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See page 11

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<b>DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:</b>	Reg Whitney	Reg.whitney@hxra.org	553 139
<b>FOCUS EDITOR:</b>	Julie Wilkes	julie.wilkes@hxra.org	07903 820 584
<b>ADVERTISING MANAGER:</b>	Barry Major	Advertising@hxra.org	865 233

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Well it's been very hot and we've been very busy, no slowdown in August for us it seems. One thing that would help us greatly though is if you could kindly pay your subs for FOCUS. Many of you are a great help, always paying at the beginning of the year. Unfortunately we do have to spend a lot of time producing subs reminders letters and knocking on doors. Sometimes to be greeted by "I thought you'd never come round". In Elm Park alone we have over 2,000 subscribers to FOCUS – we haven't got the time to knock on all those doors, once, twice or more until we collect £4. Please pay online or if you live in Elm Park contact me to ask how much you owe. If you owe this year's fee, please pay next year too, thank you.

**Out and About in Elm Park:** I have asked for the bollards at the refuge by **Sarre Ave** to be cleaned, for the large bump (caused by the heat) in **Mungo Park Road** at the junction with **South End Road** to be dealt with, feathering to be carried out in **Calbourne Avenue** and outside **28 Eyhurst Avenue** The Tarmac is to be finished off outside **13 West Malling Way**. I have also asked for the fire break in **Wittering Walk** to be widened and attention to be given to the wild vegetation behind the fences of **Elm Park Avenue** that back on to Harrow Lodge Park, for obvious safety reasons. I have also asked for a tree to be inspected outside **12 Wittering Walk** and fingers crossed the tree outside **44 Diban Ave** will finally have been cut after almost 2 years of delays. Finally I have reported a complaint that **Warren Drive** at **St Nicholas Ave** end has not been cleaned properly and is full of weeds. We had the weed sprayers round in August, so hopefully things are generally improving. There is a shortage of workers so any help residents can give, watering trees and plants, removing the odd weed or bit of rubbish, really makes a difference. I have also asked about all the trees in the Covid Memorial at Hornchurch Country Park, will they be replaced? I believe the answer is yes.



**Safer Neighbourhood Board Conference** - I attended the Safer Neighbourhood Conference which I found very interesting and would recommend you to attend next year. I listened to speakers from the Met Police, Havering Council and Neighbourhood Watch. The new East Area Borough Commander for Havering, Redbridge, Barking and Dagenham, Stuart Bell spoke of his relatively new role and his aims to tackle crime. The SNB works with the police and council to try and be more accountable. One thing Stuart said was that he wants more resources spent on neighbourhood policing and for officers to engage with the public more. You may remember in my article last month that I gave times when our local PC would be available to meet the public in Costa Coffee. Unfortunately he has not shown up for the first two dates and whilst we appreciate the exigencies of the service come first, an email to the contact list or message to Costa Coffee would be appreciated. Stuart reported that his aims for the next 3 years are to increase resourcing in neighbourhoods; to make public spaces safe by tackling violence ASB and drugs; to improve detection rates and to make females feel safe.



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I was also very interested in the talk from another officer on cyber-crime and my advice is refresh your passwords, do not use always use the same one and shred everything personal.

**Jenkins Lane Waste Management Facility** - Barry, Julie, James (Hylands) and I attended a tour and presentation at Jenkins Lane. This site in Beckton houses an identical Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT) facility to the one at Frog Island, but processes residual household waste from Newham and Redbridge.



Residual waste is what remains after most recyclable material has been separated and the aim is to increase recycling and reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill.

The waste is shredded and dried and recycles such as metals and glass are extracted. An organic component is also produced and a material called Refuse Derived Fuel. I must say I found it very interesting, not as smelly as I anticipated, but I have never seen such a phenomenal amount of rubbish or so many flies. Of course the more we produce and we four London boroughs produce more than any other boroughs, the higher the cost to us all. The picture shows water tanks which are a safety requirement of the insurance company. Check out the East London Waste Authority (ELWA) website for more information. <https://eastlondonwaste.gov.uk/>

**ULEZ:** I was invited by The Havering Daily to be on a cross party panel to discuss the Ultra-Low Emission Zone proposals by the Mayor of London. All of us agreed this is a stealth tax and we were all opposed to it for a number of reasons including: the financial implications (in particular to lower income families); the scrapping of serviceable cars and environmental issues caused by this; financial implications to the self-employed and small businesses and the lack of public transport in Havering which inner London boroughs benefit from. The consultation has now closed and we await the decision as to whether the ULEZ will extend to the whole of Greater London.

