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See page 23

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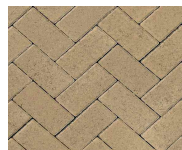


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Foreword – Bryan Vincent – Chairman

As I write this report, the Covid19 problem appears to be under some form of control, the number of people vaccinated is increasing daily and hospital admissions, whilst still high, are on the decrease. With all children returning to school and the planned phased easing of lockdown conditions I look forward, like you no doubt, to the spring, warmer weather and freedom to travel.

As members will be aware, we have been unable to deliver the Focus magazine since January following government guidelines. In fact, the January magazine was printed but still awaits delivery (although somewhat late) to you once conditions allow. We did not print in February but assuming conditions continue to improve, plan to print the March edition for delivery again.

I apologise to those members that have been unable to view the January and February editions of the Focus on-line to date. However, they are still on our website www.hxra.org (E-Edition tab) should you wish to catch up with our news.

I understand some members still prefer to receive the printed copy of Focus, as I am sure they prefer a newspaper to hold in their hands as opposed to reading the national news on-line, I know I certainly do. However, having the Focus available on-line to view at any time has proved invaluable during the current restrictions to get our information and reports out to members.

I encourage members to sign up for on-line membership should it prove difficult again in future months/years to publish, by sending their email and home address to subs@hxra.org. We will then send you a link to view the on-line versions.

Can I also give a gentle nudge to remind members to pay their subscriptions for 2021? It is only your subscriptions that allow us to print the Focus each month keeping you up to date on what is happening in your ward. Payment can be dropped/posted to any of our ward team home addresses as listed in the Focus, or you can pay online through our website (Manage Your Membership tab)

With local elections in May 2022 our national political parties will no doubt start bombarding you with all manner of leaflets bragging about what they have been doing around your ward. Remember, it is only the Hornchurch Residents' Association with the Focus magazine that have kept you up to date every month of every year since the last election on local issues. In addition, reporting each month on your problems when raised to our ward teams.

Finally, I regret we were forced to delay our annual AGM last year due the Covid19 restrictions. Once the situation improves, I hope to announce a date later this year when we can all meet up again.

Continue to stay safe

Bryan Vincent
Chairman - HxRA

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Questions at Council Meetings: Firstly, I'd like to write about my experience of asking questions on your behalf at council meetings. As a group we have the opportunity to submit 4 questions in writing for the Cabinet members to answer at each council meeting, this is apart from any questions raised generally during the course of the meeting. As the questions are submitted before the meeting, the answers appear to be written by officers and read by the Cabinet members. We then have the opportunity to ask a supplementary question, in other words a question they are not prepared for.

In January I asked the Cabinet Member responsible for education "What steps have been taken to ensure the financial stability of academies in Havering?" We had seen in the press that elsewhere some of the academies were failing as businesses, which is what they are. I was read a prepared statement telling me what academies are, most people know something about this, including myself as a teacher. This of course did not answer my question. My supplementary question was "What contingency plans have Havering got in place for the children's education?" I was told another academy would step in; is it really that simple? I don't think so. What happens to the children's education in the meantime?

Another question unanswered. It reminds me of the question I asked the Cabinet Member responsible for Housing "Do you think it is immoral that residents pay for services they don't receive?" He responded that no one pays for a service they don't receive. Strange that I was able to obtain refunds for residents who have been paying £5 a week for a pull cord system that hadn't worked for years.

Scargill School: As you know I am trying to improve safety around this school and have been researching into the missing lollipop lady amongst other things. Some good news at last, work will be undertaken in Simpson Road in the next financial year to put lines on the junctions and extend those already in place. I also asked for extra signage in Mungo Park Road to warn drivers there is a school. I was told:

"Our highways engineer has visited the school and noted that there are existing advance warning signs indicating that there are school children crossing ahead at the crossing...We do not consider that there is any further need for additional signs."

