

Protecting the interests of West Acton residents.

NEWSLETTER: 2011, Issue 3 (September 2011)

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NEXT WARA PUBLIC

The next WARA meeting will be on Wednesday 12th October 2011. It will be held at the usual venue AGVA, Alwyn Gardens, meeting to commence at 19.30.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

One item on the Agenda will be the AGM. This year the posts of Secretary and Vice-chair are up for election.

NORTH ACTON PLAYING FIELDS - PAVILION OPENING

The refurbished community area at North Acton Playing Field's pavilion has finally opened for business. The official opening on 5th August 2011 was attended by the Mayor of Ealing, Councillor John Gallagher, the Council Leader Julian Bell, WARA members and other Councillors / Officials from Ealing Council. (Note: The café, leased to Funky Fruit and Salad Co Ltd, has been open since the beginning of July 2011.)



Ongoing consultation with local people provided Acton Community Forum with a starting point for taster sessions and the development of a programme of activities that will be available this summer. On Saturday 6th August between 1 and 5 pm a selection of taster sessions were provided. These included: children's activities, zumba, sports, yoga, personalised crafts, IT, performing arts and music. In an email from Rachel Pepper (ACF), dated 11/8/2011, she said that they were very pleased with both the Launch and the Community Funday at the Pavilion. There has been such a positive response from local residents; all very keen to get involved in activities.

Acton Community Forum is now working in partnership with the council and WARA to develop a centre that is a focus for community activity.

NORTH ACTON PLAYING FIELDS – TREE DAMAGE

Residents have noticed that several trees have had bark stripped from them. The damage appears to be mainly at the Eastfields Road end of the playing fields, the whole way across and at the back of the pavilion. The damage is believed to be caused by dogs.



The damage has been reported to the Park Ranger for Acton Central and East Acton wards, Jamie Passmore. In a reply on 1/8/11, he said that he had already been informed of the recent dog attacks on the trees on Eastfields Road and had reported them to the Police Safer Neighbourhood team.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

North Acton Playing Fields Pavilion
North Acton Playing Fields – Tree Damage
West London Waste Plan
Ealing Local Development Framework 2026
High Speed 2
Planning Updates
Meeting with Elected Representatives
Hansons Construction, 305 Horn Lane, London W3 0BP
Gowing & Pursey
Envirocrime
Safer Neighbourhood Police
Overgrown Island Victoria Road Junction of Park Royal Road
ASDA Traffic Lights
Advertising Hoardings

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Ealing Council has set up a new service called Dog Watch for members of the public to contact directly, regarding dangerous dogs and issues such as this one. To report a dog-related incident, email dogwatch@ealing.gov.uk or phone the Community Safety Team on 020 8825 7600. Photos of damaged trees have already been sent to the police via this address. If residents notice any dogs causing damage, we have been asked that they record dates, time and a description of the owner and dog, if possible. This will hopefully help in catching the individuals that are doing this. Continued on page 2

The Park Ranger will produce some laminated A4 signs to put on the fence on Eastfields Road, warning people about the fact damage to trees is regarded as criminal damage, and anyone found doing this will be prosecuted. The Rangers mobile number will be on the signs, so that people can report sightings of anyone damaging the trees, if they wish.

Due to the recent cuts to the Ranger service, Park Rangers no longer work evenings or Sundays and now are limited in the frequency of patrols to the parks during the week. Normally, North Acton Playing Field is visited at least once per week.

Jamie Passmore is the Park Ranger for Acton Central and East Acton Wards
Telephone: 020 8740 1855
Mobile: 07970 426575
Email: passmorej@ealing.gov.uk

It is understood that the Police and Community Safety will be holding a dog awareness day in North Acton Playing Fields. Angie Bray MP has also asked to be informed of the date of this event, as she has been running a campaign with some other MPs in Parliament to try to get more focus on the problem of dangerous dogs especially in our parks and other public spaces.

WEST LONDON WASTE PLAN

Ealing 2026 E-Bulletin No. 13 stated that a report summarising the consultation findings was published in June 2011. It appears that all of the previously selected sites will be assessed for a new plan due to be published at the end of 2011.

A report summarising the consultation findings on 'The Proposed Sites and Policies' can be viewed on the WLWP website:
http://www.wlwp.net/documents/Summary_Consultation_Report_June2011.pdf

(Further information is included in the item "Meeting with elected representatives")

EALING LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK 2026

Ealing Council has submitted its Development (or Core) Strategy to the Secretary of State for examination. The Development Strategy sets out a vision for the future development of the Borough and covers a 15-year plan period up to 2026. It also sets the context for the other policy documents that make up Ealing's Local Development Framework.