**Elm Park Assembly Hall** - The committee is working hard, bookings are coming in and we plan to start the table top sales in September, probably on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>. Please check the Facebook Page, the community notice board next to the station or watch for the banner to go up opposite the Station for confirmation. There will also be a quiz in November and an exciting new booking for the hall is **beginners' dancing lessons** led by Havering Council. These will be on Wednesday evenings from 28 September as follows:

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Finally, I am jointly organising an afternoon tea with HASWA to raise money for **St. Francis Hospice** on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September. There will be tea and cake, Bring and Buy Stall and a Raffle. Just turn up between 2.30 and 4 pm at HASWA, Greenfields, Kilmartin Way, Elm Park, Hornchurch RM12 5NB

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**Ward walkabouts** - This month I have been out door knocking in many roads and have had some thoroughly enjoyable conversations with many of you. Whilst out I often pick up on issues from chatting to you but I would urge you all to report any concerns you have to the council and if you need help thereafter to reach out to Councillor Wood or I who will help where we can.

I've spent time door knocking along Acacia Road, Chestnut Glen, Chestnut Avenue, Candover Road, Dorian Road, Fairfield Close and Albany Road.

**Dredging of Harrow Lodge lake** - You will have noticed works have taken place to improve the lake in Harrow Lodge.

The aim of the project was to improve the water capacity to alleviate flooding, improve the water quality, create a more biodiverse habitat and to improve the overall aesthetics of the area. The work was done as a result of the old pump which used to help achieve the above being broke beyond repair. The result was a build-up of silt leading to issues of water flow and in turn creating areas of stagnant water negatively impacting the wildlife in the lake.

The project progressed well between April and June with the majority of work completed. Before the final phase could start, which was to clear out the silt lagoon a protected bird built a nest in the area preventing works from starting. It is expected that the Coots' offspring will soon leave the nest allowing works to begin once more. Once started it will be about 2 to 3 weeks before all the works are completed. This includes over seeding the banks with wild flowers and making good the area around the site compound.

The silt dredge is expected to have a long lasting impact on the quality of the lakes. To help the area thrive I would encourage everyone to be mindful of not over feeding the ducks and swans with large amounts of bread. This causes an increase in bad nutrients, leads to more algae forms, which denies light to plants and increases the disease risk within the lake. Councillor Wood and I and our colleagues from Elm Park are all actively keeping an eye on the works going forward.

**Crime** - I met with Hylands and Harrow Lodge Ward's dedicated Police Community Support Officer along Dorian Road in early August. We discussed the key topics affecting the ward which, as Councillor Wood detailed in the last edition centre around car theft primarily. Please therefore take extra care to ensure your vehicles are locked and the keys left somewhere away from the front of the house.

You can always get up to date reports online for the ward showing key statistics if you would like to know more.

**Membership and subs** - As ever I'd like to remind you all to please pay your £4 annual membership. If you aren't sure if you have done so you can contact myself or Councillor Wood.

You can pay easily online via [www.hxra.org](http://www.hxra.org). You can also send me or Councillor Wood a cheque or pay cash to us directly. A big thank you to Michael K and Mary C who both helped with door knocking recently.



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**Congratulations** - In a month that seemed to have little good news, July saw England's women's football team crowned champions of Europe. Well done ladies. It is now over to the men to see if they can win the World Cup later in the year.

**Wennington Fire** - Although as Leader of the Council you never know what may come your way, I must admit it was a bit of a challenge after just two months as Leader having to deal with such a disaster. One minute my Cabinet colleagues and I were sitting down with the Chief Executive and his senior leadership team on the last of twelve days that we had spent going through detailed information about how the Council operates, and the next minute reports emerged of some serious fires in Upminster and then Wennington, on what you will recall was the hottest day ever recorded in the UK (so far) with the temperature reaching 40 degrees for the first time. . Within an hour, I was in Wennington as the horrors which many of you would have seen on your TV screens started to emerge.

During the twelve days mentioned above, we had received a briefing on how the Council's emergency planning team operates. Little did we know at the time, how soon it would be before we saw the theory turn into reality. That evening myself and some of my colleagues helped out at Willow Farm and then as the evening progressed, assisted at Harrow Lodge Sports Centre, as many people who had lost their home during the fire were provided with temporary shelter for the night.

The fire at Wennington was not only hitting local and national headlines, but it was also going international too, as I was asked to do an interview with an Australian broadcaster that night. The following day, I was back in Wennington doing a round of interviews with a whole range of broadcasters such as Sky, BBC, ITV, LBC and even CNN from America.