Well, along with the head teachers and parents I do not think one triangular sign on each side of the road is adequate and I will be pursuing this.

Harrow Lodge Park: I walk round this park every week and recently Jody and I spoke about a couple of items that need attention (apart from the lake). Firstly, as you can see from the picture, the pathway from the car park to the café needs tidying up, although vehicles driving over the grass do not help. I have asked if there is any money for a bit of tarmac. I have also asked if any lighting can be provided here at the request of a resident that spoke to Jody.

Midhurst Close: After the collapse of the magnificent willow tree, residents asked me about the safety of the conifers along the railway track. I submitted their concerns



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and chased this up with the tree officer. It was passed to enforcement who then decided it was nothing to do with Havering Council as it is on TfL land. Well, I have contacted TfL myself, so hopefully I will soon get a response.

Elm Park Town Centre: I hope by now the roundabout by Readings has been repaired and the weeds removed. Apart from this outstanding work, I think the centre is very tidy so thank you to the grounds maintenance staff. On my regular walks I have reported three pot holes in Eyhurst Avenue, outside 89, 39 and 6. One filled (6) and 2 to go. I also reported a group of pot holes outside 290 and 292 Abbs Cross Lane, so hopefully they will soon be filled too. I reported faulty lights in Langdale Gardens (on all day) and Wittering Walk (wires hanging out).

Early Years Providers (EYPs): Several of us across the wider group of Havering's Residents' Associations were invited to a zoom meeting by nursery/preschool providers who advised us they had not had enough support from Havering Council during the pandemic. They brought this to our attention because they didn't feel a recent article in the Romford Recorder quoting the Cabinet Member for education, children and families told the whole story. The article spoke of regular phone contact, which we were told had not happened. They had not been phoned until the article appeared and previously their phone calls had not been returned. The main support they received was from each other. They were not offered free PPE like the schools, but sent a price list to purchase this which was expensive (in the last couple of weeks they have had a delivery of free PPE). The EYPs have not been able to access self-testing kits for Covid that schools have, they have to go in their own time to the local centres and queue. Schools have closed, but EYPs have been told to stay open with both health and financial implications.

We looked into their justified concerns, too many to list in this small article. I have contacted Jon Cruddas MP who wrote to the government minister to request EYPs are treated equally as key workers with teachers in terms of any priority for vaccination. The owner of Scallywags Nursery requested a meeting with the Cabinet Member. When he agreed to fit her in for 30 minutes, guess what? He said no residents' association councillors could attend.

Airfield Way: I chased up the grass cutting here by Tesco's but was told it was too wet. My attention was also drawn to the conifers opposite Sarre Avenue which are causing some people to duck, I realise they are not on Havering ground but in someone's garden so I will investigate.

Planning Committee: I am a member of this committee along with 2 other residents' association members, 1 labour member and 4 conservatives. Last week a planning application was presented to build 4 houses on a green open space in Priory Road, Harold Hill which is known for deer and other wildlife. Out of all the space available in Havering, it was passed for approval as the Chair has the casting vote and the original vote was 4 votes against 4 votes in agreement (conservatives). I cannot believe that anyone would choose to build on this space.

Boundary Commission: A big thank you to all who commented on the draft report of the Commission. The impact of all these comments was that a further draft report has been produced with a closing date of 8 March. I was pleased that they listened to residents and local businesses and accepted that Elm Park is a community which should not be split up with half of it going to South Hornchurch. I am sorry to say this, but it was a politically motivated suggestion by our administration. However, I will be relieved to see the final decision.

Drake Mews: Huge shrubs here are damaging the fence of a resident in Stapleton Crescent. After chasing up several times to get these cut down I established the area is maintained by a housing association. Finally I was told they had been cut down, however I went to check – exactly the same, so back to square one. We like to go the extra mile for our residents.

