping / Rubbish

#### 1) Rat Problem

WARA has now completed the rat-infestation survey. About 170 questionnaires were distributed in the WARA area. Most of the residents who replied completed a questionnaire, but some preferred to give an oral response and we received 2 letters without addresses. The total number of residents reporting having seen rats in their gardens / WARA area is 41. The total number of residents not having seen rats is 4. And 4 residents were not aware of any rats. The survey clearly shows that rat infestation is still a big problem in the WARA area and needs to be tackled.

A number of suggestions / questions were submitted by WARA members.

Sewer treatments: What level of sewer baiting is currently carried out in the WARA area?

Accumulation of rubbish encourages rats: The rat problem which is connected with dumped rubbish/fly-tipping was mentioned very often by residents.

Individual residents putting out rat poison does not seem to work and wrong use of poison by residents puts wildlife at risk and is detrimental to the environment. Ealing Council's pest control team only put out rat poison following payment, and some residents say that council measures in a small area only works for a short period of time. Because of the health risk involved, can a wide area, incl. sewers/drains, be tackled by Ealing Council free of charge?

One resident asked specifically for stringent regulations to be enforced regarding careless/ignorant/unhygienic householders & businesses so that rats cannot feed on rubbish left lying around or in poorly secured rubbish bags.

WARA was informed that there was a major rat infestation in the area along the Parade in Horn Lane (Fresh & Delicious Indian Takeaway/Tony's Fish and Chips/Kam's Kitchen Chinese Takeaway etc) several months ago which apparently was contained by the council. Are regular checks carried out in such a vulnerable area?

#### 2) Rubbish / Fly-tipping Problem

Thanks to all residents of Park View and Court Way who help keeping the shared private alleyways clean after having removed heaps of fly-tipping waste twice this year! Unfortunately, fly-tippers often dump rubbish on alleyways at night and it is then up to residents to clear other people's rubbish. The best approach for deterring potential fly-tippers is to keep the alleyways clean with the help of neighbours.

You might like to know that the Council now treats fly-tipping as a serious offence and will prosecute anyone caught fly-tipping waste. The council is responsible for clearing fly-tipped waste on the public highway; council maintained parkland and green space, and public (paved and lit) alleyways.

New council powers to crack down on environmental crimes, including graffiti and fly-posting, came into force on 6th April 2006. Measures under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005 enable local authorities in England and Wales to issue £80 on-the-spot fines.

If you need to report fly-tipped waste contact customer services on (020) 8825 6000. You will need to provide the following information:

- the exact location
- the description of items
- the approximate size of waste

Fly-tipping on private land (e.g. on the front/rear garden or land attached to a property) is the responsibility of the owner/occupier and

must be removed by them. The council will only take formal action against the owner/occupier if the fly-tipped site does not comply with environmental standards or is deemed a health hazard. This would be determined by a site visit. Owners may be served with a formal notice requiring them to remove refuse within 21 days. If they do not comply, the council will remove the refuse and the owner will be charged.

Fly-tipped waste is often not cleared on shared private alleyways, and sometimes even blocks the alleyways and attracts rats. As fly-tipping is indeed a big problem in the WARA area (between the A40 and North Acton Playing Fields) we would like Ealing Council to tackle it.

An Allan Way resident requested that his suggestion to be forwarded. During his work, not far from the A40, he came across 3 Ealing Council Officers who together with about 20 to 30 young people cleaned private alleyways. He was told that those people, because of ASBOs, had to do community work and called it a 'clean-up day'. His question: "If they can do it there, can they also do it in private alleyways of Allan Way, Court Way, Park View etc. please?" WARA is aware that some residents might not wish to show youngsters who have already committed an offence how relatively easy it is to gain access to the back of their properties. However, Cllr Kate Crawford recently explained that the community pay-back scheme has been successfully implemented in other areas, and she is not aware of any youngster with an ASBO for offences like graffiti having gone back to the area where alleyways had been cleared and committed another offence. Youngsters are normally kept very busy with removing rubbish and are observed by officers. Cllr Kate Crawford is currently trying to get permission for the community pay-back scheme to be implemented in the WARA area. Please let WARA know if you are for or opposed to the implementation of the community pay-back scheme where you live. If you are opposed to the scheme, please try to keep the alleyway behind your back garden clean with the help of neighbours. Together, we will be able to fight the problems we have with fly-tipping and rats. Thank you for your help!

### Gypsy Corner Bus Depot Public Inquiry

The Public Inquiry, initiated when TfL / London Buses appealed against the LBE decision to refuse planning permission for the Bus Depot, was held from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April at Acton Town Hall. The Inquiry procedure was similar to court procedure, but although it was a formal process, the attitude of the Inspector helped to proceed in an informal atmosphere. WARA can assure you that this was a thorough and fair procedure and that all parties involved, including WARA representatives, residents, our councillors and our MP were allowed to speak for as long as they wished.