I must admit it was a bit surreal being interviewed by Kay Burley live on Sky when I normally see her interviewing others.

In the following days, I and others continued to help with the emergency outside of the village until the Fire Service confirmed it was safe to go into the area. I would not say that I have lived a sheltered life, but I was shocked and horrified by the aftermath of the fire in Wennington, which I can only equate to pictures of a war zone that we sadly often see on our TV screens.

It was a horrible scene - one that I have never seen before and hope not to ever see again. It must have been a very frightening experience for those who had to flee their homes as fire engulfed the area.

If there is any good news from this, apart from the fact that nobody was killed or seriously injured, is how communities have rallied round and provided vast amounts of support for the residents of Wennington with donations from residents and businesses at times being quite overwhelming.

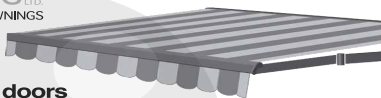
In the past, I have often been critical of the Council, but I have to say that they did a great job and are continuing to provide support to those who have lost everything and even those who have not.

One thing that has become clear is that we are more likely to face extremes of weather going forward and we will need to make ourselves more resilient. In the past, flooding has been a serious issue in several hot spots in the borough and we will need to see what steps we can take to eliminate or at least limit the risk. Similarly, we may need to consider having significant fire breaks where homes back onto parks and large open spaces. Closer to home, there have been several small fires in Hornchurch Country Park.



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**Medical Hub** - Reg and I have had regular meetings with the Project Director for the new hub and although I am confident that the new hub will still be built, the opening date for the Hub has been pushed back a few months, as more money has had to be sought as the cost of construction has escalated because of inflation.

The steel market has been badly affected by the war in Ukraine and as a result the cost of this basic raw material is considerably higher now than it was when this project was first proposed. Hopefully, the monies can be found to get this project up and running with a revised opening date of March 2024. In the meantime, we will continue to press NHS Property Services to ensure the site is secure and maintained.

**ULEZ** - Several Members have contacted me about whether we are in favour or against the Mayor of London's proposal to expand the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ) to outer London Boroughs next year. We are certainly against and in fact there was cross party support at the last Council meeting that our Administration respond to the consultation in this way. A copy of our response can be seen on our website. Hopefully, the Mayor of London will listen, although I have a feeling that he is likely to go ahead with his plans regardless.

**Fly-Tipping** - Sadly, the number of reports of fly-tipping seem to be on the rise, but thankfully when they do happen, the Neighbourhoods Team at the Council, normally have any debris removed within 24 hours of it being reported.

One location where fly-tipping regularly takes place is the junction of Plumpton Avenue and Newmarket Way where the depositing of bags of empty bottles occurs on a regular basis.

I would not like to think that this is a Member of our Association, but if this is you or someone you know, please stop because we will eventually identify you and take strong action against you. The previous Administration did not seem to have a tough stance against those in our borough who do not seem to care about our environment, but we are already having conversations with officers to change that.

**Budget** - Although Council tax setting for the new financial year does not normally take place until the end of February, preparatory work takes place several months beforehand and we are already working our way through potential options for next year's budget and there are some very difficult choices to be made as we continue to be treated poorly in terms of Central Government grant.

Council services pretty much rely upon income from council tax, business rates and various fees and charges. The bulk of the income is used to go towards Children's and Adults' Services which take up around 70% of the available budget. Many of these services must be provided by law so there is limited scope to make cuts in these areas. This means that it is those services which the bulk of residents feel are the most important that suffer cuts because they are discretionary services rather than those that must be provided by law.

Currently, we are operating under the previous Conservative Administration's budget. We have already started in a small way our root and branch review of everything we do and how we do it, but as the months go by, we shall certainly be ramping up our review as we endeavour to make true efficiency savings.

One of the key areas within the Neighbourhoods Directorate that Barry and I are embarking on is a deep dive into how our roads and pavements are maintained, be it the reaction to reports of a pothole appearing in a road to the resurfacing of an entire stretch of road or pavement. We aim to get better value on the monies that we currently spend in this area.



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Well, we certainly had a summer to remember. I read that we have a new record for the longest number of days without rain. I am not sure how true that is, by the time you read this, I hope that we have had some rain; my garden is a nice shade of brown. On the plus side, I have not had to cut my grass in a while – it simply has not grown. In the UK we rarely need to deal with temperature extremes, and it shows. In wintertime, we might get a few inches of snow and the area grinds to a halt, in the summertime we have faced a few solid weeks of sun, and our area has not ground to a halt, but we have definitely faced challenges, with fires being a real (and in some cases deadly) challenge. My heart goes out to those affected by this.