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After what seems like months of rain and a fleeting glimpse of snow, **Hylands Park Lake** returned with a vengeance! It is not the worst it has been, I took this picture in **2014** from the car park entrance, which shows the extent of the water on the grass, the impassable path at the cricket pavilion end and the water making its way down to the middle lake by the play area! This smaller pool of rain was still big enough to flow onto, and water-log, the lower field and into the gardens of Bush Elms/Globe Road residents.



Back to 2021. We contacted the Parks Dept about the problem and they tried pumping from the sump in the grass area, but size is everything and the pump's outlet was deemed too small ***"It was like trying to bail out the Titanic with a bucket"*** they said.

When we told them of reports of dogs picking up infections and getting ill, they called in the 'big guns', a tanker with a somewhat heavier duty pump and the capacity to move over 2000 gallons (over 9000 litres) every 40 minutes, as they had to 'suck up', disconnect and reverse into the car park, then pump out into the drain that the Parks Dept installed a few years ago (along with the sump) which connects to the storm drains in Osborne Road.

This made a huge impact over the days that they were there, although visually, it had only created a metre wide pathway for the army of walkers currently enjoying our lovely 'little gem' of a park. So it was a welcome sight to see **Hornchurch Athletic Cricket Club** joining in with their own pump over a few days, and almost gaining all the glory as they managed to clear the rest of the path.

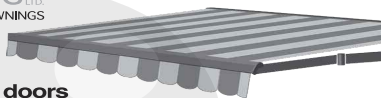
Laughably, there was a post on social media over 2 weeks later, where one of the Hylands Tory Councillors said that they had just got their leader to get the problem actioned, and laying claim to 'helping out'.....**glory hunting** at it's best, a bit like their photo opportunity litter picks you keep seeing on their leaflets (all wards, borough wide).

This problem has been around for a long time, I remember Colin the park keeper spreading tons of soil in that same area, as it is a low spot, and he hasn't been around for over 15 years. So yes, it's about time the leader of the Council invested more money in our parks, to sort all these problems out, just don't hold your breath!

We have had a very slow but steady stream of payments for focus fees, but please could you make cheques payable to Hornchurch Residents' Association, as that is the correct account name, and remember to include your address on the back. The online payment system is doing very well, due to Paul Middleton's efforts, and he sends out reminders at the beginning of the year to those registered. Please do sign up at www.hxra.org if you are able.



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On the 9th of February I attended Towns & Communities Overview & Scrutiny Sub- Committee. One of the items on the agenda was the review that the council were undertaking for the Housing Allocation Scheme.

Under the new proposals, residents will need to have continuously lived in the borough for ten years rather than six to get on the housing register. There will be some exceptions for refugees and people of a traveller background who will need to have stayed in the borough for five years and made a community contribution such as paid, unpaid, or volunteer work.

The maximum income threshold for applicants would also be increased from £36,000 to £50,000 meaning wealthier people could join the register as well. Anyone above that threshold would not be able to apply though.

I questioned why they were raising the maximum threshold from £36k to £50k when the average wage in London is £38,000 and for lower-paid workers is around £18,460. If people are earning £50,000 a year, I am sure they can in most cases afford private accommodation. Please bear in mind that in 2019-20, only two out of ten households on the housing register had a realistic prospect of securing social housing.

The Director of Housing explained some of the properties the council were letting are available for “affordable rent” which can be up to 80 per cent of market rent. The council needs people on the list who can afford those properties but who are also in need of housing. A council officer also said some couples who collectively earn £50,000 might still have additional childcare costs which can make it difficult for them to afford private accommodation.

Do not working people on £18k per year also have childcare costs? So for them it is almost impossible to rent private accommodation and why are we building homes in Havering that the low paid cannot afford?

I was under the impression that it was the council's duty to look after those who are most vulnerable in our society. The consultation on the new proposals will run until Sunday 4 April. The following link provides further information.

