

## Protecting the interests of West Acton residents.

### NEWSLETTER: SPRING 2012, (May 2012)

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#### NEXT WARA PUBLIC MEETING

**Date:** Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> June 2012  
**Start** 7:30pm.  
**Location:** The meeting will be held at the AGV  
Alwyn Gardens, off Noel Road.

#### NORTH ACTON PAVILION & PLAYING FIELDS

##### JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS: Monday 4th June 2012, 12 noon to 6 pm.

Plans are in progress for all of the community (residents, community groups and North Acton Playing Fields organisations) to come together and create a memorable celebratory event. The idea is simple and participatory. Everyone is welcome, and people can contribute their own 'flavour' to the day.

Acton Community Forum are happy to undertake the necessary administration and coordination (park hire, street party application, temporary event license, liaison with Ealing Events, Rangers, Safer Neighbourhood Team, secure pavilion booking, communicate, posters & publicity). To date (19th April 2012), the lead organisations are two of the pavilion user groups; North Acton Youth Club and the Dominican Overseas Nationals Association.

North Acton Youth Club will run sessions to make and hang event decorations (bunting etc), as well as run art activities and organise games. Dominican Overseas Nationals Association will organize a Quadrille Dancers performance, Royal Quiz, Bingo and Music.

Other ideas/contributions are welcome. Get in touch with **Rachel Pepper (ACF) on 020 8993 6158 or email [rachel@actonforum.org](mailto:rachel@actonforum.org)** Volunteers are required on the day to help set up and clear up. Also any gazebos, blankets, deck chairs etc would be welcome.

#### PAVILION UPDATE

At the WARA meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012, Rachel Pepper (Acton Community Forum) gave an update of how activities are progressing at the pavilion. She reminded members that the current timetable of events is always posted on a noticeboard by the door to the pavilion. ACF are looking to set up an after school club and IT sessions are set to expand. Rachel outlined the current activities run at the pavilion, which include Pilates for Mothers & Babies, Recycled Youth, Society Dance, Shorinji Kempo (martial arts) and the Youth Club.

Rachel reported that there was still a structure problem with the pavilion. The building appears to be subsiding, with a large crack at one end of the building. LBE surveyors are examining the matter.

Rachel asked members for ideas of other sessions that could be held at the pavilion. Suggestions included themed open mornings (health, age, community safety and food/nutrition). Local ward police could be invited to community safety sessions. Health and wellbeing was a popular suggestion, and an open afternoon on this subject was held on Tuesday 3rd April 2012.)

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### ACTON A40 UPDATE

In an email, dated 13 March 2012, Esme Yuill, Strategic Communications Manager, Campaigns and Stakeholder Engagement, TfL, provided us with an update on A40 issues.

Site maintenance: Contractors were appointed to clear the undergrowth from all of the sites along the A40 starting week commencing 19 March 2012. As part of this work, any squatters remaining on site were to be evicted and site security improved. In regards to overhanging vegetation invading neighbouring properties, contractors were instructed to take particular care to cut back boundary areas. Boundary trees were to be maintained. This initial site clearance appears to have been completed.

Tree Planting: Funds were allocated from the Department for Transport (DfT) as part of the Clean Air Fund to start tree planting along the A40 in the Gypsy Corner area. Unfortunately, inaccurate utilities records meant the planting team could not place all the trees in the area initially identified and instead planted them further along the road. The location of these concreted utilities has been recorded and when more detailed work is undertaken on the long term planting proposal, alternative options will be developed.

From information received from Planning Policy via Cllr. Kate Crawford, it is TfL's understood intention to undertake a marketing exercise of the Acton A40 sites in Spring 2012, although the exact details are still not known. TfL still plan to undertake community consultation/engagement.

It is understood that Planning Policy Officers last year issued a Pre- Application Advice Letter advising TfL that a 15m green corridor is 'in principle' acceptable. If the Council is to accept the principle of a reduced green corridor from an average width of 25 metres to 15 metres and this corridor is to incorporate a 4-metre footpath and cycle track with a 2-metre verge with tree planting and any footpath provided to the built form, then this provides a limited area to provide soft landscaping and tree planting that will make a suitable contribution to the corridor. The level of frontage landscaping will be minimal.

### HANSON PLANNING PERMISSION

Hanson position remains that they did not need to apply for planning permission for the new plant. The owners have indicated that they intend submitting an application for a Certificate of Lawful Development, which is a method of assessing lawfulness under the relevant statutory instrument. Hansons have confirmed that an application for a Certificate of Lawful Development will

be submitted with the Council by the end of March 2012.