Copies of the submission documents have been available on the Council's website since 22nd July, and are now in all libraries in the Borough and the main Customer Services Reception in Perceval House.

http://www2.ealing.gov.uk/services/environment/planning/planning_policy/local_development_framework/development_strategy/submission/

The Secretary of State has appointed an independent inspector to conduct the examination into the compliance and soundness of the Core Strategy. The Inspector will consider all the representations made on the Proposed Submission Core Strategy and associated supporting documents, and will decide who should be invited to take part in the debates at the public hearing sessions. It is expected that the hearings sessions will commence from 1st November 2011.

HIGH SPEED 2

On 6th May 2011, Alan Cartwright attended a seminar on HS2, for representatives of community groups within the Boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham and Ealing (one representative for each group). The main view from the meeting was that the plans were lacking in detail. Below are a few points that came out of the meeting:

- There may be a need to demolish 5 properties at the east end of LBE, but no exact locations given.
- During construction, it will be the intention that deliveries and removals will be by canal or rail. It is hoped that none will be by road. Any road movements that are ultimately necessary will be kept to a minimum.
- Old Oak Common station will have six platforms for HS2 + 8 more for the main line service to the West Country.
- It was stated that the development could create 20,000 jobs. Although no reasoning was given for how this figure was obtained.

On the consultation that ended at the end of July 2011, Alan sent a response on behalf of WARA. The overall conclusion was that with the lack of detail available for the initial consultation, and taking into account the level of disruption its construction would cause, the case for

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High Speed 2 has not been proven. Therefore, at this stage the case for High Speed 2 cannot be supported.

Various concerns included:

- The tunnelling beneath Acton Cemetery and associated works will have an adverse impact on residents living on the A40 nearby.
- It is understood that from Hanger Lane to the portal under Acton Cemetery the only mitigation option for the train noise will be a high retaining wall. This should mitigate the noise from, without acting as a reflecting surface for the noise from road traffic.
- HS2 will run alongside the Central Line between Hanger Lane and North Acton. Whilst residents living close to the Central Line are used to the noise from trains, HS2 trains will travel at up to 160mph in this area and generate significantly higher levels of noise than Central Line trains at 30mph.
- There will possibly be a "booming" sound as the HS2 trains enter/leave the tunnel under Acton Cemetery. HS2 engineer stated that a better option will be for the tunnel to come up further west away from residential properties in the industrial area.
- The tunnel depth has been based on calculations for the current height of buildings around North Acton. Four blocks of up to 20 storeys are now under construction. It is possible that the depth of the tunnel will need to be recalculated to allow for this building height.
- Park Royal Road is one of the main access roads. This road may need to be closed during the construction phase. Any closure, if only partial, will have a serious adverse impact on road traffic movements in the area and the residential housing beside this road.

MEETING WITH ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES

On Thursday 1st September 2011 a small number of residents representing residents groups from the North Acton / Park Royal area (WARA, Wesley Estate, and TITRA) attended a meeting at Perceval House that was set up by Angie Bray, MP. The meeting was in response to previous residents comments that the full picture of plans, i.e. a bird's eye view, for the area is never presented. It was hoped that this meeting would address this lack of information.

In addition to Angie Bray, the meeting was attended by Cllr. Julian Bell (Leader of the Council), Cllr. Hitesh Tailor (East Acton ward), Richard Barnes (London Assembly Member & Deputy Mayor), Council Officers Patrick Hayes (Executive Director Regeneration & Housing), Steve Barton (Principle Policy Manager), Ian Weake (Planning Policy Officer) and Dr John Freeman

(Team Leader – Pollution Technical Team) and representatives of the West London Waste Plan.

Note that at the start of the meeting WARA invited Cllr. Julian Bell to attend our next public meeting.

Whilst a map showing the potential sites for North Acton / Park Royal was not presented at the meeting, a map of the whole Acton area was. This showed locations for potential housing sites, special opportunity sites, proposed and potential transport improvements, with a separate map showing all the waste sites for the 6 boroughs which make up the WLWP. The map did not include Powerday, Old Oak Common, as this is just within the boundary of Hammersmith & Fulham and so is not included in the WLWP.

