

Protecting the interests of West Acton residents.

NEWSLETTER: 2006, Issue 3 (June 2006)

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

Dear WARA residents,

WARA AGM

When: 20th July 2006

Where: West Acton School,
Noel Road,

Time: From 7:30pm

At the July 2005 AGM Sheela Selvajothy (Chair) and Alan Cartwright (Treasurer) were re-elected for two years. This year the posts of vice-chair and secretary are up for re-election, again for a period of two years. Committee members will be re-affirmed. If any member wishes to seek election to the posts of vice-chair or secretary, please notify WARA secretary, Margrit Wachnicka, prior to 10th July 2006.

All residents are welcome at the meeting, but non-members attending will be asked to join the Residents Association, and to pay the requisite annual membership fee of £5 (OAP £2.50). At present the only means of funding WARA's activities is through membership subscriptions.

We hope to see many of you there. In addition to the AGM, Ward Councillors have been invited to the meeting, and it is anticipated that most of the Acton Central and East Acton Councillors will attend. The Acton Central and East Acton Safer Neighbourhoods Police teams have also been invited and representatives of each team will attend the meeting. The AGM should only be a short part of the meeting, allowing plenty of time to discuss current and new issues

With this newsletter you receive an update of all on-going WARA activities. If you have any other issues you would like to bring to our attention, please inform us by either email westactonresidents@hotmail.com, or drop a note to the secretary at 47 Cecil Road.

Issues covered include:

Filthy Acton including fly-tipping
Black Bags - Refuse Collection
Rat Infestation
Gowing & Pursey / Waste
Transfer Station
Horn Lane Pedestrian Crossing
Bus Depot Public Inquiry
Public Inquiry: TfL Sites Junction
(A40) and Allan Way
Controlled Parking Zone
Alliance Road Width Restriction
Enforcement of 20mph Zone
Cycling on Pavements

North Acton Playing Fields /
Pavilion
Street Lighting
Poor Condition of the Roads
and Pavements
Saxon Drive
Ward Councillors
Neighbourhood Policing

Issues of wider interest

Ealing Council Local
Development Framework
Ealing NHS Primary
Care Trust

Best wishes
WARA committee

Filthy Acton

Over the past few months, residents have reported the poor quality of street cleaning in the WARA area, notably in Saxon Drive and Eastfields Road, although we are aware that many other roads are affected. From recent developments it is clear that the WARA area is not the only part of LB of Ealing to generate complaints of dirty streets.

Although not on the agenda for the June 2006 Acton Area Committee meeting, and so was not due to be discussed, the question of "filthy Acton" was allowed to be raised due to the strength of complaint. This has been followed by an item on the ActonW3 website under the forum section. An initial entry has generated over 130 responses. Cllr. Will Brooks (Cabinet member for Environment & Transport) has picked up the issue and sees the issue as two fold.

1. To make sure that the job of cleaning and clearing the litter and filth is done properly and effectively by the council (i.e. the contractors employed).
2. There must be crack down on those few individuals who have no respect for our Borough and cause these issues, like those who fly-tip for example.

It is claimed that the current performance of contractors, ECT, will be watched and monitored very closely, to ensure that residents are getting the service they should as laid down in the contract. There are service standards that must be attained and penalties can be and will be imposed if they are not.

Acton Central ward Councillor, Vlod Barchuck (deputy portfolio holder for Environment & Transport), is also looking into the matter.

Some of the rubbish on Acton streets has been deposited by fly-tippers. Fly-tipping comes under the Envirocrime Prevention Area Manager for Acton, Roni White, who can be contacted by email, whiter@ealing.gov.uk. The Envirocrime Officer for Acton central is Kee Atty, keeatty@ealing.gov.uk. Mr Ashley Barker is East Acton Ward's Envirocrime Prevention Officer (Tel.: 020-8825-7913).

FLY-TIPPING is indeed a big problem in some areas, especially in the East Acton ward. It appears that it is easy for vehicles coming from the A40 to cut through our residential area and to dump rubbish on our private alleys. Fortunately, there are now more and more residents who care about the environment and clear other people's rubbish regularly. THANKS to all those residents who cleared the long private alley behind Eastfields Road some weeks ago. Unfortunately, this very alley has just been targeted again: This time 10 tyres and 8 bags of rubble. At about the same time, waste was dumped on the alley between Park View and Court Way. A kind Acton Police Officer in plain clothes helped looking through all the cardboard boxes, brochures, tiles, rubble etc. to try to find clues leading to the person who dumped it. PLEASE do not give up, but try to get your neighbours involved in keeping the alleys clean. Any WARA member who is interested in helping with a Neighbourhood Watch scheme should come forward.