On 16 Mar 2012, Sarah Marshall, Planning Enforcement Officer provided a copy of the approval granted in 1965 for a concreting batching plant. The "planning permission" stated several conditions, including:

- That the premises shall not be used in any manner which is detrimental to the amenities of the locality, whether by reason of noise, vibration, smell, fumes, soot, smoke, ash, dust, grit, or by any other means, to ensure that the proposed development does not prejudice the enjoyment by neighbouring occupiers of their properties.
- That the cement and aggregate batching plant be sited at the southern part of the application site, to reduce the risk of injury to the amenities of residential properties to the north of the application site in Horn Lane and Noel Road.

Neither of the above conditions has been complied with.

Sarah Marshall also confirmed that the original permission was conditioned including the hours of operation. In response to recent complaints regarding the hours of operation at the site, the enforcement team are investigating this alleged breach.

### HANSON NOISE

The noise team have undertaken monitoring at a property in Lowfield Road. As of 20 March 2012 members of the team were still working on the results of the monitoring and were liaising with Hanson and their acoustic consultant to come to "a swift resolution".

### HANSON AIR QUALITY

In an email from Dr John Freeman, Team Leader, Pollution, (23 March 2012) he explained that the Hanson variation notice is now in force and requires comprehensive measures to be taken to prevent air pollution from the installation. Monitoring of the new plant so far indicates that it is compliant. At present the Council says they have no reason to believe that Hanson is contributing significantly to the monitored PM10 levels, though their possible role in increased Nitrogen Dioxide levels is under investigation.

Previously (16 March 2012) John Freeman informed of us changes to the Daily Air Quality Index system since 1st January 2012. This index can be found on the London Air Quality Network website. These changes have been introduced by Defra to make the index system better reflect the current understanding of the

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medical effects of air pollution. One of the main consequences of the changes is that there is likely to be a greater frequency of 'Medium', 'High' and 'Very High' indices because the thresholds have been reduced.

### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK REVIEW

The Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State carried out an examination of the LDF in sessions held at Ealing Town Hall between 1st and 23rd November 2011. The Inspector's report was published on 9th February 2012. The Inspector's overall conclusion is that, with the minor recommendations, the Development Plan Document (DPD) satisfied the requirements of appropriate Acts and Planning Policy. Thus, the Development Strategy has complied with the legal requirements and is considered sound. It was the Council's intention that Full Council would formally adopt the plan at its scheduled meeting on 3rd April 2012.

### WEST LONDON WASTE PLAN

The proposed submission plan of the WLWP was approved at Cabinet on the 20th December 2011. LBE was awaiting confirmation from one of the other boroughs in West London as to the sign-off of this document by their respective cabinet/executive committee. Of the potential sites in the North Acton / Park Royal area, only the Quattro site was going forward. Theresa Magee (Wesley Estates RA) is believed to be organising a future meeting along the lines of the one previously held at Inco, Bashley Road. Further consultation is due to commence from late March 2012.

The six boroughs are currently deliberating on the next version of the plan, the Proposed Sites and Policies Document for Submission to the Secretary of State. The earliest date this will be available for consultation is June 2012. If residents would like to be kept informed of these plans, register your details on the WLWP website <http://www.wlwp.net/register.html> and you will be sent an email when more information is available.

### PLANNING NOTICES

Gunnersbury Day Hospital, Cloister Road: Members were informed that a public exhibition of plans for the redevelopment of Gunnersbury Day Hospital was to be held at the pavilion on Tuesday 27th March 2012, 2pm – 8.30pm. Representatives of the design and planning team were on hand to discuss the proposals and answer any questions. The proposal is to build 4 x four bedroom homes, whilst retaining the current locally listed façade of the day hospital building.

NEC site, 1 Victoria Road: A "screening option" application (P/2012/1252) was submitted to Ealing Council on 30th March 2012 by agents on behalf of NEC, Victoria Road, in connection with a proposed redevelopment of the site. It is proposed that redevelopment of the site will comprise a nineteen story building to provide accommodation for up to 650 students, construction of a four storey commercial building, and proposed retail space.

An exhibition of the plans was held at the Ramada Hotel on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st April. At the exhibition, initial plans were explained. The development will consist of four blocks, of incremental heights from 3 storey at the Park Royal Road end to 19 storey at Chase Road. The development is to house students from Imperial college.