A number of questions had previously been submitted in writing. These related to the Local Development Framework 2026, West London Waste Plan, Transport and Air Quality. Not all of the questions were answered during the meeting, but an assurance was given by Cllr. Bell, who chaired the meeting, that written answers would be prepared and distributed to those people attending the meeting. Officers were asked if, as previously requested, a map showing just the North Acton / Park Royal area including all the proposed and potential housing, special opportunity sites, Brent & H&F boundary developments, WLWP sites and all the supporting infrastructure would be included with the written response? The officers advised that they would not be including this map with their response.

The main points that came out of the meeting were:

Local Development Framework 2026: As mentioned previously, this is now subject to an Independent Examination by an Inspector of the Planning Inspectorate who has been appointed by the Secretary of State.

At the time that the consultation into the LDF was carried out, the Infrastructure Delivery Plan was lagging behind in its preparation. An updated version (July 2011) is now available:

http://www2.ealing.gov.uk/ealing3/export/sites/ealingweb/services/environment/planning/planning_policy/local_development_framework/evidence_base/infrastructure_delivery_plan/_docs/Infrastructure_Delivery_Plan_2nd_version_July_2011.pdf

Acton A40 Green Corridor: Ealing Planning is still waiting for proposals from TfL on developments on at least some of the vacant sites along the A40 from Kathleen Avenue to Western (Savoy) Circus. The Director of Regeneration and Housing hoped that TfL will submit a "master plan" and hold a public consultation prior to any Planning Applications being submitted. He also stated that Ealing Council had given TfL a "very strong steer" on what would be acceptable

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as a Green Corridor. When asked by residents, Angie Bray and Richard Barnes if he would clarify what width Ealing Council had advised would be acceptable for the Green Corridor and whether this remained at 25 meters, Mr Hayes would not confirm the guidance that had been given to TfL. He only said that it did not have to be the same width along the length of the corridor; some widths would be less and some more.

West London Waste: It was the Council's (unofficial) view that they hoped not all of the proposed sites in the Park Royal area would be put forward after the next stage of the WLWP. However, the sites will be protected as Waste sites so they will not be available for other types of planning application/consideration. Officers were asked if the proposed sites currently exceeded the EU Laws on air pollution for both Nitrogen Dioxide and PM10 would they be automatically excluded from the WLWP. Council Policy Officers explained that it would be too costly to carry out Environmental Impact Assessments, inc. air quality, on all of the potential waste sites. The time for an EIA and other assessments, such as the number of vehicle movements, would be when a specific application is submitted for a particular site. It would then be known just what type of waste facility would be operating. Residents asked for clarification that an air pollution assessment would include all the vehicle movements needed to supply the WLWP sites, as it was the pollution from vehicles which currently caused most of the high levels of Nitrogen Dioxide emissions in the area? Officers confirmed that this would be taken into consideration at the planning stage.

North Acton Station New Public Realm: A recent article in the Acton Gazette "Regeneration will improve residents lives" (5th August 2011). Stated that "Regeneration bosses are pledging to find ways of improving the North Acton area, negotiations are under way to buy the Esso petrol station, forcing a sale, if necessary, to improve the front of North Acton station which is currently little more than an alley with steep stairs at either end. Buying up the petrol station will open up the entrance to North Acton station."

It is understood that the Council are intending spending approximately £2 million of Section 106 money on the North Acton Station area, buying up the petrol station and creating a new public realm/plaza, which will have some benches and planting. Residents were advised that the creation of this new public realm will help to address the lack of open space in the area. Residents queried the viability of this, as this "public open space" would not be somewhere to go for recreation and children would not be able play there.

Schools & Doctors: The Officers were asked to clarify whether there were proposals to increase the capacity for both schools and doctor's in the area when

considering all the proposed residential development. Wesley Estate advised that their children did not fall into any school catchment area within Ealing, since Phil Portwood (school governor) had confirmed that they were now outside the John Perryn catchment area. WARA advised that the Cloister Road surgery had originally been provided with funding for a doctor when the 3 tower blocks in the Fairview development went up, but the PCT had since removed funding for this doctor. The surgery has capacity and is willing to take on new patients from these and new developments, if funding is provided for doctors at the surgery. Officers said that they would look into this and ensure sufficient facilities were in place before residential developments went ahead.

Powerday: TITRA asked if Ealing Council had responded to the recent application to the Environment Agency from Powerday to vary their permit at Old Oak Common to confirm hazardous waste acceptance, storage and treatment on-site; activities they have undertaken on and off since December 2005. Dr John Freeman confirmed that he was due to attend a meeting with the Environment Agency and Powerday to discuss this application on Monday 5th September 2011. He also updated attendees on Gowing & Pursey (see update below under Planning Updates).