<https://democracy.havering.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5906>

Abbs Cross Lane

I am sorry to report that after a year of chasing council officers to help the residents in Abbs Cross Lane with the flooding issue they have experienced over several years, no progress has been made. I have been in contact with TfL, Network Rail and Thames Water to try to set up a meeting to see if we can resolve the problem. Unfortunately, all but Thames Water have not been willing to meet on site to discuss the problem due to Covid 19.

Last year I also contacted the Leader of Havering Council on two separate occasions, but he did not even respond. I contacted him again this year along with the CEO of the council once again to highlight the problem of flooding in this area and once again no response was received from either of them.

To make matters worse the officer I was speaking with regarding Abbs Cross Lane has now left the council to work elsewhere. I now will have to start from scratch again.

Just to add insult to injury on the 12th of January a report was made in the Living magazine that the council had undertaken work to prevent flooding at the south eastern end of Rise Park because several homes were flooded in January. Am I being cynical? Is there one rule for Opposition Wards and another one for Tory Wards, I will let you decide?



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Hacton Lane (adjacent to Ravenscourt Grove)

Over the years residents on this side of Hacton Lane have experienced problems with drivers parking inconsiderately. Cllr Middleton and I met with a highways officer in February to see if a solution can be found. One option being considered is the introduction of a double yellow line along the length of the road including the turning circle. We also requested that the missing bollards between numbers 62 and 68 be replaced due to drivers mounting the pavement to save waiting at the mini roundabout. When I have more information, I will let you know.



Kenley Gardens

In recent months I have raised several requests for potholes to be repaired in Kenley Gardens, it is now clear to see that patching potholes in this road is not the most cost-effective solution. I have therefore requested an onsite meeting with a senior highways manager to review the situation. Budgets permitting we will get this resolved.

Eyhurst Avenue.

At the beginning of last year, I was contacted by several residents regarding the problem that large delivery vehicles and the council dust carts were having accessing Eyhurst Avenue at the junction with St Nicholas Avenue due to vehicles being parked on both sides of the road. Following discussions with a highways officer it was agreed that the best solution to enable easier access for large vehicles was for the council to put double yellow lines alongside the community centre in Eyhurst Avenue and provide on-pavement parking on the opposite side of the road. Currently officers are in the process of creating the paperwork. When I have more information, I will keep you informed.

Beulah Road

Some good news for a change. I am pleased to report that Beulah Road was resurfaced during the February school half term.

Also, in February Councillor Middleton and I met with a highways officer to review the number of potholes there are in Eyhurst Avenue. Works orders will be raised to have some of these repaired. Please note that unless a pothole is deeper than 40mm it will not be repaired.

Wayside Avenue

I am pleased to report that the lamp post has now been replaced. As they say there is always light at the end of the tunnel!!!

Hacton Ward

Councillor Ray Morgon

St George's Medical Centre

As I reported in November FOCUS, things are moving forward with the above centre, although at the time of writing a formal planning application has not yet been submitted to Havering Council.

However, we are aware that conversations are taking place in the background between the developer and the Council and at the end of January, the initial proposals for the site were presented to the Council's Strategic Planning Committee for comment.

RAH



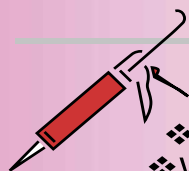
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We have, of course, been working with the NHS (CCG) on this matter for some time as we have always been a strong advocate for having a medical facility on this site that serves local residents as well as the wider borough.

Indeed, some of you may recall that a few years ago, we issued a questionnaire asking about the types of services that you would like to see on site. Several hundred of you replied with your views. The details were discussed in a meeting at the Town Hall between your Hacton Ward Councillors and the NHS. Our thanks go to Terry and Barbara Matthews for collating all the information.

Not only will the centre provide valuable local primary care facilities but it will also accommodate some services being transferred from the Queen's, freeing up space in what we all believe to be an overstretched hospital. These services will include renal dialysis, frailty care, support and treatment for those with long term conditions as well as mental health services where I suspect there will be an increase in demand once the pandemic has passed.