**Sainsbury's Car Park – Glass Recycling** - Last month I reported the theft of the 3<sup>rd</sup> recycling bin (skip). This has not been replaced. I have spoken to a couple of the duty managers at Sainsbury's and asked when the facility will be replaced. I have been told that the glass recycling might not return. Please be aware of this if you bring bottles. There are alternate recycling bins in Fentiman Way car park and The Queens Theatre car park.

I have noticed that some people are simply fly-tipping their bottles where the bottle bank was. Sainsbury's will be forced to clear this up at their expense. If it continues, it is possible that Sainsbury's may decide to remove all the recycling facilities.

**St Andrews Park – Play Equipment** - The play equipment in St Andrews Park has been broken for a while now. I have followed this up with the council and have been told that the parts are on order and the equipment is due to be repaired in September.

**KFC – Large Bin** - Outside the front of KFC in Hornchurch High St, there was always a large bin. Unfortunately, many of the people using KFC appeared not to have noticed this and carefully placed their containers on the floor instead. The bin has been removed by KFC. Enquiries have been made. There are 3 bins to the rear of the restaurant. The staff at KFC will spend half an hour at the end of a shift or prior to the start of the day cleaning the area. I have asked the street cleaning teams to report if this is not happening.



The Hornchurch Round Table ran a special event of a 'Summer Santa Sleigh Ride', similar to the Christmas sleigh ride. The team were out in Hylands Ward collecting donations and food for those affected. We were amazed and touched by the generosity of the residents. As a side note, if you would like to

make a donation to the families affected by the fires, the details of the just giving page are on our website [www.hxra.org](http://www.hxra.org).

**Langtons Gardens Lake and Grounds** - The water level is now at an all-time low, and although it is lovely to see so many ducks, Canada Geese and the family of swans, some of these are now walking on the floor of the lake. The level of water is worrying. I made enquiries asking what the council could do to help. I have been informed that the lake is a man-made lake that has no natural feed and that the rain will replenish it. Again, we are waiting for rain. If you feed the ducks and geese, please consider food other than bread, half grapes and bird seed are a good alternative.

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If the birds are not hungry, please do not pour the food into the water. Take it home or bin it. The toilet facilities available in the courtyard are mostly out of order. The repair teams have ordered parts to replace anything broken.

**Another Parking Ticket** - I was contacted by a resident who had parked in Dorrington Road car park. The resident had attempted to pay with cash, but the machine rejected the money. The resident parked, went to their appointment and received a PCN. I enquired under what circumstances members of the public would be allowed to park for free in the car parks. We were previously told if the parking meters were not working that parking would not be enforced (unless another meter covering the area was working). In this case, the resident explained that the 2<sup>nd</sup> meter in the car park was also not working. They were running late for the appointment and made the call to leave it. I received a response from the council that no one had reported these meters as 'not working'. I was further told that the resident could have used RingGo. I responded and explained that the resident was an older person and did not have a 'smart phone' and like many of the older generation does not have access to RingGo. The appeal is ongoing, and the council will test the meter. I hope the PCN is cancelled. If you have a similar issue, please make sure you report the meter as not working at your earliest opportunity. It will strengthen your case if you need to appeal.

## **St Andrews & Upminster Bridge**

**Councillor Bryan Vincent**

**General Ward matters** - Still no news I regret to say on War Memorial repair funding route or a new Poppy Appeal coordinator for this year. However, let's see if next month brings better news.

**St Andrews Church Cemetery** - Following my report last month regarding the Niue (New Zealand Soldiers) graves in St Andrews Cemetery I was contacted by a resident who gave me further information regarding the shell garlands draped over the graves which I failed to mention last month. I quote the information passed to me:

"In 2002 a group of athletes competing in the Commonwealth Games in Manchester visited the graves, the garlands date from this time. I was working in the office at the church and took the telephone call from the representatives of the athletes. There was a service in the church and in the churchyard. One of the graves is in fact of a Prince from the Island of Niue" There you have it, we have foreign royalty buried in St Andrews churchyard

**Havering Museum** - A resident who volunteers at the museum has asked me to advise other residents that it is well worth a visit if you are in Romford. It is situated in the High Street, a short walk along from the Golden Lion Public House, on the ground floor of the old Romford Brewery building with the Reception and Shop area at the main entrance. There are two permanent galleries which explore the local history through different themes. The displays have been designed so the showcases and graphics are easily viewed by visitors, with everything on one level. There is also a Temporary Exhibition Room and Learning Zone which are used by schools, community groups and for regular events which can be viewed on the events page of their website. The Museum is completely wheelchair accessible

It is an Arts Council England Accredited Museum and tells the story of Havering from pre-history to the present day and highlights the achievements of local people while exploring how the areas that make up the Borough were formed and developed. The Museum came about due to the dedication and hard work of a small band of local people including librarians and historians.