The developers were asked how the cyclists would travel to their university and replied along the A40 Highway Super Cycle Route. Cllr Taylor, who attended the exhibition, was asked to clarify with Ealing Council whether Ealing Council were still looking into re-routing the A40 Cycle Superhighway away from the A40 and along the Uxbridge Road. As residents have been advised by the Council that the cyclists from the BBC costume store development that is nearing completion could use the alternate route to their University in Shepherds Bush by riding along the Grand Union Canal!

ASDA Park Royal – Petrol Station: Have submitted a planning application PP/2012/0684 for a Petrol Station, which was originally part of their plans for the redevelopment of their store in 2001.

### EALING ACTON TRANSPORT ACTION GROUP

Alan Cartwright attended the EATAG meeting organised by Angie Bray MP that was held at the Houses of Parliament on 12 January 2012. Items discussed that have relevance to the WARA area were:

Dive-under at the west end of Acton Freight Yard: Preparatory work on the dive-under is underway. The dive-under will enable freight trains heading west along the main line to leave the Acton freight yard without affecting passenger trains. The work will continue until the end of 2017. The latest thinking on the possible closure of Noel Road/Twyford Avenue road bridge during the construction phase is that it might not need to happen.

HS2: HS2 were set to hold a planning forum in early February. Subsequent to the EATAG meeting, the initial Community Forums have been held. Alan Cartwright attended the Northolt Corridor forum (19th March 2012)

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and Siobhan Martin the Old Oak Common forum (21st March 2012). Unfortunately, the boundary between the two forum areas is Park Royal Road, resulting in WARA involvement at both.

North Acton Station: The matter of capacity issues at North Acton Station was raised. Ealing Council and TfL have had discussions on this, specifically about wider improvements at the station. A study on possible incremental improvements was due to be completed by the end of March.

### **EAST ACTON POLICE WARD PANEL MEETINGS**

Siobhan Martin attended the East Acton ward panel meeting held on 31 January 2012. Amongst items discussed were:

Houses of Multiple Occupation: Safer neighbourhood teams had a list of nearly 2000 HMO's of beds and sheds, and up and coming inspections were being arranged. A new tactic for these inspections is to have the fire brigade go in, as they can enter premises straight away, whereas the police need to give a 24 hour warning before inspection. The tactic of using the fire brigade service has more success, as after entering they can condemn the building. This would lead to demolition of the building, resulting in tackling the HMO problems. HMO's can either be reported to Ealing Customer Services or to your Ward Councillor who will follow it up.

Burglaries: Residents were warned that most burglaries occur between 9am and 5pm. This is the most vulnerable time of the day, due to the residents being at work. It was advised that the Birmingham bar and London bar are the strongest locks to put on a door to reduce the risk of forced entry. They cost £100-£150 and are fitted by a locksmith.

A subsequent East Acton ward panel meeting was held on 27 April 2012. From the meeting minutes, it appears there was little discussed that was relevant to the WARA area. A general enquiry was made as to whether upcoming events, Queen's Jubilee and Olympics, would affect the policing levels within the Safer Neighbourhood teams. The Police said that this question could not be fully answered until the events start. However, the current thinking is that PCSOs will remain on the wards patrolling as usual, and one day a week Police Officers will be taken off the wards to carry out other duties. For the Jubilee on 3rd June, all wards will be working.

### **BE AWARE: BANK CARD FRAUD**

We have been notified by the Easy Acton ward Safer Neighbourhood Police Team that Operation Sterling with its partners at the Dedicated Cheque and Plastic Crime Unit is warning the public of a new fraud. Elderly members of the public have been receiving unsolicited telephone calls from individuals purporting to be from the police or from their bank. These individuals obtain the card details from their victims and inform them that their card needs to be collected by a courier. The bank cards are then used fraudulently without the victim's knowledge. If you receive such a call end it immediately.

Please be aware of the following:

- Your bank will never attend your home
- Your bank and the police will never collect your bank card
- Your bank and the police will never ask for your PIN
- If you have already given your bank card or disclosed your PIN you should call the police non emergency number 101.

### **ENVIROCRIME OFFICER LEAVING**

Cllr. Hitesh Tailor informed us in an email (18 March 2012) that the designated Envirocrime Officer for East Acton, Seth Cornfield, has left for another job. The post is currently out to advert and not likely to be occupied until May at the earliest.

In the meantime the work will be covered by other officers in the team. Please continue to report all issues through Customer Services at [customers@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:customers@ealing.gov.uk) or call 020 8825 6000 so that they can be allocated to the covering officer on that day. If any problems persist, do not hesitate to contact your ward councillors.