PLANNING UPDATES:

REF: P/2011/2338 – GOLDCREST LAND PLC DEVELOPMENT PORTAL WAY, ACTON W3 6UU

A planning application has been submitted for the redevelopment of the site to provide two mixed-use buildings with roof level amenity space (seven-storeys and eight-storeys) to provide 184 student units and uses within Retail, Restaurants and Cafes; creation of biodiversity park and community pocket park; provision of four parking spaces and 132 cycle parking spaces.

We are not totally against this Application, but there were still a few points of concern that we expressed to Ealing Planning.

The introduction of the two "pocket parks" does not add any viable green recreational open space to the area. The proposed planted areas, while welcome, do not address the fundamental lack of recreational open space in the area when the number of proposed students is taken into account.

In the Student Travel Plan emphasis is given to the cycle infrastructure, and the various cycle routes close to the development. Reference is given to the A40 Western Avenue forming part of one of the proposed cycle superhighway routes, CS10 Park Royal to Hyde Park. Our understanding is that there has been no progress on defining Route 10. Both the Uxbridge Road and the Harrow Road have been suggested as possible

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options, but no decisions have been made on which should be Route 10. We believe that Ealing Council want the Cycle Superhighway to be along the Uxbridge Road because they believe it is currently the most popular cycle route.

The Noise Assessment carried out to support the Application indicates that the existing free field noise levels are such that they fall within Category D of the Planning Policy Guidance (PPG24), which recommends that Planning Permission should normally be refused. It would appear that considerable noise insulation will be required within the fabric of the structure to obtain habitable internal living conditions.

HANSONS CONSTRUCTION, 305 HORN LANE, LONDON W3 0BP

Hansons has recently erected a new plant. Initially Planning Enforcement advised us that a Planning Application was submitted for these works. Ultimately, it was determined that was not the case.

Questions have been asked of Ealing Planning in that if there is NO planning permission for the new plant, what has happened & will be happening? Have the Council's Enforcement Team investigated/visited and what has happened & will be happening and whether there is any breach of planning control?

In a reply from an Officer in Enforcement (email 18/8/11) we were informed that a site visit to the property has been carried out by the planning enforcement site inspector and the agents for the site have been in contact with enforcement to provide information on the development. The agents claim they are developing the site with the benefit of permitted development allowances set out in Part 8 Class B of the Town and Country (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (as amended) (GPDO) and do not require planning permission.

The Council has assessed the information provided, and what was gathered during the site visit, and are of the opinion that the development requires planning permission. The agents have been contacted to informing them that planning permission is required and to invite them to submit a planning application.

For any further queries regarding planning please contact them on (020) 8825 6600 or enforcement@ealing.gov.uk.

GOWING & PURSEY

WARA members Rosco White and Vlod Barchuk (also founder members of SHLAP), along with Angie Bray MP recently met with the Environment Agency to discuss pollution levels at the Horn Lane industrial site. After months of campaigning, the Environment Agency have

made changes to Gowing and Pursey's operating license, which means that the amount of waste that can be handled at the site has now been reduced by over 30%. And the Environment Agency will be visiting the site more frequently to see that proper controls are in place. Since the new rules came into force (sometime in April 2011), there have been fewer days when dust emission levels have been breached. Although the number of permissible high pollution days for the year (35) has already been breached (56 at mid August).

ENVIROCRIME

The following information was included in the East Acton Ward Envirocrime Prevention Service report for July 2011. Ealing Council's Envirocrime Prevention service has recently undergone a restructure. As a result the new ward Enforcement Officers are Seth Cornfield and Marcus Fiordelsi. Seth and Marcus also cover three other nearby wards, Hobbayne, Cleveland and Hanger Hill.

Complaints and service requests should be reported by either phoning 020 8825 600 or by email customers@ealing.gov.uk

It is claimed that "this reporting method will ensure the most efficient process for dealing with customer requests and will be the best way of allocating works to the appropriate officers during the early stages of the restructure".

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE

We have been informed about the NPIA Crime Mapper Website <http://www.police.uk/>

All that is required to obtain crime statistics for your area is to put your post code in the search field.

Contact details for the Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams.

East Acton Team: 020 8721 2708 and 07766 804405, eastacton.snt@met.police.uk

Acton Central Team: 020 8721 2921 and 07879 694811, actoncentral.snt@met.police.uk

OVERGROWN ISLAND VICTORIA ROAD JUNCTION OF PARK ROYAL ROAD

This small triangle of land until recently was severely overgrown, such that it was an eyesore and more importantly blocked sight lines to Park Royal Road. Apart of an old lamp post remains on the triangle of land on the Victoria Road junction with Park Royal Road. A lighting contractor has removed some the ivy to be able to check the supply before the lamp post is removed.

