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"Why did the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, Cressida Dick visit Elm Park?" The Cabinet member for Public Protection and Safety was not the only person who asked us this question. (Although possibly she should know the answer). My response to her was that we are pushy councillors and if our residents and businesses report that they are experiencing high levels of anti-social behaviour we ask the Borough Commander what he is going to do about it. You will remember in July FOCUS. Barry wrote about the meetings we held in Elm Park with a Chief Inspector and local supermarkets, that our local MP asked to attend.

So why were there so many police in Elm Park on 15 August? We were invited to an event to tackle Crime and Disorder. The BCU Convoy usually attends three boroughs on the day to provide reassurance to both public and businesses by conducting a high profile proactive operation in co-operation with the community. A convoy can involve up to 60 officers in marked and unmarked vehicles. Convoys are all about community engagement and increasing police visibility. I was surprised but very pleased to see the Police Commissioner, Cressida Dick and spent a long time talking to her and introducing her to residents so that we could all share our concerns. She said that:

"Elm Park is a lovely place that has suffered some incidents of serious anti-social behaviour and some violence in recent months. Finding out what local people think is an important part of my job, and I think the public working, living and travelling locally were reassured by the very visible police presence we brought with our convoy, carrying out knife sweeps with community members, encouraging local people to give us information and patrolling in the area."

A variety of units were deployed, two arrests were made and a community weapon sweep took place when a knife, other items and a quantity of drugs were recovered. The event was not advertised as that could reduce the impact of it.

Site Visits: When residents contact us, particularly about parking and yellow lines, we arrange a visit to see what the concerns are. Then, once we have a list we make an appointment to get a highways engineer to come with us to give advice and draw up a scheme, whatever is necessary. This is not a quick process as there are not many engineers and there are 18 wards competing for their services, so please be patient, we will get back to you. Recent visits are as follows:

94 Mungo Park Road: A cul de sac where residents are blocked on their drive by other drivers. Yellow lines with restrictions to be introduced here.

Falcon Way: The white lines are reappearing so we have requested that they are blackened out again to prevent people parking behind residents' garages.

Heron Flight Avenue: We are looking at ways to stop speeding and improve parking just after the bend.

Carfax Road: We have had complaints about parking on the junction with Cowdray Way so the junction will be protected with yellow lines.

Woburn Avenue: An extension of the yellow lines from 79a and some footpath parking will make the road clearer for refuse vehicles.

Bretons: We are pleased to advise that the planning application to build 4 houses to the left of 1 Bretons Cottages has been withdrawn, no doubt due to the pressure and objections raised by you the residents, which included a large petition. However, another planning application has gone in (P0721.18) to build 4 houses on the land between number 8 and 9 Bretons



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Cottages, please check the Havering Council Planning Application Search for details and to make comments.

There will be a public meeting on the future of Bretons for community users and other interested parties on Tuesday 30 October at 6.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Havering Town Hall.

Kilmartin Way Development: Still some snagging and outstanding items to be dealt with by either Glenman Construction or Havering Council. The developer will be maintaining the site for one year. It has been reported that young people have tried climbing over the fence at the small substation by the car park. This is a very dangerous area and if you are concerned please ring 0800 31 63 105. I am pleased to report that after constant nagging from us the safety measure wheel stops for the parking by houses and the height barrier have been ordered by Havering Council.

Thank you to Valerie for taking the trouble to write about the value of Elm Park Library from her "Knit and Natter Group" as part of the budget consultation. I can only agree with the group and many other residents that the budget consultation document was most difficult to find your way round to answer the questions. I wonder why? Surely it can't just be a lip service exercise so the Conservative administration can say "we consulted" residents? *Oh yes it can!*

Thank you also to the resident who told me of a scam phone call she received asking for details of her bank card from a "Detective Meadows" of Knightsbridge. You're so switched on FOCUS readers, please warn others, the Met Police never phone and ask for those details.



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Thank you to the Elm Park Horticultural Guild for another excellent show held on 1 September, the next one is on 3 November. Hornchurch Residents' Association are always represented at these shows to give advice and/or take subs for FOCUS. We also attend afternoon tea at HASWA, Greenfields, Kilmartin Way on the first Tuesday of every month between 2.30 pm and 4 pm, so pop in for tea and cake and a chat. We would love to see you.

Subs reminder, if you haven't paid already for this year - please pay for next year too.

Last but not least, I would like to say well done to our Elm Park colleague Cllr Sally Miller on behalf of Patricia T who was bitten by a small white dog over Hornchurch Country Park and collapsed. The staff called an ambulance and Sally kindly looked after Patricia's dog for the day and picked Patricia up in the evening when she was discharged. The matter has been reported to the police. Well done Sally for your kindness to one of our residents; as I told Patricia when she phoned me, we are the Residents' Association, not the "nasty party".