In 2008, in partnership with the London Borough of Havering, the project received a Heritage Lottery Grant. In May 2010 the Museum opened and is completely volunteer led. Open Wednesday to Friday 11am – 4.30pm, although last entrance to galleries is 4pm. Admission is £3 for adults, and for children up to 16 years old the admission is free. There is a Family Free Day –

Saturday 1st October, 11am to 3pm - Museum's phone number is 01708 766571 and their website is [info@haveringmuseum.org.uk](mailto:info@haveringmuseum.org.uk).

**Romford's inaugural "World Naked Bike Ride"** I thought I was seeing things as I drove through Romford on Saturday August 6 when several cyclists rode past me completely naked. No photographs I regret to say. It appears it was an offshoot of the main "World Naked Bike Ride" events in and around London and I assume from the name across the world. One of the organisers of the Romford ride, Eccentric (aka Ken) estimated around 21 people turned out for the ride and said it went well and there are plans already to bring it back next year. Only in Romford, I hear you say.

## **St Andrews & Upminster Bridge      Councillor Gerry O'Sullivan**

**Kenilworth Gardens** - I was recently contacted by a worried resident regarding the grounds where the old Club 2004 was located behind Hornchurch Station. If you can remember this site was sold off for redevelopment but for many reasons the project was put on hold indefinitely. The site has now become overgrown and various climbing plants are encroaching on the neighbours' fencing. The residents as you can appreciate are concerned that if the site caught fire due to the extremely hot weather it could spread to their homes.

I contacted the council, and I am pleased to say that the Environmental Health department are now looking into this for me. As yet I have not had a response from TFL but will continue to chase them.



**Recent Fires** - We will all have been saddened by the recent spate of grass fires which brought havoc across our borough during July and August this year.

What our members may not be aware of is the serious fire in the flats in Mavis Grove during the middle of July. As a result of the fire which broke out at around 1am, sixty residents were evacuated by police officers with two residents being taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation. As a result of the fire a large section of the roof was also destroyed.

As you can appreciate being in the early hours of the morning the residents

would have had nowhere to go so the police opened the police station so residents could stay there until family or friends could be contacted to take them in. Police and council officers did a wonderful job in looking after the residents while they were in the police station.

I would also like to say a big thank you to all the local businesses who provided food and refreshments for the residents and a special thank you to Christine at the Cranleigh restaurant who opened her doors to those residents who were in need by providing free tea, coffee, and lunch

**Pavement Cleaning** - In August I received several telephone calls from residents regarding the terrible state of the pavements in Hornchurch Town. Along with Councillors Middleton and Vincent we met with members of the street cleansing team to discuss what options were available.

I am pleased to report that the street cleansing team will be arranging for the pavements to be jet washed in the coming week. I am unable to give an exact date at this time, but it will commence following completion of the jet washing in Romford.

Whilst conducting the inspection of the pavements we noticed the terrible condition of the alleyway leading from the bus stop on the high street to Fentiman Way. The smell was disgusting there was bile all over the place and inconsiderate people are using this alleyway as a toilet. I have asked the cleansing team if they could check this area out more often.

An interesting fact became known when speaking with the street cleansing officers when we met. We were informed that any premises who have a licence to have seating on the pavement must

display the licence in their front window and they are also responsible for keeping the area clean and clear of rubbish. I cannot say that I have seen any evidence of this happening. A few of those premises could be getting a visit from enforcement officers soon.

**Pay & Display Machines** - My colleague Cllr Stephanie Nunn mentioned in our July issue of the Focus magazine the problems residents were experiencing when parking meters were out of order. The response Cllr Nunn received from the council was that "If all machines in a location were inoperable then we do not force customers to use the app and they can park for free for the maximum stay period." Unfortunately, this does not seem to be the case in Hornchurch. A resident contacted me in August stating that they had received a PCN when parking where a parking meter was not working. Recently I was informed by a member of the parking team that if a resident parks in a location where a meter is not working, they should phone the number displayed on the meter and inform parking that the meter is inoperable. By doing so residents have a greater chance of having the PCN cancelled.

Both responses cannot be correct, I asked the parking manager for clarification but was not able to get a response in time to let our residents know. I will provide an update in our next edition of Focus.