It is intended to have a GP practice there, as well as some diagnostic services, x-rays and mobile scanners. Some minor operations will also be carried out on site.

As usual with many developments, availability of parking is always an issue and we will be doing all that we can to ensure that there is a sufficient level, along with ensuring that the site is the best that it can be.

Developments will always have some impact and again we will be doing all that we can to minimise any negative impact on the local area, particularly for those residents closest to the site in Hacton Drive and Suttons Lane.

If you have any questions about the site, please let us know.

Hornchurch Library

The above library has been turned over to be a main vaccination centre in Havering. Many of you have received your vaccinations at this centre and have been very complimentary about how well organised the facility is, together with how friendly everyone there has been.

I would like to add my thanks to all those involved and no doubt I will have a similarly good experience when it is my time to have the jab.

Flooding

This is certainly becoming an increasing problem in Havering and one that needs more attention going forward.

Over the past year or so, I have been pressing for action around Hornchurch Station which often floods after heavy rain. There are also other areas within Hacton Ward that are close to the River Ingrebourne that are also being regularly affected by the overflowing river. I will be pressing the Council to take steps to alleviate the impact of this problem. The bottom of Hacton Drive, Hurst Park Avenue, Newmarket Way and Derby Avenue are particularly susceptible when we encounter prolonged periods of heavy rain.

Some of you may recall that about a year ago, I asked members if they suffered from water laying around on roads and pavements outside their property, long after the rainwater had disappeared elsewhere. A considerable number of you responded and whilst I have managed to get some remedial action taken, the vast majority sadly will continue to persist as a result of budget constraints.

On Your Guard

Whilst it would certainly appear that during the lockdown the number of reported crimes has thankfully dropped, please do not let your guard down for a moment. There are still some out there on the prowl looking for opportunities to steal your possessions, be it from your house, garage, shed or vehicle. Lock it or lose it.

Please remember to use the 101 service for all non-emergency reports of crime. Occasionally, I am advised of issues anonymously, which is generally fine, but the Police often need further information to properly investigate the matter and this is difficult when the person who observed it is not known.

Street Signs

Recently, I had a damaged sign in Scotney Walk replaced. Please continue to advise us of any signs that are missing, damaged or could just do with a good clean.

Eileen Cameron

Many of you will remember Ivor and Eileen Cameron who were very popular and respected Councillors in Hacton Ward. Ivor passed away last year, and sadly, I have to report that Eileen has also recently passed away.

They were both outstanding examples of our Association's ethos in working hard for your residents and putting others before yourself. During their year as Mayor and Mayoress, they were also outstanding ambassadors for our Borough.



Springbank Avenue/Wendover Way

Over the past few months, I have received a number of comments and enquiries in relation to the works outside the new dwelling in Springbank Avenue.

These works were carried out without authorisation from the Council and at the time of writing, the Council are working with the developer to regularise the situation.

There are no plans to make a through road between the two roads and any such suggestion would be strongly objected to by us.

Scrutiny

It has always been my view that, whether at national or local level, Government should always be open and transparent and those decision makers should be held to account for their decisions. There are plenty of examples around the world where Leaders do not believe in these principles and sadly, this is the case in Havering too.

At a recent Council meeting, I put forward a motion on behalf of the Residents Group for a review to take place of the process that allows some decisions to be taken by the Administration that are exempt from scrutiny. It was perhaps no great surprise when this was voted down by Damian White's Administration. He certainly does not like to be held to account.

Hylands Ward Update

Jody Ganly

Mud Mounds Harrow Lodge Park - At our last Havering Residents' Association meeting I mentioned a meeting that was being set up with Havering Planners, Hylands Residents, Keith Prince and Ward Councillors (Cllr Morgon also attended) regarding the amended planning

application to keep the mud and spoil at the back of the new sports centre building with landscaping being the main amendment.