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Parking restrictions in Grenfell Avenue, Wren Gardens, Edison Avenue and Gordon Road - Since joining the Hornchurch Residents' Association back in 2013, I have been contacted by many residents with regards to the parking issues in this area. Residents that live close to the Roneo Corner junction have expressed many parking concerns of large lorries and commuter parking mainly blocking them in on their driveways. Others have been in touch, because delivery vans and emergency services have had difficulty getting down Grenfell Avenue due to inconsiderate parking. The Council did send out a questionnaire back in 2015, but unfortunately there was a lack of response and nothing was taken forward. Please be assured that every time one of you lovely people have contacted me, some very kindly even taking pictures, they have all been reported to the Powers That Be!! Earlier this year the Council carried out another informal consultation with residents and this time there was enough response to take concerns to the next level. The next stage, is to have a formal consultation with residents, so please take time to fill out the Parking Questionnaire when it comes through. If you would like to read the Council report on the informal consultation, here is the shortened link <https://bit.ly/2x4449R> or use the full link: <http://democracy.havering.gov.uk/documents/g4862/Public%20reports%20pack%2028th-Aug-2018%2019.00%20Highways%20Advisory%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

From the documents available on the internet, the Council have opted to go for a 10am-2pm parking permit restriction with a few P&D parking slots where Grenfell Avenue meets Roneo Corner. The restriction covers all the roads in that area, Grenfell Avenue, Wren Gardens, Edison Avenue and Gordon Avenue. **MAKE SURE YOU HAVE YOUR SAY**

Crime Figures for August - I attended the Hylands Ward Panel meeting at the beginning of September along with other panel members and our Safer Neighbourhood Team. We heard from the Police that Burglaries reported for August were 4, in comparison to last year's figure of 9. There had been two Business burglaries reported, these being at B&Q's and the Harrow Pub. Theft of Motor Vehicles was 5 compared to 4 last year for the month of August. We were told that vehicles being stolen are still Fords that are keyless, and that there were 8 thefts of number plates in Hylands. We discussed the Havering Show and were pleased to hear that there was not any trouble or arrests and the only reported incident was that someone had unfortunately lost their driving licence. As the end of October will be coming round very quickly and the clocks will be going back an hour, please make sure you get into the habit of leaving a light on in your house, the nights draw in so quickly and a light on in your property deters burglars.

Parking Meters Hyland Way - Thank you to the resident who contacted me again to let me know that the ticket machine at the end of Hyland Way was not working. I am sure that due to the demand for parking at the end of this road with all the extra visits to the School Wear Shop in Hornchurch Road, the machine needed to be restocked with tickets. This was reported to Highways and I can report that this was fixed the next morning.

Regency Gardens - Residents have been in touch with regards to overgrown shrubs at the end of this small road. One lady told me that there had been arguments with the Towers School run traffic as they had parked in a manner to not scratch their vehicles, and in doing so had blocked the top of the junction making it impossible for residents of Regency Gardens to get in or out of their road. This has all been reported to the Council.

Overflowing Bin St Leonards Estate/Hornchurch Road Junction - This was brought to my attention just after the Havering Show. I am sure with all the extra footfall from the show, the bin must have filled quickly. This was reported to the Council and cleared within a couple of days, thank you Environment Services.

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St George Medical centre: On Saturday 8 August, Ray, Reg and I attended the public presentation given by Bellway Officers regarding issues and concerns raised by residents.

The majority of residents who spoke to me were more concerned about the Medical centre. Some residents were quite happy with my explanation regarding the Havering CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) plans for the Medical centre.

A small group were very loud with their views about the way the Council have handle the Building Application by Bellway. They believe that their Hacton Councillors have failed the residents by not insisting that Bellway build the Medical Centre prior to building more houses that will accommodate more residents without medical infrastructure which in turn longer delays for GP appointment. My attempt to give them an explanation fell on deaf ears. They did not want to listen; they kept on and on about Councillors playing politics and not putting conditions on the planning application.

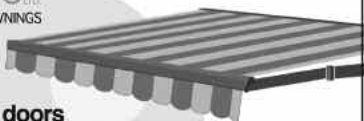
Cllrs Morgon, Whitney and I (Cllr Dodin) had a meeting with Doctor Gurdev Saini who is the Chairman responsible for the St George's Hospital Redevelopment Delivery Board who gave us an update. I copy his message below.