**Trees, Trees, and more Trees** - During the Covid pandemic as we all know most people were instructed to stay at home. This has meant that the normal tree pruning schedules could not be undertaken. In addition to this two of the council's most experienced arborists retired thus making the problem worse. Just to compound the problem the contractors who undertook the work also stopped working for the council. On a slightly brighter note we have now employed a new arborist who is working to bring the pruning schedule back on track.

On the 9<sup>th</sup> of August Cllr Mugglestone and I met the new arborist, and we visited several locations in the St Andrews ward to review the open enquiries I have made on behalf of the residents in St Andrews ward. By the time you read this article I will have informed those residents what is going to happen.

**Addup** - I sometimes wonder where the time goes. I have just been reminded that Addup will be celebrating their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. Addup was set up to bring families together, to guide parents in the right direction to find practicable help they need for their children and to promote both public and professional awareness of ADHD.

## Elm Park News

## Councillor Barry Mugglestone

**Bollards Coniston Way** - Good news the council has marked out the area to put in bollards to stop drivers driving across the footpath by Dunningford Close into Coniston Way. This is to protect pedestrians and children, I am sure you all agree their safety is most important.

I am following up on the bollards for **Eagle Way**, the council have committed to this when funding is available, I am sure we will find funding as safety is a major concern.

**PCN (Parking Ticket)** - *I must stress the person receiving the PCN must challenge it themselves, we as councillors can't do this for you, but we can ask questions about PCNs if the resident brings it to our attention.*

**Trees** - I went on many site visits with the tree officer, currently we only have one tree officer and we have no in house team to deal with trees. The grounds maintenance help out where they can, but I would like and will be campaigning to get our own tree team to deal with trees instead of using

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contractors. Diban Avenue had a tree reduced by 30% and we received a nice phone call from the resident saying how much difference it has made to light coming into their house.

**Play-ground Equipment in Harrow Lodge Park** - A few months ago a resident contacted me regarding the condition of the playground equipment in Harrow Lodge Park. The good news is we have equipment on order, but no current delivery date. However, I am hoping for end of September mid-October for this to be installed.

**Pubs & Nightclubs** - I went on a site visit in Romford Town centre on a Friday night with our enforcement teams, and it was a good evening to see how the pubs & clubs operate and work with each other. There is a group called Safe & Sound which meets to discuss issues in each venue, and they all work together so if an individual is barred from one premises they are basically barred from all in Romford. A lot of ID checking is done and recorded, now we need to see the same in Hornchurch and bring them up to the same level as Romford, especially with what happened in the Fatling when someone was stabbed and the incident at the Drill Pub in Gidea Park.

**SNT Team** - We are having a change of Sergeant in the ELM PARK WARD team, Louis Shuttleworth is leaving. Thank you Louis for all the work you did in the Elm Park area and we wish you well in your new position. The new Sergeant is Jayshreeben Patel who we welcome. Your three Elm Park Ward councillors will be meeting the new sergeant to discuss priorities in the ward.

**Ennerdale Avenue** - A very alert resident contacted me regarding a car that looked suspicious. They entered the registration of the car, it came back as supposed to being white in colour, but it was a black/grey colour! I informed the MET police and the council.

**Bretons Manor** - Stephanie, Julie and I had a site visit to Bretons with an officer to look at a number of issues. We checked the barriers to the car parks which had both been damaged and asked for vegetation to be cleared in the main car park to free up more parking spaces.

We inspected the wall of the original walled garden, which is listed, and noted that it is being protected in certain places. We had a walk round the lake and asked for strimming to be done as the new footpath is becoming overgrown in places. Sadly in one or two places there are signs (litter) of gatherings – if only they would take their litter home, after all the drink cans are heavier when they bring them! Bins were provided but sadly they were thrown into the lake. Not only bins but motorbikes too end up in the lake or the footpath as you can see from the photo



**Jenkins Lane** - As the East London Waste Authority (ELWA) rep for the London Borough of Havering I was invited with other councillors to see how our rubbish is re-cycled and disposed of, it was an interesting visit. Did you know you need to crush a plastic bottle before putting it in the recycling sack? If you don't crush the bottle, when it goes on the conveyor it rolls and sometimes it will not be recognized that it can be recycled, so let's all crush a plastic bottle, a bit like the presenter on Crackerjack who used to say "Ooh I could crush a grape". Also another important point to make is to make sure you empty all containers of liquid before putting them in the orange sacks as this adds to the tonnage that goes over the weigh bridge. Do not put clothing or shoes in the orange bags as they cause an issue with the mechanism of the conveyor and finally batteries must not be put in black or orange sacks as these are a fire hazard. Remember the less tonnage, the less cost to us all.



