



Protecting the interests of West Acton residents.

NEWSLETTER: 2006, Issue 5 (October 2006)

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

Dear WARA residents,

Thanks to all members that attended the last public meeting on 20th September 2006. It was a great attendance and we are pleased that we could give you the opportunity to raise your issues.

STREET CO-ORDINATOR

Thank you to those members that have volunteered to take on the role of a street co-ordinator. So if anyone has a specific expertise that can be called upon, has a particular issue they would like to pursue or can only help to deliver newsletters, please contact either Margrit Wachnicka (47 Cecil Road) or Alan Cartwright (61 Park View). The role of street co-ordinator will be to act as a local point of contact for the reporting of any new concerns, which they can then pass on to the Committee. The current street co-ordinators are: Cllr. Vlod Barchuk, 4 Saxon Drive; Mary Cook, 21 Howard Close; Peter Headland, Tregenna, Highfield Road; Siobhan Martin, 328 Western Avenue; Pam Meager, 9 Westfields Road; Harold Raggobeer, 31 Eastfields Road; Muriel Stuckey, 15 Wilfrid Gardens.

WEBSITE

We are pleased to inform you that the new WARA website is up and running. It can be accessed at www.westactonresidents.org.uk/

UPCOMING PUBLIC MEETINGS

In order to give you all plenty of notice of upcoming meetings, we have set the dates for the forthcoming meetings as follows

Next Meeting: Wednesday 13th December

Thereafter:

Wednesday 14th March 2007

Wednesday 13th June 2007

Place: Acton Garden Village (AGV, Alwyn Gardens)

Time 7.30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Best wishes

WARA committee

Issue 1: Gowing & Pursey / Waste Transfer Station

On 22nd June 2006 a new waste management licence issued by the Environment Agency came into force on the activities carried out by Gowing & Pursey at the site in Horn Lane. This set a number of requirements that Gowing & Pursey must meet.

All road vehicles leaving the site have to be cleaned to prevent mud and debris being transferred to the road. In the last couple of months G&P have installed wheel washing equipment. G&P have to monitor dust levels arising from the operations of the site. This has to include "real-time" dust monitoring systems with trigger levels and improvement and review cycles. The trigger levels are set in agreement with the Environment Agency. G&P also have to monitor, control and minimise the emission of odours from the site. This monitoring has to be carried out at least twice a day at the site boundary downwind of the waste operations. All monitoring results are to be logged in a site diary, and submitted to the Environment Agency on a monthly basis. If the levels of dust or odour are such that they are likely to cause pollution of the environment or harm to human health or serious detriment to the amenity of the locality, immediate action will be taken by the Environment Agency to stop the waste handling operations.

To ensure these requirements are enforced, residents are urged to contact the Environment Agency and report times when dust or odour levels are causing a problem. If residents have any concerns about the operation of this site, please report it to the EA hotline on 0800 807060.

Issue 2: Yeomans Aggregates Stone Terminal

In early September, a letter from "a concerned neighbour" was brought to the attention of WARA. It concerned an application by Foster Yeomans to the Environment Agency for a change of licence, so that they can accept and process hazardous waste on their site next to Acton Main Line station.

Issues covered include:

Gowing & Pursey / Waste Transfer Station
Yeomans Aggregates Stone Terminal
Horn Lane Pedestrian Crossing (Nr. Noel Road junction)
Gypsy Corner Controlled Parking Zone
Public Inquiry TFL plans the sites at A40 Allan Way
North Acton Playing Fields / pavilion

Parking Restrictions
Proposed Bus Bays in the roads around North Acton Playing Fields
Alliance Road Width Restriction
Noel Road Massage Parlour
Burglaries / Crime Figures



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From approaches to both the Environment Agency and Ealing Council we have found out that at present the hazardous waste processing is still at an initial proposal stage and the Environment Agency has not received an application from the company to vary its licence. It is understood that the proposal will involve the construction of a facility to clean contaminated track ballast by spraying it with water at very high pressure. The facility would not handle other types of waste. Track ballast is the stone used beneath railway lines by London Underground and the national railways. In the course of time it becomes contaminated with oil and other dirt and this process would enable such material to be cleaned up and re-used.

As far as we are aware, such a facility would require planning consent. John Freeman, Senior Scientific Officer, Ealing Council, does not believe that it should give rise to concern as to possible pollution of the environment. If and when the company submits an application, the Council will receive a copy for comments. In that event WARA will be contacted and will be welcome to examine the application and discuss any concerns which residents might have, so that these could be passed on to the Environment Agency.

In the event of any further query, you can contact Dr J.J. Freeman, Senior Scientific Officer, Environmental Quality Team, Residential Services, Housing and Environmental Health, London Borough of Ealing, 14/16 Uxbridge Road, London W5 2HL

Tel: 020 8825 7226, Fax: 020 8825 7855
E-mail: freemanj@ealing.gov.uk

Issue 3: Horn Lane Pedestrian Crossing (Nr. Noel Road junction)

This scheme was agreed three years ago, and there is still no sign of it being implemented. Delays in implementing the scheme have been due to no date being agreed with Transport for London's Traffic Signals Section (TSS) for the signal installation work. TfL has now removed the

project from this financial year's programme due to resource pressures. At the Acton Area Committee 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 TSS. The Council are to instigate a safety audit to determine whether a zebra crossing is acceptable.

Issue 4: Gypsy Corner Controlled Parking Zone

A survey was carried out by WARA in those streets that voted not to be included in the CPZ in the original consultation. The survey was intended to determine whether opinions had changed, and if so to use the results to request that the review of the scheme be brought forward by the Council. A considerable majority to be included in the CPZ was received from Eastfields Road and Court Way, but the results from other streets showed only marginal differences. The results were submitted to the Acton Area Committee on the 14th September, and ward Councillors expressed support for the review to be brought forward. No response has since been received, so it looks as though the review will take place six months after the inception of the scheme, as originally intended by the Council.

