

## Protecting the interests of West Acton residents.

### NEWSLETTER: 2006, Issue 4 (August 2006)

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

Dear WARA residents,

WARA, an active committee, is protecting the interests of West Acton Residents. As this newsletter illustrates, there are no shortages of issues, and we believe there could be even more close to your hearts. We give you the opportunity to air your issues at our upcoming Public Meeting.

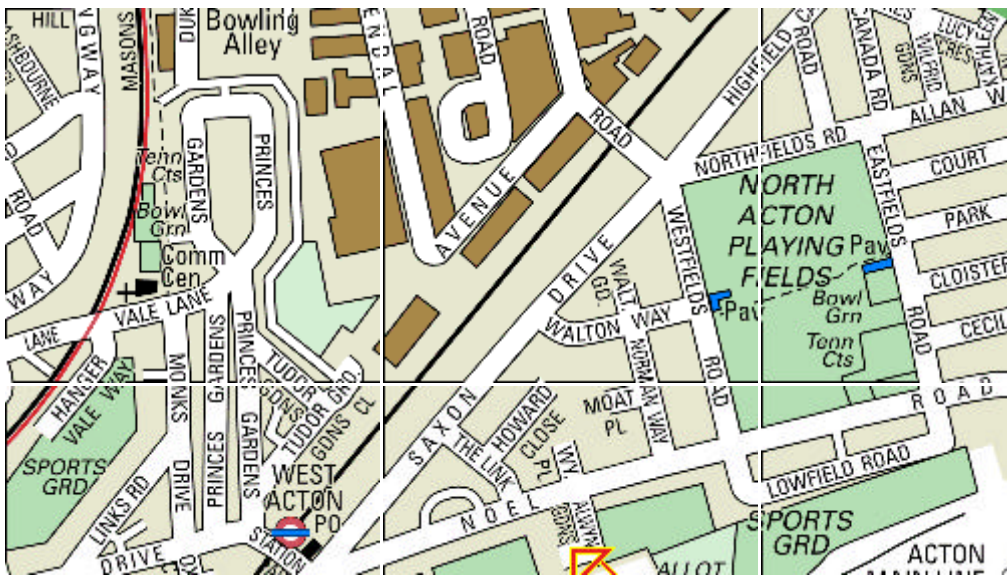
All residents are welcome at the meeting, but non-members attending will be asked to join the Residents Association, and to pay the requisite annual membership fee of £5 (OAP £2.50).

## PUBLIC MEETING

When: 20th September 2006

Where: AGV (Acton Garden Village), Alwyn Gardens

Time: From 7:30 pm



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## CELEBRATION – WARA in Existence for 3 Years

A celebration party will be held at the AGV (Acton Garden Village)

**Saturday 23rd September 2006, 2:00pm to 6:00pm.**

The main focus of the party will be that WARA has been in existence for 3 years, with the additional celebration of the Bus Depot decision.

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### Issue 1: Annual General Meeting

At the AGM held on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2006, Margrit Wachnicka (Secretary), Fr James Alcock (Vice-Chair) and Colin Logan (Vice-Chair) were re-elected unopposed.

WARA Officials are:

Chair: Sheela Selvajothy (re-election 2007)  
Vice Chair: Colin Logan (re-election 2008)  
Vice Chair: Father James Alcock (re-election 2008)  
Treasurer: Alan Cartwright (re-election 2007)  
Secretary: Margrit Wachnicka (re-election 2008)  
Committee Members: Pam Meager, Tony Piper (vice-treasurer)

### Issue 2: Gypsy Corner Bus Depot Public Inquiry

The decision for the Bus Depot appeal was announced on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2006. The decision by the Inspector was that **the appeal is dismissed.**

The Inspector found that the appeal scheme would provide insufficient landscaping to properly contribute to the creation of a 'green corridor' and would seriously jeopardise the possibility of achieving such a feature at this location. The proposed garage would not appropriately safeguard the outlook that nearby residents might reasonably expect, due mainly to the 5.2 metre high acoustic barrier. The Inspector also had concerns about air pollution and expressed reservations about the noise assessment.

Steve Austin, who acted on behalf of London Borough of Ealing Planning Services at the Public Inquiry, considered the Inspector's decision to be very clear and robust. He believed that the Inspector had properly considered all the relevant planning issues, and on this basis doubted that TfL would seek to challenge the decision.

At the public meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> July, Andrew Slaughter, MP, thanked the residents and WARA for their great contribution to opposing plans for the Bus Depot. He praised the efforts of the residents, saying it was a great achievement for the "little man" to take on the big organisation and win.

Also at the AGM thanks were expressed to Philip Portwood & Laurence Evans for the support they had given over the period they were Councillors.

### Issue 3: Public Inquiry – Vacant sites at the junction of Western Avenue (A40) and Allan Way

The inquiry that commenced in June, and was then adjourned, will now be held on 20<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September in the Nelson Room, Ealing Town Hall.