"Our Aim remains to deliver a health and wellbeing centre that offers outpatient clinics. GP services and a joint team of health and social care professionals, as well as space for local voluntary and community groups to use. The CCG have two main challenges, the first is identifying which services can and should go in the new health centre to meet local needs. The second is how we make it affordable in the current financial climate. There is a great deal of work happening to meet both challenges."

The Havering CCG expect to submit their latest bid for that funding and an updated business case later this year.

I am on the Health and Overview/Scrutiny Committee at Havering Council. I am also on the joint Health Overview/Scrutiny Committee (BHR) that is Barking and Dagenham, Havering, Redbridge Waltham Forest and Epping. I do scrutinise the NHS, CCG and NELF. I can assure you that I take the Health infrastructure of Havering very much to heart. **I cannot control the NHS Governance.**

We have received reports that our members are being told by police 101 operators that anti-social behavior is a council matter, which is wrong. The only time the council would be directly involved is if the matter occurred on council owned land/property. Police have a duty to deal with breaches of the peace and matters likely to lead to a breach of the peace. The council is not a 24/7 service, with only emergency staff dealing with incidents on council owned sites. Let me know if you get fobbed off by the 101 operator. In our areas we have had really bad behavior of the owners of a lot of car recovery vehicles who are leaving their vehicles parked outside other residents' homes. If the vehicle is taxed (how would we know now with no disc on show), is insured and with a current MOT and is not on a yellow line or drop kerb, the council cannot remove it. If the vehicle is causing obstruction it is a **police matter**. This also refers to campers. Recently refuse could not be collected in half of my road as the refuse lorry could not get past a camper. This camper was not owned by residents and was parked with no thought for others. If you are subject to persistent parking of these vehicles, you could take legal action under the law of 'Nuisance' Under this law the defendant has to show why their actions **are not** a nuisance. You can ask the DVLA for the details of the registered keeper when you have a reason to require it.



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Allotments - One of my FOCUS deliverers was very generous recently in giving me some wonderful flavourful tomatoes that she and her husband had spare from the crop they grow on the allotments at the back of Grey Towers Avenue.

Whilst talking to her she remarked on the number of allotments that were not being used. She was concerned that when the lease comes up for renewal for the overall site, would the facility be shut down and re-developed. With the current attitude of our Conservative controlled Council for building on every spare plot of green it would not surprise me if we see this site developed with the excuse it was not being used by residents. Anybody interested in an allotment? If so, then look on the Council's website at:

https://www.havering.gov.uk/info/20040/open_spaces/251/allotments

where you will see a list of allotments sites in the borough, along with the contact details of the relevant site steward.

Sunrise Estate, Parkhill Close: Redevelopment - I regret that within a few days of going to print for the September Focus I became aware that the meeting for interested residents to view and discuss the proposed plans for redevelopment of the low-rise properties in front of the high-rise properties on 5 September was cancelled. At the time of going to print for the October FOCUS I am unaware of the new date for the meeting.

Service Road off Mavis Grove to rear of Offices/Shops/Restaurant - I regret the sole business rubbish bin in this area continues to be source of problem for local residents.

The bin is continually overflowing food waste and it is clear that two bins are required for the volume of both domestic and business waste being generated. Whilst past contact with the restaurant that appears to be responsible for the bin has proved unsuccessful inasmuch as requesting they manage the situation better the only route left is to arrange a meeting on site with the Council's Environment Services to discuss the problem. We will keep you posted as regards the outcome.

Urban Avenue - A lady rang me recently regarding problems she as a resident in the road was having with respect to parking of vans etc. I await her contacting me to up-date her as she was reluctant to leave her details.

However, what particularly annoyed me was that whilst talking to her she said that she had firstly rung several times the sole Conservative Councillor for St Andrews Ward and had received no answer. When she finally did get through to him by telephone. he told her get in contact with the St Andrews Residents Association Team they are handling it!

I wonder how many other Conservative Councillors who were elected in May are just in power to support the Romford controlled Conservation Council and have little or no interest in their residents' problems as our one in St Andrews?

Fairytes Arts Centre Activities - We are blessed in Hornchurch with Fairytes Arts Centre. I was in there recently and was surprised at the range of activities available. Although, regretfully some of the classes could do with more interested people.

I hope over the coming months to high-light a particular class or activity. This month it is the **Model Railway Society** that meets every Monday and Friday evenings. They are an active group who every year hold a major exhibition in Marshalls Park School, Pettits Lane. This year their 46th exhibition to date is on 3 November, 10am to 5pm. Why not go along, talk to the guys and if interested join up?