Some of you will be happy to learn that the East Acton Safer Neighbourhood Team will also patrol the alley behind Eastfields Road as this constitutes one of the borders of the East Acton ward. Three recent burglaries there are worrying residents. Let's hope that patrolling officers will deter some fly-tippers and burglars. However, one of the officers said that residents might wish to consider gating to prevent fly-tipping and for security reasons for which some funding is available. Please let us have your views and ask WARA & Acton Central + East Acton Safer Neighbourhood Teams & Councillors any questions you have at the next AGM.

Please don't be fooled by believing that you can prevent fly-tipping by cementing parts of the private alleys. Some residents have tried it. It does not prevent fly-tipping. Besides, it does not only look ugly but it is also detrimental to the environment/wildlife. Please remember that we live in an area with an extremely high degree of air pollution. We need more green space to soak up pollution and create more space for wildlife. However, in case all residents of a private alley are for cementing their shared space, they should think about drainage. WARA is currently trying to get more information about the legal situation of public and private alleys. It appears that some owners/occupiers of houses further away from alleys also have a right of way (please see title deeds) which for example can mean that vehicles should not block private alleys if any of those residents object. Please always talk to your neighbours to come to an agreement regarding the use of this shared private land. WARA has also asked the Safer Neighbourhood Team about the possibility of patrolling private alleys now and

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then. The first response of Police Sergeant Barry West was that the police normally need to be invited to patrol private land. Please let us have your views.

Fly-tipped waste can also be reported to customer services on (020) 8825 6000. The following information should be provided:

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

Cllr. Kate Crawford, on WARA's behalf, is looking into using the Community Payback Project to clean up certain areas such as alleyways. Low-level offenders, who have committed crimes such as minor traffic offences, help to clean up rubbish from neighbourhoods.

Black Bags - Refuse Collection

Residents are warned that it is actually an offence to leave refuse bags on pavements, and can be fined for doing so. Residents are encouraged to put out refuse no earlier than the evening before the collection is due. Residents should leave their black bags on their own property, e.g on the front garden path. The bags should not be left on private alleys which are not going to be cleaned afterwards.

Rat Infestation

Cllr. Kate Crawford has passed WARA's questions on the rat infestation to Council Officers. A response is awaited.

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. The result was a conviction in the form of 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.

All nearby residents are reminded to keep records of all dust nuisance observed on dust assessment sheets and to notify the response service on 020 8825 8111. The forms (obtained by calling the aforementioned telephone number) could be used as evidence in any future case.

Horn Lane Pedestrian Crossing

The crossing near Noel Road junction was approved and granted funding in the Acton Area Committee budget for 2003/04. It received some additional required funding in 2005/06. Although the money (£49,000) is still available and the crossing has been designed in detail, there is still no firm date for its installation. The delay in implementing the scheme has been due to delays in agreeing a date for the signal installation work with TfL's Traffic Signal Section (TSS).

At the recent Acton Area Committee meeting on 7th June, a Council Officer for Transport Projects confirmed that the Council was actively pursuing the matter with TSS, and not just this scheme but other crossings as well. It appears that TSS can only install a limited number of schemes each year, and priority is given to those related to public transport. The probability of the Horn Lane crossing being installed during 2006/07 is slim.

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 25th to 28th April at Acton Town Hall. The Inspector's decision was expected about the middle of June. As yet the decision has not been announced.

Public Inquiry: TfL Sites at 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 commenced on 6th June 2006. Alan Cartwright spoke on behalf of WARA, in order to support the Green Corridor policy and to comment on the evidence produced on noise.

The Inquiry was scheduled to last until 9th June, but it transpired that the two sides could not agree on the methodology for predicting noise levels within the dwellings, and as a result it was adjourned until September.