### Issue 4: Gowing & Pursey / Waste Transfer Station

Following the prosecution of Bridgemarts Ltd (trading as Gowing & Pursey) in March 2006, the Senior Environmental Health Officer has recently stated that the Council has been applying pressure on Gowing & Pursey to submit the details required under the statutory notice. The details relate to the purchase of wheel-washing equipment, the installation of a dust extraction system and

the undertaking of regular dust monitoring and analysis by Gowing & Pursey.

The Council has been in discussion with the Environment Agency (EA) over a modified waste management license. Apparently the new waste management licensing regime is now stricter and the EA is taking a tougher stance. If residents have any concerns about the operation of this site, please report it to the EA hotline on 0800 807060.

### Issue 5: Waste Services

The new Council administration has been undertaking a thorough review of the "Green and Clean Contract" on waste services. Apparently it is recognised that the contract is not operating effectively, as it does not contain the effective performance management measures that are needed. The Council will shortly be announcing new measures to try and improve things.

Towards the end of this year, every household in the borough will receive a consultation booklet on changes to the waste service. These will include a number of options (one of which will be moving to wheelie bins), and residents will be asked to indicate their preferred option. The aim of these options will be to integrate properly the recycling and household waste collection; get the unsightly black bags off the streets; to maximise recycling rates; and avoid as much as possible the landfill charges which the council incurs.

The recycling of plastic, as part of the kerbside collection, is being considered.

### Issue 6: Envirocrime / Street Cleaning

At the recent AGM, Roni White, the Envirocrime Prevention Area Manager for Acton, outlined the activities of her team, and noted the concerns about street cleaning, fly-tipping etc. that were raised by residents. She mentioned that a leaflet will be shortly distributed to all households to inform residents of the dates of refuse and recycling collections, and where black bags should or should not be left.

Since the meeting no dumping signs have been placed at either end of the alley that runs between Cecil Road and Noel Road. Also, in connection with complaints of the smell from drains in Saxon Drive, Council records have been checked and it was reported that the gullies were last cleaned on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2005. There are 25 gullies in this street and 19 were successfully cleansed. The other 6 had access problems. The next cyclic gullies cleaning in this road will be programmed in the 2007-2008 fiscal year.

Residents in many streets continue to report that streets have not been cleaned. Roni White asked that residents notify her when streets have not been cleaned.

For Envirocrime contact details, refer to 'useful contacts'.

### Issue 7: Horn Lane Pedestrian Crossing (Nr. Noel Road junction)

We have heard from Francis Torto (Traffic Planning Manager) that this issue is apparently outside the Council's control. We have been told that Council officers have done everything possible to progress the project and have completed the necessary designs ready for implementation. The scheme was all ready to go in when

## Protecting the interests of West Acton residents.

Transport for London informed the Council about their proposals to tackle the backlog of signals schemes in the borough which has meant that some of the schemes programmed for implementation in 06/07 had to be deferred.

We have been assured that Acton Area Committee has been pushing hard to get the scheme on the ground. Officers on their part are continuing to seek confirmation of the earliest possible delivery date from Transport for London, and will continue to emphasise to TfL the importance of this scheme and urge them to add the project to their 06/07 programme if more resources become available later in the financial year.

WARA continues to express its dissatisfaction at the delay on this scheme, as the crossing was approved and granted funding in the Acton Area Committee budget for 2003/04.

### Issue 8: Gypsy Corner Controlled Parking Zone

Also at the AGM, there was much comment about the additional car parking that is now in roads outside of the Gypsy Corner CPZ. The CPZ became operational on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2006. The scheme is due to be reviewed after six months (end of October), when residents both within and outside the zone will be able to pass comment. However, it may be possible to bring forward the review date.

WARA have canvassed, by letter, those residents in streets currently outside the CPZ, in order to determine whether there is a demand from other streets to have the CPZ extended.

### Issue 9: Proposed Bus Bays in the roads around North Acton Playing Fields

Acton Central councillors have received notice of proposals to create bus bays around North Acton Playing Fields (no dates for implementation given). This scheme is part of the Bus Stop Accessibility programme, which is funded by TfL and has been a London wide initiative for the past four years. The aim of the programme is to assist passengers in stepping on and off the buses, allow buses to pull up alongside the kerb and to help passengers reach the bus stop. It enables all sections of the community to use buses regardless of disability or restricted mobility, whether permanent or temporary, with heavy luggage, pushchairs, and so on.

Essentially the bays will extend to about 15 metres either side of each 440 bus stop. The bays must be kept clear for buses, thus allowing better access for passengers. These proposals would reduce the space available for on street parking.

Councillors have asked if residents living on the route of the 440 were consulted about the proposals. At present it is not clear whether the scheme will proceed or be put on hold until residents can be notified.