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Summer's Over - Although I love the summer as it is the warmest time of the year and my shorts/t-shirts are the natural order of the day, the downside is that it is much slower to get things done by the council and other organisations as many more people are naturally on holiday.

Personally, I cannot recall a busier August in all the time that I have been a councillor, mainly as a result of the St George's Hospital site moving rapidly forward, together with the road works along Suttons Lane and all the ramifications that this had on traffic flow and transport. The closed bus stop outside Hornchurch Station generated a lot of work, in my view, unnecessarily as the stop did not need to be closed. At least, a temporary one should have been put in place. I am continuing to work with the council to ensure that better arrangements are put in place in the future should there be a need to dig up a road. As a ward Councillor, I should have advanced notice of any works and what arrangements are in place to minimise any local disruption.

Apart from the two large issues mentioned above, the number of residents who have contacted me on a range of issues has sharply risen. Once again, the cleanliness of the streets is top of the list, but please do not stop letting us know when your road is not up to scratch.

The budget cuts that the Conservatives brought forward earlier this year are now beginning to be noticed, but at the same time, the Conservatives are content to pay the Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Board since being appointed in May an hourly allowance equivalent to several hundred pounds. Opposition Groups wanted to make changes to how these types of committees operated and this would have undoubtedly reduced their cost, but the Tories who told you that the council is safe in their hands refused to agree the change. They want to "Keep Havering Special", but what they forgot to tell you is that they want to keep it special for themselves. Whilst I accept that managing budgets cuts close to £40 million over the next four years is going to be challenging for the current Conservative Administration, in my view, they do not have what it takes to ensure that unnecessary costs are reduced and to focus money more on the areas that really matter, and on which you expect your council tax to be focussed.

Hornchurch Country Park - Without doubt my favourite park in Havering (not least because I can pop into the Visitors Centre for quick ice cream), but I was appalled that back in July, following calls from several residents, the litter bins were full to the brim and litter all around them. I immediately raised this with senior officers and it was rapidly cleared, but why did it happen in the first place? One of the rangers was on holiday (no problem with that of course), but why were there not proper arrangements in place for his duties to be covered in his absence and supervised accordingly. Again, hardly an example of "Keeping Havering Special".



Park in Marked Bays Only - You may have noticed in many roads where pavement parking is allowed, a blue sign stating parking in marked bays only. A couple of residents have recently contacted me about parking tickets they received because one of their wheels was outside the marked bay. To avoid any potential fine, please make sure that all wheels are within the bay. However, drivers who wish to park with all four wheels on the road can do so providing no obstruction is being caused and it is safe and legal to do so i.e. not on parking restrictions.

Fencing - I have recently been asked by a couple of residents about the height you can have your garden fence. No planning permission for a wall or fence is required providing it is not more than two metres high anywhere on your property except for where it adjoins a road or footpath. Where fencing or walls front a highway, the height is restricted to one metre.

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Ponding - Mindful that the wetter weather will no doubt arrive in the near future, please let us know if there are areas where long after the rain has stopped puddles still appear on the road or pavement. This is usually because of a dip in the pavement or road that needs rectifying.

Drones - A resident contacted me about drones constantly being flown over his property. I approached the police about this issue and they confirmed that they would speak to the person flying the drone if this became a problem.

Feathering - Although growth at the bottom of trees is now likely to reduce, I still come across many trees that need cutting at the base. Feel free to cut it back yourself, or if you do not feel comfortable in doing this, please let us know so that we can get it done. Some growth at the bottom of trees can be dangerous, so please check any tree outside your house.

Street lighting - The nights are certainly drawing in, so please do not forget to let us know of any street lights that are either not working or on all day.

Waste Collection - Generally, this service works well, but please let us know of any issues that you come across. One issue that a resident raised with me was about disposing of plastic bottles with liquid still in them. If you have a bottle of milk, coke or anything similar, please pour them away before disposing of them.

Suttons Lane - Following feedback from both residents and businesses we have agreed not to proceed with an extra parking bay outside 25 Suttons Lane, as there were concerns about exiting the alleyway with a parking bay occupied nearby. We have also agreed that the two spaces outside the shops between the bridge and Standen Avenue will be retained, but cut further into the pavement to provide all round better sight-lines for both drivers and pedestrians.

As always, please get in touch if you need any help or advice, or to just bring things to our attention that you feel need some action.

LIFE IN HYLANDS WARD

Dave Cabezas

Hello Folks, it's been a quiet month but I hope you have all been keeping well.