Gypsy Corner Controlled Parking Zone

The CPZ became operational on 8th May 2006. In both Eastfields Road and Court Way residents have reported an increase in parked cars during the day. It is believed that some cars are being parked in the alleys at the back of properties to avoid being penalised. The scheme will be reviewed after six months (end of October), when residents both within and outside the zone will be able to pass comment. WARA will canvass residents prior to this review date, probably in August, to establish whether the general opinion is to extend the CPZ to other streets.

Alliance Road Width Restriction

This issue has dragged on for many years, but finally work on the installation of the width restriction commenced on 25th April 2006. Alas, it appears that the lockable removable bollard (located in the roadway) that defined the actual restricted width had not been ordered. Although a temporary bollard was installed this was removed by some drivers, and the other post has been damaged, so that heavy vehicles have continued to use this route beyond the completion date of 16th May. The Engineering Department of Ealing Council has been made aware of the shortcomings of the scheme, and a lockable bollard was due to be installed in the week commencing 12th June, but it wasn't. The damaged fixed bollard was to be repaired in the week commencing 19th June when work to lay down an anti-skid surface would also take place.

We are able to confirm that the works were completed on the 19th June, and so at last the width restriction was operational. However, by late afternoon of 21st June the width restriction was again rendered ineffective; the lockable bollard having been removed from its socket after the lock had been forced. Overnight the lockable bollard was removed from the site by someone.

This matter has again been raised with the Engineering Department by both WARA and Cllr. Vlod Barchuk.

Enforcement of the 20mph Zone

The WARA area is within a 20mph zone. However, many residents have reported instances of traffic passing through at higher speeds. Trying to enforce the speed limit is currently almost impossible. The police requirement for installing speed cameras as traffic calming feature is as follows: This requires 4 killed or serious accidents in the last three years per kilometre of road.

In The Times (15th June 2006) it was reported that networks of speed cameras are to be installed in 20mph residential areas as an alternative to road humps. All entry and exit points to neighbourhoods will be covered by the cameras, which will calculate automatically the average speed of a vehicle while travelling through the area. Trials of the new cameras in Camden, North London, and Belfast have proved that the technology is reliable. They are due to be approved by the Home Office in November. WARA will be contacting Ealing Council to find out when the cameras are to be installed in our area.

North Acton Playing Fields / Pavilion

The pavilion refurbishment is nearing completion. The disabled access ramp, steps and handrails are still to be built on the south facing front. There are still outstanding planning conditions in connection with hard and soft landscaping. The hedge around part of the former bowling green has been trimmed and the grass cut.

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Under the Acton Area Committee Environmental Improvement Projects for 2006/07 there is a proposal to improve the entrance area between the tennis courts and the tennis pavilion through the supply and installation of 3 picnic tables, 3 seats and 2 litter bins. This is one of many proposals for Acton, and needs approval from the Area Committee for funding.

Cycling on Pavements

It has been brought to the attention of WARA that a minority of cyclists, not just in the local area, seem to think that it is quite in order for them to cycle on pavements, jump red traffic signals and cycle across pedestrian crossings when pedestrians are crossing the road. In fact, these actions are against the law. The full rules for cyclists are included in sections 45-66 of the Highway Code.

It is appreciated that cycling is an environmentally-friendly and healthy way to get about. Sometimes cyclists are forced to use the pavement, due to road humps, cars parked in cycle lanes, or just to avoid busy roads with speeding cars and lorries. WARA will be contacting the police to ascertain their view on enforcing the law on cyclists using the pavement, and also to the Council in order to encourage the installation of more dedicated cycle lanes where practical.

On some paths cyclists and pedestrians may share the same space. Cyclists must take care when passing pedestrians, especially children, elderly or disabled people, and allow them plenty of room. They must always be prepared to slow down or stop if necessary. Residents' views on cycling on the pavement are invited. Is reckless cycling considered by residents to be far more than just a local issue?

Street Lighting

As part of the Council's plan to upgrade all street lighting in the Borough, new lighting has been installed in Northfields Road and Kathleen Avenue. The next street in the area for new lighting is Noel Road, where work is currently ongoing.

Poor condition of the Roads and Pavements

The conditions of the roads and pavements in the area are becoming a great cause of concern. Many roads have pot-holes and much of the paving is uneven or cracked. One of the items under Ealing Council's draft Corporate Plan is a proposal for 2007-10 to double the number of roads resurfaced compared to 2006/07. A lot of the roads in the area need resurfacing sooner rather than later, and all roads and pavements in poor condition should be reported to the Council.