The site should be cleared of rubbish in the next few weeks now that replacement gas main works have been

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completed, with re-planting in the Autumn 2011. Richard Strange (LBE, Landscape Architect) has informed us (emails dated 8/8/11 and 22/8/11) that the approach to the choice of planting is going to change from the one initially suggested, as the budget now allows for more planting. The revised plan is to plant evergreen shrubs in the central area of the bed (12 different species) which grow to about 1m. Around this area of shrubs it is proposed to plant a mixture of perennials (25 different species). In an area that is currently full of nettle, it is proposed to plant two different types of grasses. Inserted into this mixture will be 12 larger plants which will be trees/large shrubs. These species will include Acer Palmatum, one Magnolia and two Birch trees.

ASDA TRAFFIC LIGHTS

WARA members who regularly use ASDA may have noticed the traffic lights, in Park Royal Road outside the store, that are set in oil drums and have been for a very long time.

A Report for Action by Noel Rotherford, Director Built Environment on 20th December 2006 stated that *"Failure to progress the signal scheme which incorporates pedestrian facilities will adversely affect pedestrian safety at the junction of Park Royal Road / Minerva Road / Access Road to ASDA Supermarket."*

Members may be interested to hear that Ealing Council has recently consulted with TfL and ASDA over the installation of new traffic signals. ASDA have indicated that they would not want to have any disruption over the Christmas shopping period (typically end Nov- mid Jan). TfL have been asked to confirm how long it would take them to approve and install the new signals, if they were given the go- ahead now. TfL have quoted 14 months lead time on such works (apparently because of the Olympics and resources). Ealing Council have confirmed (email 23.08.11) that they are applying pressure on getting a better turnaround on this. This was also raised at the meeting on 1st September 2011 and Richard Barnes, GLA, was asked if he would look into whether TfL could implement the overdue pedestrian lights as soon as possible.

SQUATTERS AT 279 WESTERN AVENUE W3 0PP JUNCTION KATHLEEN AVENUE

TfL were contacted in June and again in early August regarding the 'street cleaning/removal' of the accumulated rubbish in and around the shrubbery by the boundary fences for the 'derelict' houses on the Western Avenue, junction with Kathleen Avenue as there is an issue with rats. Most of the rubbish appears to be a direct result of the squatters accessing these houses through the shrubbery and over the fence. TfL

were also asked to confirm what steps they had taken to evict the squatters at these premises and also the ones at the houses on the Western Avenue, opposite the Encore Hotel, adjacent to Horn Lane, Gypsy Corner.

TfL confirmed (email 30th August) that the case for both sites (Kathleen Ave and Horn Lane) was heard in court the previous week, and they have obtained permission to evict. The papers now have to be registered at the High Court and, once this has happened, they can agree a date with the Sheriff to evict the squatters on both sites. TfL expect this to take place in around two weeks. Clearance of the rubbish associated with the illegal occupants will be removed as part of the eviction process.

If residents have any further queries or concerns please either the squatters or the associated rubbish please contact Esme Yuill at TfL on esmeyuill@tfl.gov.uk.

Cllr Kate Crawford has advised that she will follow up the clearing of the rubbish from within the shrubbery beside the footpath and outside of the TfL property boundaries with both Ealing Council and TfL to ensure that there is no confusion as to whose responsibility it is.

WARD FOUR MEETINGS

The dates for the next Ward Forum meetings are:
Acton Central Ward – 5th October 2011, 19:30-21:30, at St Mary's Church Hall, Kings Street

East Acton Ward – 31st October 2011, 19:30-21:30 at John Perryn School Community Centre, Long Drive, W3 7PD

For the items below that were included in the May 2011 newsletter, requests for updates on both the Discontinuation Notice and the outcome of the Planning Inspectorate report have been made. We are still waiting for a response.

ADVERTISING HOARDINGS

The latest information we received was in an email on 7th February 2011, in which we were informed that an appeal had been lodged with the Planning Inspectorate regarding the advert hoarding at **258 Western Avenue**, and that the Planning Officer was awaiting further information from the Planning Inspectorate regarding the grounds of appeal.

With regard to the advert hoarding on Western Avenue at the **rear of Canada Crescent**, a discontinuance notice was with the Principle Enforcement Officer and in May 2011 it was hoped that the notice could be served in the near future.