Park Lane parking permit update - At our Hylands Ward team meeting we reviewed the Highways Advisory Committee report (which can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/2x4449R>). The extension to the Park Lane scheme, which was first proposed back in June 2016, has now been agreed to have the formal consultation with residents. The March 2017 informal consultation wasn't responded to very well as you can see from the report,

*"Results of informal consultation - From the **240** letters sent out to properties in the area, there were **24** responses received, representing a **10%** return. **15** respondents answered YES and **5** respondents answered NO to question 1, that they felt there was a problem in the road. **12** respondents answered YES and **3** respondents answered NO to question 2 that they were in favour of their road being included in the existing RO3 residents parking scheme."*

When you get your consultation letters for this and any other proposed schemes, please be sure to read it through thoroughly and respond accordingly. Remember folks, if you are opting for these parking schemes the current prices are

"Residents permit per year 1st permit £35.00, 2nd permit £60.00, 3rd permit and any thereafter £85.00

Business permit per year Maximum of 2 permits per business £200 each

Visitors permits £1.25 per permit for up to 4 hours (sold in £12.50 books of 10 permits)"

Also, if you change your vehicle, there is a £20 admin fee for a new permit.

Elm Park Street Briefing - turned out to be a visit from the Met Police Violent Crime Task Force and included a walk round with Commissioner Cressida Dick. I was lucky enough to have time to talk to her about Street Watch and local issues whilst she visited families living in the flats and talked to local residents. The other officers present carried out weapons sweeps in various location. One of the Street Watch Volunteers found a very fetching bright pink, but extremely sharp pair of scissors in the salt bin behind the flats and officers recovered a crutch which had been used in a recent assault. Our local officers do an amazing job in helping to keep our communities safe, but it was also nice to see such a senior officer in Elm Park.

Street Watch - volunteers have been as busy as ever; helping with a weapons sweep in Dagnam Park - luckily no weapons were found just lots of deer, reporting suspected drug dealing, dumped tyres, and much more. Sadly, we are losing our SPOC PC Goodwin who is taking up a new role outside of the borough. I would like to thank her for all her help and support over the last three years and wish her all the best in her new role – although I am not deleting her number just yet!!!!

Blue Badge Permit - a very distressed lady contacted me about the non-arrival of her Blue Badge. I am happy to say it arrived within a couple of days of me chasing the council.

Havering Show - I attended on the Monday – Sunday was far too wet. It was great to listen to the live music and see all the classic cars, but I have to say, for me, the show isn't the same without all the events that used to take place in the arena.

Lennox Road, Romford, Potholes - sometimes I get asked by members of the public that don't live in Elm Park for help, in this instance the gentleman's mobility scooter was being restricted by the state of this road – I have asked the council to investigate.

Carfax Road, Garden Waste Fly Tip - This was cleared very quickly and residents have been sent letters advising them of the appropriate way to dispose of their garden rubbish.

Twitter - I never thought I would say this – but I love Twitter. Loads of real time information is put on by lots of different organisation like the police who use it to advertise street briefings etc. My account is @millerchicken (reference to the lovely girls that make my back garden home), other useful accounts @LBofHavering, @MPSElmPark.

BME Forum - It was nice to meet so many people at this event, but have to say their banana bread wasn't a patch on mine!

Elm Park Horticultural Guild Show - Another super display of flowers, vegetables and cakes. Congratulations to Cllrs Morgan and Nunn on their prize-winning entries.

RSPB HAVERING**12 Oct A Wildlife Tour of East Anglia**

A welcome return of Liz Cutting who is to present her talk, A Wildlife Tour of East Anglia. Hornchurch Library 19:30, £3 entrance.

27 Oct Coach outing - RSPB Titchwell NR, North Norfolk

This popular reserve has something for everyone. A walk from the visitor centre down to the sandy beach takes you past reed-beds and shallow lagoons which are often full of birds. £20 per seat contact **Mike Hughes Tel: 01708 250585**
E-mail: mikeboy15@gmail.com

The good old English weather has not let us down! Although we had a cold March and an extremely hot July/August the temperature has settled into what I consider to be a nice range. My grass has almost all grown back, the flowers are recovering, the weeds seem to be growing at 3 times the rate of anything else I have. Ahh England – who would live anywhere else?

Holiday Season - As it is the holiday season many things have slowed down. Some of the projects I am monitoring appear to have moved nowhere forward. The pot holes are still appearing at a steady rate. These are always reported and often filled within a few weeks of the report. Where we have had rain, I noticed water pooling in certain roads/junctions. These have been reported to the highways team, I was told it may be that the gulley's need cleaning. I have requested that this takes place. If you notice pooling water, broken drain covers or potholes – please let me know.