Saxon Drive

A left turn ban is in place at the Queens Drive end of Saxon Drive. However, residents have reported that some drivers continue on a regular basis to violate this ban. On a list of possible new local traffic schemes for 2006/07, the Acton Area Committee has a proposal to investigate a redesign of the junction, which may include kerb build outs. The scheme is one of a number that is seeking approval from the Area Committee.

Ward Councillors

WARA is notifying the ward Councillors of all outstanding issues. As five of the six Councillors that represent the area covered by WARA were elected only last May, representatives of the WARA committee will shortly be setting up a meeting with the Councillors to discuss ways of progressing these issues.

Acton Area Committee

The Area Committee meeting is open to the public. The Committee, consisting of Councillors from the four Acton

wards, can consider road schemes, and can monitor regeneration schemes and Council services. Other issues that affect our area will also be discussed. Planning Applications cannot be discussed, as these will be dealt with by the Council's Planning Committees. For an item to be listed on the agenda, write to or telephone the Committee Administrator at least ten working days before the meeting.

Ealing Council, Town Hall, New Broadway, London W5 2BY. Tel: 020 8825 8332.

Agenda and reports of the meeting can be obtained prior to each meeting by contacting the Committee Administrator or from the LB of Ealing website.

http://www.ealing.gov.uk/services/council/committees/agendas_minutes_reports/area_committee/acton_area_committee/index.html

The meetings are held at the Assembly Hall, Acton Town Hall. The dates of future meetings in 2006/07 are: 14th September 2006, 28th November 2006 and 13th February 2007.

Neighbourhood Policing

From 1st April 2006, every ward in LBE got a dedicated Safer Neighbourhood Team. We are pleased to announce that some officers of our Safer Neighbourhood Teams will introduce themselves at the AGM and will be happy to answer your questions. After a brief introduction of the role they perform they will be asking residents to inform them of where offences such as fly-tipping, muggings, criminal damage, reckless cycling, dangerous driving and any form of anti-social behaviour occur.

Contacts:

East Acton Ward: Unit 11 Europa Studios, Victoria Road, NW10 6NB.

The East Acton team is headed by Police Sergeant Barry West
Tel: 020 8965 3031 (office), 020 8721 2708 (mobile)
(Email: Barry.West2@met.police.uk)

Acton Central Ward: Provident House, 23-31 King Street, W3 9LA.

The Acton Central ward is headed by Police Sergeant Philip Norcutt
Tel: 020 8721 7190 (office) 020 8721 2921 (mobile)
(Email: Philip.Norcutt@met.police.uk)

For crime prevention information log on to www.met.police.uk or call the crime prevention office 020 8246 9569. In case of emergency dial 999

Issues of wider interest

Ealing Council Local Development Framework

In 2004, the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act introduced a responsibility for all local councils to prepare a Local Development Framework. The LDF is a 'folder' of planning documents to guide development in the borough. The most important document in the LDF folder is the 'Core Strategy'. The Council has asked for residents' views on the issues for spatial planning in Ealing, which is the first stage in the process of arriving at a new LDF Core Strategy and Sites Allocation document.

Views are requested under ten topics: Overall Vision for Ealing, Environmental Resources & Waste, Green Space & Natural Environment, Urban Design, Housing, Business, Shopping & Town Centres, Community Facilities, Transport, and Sites & Areas.

How to find out more?

View the web pages: www.ealing.gov.uk/planpool

Email: planpol@ealing.gov.uk

Phone: 020 8825 5428

Write: Planning Policy & Development Advice, Ealing Council, 14-16 Uxbridge Road, London W5 2HL

Ealing NHS Primary Care Trust

The Ealing NHS Primary Care Trust say they are working hard to provide the best possible healthcare, and welcome any comments or suggestions that may help develop and improve services. Comments and suggestions can be given by calling the Patient Advice & Liaison Service on 0800 783 5208, or in writing to Ealing PCT, 1 Armstrong Way, Southall, Middlesex, UB2 4SA

Further details can be found on the PCT website

<http://www.ealingpct.nhs.uk/content/thePCT/default.asp>



WEST ACTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.westactonresidents.co.uk
westactonresidents@hotmail.com

Protecting the interests of West Acton residents.

Useful contact details for Ealing council and Police

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

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