Issue 5: Public Inquiry TFL plans for the sites at the A40 end of Allan Way

The Public Inquiry that was adjourned in June 2006 resumed at Ealing Town Hall on the 20th/21st September. As the report on the Bus Depot public inquiry had been released since June, this was now included in the evidence presented to the Inspector. In addition to the non-compliance with the Green Corridor policy, the other main point to be taken into account was whether the current noise levels at the site will allow a housing development to take place. The Inspector's report is expected in early November.

Issue 6: North Acton Playing Fields / pavilion

Under the Parks and Countryside Service spend proposals, it is the intention to resurface existing footpaths, replace fencing around the play area, plant trees and shrubs and install new seats and bins. Funding of these improvements of £25.97k has been received.

The disabled access for the pavilion and landscaping have still to be implemented; both were conditional for planning consent being granted.

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The graffiti on the pavilion, which had been evident for more than a month, was finally removed on the 18th October, following a request by the Resident's Association.

Issue 7: Parking Restrictions

The Council has proposed a number of minor parking schemes within the Borough. Three of these are within the WARA area. These will involve the installation of parking restrictions at either junctions or across alleyways. The junctions concerned are Alwyn Gardens / Noel Road, Eastfields Road / Allan Way and Eastfields Road / Court Way. The restrictions for vehicles parking across alleyways, thus obstructing access, are proposed for Court Way.

Issue 8: Proposed Bus Bays in the roads around North Acton Playing Fields

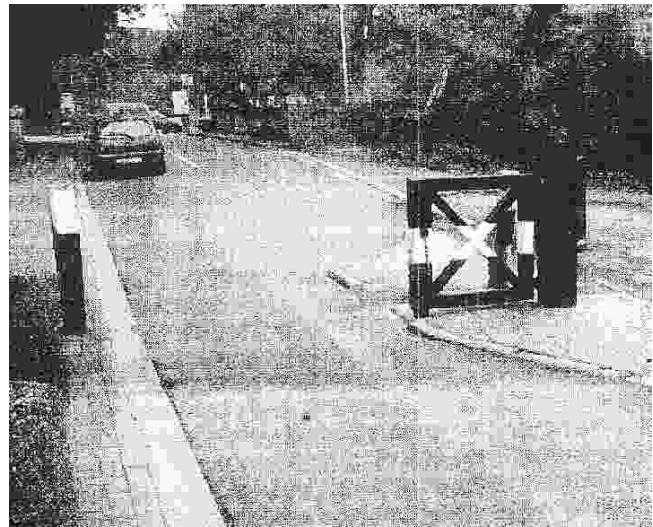
Just before the meeting on the 20th September work commenced on the raised kerbs at bus stops in Eastfields Road. At the meeting, many residents expressed concern over the impact that the bus bays would have in restricting parking space. Other members welcomed the bus bays, as it was believed that they would make boarding buses easier. Cllr. Barchuk noted the concerns expressed and the implementation has been halted. We have requested that all residents in Eastfields Road, Northfields Road and Westfields Road are consulted by Ealing Council on this issue.

Issue 9: Alliance Road Width Restriction

The Alliance Road width restriction remains ineffective since the original installation was vandalised on 21st June 2006. Highway maintenance has identified a more robust gate bollard (shown opposite), which has been used successfully in the London Borough of Hillingdon to combat a similar problem. The Council estimates that the cost of acquiring and installing this type of bollard is £6k. The Acton Area Committee

thought that this amount could be found from within the existing transport budget.

We have 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.



Issue 10: Noel Road Massage Parlour

The activities at the house in Noel Road have now been closed down and the girls that occupied the property have moved out.

Issue 11: Burglaries

Residents are warned that there was a spate of burglaries in September, particularly in the Noel Road / Howard Close / Saxon Drive area and others in Western Avenue and Cloister Road. Ensure that your houses are as secure as possible, and if you have an alarm ensure that it is activated even at night.

Do members feel that there should be additional facilities within the area? Would OAPs like somewhere to meet? Is there a need for any specific activities for children? If you have any views on what is required in the area, please inform Margrit or Alan. Any ideas can then be published in a future newsletter, with a view to determining whether there will be a sufficient support for any scheme to warrant a presentation to the Council.



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Wider issues

Envirocrime

From Monday 2nd October 2006 the council will remove the anti-social scrawl from buildings and structures without waiting for owners' permission. Before, the envirocrime team stuck to the laws directly meaning they had to get occupiers of homes and businesses to sign disclaimers before graffiti could be removed. If disclaimers were not signed, the team would face a wait of up to six weeks for all the legal processes to be completed before they could remove the graffiti without the owner's consent. The suspension of the disclaimer process will last initially for four months. The move will help the envirocrime team take much swifter action.

Twyford Avenue

Ealing Council propose to introduce traffic calming measures in the form of a series of cushion humps along Twyford Avenue, with a raised entry platform at its junction with Uxbridge Road.

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. The next meeting to be held at the Assembly Hall, Acton Town Hall is on 28th November 2006 at 19:00.

Useful Contact Details **for Ealing Council and 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:	Tel: 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
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
Envirocrime Prevention Area Manager	020 8825 5307
Noise & pollution control:	
Monday to Thursday 08:30 to Midnight	020 8825 8111
and Fridays 08:30 to 23:00	
Friday & Saturday 23:00 to 04:00	020 8825 5000
	email: pollutioncontrol@ealing.gov.uk