Police Visibility/Operations - You may have read about these already, just in case you have not, the police have run several operations in our local area over the last month or so. These include (but are not limited to) a drug sweep of Hornchurch Town centre – this was an operation running for several hours on a Friday night and involved around a dozen officers and 2 police sniffer dogs. A small amount of drugs were found.

A knife and drug sweep around Elm Park station, this was a large operation involving police from several different teams. One knife found and some people were caught carrying a small amount of drugs. And more recently the police ran a speed awareness operation in Suttons Avenue. This used a speed gun to check the speed of cars and officers stopped the people who were going over the limit to give them advice on the speed. Most cars were travelling at only a few mph above the 30 limit, 1 motorbike was stopped and seized as the person had no insurance (and he was travelling at 48mph).

Lidl - people are still making the banned right turn into or out of the car park. There has been a legal review of the signage after a complaint and it has been ruled that the signage is correct and adequate. If you receive a fine for making the illegal right turn, you cannot use the signage as an excuse.

On a slightly brighter note – if you have received a fine for overstaying in the Lidl car park, and you can prove you were shopping there (i.e. you have a receipt), Lidl management have said that they will review the case and rescind the ticket if the person was a customer who had overstayed by a short while. You will need to contact Lidl customer services and produce your evidence.

Upminster Bridge CPZ - The Controlled Parking Zone covering Upminster Bridge through to part of Westland Avenue was in consultation phase. By the time you read this I would have expected the consultation part of this project to have completed and the council will be reviewing the responses. Depending on the responses we will either be making changes to the proposal, moving the project forward or dropping it altogether. I hope you completed the form sent by the council and if you live in the affected area you should have seen an additional letter put together by Bryan, Gerry and I which explained a little more about the proposal and what it means.

Hornchurch Summer Fayre - The Hornchurch business regeneration team ran a Summer Fayre event with many different stalls and events taking place around Hornchurch Town Centre. A few freebie bags, pens and other items were handed out. The weather was marvellous. I hope you came, saw and enjoyed the offerings.

Scams to watch out for - Please be aware that there are many ways people are scammed. A couple of scams I am aware of and hopefully you will also be aware on now

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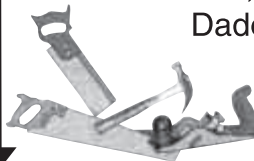
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Scam 1 - A courier knocks on your door and asks for you to sign for a parcel for a neighbour. A few minutes later the same courier knocks again and tells you the parcel was not the correct one and asks if they can take it back. You check the parcel and yes, the address is not what you expected, and the parcel is taken away. A few days later you will receive the invoice for the item you received and signed for. The courier and the parcel are long gone and you have no receipt or proof that you handed back the parcel. Please be aware – IF YOU SIGN – YOU HAVE ACCEPTED DELIVERY for the parcel.

Scam 2 - The Microsoft Support call scam is a common scam that is raising its ugly head again. You receive a call from a call centre telling you that this is Microsoft Support and that they are there to help you, for free, to resolve an issue on your PC. This scam is very common, there are several steps involved and you will either lose money or your PC will be infected with a virus. Please be aware that Microsoft would never initiate a call with you. If you get a call like this please hang up, do not engage them.

HYLANDS MATTERS

Del Ganly

Vicarage Road Industrial Site - A resident informed me of an overflowing bin and other rubbish just inside of the entrance to this site, and that it was attracting vermin. As it's not down to the Council to clear this, I went in to the nursery and spoke to the Manager. She informed me that this brown bin was not theirs, it just appeared one day and has gradually been added to, with a fridge being the latest addition. She was contacting the site Letting Agent later, but gave me his email address so I could relay the resident's concerns. I have been told that the bin and rubbish have been removed and the nursery's own blue bin collection has resumed its normal schedule.

More Rubbish - I reported a fly tip at the Norman Road end of Globe Road, on the out of hours Council number 01708-433999 (5pm-9pm weekdays, and at weekends) which is to be used if it poses an immediate danger. As the bags of rubble and soil were across part of the road, a cyclist could have had a nasty accident, and the lady on the phone told me Highways would attend in 2 hours. In fact just over an hour later when I drove past, it was gone! A few days before that, I also reported on a large pile of rubbish under the trees in the Park Lane 'park' and this was also swiftly dealt with. Well done to the Havering workforce involved in both of those.

The rubbish that was reported to me in Hylands Park I chose to clear myself as I was told it was from one of the inflatables Mondays. The Parks crew who empty the bins had been round and cleared away before I had the chance to get over there, but I still managed to get a whole sackful of litter (and a few nappies) from the rest of the park. The next week I found an old sleeping bag??? and another sack worth.