The original plans were for a small mound or bund to be made at the back of the new-build which would be grassed over to soften the look of the new building and to look as if in keeping with the old field. The new amended plans showed that the builders had gone over boundary lines of the site boundary and that there was extremely more spoil than anticipated from the building works, apparently someone had misjudged the amount of spoil that would be coming out of the site. Residents of St. Leonards, particularly Wallis Close, were outraged that the spoil and mounds were to be left in situ as this would leave their properties being overlooked and at risk of flooding.

After the meeting, Hylands Conservative Councillors assured Residents that they would meet again with Council Officers, the Council Leader and Planners to try to come to some alternative arrangement to reduce the size of the mounds. Residents of Wallis Close were shocked to hear the amended plans had been passed, and told by Havering:

"Following the Zoom meeting with Planners, we agreed to speak with the Leader and Officers about your continued concerns regarding the landscaping proposals, the following statement was put forward to residents of Wallis Close:

"As you are aware the original proposals have changed so that the increased height of the landscaping is now over 30 metres from your garden boundary. After consideration, Planners have indicated that they have no legitimate reason to refuse planning permission for this application. We have reached the stage now where the Council has had to make a decision to request that the Planners issue their determination of the Planning Application P1487.19. You have made it very clear to us that the only acceptable solution is to remove all of the soil from the site, however, this is not possible and will not happen.

However, the landscaping proposal does include planting of mature trees to limit any views in to your gardens, and we will make sure these are planted as quickly as possible so they have the desired effect"

We did request a further meeting on Zoom to be held with the residents, but it was felt that this was inappropriate as it may inflame tensions more and was therefore declined.

We asked for a final consideration of anything else that could be done including mentioning the previous offer of a new wall/fence being erected. If this is wanted by yourselves then an officer is happy to seek quotations for this. However, subsequently the decision regarding the application has been made by the officers to go ahead with the proposals.

We understand that this is obviously not the outcome you would have wanted and it is very frustrating. However we do believe that we have got the best outcome which we could have achieved. In reality, regardless of the debate about whether it should or shouldn't have been there in the first place, all the spoil wasn't going to be completely removed. Since our first visit in the summer the mound has significantly reduced in size and the planners have made changes to the plans including making the incline further away from the closest property. On balance considering it was a plain empty field before the development, and that your perimeter fences are lower than the standard fence height, the new landscaping will most probably enhance the look of that part of the park and when its complete be an acceptable and a 'nice view'.

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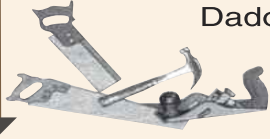
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Of course if there are any ASB problems as you suggest there will be, then we will address them should they arise, but the planners have assured us that the planting of trees and the meadow areas will negate this.

We also reiterated the concerns regarding drainage around the perimeter and that was relayed to the site developers.

If you are still intent on pursuing other options the only thing I can advise you to do is to seek legal advice from the ombudsman or go through the council's complaints procedure. This is however potentially costly and you should all think carefully about the potentially implications of this, not only in any financial cost but in the further stress and strain it may cause. It may be a good time to just draw a line under it all.

I have been told by Officers that Everyone Active would likely be happy to offer the 3 closest properties a complimentary free membership to the new centre as a gesture of goodwill"

The residents of Wallis Close have endured a new river that has started up at the back of their properties and have had flooded gardens due to the runoff water from the mounds. Havering Council have said that a solution is being sought!!!!!! Hopefully sooner rather than later.

Speeding traffic in Lyndhurst Drive - I received several complaints just before Christmas, about a terrible road traffic accident in Lyndhurst Drive. There have been quite a few nasty crashes in this road over the past few years and of course residents are concerned for their safety and damage that is being caused to their vehicles.

I put a complaint forward to Havering's Highways Department and received the following response:

"Thank you for your correspondence in relation to speeding traffic in Lyndhurst Drive.

I am sorry to hear that you and other residents in Lyndhurst Drive have been experiencing excessive speeding and are concerned about further accidents.

