

Protecting the interests of West Acton residents.

NEWSLETTER: 2006, Issue 6 (December 2006)

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

Dear WARA residents,

We hope to welcome you at our upcoming Public Meeting at which we will address two main subjects:

1) Rat infestation / fly-tipping and the incidents of muggings, 2) Burglaries and bogus callers.

Councillors, Council Officers and representatives of the Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams have been invited to the meeting.

Public Meeting

When: 13th December 2006

Where: AGV
Acton Garden Village, Alwyn Gardens

Time: From 7:30pm - 9pm

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support in 2006 and wish you all a Merry Christmas and all the very best in 2007.

Best wishes
WARA committee

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

Wednesday 14th March 2007
Wednesday 13th June 2007

Contact Details:
Treasurer: Alan Cartwright; 63 Park View, W3 0PU
Secretary: M. Wachnicka; 47 Cecil Road, W3 ODB
Street Co-ordinators: Refer to October 2006 newsletter

Item 1: Alliance Road Width Restriction

The Alliance Road width restriction remains totally ineffective since the original installation was vandalised on 21st June 2006. Highway Maintenance has identified a more robust gate bollard, which has been used successfully in the London Borough of Hillingdon to combat a similar problem.

The required funding for the more robust type of width restriction will have to come out of the Section 106 monies that have come from the Gypsy Corner development, i.e. the development bounded by Western Avenue, Victoria Road and Wales Farm Road. Spend from the S106 fund requires approval from Council Cabinet. Council Officers have to submit a report, which was not ready for the November Cabinet meeting. It is currently not known when this matter will go to Cabinet. Cllr. Barchuk has asked the Officers for an explanation as to why a scheme that has full support from residents, has been re-designed in detail and has already been severely delayed cannot be brought for approval without further delay. A response from Council Officers is still awaited.

The Residents Association has written to Cllr. Barchuk seeking confirmation that the additional funding required is in place. Also we have requested that we are provided with a firm date for when the modifications will actually be carried out. The latest reply from Cllr. Barchuk (22nd November 2006) is that the processes of the Council are such that items for Cabinet need to go on a 'forward programme', and until recently there has been no need to include Alliance Road on the agenda. Officers are reluctant to add items to the Cabinet agenda, no matter how uncontroversial, for fear of having their knuckles wrapped for not following the proper process. Cllr. Yerolemou (Hanger Hill ward, Chief Whip) is trying to have the approval of funding included as an urgent item.

This issue was first raised in a letter to Cllr. Julian Bell in January 2003. At a site meeting held on 10th March 2003, the then Head of Transport for Ealing Council indicated to us that it should take approximately 2 years to resolve the issue. As things stand at present, this issue is all set to drag on well into its fourth year.

Burglaries / Muggings

WARA has been notified of a spate of criminal activities in the area.

- Some youngish men robbed a grandmother after gaining access when they told her that there was a water leak in the area and they needed to check the boiler. She let them in and was robbed of lots of personal items.
- A youth of about 14 yrs old threatened a 10-year old boy with a knife in Eastfields Rd and his mobile phone was taken.
- On a Saturday in early November at 2:30 pm, two white 15/16 year old boys on bikes robbed a young women of her handbag on Park Royal Road near the cemetery and headed off towards Gypsy Corner and then over towards Horn Lane. The 2 teenagers on bikes kept pulling at her handbag until the strap broke. Police arrived within 15-20 minutes and are investigating.
- A house in Park View has been broken into.

Perhaps it is now time for a far more visible to get a greater police presence in the WARA area, than there is at present.

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Item 2: Speeding in Highfield Road

Two residents in Highfield Road have raised the issue of vehicles speeding in excess of the 20 mph speed limit, and have suggested the installation of speed humps in this road. Before taking this matter to the Council, the Residents Association would like to hear the views of other residents in Highfield Road. If other residents feel that speed humps would be beneficial in their road, please bring it to the attention of WARA.

We would like to see far more 20 mph roundels on the road surface throughout the Saxon Drive 20 mph zone.

Item 3: North Acton Playing Fields / Pavilion

In connection with the pavilion refurbishment, following letters sent to the Council on 30th May 2006 and 18th October 2006 concerning various conditions of the planning consent that have not been implemented, a written reply has finally been received. This was in a letter from Alex Jackson (Local Business & Residential Team Leader), who explained that the delay in replying was because the original case officer no longer worked at Ealing Council.