Upper Rainham Road Flats - I was emailed official confirmation that the application for the flats in the back gardens of several properties has been refused which is very good news, and shows some good common sense in the planning department. But the letter did also mention that the Applicant has the right to appeal and must do so within six months, as per usual.

Volunteering - A resident contacted the HRA to ask about volunteering to help in the Garden for the Blind in Harrow Lodge Park, so Barbara passed it on to us at Hylands Ward. I sent his details to Shelley at the Havering Volunteer Centre and she has emailed details to the resident, so hopefully he will be wielding his weeding tools very soon.

The Walled Garden at Bedfords Park also hold volunteer days on Tuesdays and Thursdays and again the Volunteer Centre can provide full details, please contact them on 01708 922214 (Mobile 07757 426481) or Email: volunteering@haveringvc.org.uk Please register with them and they will send you details of any events near to you which you can get involved with.

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I reported in an earlier FOCUS that the Council now require 12 separate objections to a planning application, one or two will not be acceptable. Also a petition will require a minimum of 50 signatures otherwise it will count as just one objection. Local residents were as concerned as me at these new undemocratic requirements and sought guidance from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, who confirmed the following:

“Effective consultation forms the backbone of the planning system as it allows local planning authorities to identify and consider all relevant planning issued associated with a proposed development. Anyone can respond to a planning consultation and consultees, particularly those living near to the site in question, may be able to offer particular views or detailed information relevant to the consideration of the application”

“Where relevant considerations are raised by local residents, these must be taken into account by the local authority. However, the weight attached to a particular consideration is a matter of judgement for the local authority as the decision maker in the first instance.

If you check the Council’s website it also says that anyone can object, but it does not go on to say that objections will be disregarded unless there are at least 11 others too!

So why aren’t they making this clear? Why lead people to assume that their objection will be considered when it will not? Why isn’t there any guidance on petitions and the newly required minimum number?

Below are the relevant recommendations that were part of a report to members early this year to be implemented after the local election (3 May 2018) which were accepted and supported by conservative members:

Individual Representations

4.27 A Planning Committee Matter may be reported to Committee where Individual Representations have been received that all meet the General Requirements for a Representation and additionally meet the following Criteria:

Any Individual Representation clearly states that they wish the application to be determined by Committee; and at least 12 such Representations have been received from individual properties within the London Borough of Havering for each application.

4.28 Representations for each application are those that are received from individual properties within the London Borough of Havering, i.e. not one from each member of a family, a household or a business within a property. If several objections are received from a single property, they will be treated as a single objection.

Petition Representations

4.29 A Planning Committee Matter may be reported to Committee where one or more Petition Representations (including pro-forma letters) have been received that all meet the General Requirements for a Representation and additionally meet the following Criteria:

Any Petition Representation clearly states that they wish the application to be determined by Committee; and all such Petitions must total at least 50 signatures with clearly readable names and addresses from persons who own, live at or operate from an address which is within the London Borough of Havering.

4.30 Where such petition(s) contain less than 50 such signatories they will individually (in the case of each petition) or collectively (in the case of proforma letters) be treated as each forming a single Individual Representation for the purposes of deciding whether a Planning Committee Matter will be referred to Committee.

I have passed the Council’s Legal Department a full copy of the Ministry’s reply and will report the outcome once I hear back from them.

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Police Commissioner - My fellow councillors will have informed you that Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick arrived in Elm Park on 15 August to oversee a day of action. I don't want to go over the same ground my colleagues have already covered but I wanted to inform you that I had the opportunity to express with her the concerns we as residents have at the lack of policing in the St Andrews Ward.

It would appear that her team had not done their homework prior to her arrival because she seemed totally unaware of our concerns and had to pass me onto one of her senior officers so that I could update him with the problems we are experiencing. These as mentioned previously are anti-social behavior, drug dealing and speeding. I also explained that residents have lost faith in the way that policing is being provided in the St Andrews Ward and that residents are no longer reporting crime as they very rarely get any feedback when they do so. I believe most of the points I raised with the senior officer will now be addressed but changes will not take place over night. The senior officer stressed that I should encourage all residents to report any crimes they observe so that the police can continue to map out the problem areas in our ward.

I was then informed that due to reduction in resources, car crime is no longer seen as a priority, even though a new vehicle can cost £18k upwards. This basically means that police officers and forensic teams will no longer attend a crime scene when a car crime is reported. This does not bode well for the future, if cuts to police funding by the Conservative Government continue. Will crimes like GBH and robbery also be seen as a low priority?

So that we can keep the pressure on, we will be arranging regular update meetings with our St Andrews Ward SNT officers during the coming months. If you witness any reportable crimes, please advise the police and let us know as well.