Highways, Traffic and Parking receive various reports of parking issues and hazards, such as vehicles parking on junctions and bends, in addition to requests for parking restrictions.

In general, the funding for our highway schemes comes from annual grants made by Transport for London (TfL) and these grants are utilised to produce a package of projects which have been subject to formal agreement through the Council's Cabinet decision-making process.

The projects are selected for TfL funding in different categories such as accident reduction, school travel etc. Unfortunately, Transport for London has recently withdrawn all the funding for these traffic schemes until further notice due to coronavirus pandemic. We expect to be able to bid for funding again from TfL, or find alternative funding sources, in the new financial year.

However in the meantime, Highway Engineers have added Lyndhurst Drive to the programme to undertake speed surveys and investigate the accidents that have occurred, this will help inform the type of traffic calming measures that need to be installed."



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Old Sports Centre Demolition - As the New Sports Centre has been completed, the old one has started to be demolished. I have many happy memories in that old pool, school swimming lessons and galas, swimming for my club, killer whales, passing my bronze medallion for life saving, using the diving boards and when older, teaching water aerobics in the small learner pool. I am sure many of you have fond memories of the old leisure centre too. Some of you have been in touch to ask what is to become of the old site.

The plans are (unless someone changes them) for it to become the new car park for the new leisure centre.

Accident in Elm Park Library car park - One of our Hylands deliverers contacted me to say, whilst out for one of her daily walks, she skidded on a small silver gas canister in the car park at Elm Park Library. She fell hard on one side and really hurt her hip. Luckily she did not have to go to hospital, but she told me that it really shook her up and that she had taken painkillers for days to help with the swelling and pain. She asked me to let Focus readers know, be aware of your footings when out walking as she did not want anyone else to suffer with a bad fall due to these nitrous oxide canisters that are being dumped at kerbsides and car parks.

Caravan in Grenfell Avenue - Thank you to all who have been in touch to let us know that there is a caravan in Grenfell Avenue outside the Shurgard Building. We have been in touch with the Police and the Local Authority December last year, they are both aware and are still monitoring the situation.

Elm Park Round Up

Councillor Barry Mugglestone

Egbert Close, Dunningford Chase, Elm Park

Well, what can one say about the council parking enforcement team? Back in December 2020 an enforcement officer issued a PCN to residents in Egbert Close who were parked outside their own house, no yellow lines, no offence being committed.

Cllr Nunn and I took up their case as the PCN was unjust, I thank the Council appeal team for looking into this and cancelling the PCN.

Good news you think, so did we, but the same enforcement officer decided he knew better than the appeal team and yes you guessed it, he issued more PCNs despite the residents showing the enforcement officer a copy of an email from the council giving them permission to park there. The resident advised us that the officer said that we had misled them and gave wrong information to the council. So it appeared like the film Groundhog Day.

Once again we wrote to the appeals management team to ask about the PCN and also the alleged statement. Well, again the PCN was cancelled and in the email it confirmed that the residents can park outside their houses in this location. The Council made the following statement:

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"I can advise that we have carried out a search on more recently issued Penalty Charge Notices in Egbert Close and cancelled those where the vehicle was parked outside the owner's address. So I must thank them for checking for any other PCNs that had been issued.

Regarding the issue of the enforcement officer making alleged statements about us misleading residents and the council we got the following reply:

"The Civil Enforcement Officer HGxxx has stated that at no time was it his intention to imply that anyone was issuing false information and apologizes if this seemed to be the case but he was just trying to carry out his duties and was not fully aware of clause 86(3) in the Traffic Management Act 2004.

All Civil Enforcement officers have now been reminded of this clause and the Enforcement Manager will continue to monitor the use of this contravention"

So hopefully now the residents of Egbert Close on the Dunningford Chase estate can park in peace, as always we will defend the residents who we represent.