### Issue 10: Alliance Road Width Restriction

The bad news is that, since the lockable bollard was removed on 21<sup>st</sup> June, heavy goods vehicles are using Alliance Road the same as before the width restriction was installed. The Council's Engineering Department currently

have 3 spare bollards in stock, but have decided not to install another one yet, because the area cannot be monitored. It is considered pointless to have a bollard installed with the likelihood it will be removed the next day.

The possibility of installing a CCTV camera has been considered, but it is not Council policy to install a CCTV camera permanently at one place, as it is very expensive and there are not enough resources available.

A permanently located bollard cannot be installed due to legal restraints. A clause in the Traffic Order for the width restriction says that ambulances, the fire brigade and the police are allowed to go through the width restriction for emergency purposes.

Better news is that the police have agreed to monitor the site once the heavy duty lockable bollard is installed. The Council are investigating types of bollards available to find one that they and the police will be happy with. We are assured that even though the width restriction is not working at the moment, the Council Officer is working towards solving the issues, and is hopeful that lasting solution is not too far away. However on 27<sup>th</sup> June 2006, we wrote to Ealing Council's Principal Engineer in Highways Management requesting that he advise us on how they were proposing to resolve the problems encountered with the width restriction, along with the timescale involved. To date we have not received a response to our letter.

Cllr. Barchuk believes that the Traffic Order prohibits vehicles wider than 7ft passing through, irrespective of whether the bollards are in place or not. He has requested that a mobile CCTV unit monitors the vehicle movements for a couple of weeks.

### Issue 11: North Acton Playing Fields / pavilion

Cllr. Kumar has indicated that the refurbished pavilion should be opening soon. She expects that the pavilion will be available for use for residents' activities, e.g. OAP groups and WARA meetings. The Acton Central Councillors hope to hold their monthly surgeries there.

### Issue 12: Crossrail

Andrew Slaughter, MP, has informed us that the plans for Crossrail have changed during a consultation period and the amount of additional land required is now far less than originally proposed. The grass area near the school had been saved but that some allotments will still need to go. He is still fighting on this issue.

### Issue 13: Noisy Neighbours

Members of the East Acton Safer Neighbourhoods Police team have visited a property in Court Way in response to complaints of noise nuisance. Strictly the police have limited powers to deal with such matters, but often a word from the police can resolve the matter. Noise nuisance actually comes under Environmental Health.

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### Issue 14: Noel Road Massage Parlour

At the AGM Police Sergeant Philip Norcutt gave an update on a "Massage Parlour" that has been operating in a house in Noel Road. The property was under observation, but only one working girl was seen; apparently not enough for a prosecution. The owners of the property were contacted and they were not aware of the activities being carried out on the premises. Apparently an agreement has been reached between the owners and the occupiers for the property to be vacated. It is understood that a For Sale sign has been put up outside the property in question

### Issue 15: 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 14<sup>th</sup> September 2006.

### WARA Website

Apologies are given to anyone who has accessed the WARA website over the last year or so, as we are aware that no new information has been put on to the site for a very long time. A new more informative site is under development and it is hoped that this will soon become available.

## Useful Contact Details for Ealing Council and Police

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

### Main switchboard:

020 8825 5000

### Out of office hours:

Tel: 020 8825 5000

### email:

[customers@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:customers@ealing.gov.uk)

### in writing:

London Borough of Ealing Perceval Hse, 14/16 Uxbridge Rd Ealing W5 2HL

### Abandoned vehicles:

020 8825 6010

### Environmental Health:

020 8825 9654

### Street cleansing & maintenance:

020 8825 6444

### Gullies flooding/blocked:

020 8825 6000

### Acton Police Station:

020 8246 9763

### Graffiti removal:

020 8825 6000

### Recycling & Refuse:

020 8825 6000

### Road and pavement defects:

020 8825 6222

### Street lighting:

020 8825 6555

### Noise & pollution control:

020 8825 6633

0208-825-5000

email: [pollutioncontrol@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:pollutioncontrol@ealing.gov.uk)

Envirocrime Prevention Area Manager (Roni White), Acton Town Hall, Room 101, Winchester Street, Acton W3 6NE

### email:

[roni.white@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:roni.white@ealing.gov.uk)

020 8825 5307

[keeatty@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:keeatty@ealing.gov.uk)

The Envirocrime Officer for Acton Central ward is Kee Atty,

The Envirocrime Officer for East Acton ward is Mr Ashley Barker,

[Ashley.barker@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:Ashley.barker@ealing.gov.uk)

020-8825-7913

### Neighbourhood Policing

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

020 8965 3031 (office)

020 8721 2708 (mobile)

### Contacts:

The East Acton team is headed by Police Sergeant Barry West Email:

[Barry.West2@met.police.uk](mailto: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

020 8721 7190 (office)

020 8721 2921 (mobile)

[Philip.Norcutt@met.police.uk](mailto:Philip.Norcutt@met.police.uk)

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. In case of emergency dial 999.

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