Residents giving evidence during the inquiry proved to be a good mixture of local people who vehemently and/or passionately expressed their opposition to the Bus Depot and dealt with various issues. Unfortunately, none of the residents living very close to the site spoke at the inquiry. Mike Krefta covered all of the relevant issues in arguing WARA's case in a professional and brilliant manner, as he did before the LBE Planning Committee in November 2004. Alan Cartwright, who has many years of experience dealing with noise matters for LUL / Metronet, challenged Faber Maunsell's forecasts in their Noise Impact Study. Most residents were not cross-examined by TfL's QC, Russell Harris, but Mike and Alan were. It was quite amusing to hear the QC trying to rebut Alan's comments during his closing speech. Hopefully, Alan managed to put some doubt in the Inspector's mind. Some residents chose to express their opinions in a more matter-of-fact way; others let their emotions play a part which was all very helpful in getting our strong opposition across. Like always, our ward councillors and our MP robustly supported our case by arguing in a professional manner.

Mrs Harriet Townsend, the barrister acting for LBE, was very complimentary of the residents' contributions, and she included the following at the end of her closing argument:

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"I have yet to mention the contribution of WARA representatives and its members, and all those who have written from the local area in opposition to the appeal. Passion of the sort displayed by those who have attended the inquiry is impressive, and highly relevant, since this is not blind passion. Much of the evidence presented on their behalf is based on legitimate planning concerns."

Subsequent to the procedure carried out at Acton Town Hall, the Inspector made a site visit on 4<sup>th</sup> May. He was accompanied by WARA representatives and other residents. The purpose of the site visit was for the Inspector to visualize the points that had previously been raised. To this end he went into a number of properties that surrounds the Gypsy Corner site, so that he could get a full appreciation of the outlook for residents.

It is expected that a decision will be announced within about five weeks of the site visit.

### May 2006 Council Elections

In the recent Council elections Conservatives took control of Ealing for the first time in 12 years. Most of the standing Labour Councillors who have worked with WARA in recent years were not re-elected. The only exception was Kate Crawford (East Acton ward). WARA wishes to express its thanks to Julian Bell, John Delaney, Laurence Evans, Philip Portwood and Paul Woodgate for the support they have given us. Laurence Evans and Philip Portwood have already offered to provide WARA with advice, in an unofficial capacity, if the need arises.

WARA congratulates Jim Randall and John Ross (East Acton ward), and Wolodymyr (Vlod) Barczuk, Seema Kumar and Marie-Christine Randall (Acton Central ward) on being elected. We look forward to building a good working relationship with our new Councillors, and will invite them to a WARA public meeting in the near future.

### Alliance Road Width Restriction

This issue has dragged on for many years, but an end is at last in sight. Traffic Orders in connection with the width restriction recently appeared in the Ealing Gazette. Obviously no further objections were received, as the installation of the width restriction commenced on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2006. The first stage of the scheme was the installation of

warning signs for motorists using the road. The installation should be completed on time on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

Hopefully, the introduction of the width restriction should result in a dramatic reduction in HGVs passing through the area. Residents who notice heavy vehicles still passing through the area are asked to note the details (where, date & time) and pass them on to WARA. We would also like to be informed of instances of vehicles that do not comply with the 20mph speed limit in our area.

### Public Inquiry: TfL Sites at the Junction of Western Avenue (A40) and Allan Way

An outline application seeking approval of design, siting and access for proposed housing was refused by LBE Planning Committee in 2005. The reasons for refusal were non-compliance of the A40 Green Corridor Policy, and the high level of noise and air pollution in the vicinity of the A40. TfL have appealed against this decision, and a Public Inquiry will be held on 6<sup>th</sup>/7<sup>th</sup> June 2006.

Plans for a housing development are unlikely to arouse the level of opposition that the Bus Depot has, but the Council will have WARA's support in defending the decision to refuse planning permission. Residents in Court Way are believed to be responding to this issue. Even if housing is permitted on sites that previously had homes on them, the scale of the proposed development is considered to be totally unacceptable. WARA must be consistent in upholding the A40 Green Corridor Policy, which attempts to provide a better environment for this stretch of the A40.

### Neighbourhood Policing

From 1<sup>st</sup> April 2006, every ward in LBE got a dedicated Safer Neighbourhood Team.

#### Contacts:

East Acton ward: Unit 11 Europa Studios, Victoria Road, NW10. Tel: 020 8721 2708

Acton Central ward: Provident House, 23-31 King Street, W3 9LA. Tel: 020 8721 2921

For crime prevention information log on to [www.met.police.uk](http://www.met.police.uk) or call the crime prevention office 020 8246 9569.