Rubbish Bins

When we are out on our regular walks, we are always noting any fly tipping and overflowing bins. As you can see from the photo we took in Rosewood Avenue, it looks like someone has had a party and left all their bottles and cans in and around the rubbish bin at the bus stop. As we all know, this is not what they are for and when rubbish bins disappear, we are repeatedly told "they should be used not abused."



Graffiti

A resident contacted me regarding an increase in graffiti in Havering. Cllr Nunn and I have reported issues in Elm Park, but sadly the council has not responded, maybe due to Covid, but in the past they have provided a good service. I agree with what the resident said that we need to get graffiti removed ASAP as if we don't, it encourages more Anti-Social Behaviour. If you see any graffiti you can log onto the council web site and report it, or please email us.

Allotments

A resident contacted me regarding the allotments at Bretons Manor regarding how much water there is as it does not drain away. It's that bad on a couple of the allotments that we have had ducks swimming on it. Well we don't want the ducks as we have a massive lake nearby with a new path around it which is nice for a walk now hopefully better weather is coming. With regard to the allotments I have asked for a short term measure to pump the water away if possible and secondly a site visit to see what can be done long term. While on the subject of the Bretons there are no plans this year for the Master plan to redevelop the Manor house and estate.

Early Years

Well done to all the Nursey/playgroups who brought to our attention the lack of support the council has given to them. Sadly, this just highlights how this council has become under the present Conservative administration, reactive and not proactive, but once again people power with Resident Association Councillors we got a good result for them and things are moving hopefully in the right direction. In 2022 let's make our council a Resident driven council.

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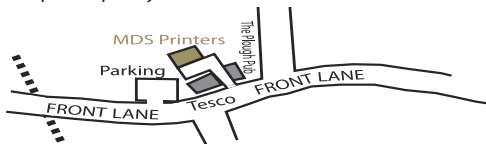
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Planning

Thank you to the residents who contacted me regarding 1 Ambleside Avenue, I have written my comments to the Planning Inspectorate. We will now have to wait for the outcome.

Well folks that's all for now, we should be seeing all the spring flowers blossoming and coming out of what has been a horrendous 12 months, but I am sure this period has brought us closer as a community.

St Andrews News

Councillor Paul Middleton

The Prime Minister has now laid out the roadmap to recovery. The high-level dates (which can/will move depending on the control of the Covid19 virus)

8th March – All School children to return to school / Uni

29th March – The rule of 6 – you can meet with a few friends outdoors

12th April – Shops open, gyms open, restaurants and pubs can serve outside only.

17th May – Up to 30 people can meet outside, up to 6 people indoors (inc pubs & restaurants)

21st June – The earliest date the relaxation of the rules/lockdown will finish.

Parking Permits

Havering council are introducing a new virtual parking permit system that they say will be simpler to use, as part of the Council's corporate plan for more digital improvements to services in the borough. They also say that those residents who do not have access to a computer or smart phone will get support, but they have not provided any information.

The online system means that paper permits will no longer need to be displayed in vehicles, because they can be identified by a registration number plate scanner. All new permits will be active from the moment they are paid for.

All parking permits will be updated to the new system when they next need to be renewed.

All existing paper permits will remain valid until their date of expiry.

You can read more. [Parking permits to go virtual | The London Borough of Havering](#)



Clean Streets / Parks

I was heartened to see that the bins in the parks are regularly emptied, I do not understand why some people will leave their rubbish beside the bin if it is full. Please take the rubbish with you. There will be another bin. If you see a full bin or litter – this can be reported to the council using the Love Clean Streets app. A photo can be taken and the location is selected for you.

Scams

The lockdown has led to a huge increase in scams. I hope you have not been a victim.

Please be aware the NHS will NEVER ask you to pay for the Covid19 vaccination and they will never ask you to prove who you are by giving credit card details.

The number of telephone scams, which as reported before, start with a phone call with a recording asking you to press 1 to speak to an advisor, have increased. Please simply hang up if you get one of these calls.

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