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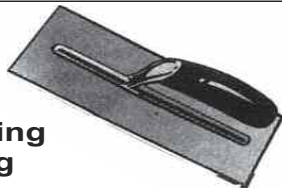
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**New Borough MET Police Commander** - We have a new Borough Police Commander Mr Stuart Bell, he seems to be very keen on Neighbourhood policing, which I am also very keen on and when I met him I advised him that for residents to start having more faith and trust in the force he needs to deliver more community engagement.

He must listen to the residents of the Borough as we are his and his officers' eyes and ears and we know the areas we live in well enough.

Classic example above Ennerdale Avenue.

Well it finally happened I retired from Ford Motor Company after 42 years' service. I was looking to retire in April 2023, but brought it forward to 31<sup>st</sup> July as being appointed as a cabinet member for Environment, this position needs full time attention, also with the twin grand-daughters something had to go and it was Ford.

## **Hylands and Harrow Lodge Ward** **Councillor John Wood**

**Park Recreation Equipment** - Some of Harrow Lodge Park play equipment seems to have been out of action for quite a long time now and mainly due to vandalism and residents have contacted me about it. I have contacted the Council and asked when this will be rectified. I have been advised that repairs or replacement will be carried out later in the year sometime.

**Recycle Bins** - A few complaints about the recycle bins in the B&Q/Tesco car park constantly being full up and residents leaving bags of recycle material on the floor. I have contacted both B & Q and Tesco to ask if they can be emptied on a more regular basis.

**Globe Road Resurfacing and Road Markings** - Globe Road has now been resurfaced and previous road markings reinstalled. I have asked the Council to extend the junction protection yellow lines another 3 metres because vehicles park much too close to the central road islands. Large vehicles cannot get through the small gap and often drive around the road island on the other side of the road. The new proposed junction protection will be installed, but at the present time we do not have a fixed date.

The junctions with Norman Road, Bush Elms Road and Hillcrest Road and Hylands Way were resurfaced quite some time ago and the road markings were not re installed afterward. I've asked for them to be re done ASAP.

**Footpath Tree Roots** - Tree roots pushing through the foot path seems to be quite common throughout the ward. If you know of any that are a significant health and safety risk please let us know.

**Abandoned Vehicles** - Abandoned vehicles are on the increase and recently in Hylands Way it took nearly a year to get a foreign van removed. It is relatively easy for anyone to check online if the vehicle is taxed and insured. If it is taxed and insured the Council cannot remove it for a specific amount of time has elapsed usually about 6 months, unless it is a severe Health and Safety risk.

**Edison Road (update on Junction Protection)** - Although junction protection has been tentatively agreed it is still subject to budget restraints and so the Council cannot provide a specific time frame for this specific scheme.

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**Dorian Road (Update on HGV Width Restrictions)** - The current situation is that funding for such measures is mainly allocated by Transport for London (TfL) under the Local Implementation Plan which all London boroughs submit on an annual basis. At present, TfL have financial constraints and all London Boroughs are waiting to receive financial grants. Such allocation is normally allocated at the start of financial year. In addition, submission for such allocations must be supported by the accident data, Mayor of London's Transport Objectives and to our knowledge there have been no serious road accidents reported in roads as stated in your email. Overall, the Council do not think it is feasible to consider width restriction in Dorian Road at this present time.

**School Parking Update** - Finding a solution to inconsiderate parking is extremely difficult and many years ago the Council had a scheme called PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER which prohibits unauthorised vehicles from stopping in a specific area around a school. I have asked the Council to look at possibly bringing back this type of order where feasible, to prevent inconsiderate parking around schools.

**Hylands Dedicated Ward Officer** - I will be asking Hylands SNT if we can arrange public meetings in Hylands on a regular basis.

**Supposed Charities – Door Knocking** - Recently a resident contacted me about a supposed member of the Havering Youth Offending Team who was knocking at doors selling tea towels etc. I've checked with Havering YOT and it's not linked to them in anyway. Unless you are positive the person collecting for a charity or selling anything is genuine do not give them any money and certainly do not leave your front door open if you go back in the house.

**And finally** - If you need to phone me please leave a brief message and I will always get back to you. I do get lots of calls where no message is left and because of scams etc I do not ring back any of these unidentifiable numbers. If you can spare 30 mins or so each month to deliver FOCUS in your road or area for us please contact me to have a chat.

The subscription for your FOCUS magazine for Jan to Dec 2022 is now due if you haven't already paid. You can pay online [www.HXRA.org](http://www.HXRA.org) or send me a cheque, alternatively just phone me if you have any queries.