The 'details' that are pending a decision are refuse storage, underground/overground storage, security lighting and access for people with disabilities.

The pavilion has still been subjected to graffiti, but this has generally been removed by the Council within 24 hours of it being reported by the Resident's Association. To report graffiti, residents should ring Customer Services on 020 8825 6000 or email customers@ealing.gov.uk.

The Council appreciates that the footpaths within North Acton Playing Fields are in a very poor state. Overlaying and improving the footpaths have been programmed and will be carried out in January / February 2007. Access to and around the playground will be a priority.

Item 4: Proposed Bus Bays in the roads around North Acton Playing Fields

At the last WARA public meeting on the 20th September members attending expressed strong views both for and against the scheme. Residents in Westfields Road were generally in favour, whilst those in Eastfields Road were opposed. Whilst works have been undertaken to the pavement, Officers have informed Cllr.

Barchuk that no bus bay markings will be put in Eastfields Road until residents are consulted. It has been suggested that the consultation is done by adding relevant questions to the Gypsy Corner CPZ review document.

Item 5: Gypsy Corner Controlled Parking Zone

The results of the survey carried out by WARA in those streets that voted not to be included in the CPZ in the original consultation were submitted to the Acton Area Committee on the 14th September, and Ward Councillors expressed support for the review to be brought forward. Whilst the survey has received some responses from the Council, it has not had the desired effect in bringing the official Council review forward.

Letters of 12th September and 10th October, sent to the Chair of the Acton Area Committee, finally received a reply from Abdur Rashid (Principal Traffic Engineer, Parking). In his letter dated 24th October 2006, he acknowledged receipt of the survey results, and expressed his appreciation of the efforts that WARA have made to undertake the survey. He explained that the relevant Ward Members were being consulted about the results, and that the majority of them had yet to respond.

Further discussion with Peter Ashley, Council Officer, has only determined that the review will either be before or after Christmas. Knowing the generally slow progress made by the Council on most issues, our view is that the review will not be carried out until early 2007, which would mean that any implementation of extending the CPZ would not be until after the start of the new financial year.

When residents receive the Council review documents, consideration should be given to the fact that when a CPZ is introduced it has a knock on effect for the residents in streets where the scheme is not operational. Since the introduction of the CPZ there has been a lot more non-resident parking in streets such as Court Way and Eastfields Road where residents originally voted to stay out of the scheme. If, as is expected, these roads now vote to be included in the CPZ, it will force additional parking on those roads that continue to opt out.

Item 6: Notification of Planning Application – Gypsy Corner Site, bounded by Western Avenue (A40), Victoria Road and Wales Farm Road, W3

Ealing Council has received an Application from Fairview Homes Ltd for two further buildings on the site opposite North Acton station. The proposal is for a mixed-use redevelopment that will provide two buildings; one of 11 storeys and the other of 12 storeys. The blocks will include retail use on the ground floors, commercial use on the first and second floors, and residential on the higher floors. The development will provide 122 residential units, cycle parking, landscaping and public open space. There is no reference to any further car parking space being made available. It is understood that the full number of car parking spaces was agreed at the time of earlier planning applications for development on this site.

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Further details can be obtained from Customer Services Reception at Perceval House 14-16 Uxbridge Road, W5 from 8.30am to 4.45pm Monday to Friday, or you can telephone the Case Officer, Alex Jackson, after 2pm Monday to Friday on 020 8825 8803. Quote serial no. P/2006/4583.

If there is another substantial increase in housing in the area without additional parking spaces being made available, WARA have concerns on the impact the development will have on streets to the south of the A40 that already suffer heavy parking from non-residents. We have already flagged up our concerns to the Acton Area Committee in a letter of 12th September 2006 regarding the initial development of residential blocks, having only 36 dedicated parking spaces. In a further letter of 22nd November 2006 to Cllr. Barchuk we have reported our concerns regarding the proposal for two further blocks on the Gypsy Corner site, especially if residents in both phases of the developments are issued with Gypsy Corner CPZ parking permits. We are awaiting clarification on the matter.