<b>Elm Park News</b>	<b>Councillor Julie Wilkes</b>
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**Bader Way** - An overgrown bush was so bad it was blocking the pavement. I asked the council to write to this resident to ask him to cut back the bush from the pavement before an accident occurred. The Council initially knocked on this specific resident's door, but with no answer, a letter was then posted giving them 21 days to cut the bush back from the pavement. Nothing happened so now from 3.8.22 seven days' legal notice will be given, if nothing, the Council will cut back and take the resident to Court.

**South End Road** - It was reported that illegal parking between 490 – 500 was taking place, I raised a call for wardens to put this area onto their schedule.

**Sarre Avenue** - Residents contacted us informing us that Council Planning officers had visited and had informed them that an external accessory needed Retrospective Planning as this had been in situ since 2019. The residents were sent the links to enable them to apply.

**Rubbish behind shops** - The area behind the shops which you access via Benhurst Avenue – specific residents here are constantly dumping rubbish. I would like to thank a resident, but will not name them, for installing CCTV at his own expense and sending us photos. The guilty party has been visited by the Enforcement Team and will be made to pay for the rubbish removal.

### **The Arts Society**

#### **Havering**

Our September talk will be  
Berthe Morisot: "une finesse  
fragonardienne" by Dr Lois  
Oliver.

This will take place on  
Tuesday 13th September at  
10:30 am at the New Windmill  
Hall Upminster.

Please visit our web site

<https://tashavering.org.uk/Lectures/FutureLectures.aspx>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/199870022175485>

Contact us at [info@tashavering.org.uk](mailto:info@tashavering.org.uk)

The light-filled canvases of Impressionist painter Berthe Morisot capture the pleasures of modernity: fashionable ball gowns, afternoons spent boating on a lake, children playing. Yet, her contemporaries perceived a connection with the eighteenth century. The event is open to visitors for a fee of £8.00.

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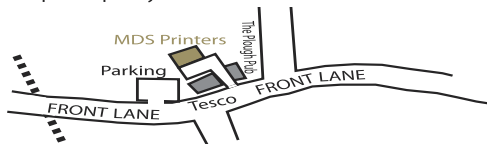
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**R J Mitchell School** – We have been contacted by several residents who were trying to apply for a parking permit via MiPermit the Council's software but were unable. I emailed the Council and also sent the response I received to the resident: "Unfortunately the system is experiencing some technical issues and it is not possible yet to request the permit for the exemptions S4-S10. We are working on this and it should be sorted in the following days so please advise to try again next week. Apologies for any inconvenience caused."

**Warren Drive** - There was an overgrown tree here by 109 – I raised a call to the Council to cut this down to a nice neat and safe size.

**Sowrey Avenue** - I was contacted by a resident who had had a blue badge application refused. I visited the resident at his home on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> August and the outcome was I met an amazing young man who in the face of terrible health issues still retains his sense of humour. I contacted a Director at the Council who will offer more support and hopefully enable the young man to get the operation he so needs to return to 100% health.

**Sowrey/Simpson Road** - It was reported that a bollard had been broken at this junction – I emailed and made the Council aware – hopefully it will be replaced shortly.

**Wennington Village Fires** - To donate to the fund to help those residents who have lost their home click on this link –: [www.intranet.havering.gov.uk/wennington-fire-fund](http://www.intranet.havering.gov.uk/wennington-fire-fund) Barry, Stephanie and I assisted the Wennington and Rainham councillors by sorting out the wonderful donations made by so many people at Harris Academy over two weekends. We also went to visit residents in Wennington and saw the devastating damage the fires did.



Barry and Julie speaking to David and Roberta (Bobby)



You can see only the remnants of a bath and ironing board.

Our thoughts are with the people who have lost their homes and possessions. We met a lovely couple David and Roberta (Bobby) who live in the old Post Office in Wennington. They were hit at the back of their house by the fire We then went to see the Church, amazingly the grass is all burnt, but the gravestones are still as white as white and the church wasn't touched by the fire at all.

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#### LOOKING FOR A NEW CHALLENGE?

##### **Would you like the role of General Secretary to the Hornchurch Residents' Association?**

This role offers you a great chance to be actively involved in the local community to help shape the direction of the Hornchurch Residents' Association to support the 10 Councillors from the Hornchurch Residents' Association

If you are interested in this role or even learning more about the Executive Committee please contact either [james.glass@hxra.org](mailto:james.glass@hxra.org) or [gerry.Osullivan@hxra.org](mailto:gerry.Osullivan@hxra.org)

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