Item 7: Minor Traffic Schemes

In the report on Minor Traffic Schemes proposals presented at the September 2006 Acton Area Committee, there were three schemes within the WARA area; in Alwyn Gardens, Eastfields Road and Court Way. The implementation of all schemes presented in the report would be before the end of the 2006/07 financial year. Two of the schemes have raised local concern; one because it is progressing, the other because it is not.

The scheme in Court Way is related to vehicles parking across alleyways obstructing access, and 'no waiting at any time' restrictions have been proposed. Court Way did not vote to be included in the Gypsy Corner CPZ at its inception in May 2006, and is currently subjected to heavy non-resident parking. Residents in Court Way have received consultation documents, which outline the proposal for double yellow lines to be placed across the entrances of alleyways. Some residents are concerned that this scheme would further restrict their ability to park their cars close to their homes, and have suggested to the Council that the review of the CPZ should be carried out before any other parking restriction scheme is considered.

WARA will recommend to Councillors and Officers that the three schemes, CPZ review, bus bays and further parking restrictions are considered as a whole.

The scheme for Alwyn Gardens is at the junction with Noel Road. The proposal here is for parking restrictions within 10 metres of the junction to allow refuse, service and emergency vehicles access. The current often restricted access, due to parked cars at the junction, is a particular concern for the Acton Garden Village Association, with delivery vehicles having difficulty getting through to the premises there. There has been a lack of progress on this scheme, and Councillors and Officers have been approached to obtain details of when this scheme will be implemented.

Item 8: Rats / Fly Tipping

There is still a problem with rat infestation in the area, largely as a result of persistent fly tipping. Members in Western Avenue, Wilfrid Gardens and Cecil Road have recently reported the sighting of either dead rats or damage caused by rats.

The rat problem is linked to the ongoing battle for the last number of years in trying to eradicate the problems of persistent fly tipping and dumping of rubbish, particularly in streets close to the A40, e.g. Allan Way and Park View.

Gaining prosecutions can be difficult as many fly tippers are wise to the fact that evidence is needed to link them to the fly tip, but a close system of monitoring can often deter them and of course help to stop any pest infestations.

If any fly tipping is observed, please report it. We are told that it is a great help if these incidents are reported to the Council immediately. You can contact Richard Bonshor, Contract Monitoring Officer on fly tipping issues in writing at London Borough of Ealing, 1st floor Perceval House, 14-16 Uxbridge Rd, London, W5 2HL. Alternatively you can phone 020 8825 5710 or 07959 657901.

Item 9: Horn Lane Pedestrian Crossing (Nr.Noel Rd junction)

The installation of a Pelican crossing remains on hold, pending a date being fixed by TfL. At the Acton Area Committee (AAC) meeting on 14th September Cllr. Barchuk suggested that the possibility of installing a Zebra crossing should be considered, as this type of crossing would not require involvement from Transport for London's Traffic Signals Section. However, a further safety audit would be required to determine whether a Zebra crossing is acceptable.

In an email dated 23rd November 2006, Cllr. Jim Randall has informed us that the Highways Management Division consider a Zebra crossing to be unsuitable for this type of road. A formal safety audit can be carried out, if necessary. It was also reported that the TfL Signals Unit should be able to programme the installation work for a Pelican crossing in the next financial year.

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Item 10: Public Inquiry TFL plans for the sites at the A40 end of Allan Way

The Inspectors report on the Public Inquiry into TfL's plans for a housing development on the sites at the end of Allan Way was issued on 8th November 2006. TfL had appealed Ealing Council's decision to refuse planning permission. The decision was that **the appeal is dismissed**.

The Inspector concluded that "whilst I have concluded that many objections to the development could be satisfactorily resolved, the determining factor is the contribution that the development would make to the aims and objectives of the green corridor provisions in the

UDP. It would fail in the key requirements to transform this section of the A40 into a green corridor through substantial tree planting and landscaping".

The Inspector went on to say that "I do not consider that long continuation of the decay and dereliction of the sites would be likely, as it seems to me that an acceptable development for residential use could be produced which would also achieve similar environmental benefits for existing residents".

Item 11: Twyford Avenue – Traffic Calming Scheme

Ealing Council is currently implementing traffic calming measures in the form of a series of speed cushions along Twyford Avenue. There will be a 20 mph speed limit and vehicle activated speed warning signs.

Useful Contact Details for Ealing Council & Police

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

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

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