Speeding Vehicles in Suttons Avenue and Ravenscourt Grove - It is amazing how quickly things speed you up after you corner a Police Commissioner. I was immediately contacted by our local SNT offering to provide the resources to carry out a speed awareness session in Suttons Avenue. My colleague Paul Middleton has already provided the results of the speed awareness session in his article this month.

However, I would also like to thank the officers from the Met Traffic Division who made the time and resources available to carry out this vital work as well as the members of the St Andrews and Hacton Ward SNTs for attending and providing their support.

Further speed awareness session will be carried out in our ward in the coming months; DON'T SAY YOU HAVE NOT BEEN WARNED.

Gerpins Lane Reuse and Recycling Centre - A resident contacted me in August to report that he has been issued with a letter stating that he had used the Recycling Centre on more than three occasions in one weekend.

After further investigations I was informed by the Waste and Recycling team in Public Realm that there is currently a system in place at all East London Waste Authority (ELWA) sites. Whereby those residents considered to be visiting the site on a frequent basis (more than 7 occasions in a rolling month) are flagged up on the system and handed a letter on their next visit. This is primarily to prevent trade waste and large amounts of restricted waste entering the site. The scheme is not designed to prevent genuine residents from accessing the site, and each one will be viewed on a case-by-case basis.

If residents have a need to visit the site on a more frequent basis they need to visit <http://eastlondonwaste.gov.uk/accepted-materials> and fill in the form. The Council will then get in touch either by phone or email to either confirm continued access or to request more



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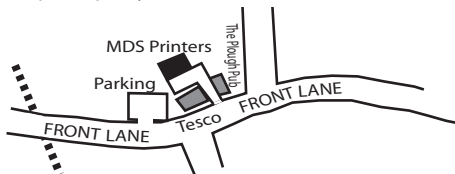
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information from the resident. I was also informed that limitations have always been in place, however may be more apparent due to a new Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) system recently installed. Additionally, new signage is also due to be installed onsite for residents to make them aware of the requirement. I think the moral of the story is to use a larger car when visiting the site to reduce the number of visits you make in a rolling calendar month.

I watched democracy die!! - On behalf of one of my colleagues I attended the Strategic Planning Committee meeting on 16 August. Being a new councillor, I was looking forward to seeing how the committee worked and how planning decisions were made.

One of the items on the agenda was an application by Havering Council to build 30 new homes on a parcel of land at the Dover's Farm Estate in Rainham. This piece of land has been used by the residents for recreational activities ever since the estate was built in the 1950s. It is also my understanding that a previous application to build on this green was refused by previous members of the planning committee some time ago. Following the refusal, the residents on the estate applied for village green status so that this green would be saved for future generations. We are advised that the council spent in the region of £100k to stop this application from being successful. Following the latest application, the Council notified 99 neighbouring properties about the application and invited them to comment. They received 78 responses all of which objected to the planning application.

Anyway, the meeting went ahead and this application was brought forward for discussion. One of the residents and all the local councillors put forward very good cases as to why this application should be refused, (far too many to include in this article). I also asked many questions which I thought were relevant to the application but they all fell on deaf ears.

Prior to the new Conservatives administration coming to power the planning committee was always made up of uneven numbers to make sure that decisions were made in a fair and democratic way. After being elected the Conservatives have amended the constitution so that this committee now has an equal number of Conservatives and Opposition Councillors, with the Conservative Chairman having a casting vote if there is a tie. Needless to say, the opposition members voted against this application but the Conservatives voted for it using the extra vote the Chairman has.

You might wonder why I have mentioned an area in Rainham in my article this month. The reasons are simple and fivefold:

1. This Council has totally dismissed what the local residents wanted.
2. The way the planning committee has been set up give all the power to one person, who happens to be a conservative.
3. This is the thin edge of the wedge and the Conservatives can now override the wishes of all residents in Havering when it comes to planning applications.
4. With all the power in the hands of one person, democracy ceases to exist.
5. Last but not least the Conservatives said during their election campaign that they wanted to keep Havering special; this is definitely not the way forward.

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◆ Bathrooms ◆ Kitchens ◆ Plastering ◆ Rendering ◆ Pebble Dashing ◆ Double Glazing ◆ Dampcoarsing ◆
◆ Woodworm ◆ Powerflushing ◆ Central Heating Systems ◆ All Heating Work ◆ Roofing ◆



Free Advice Surveys and Estimates

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- Advice given
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Fast, Cheap, Friendly and Reliable service (over 20 Years' Experience)

We can repair your PC at your home or provide a collect & return service

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Contact - Paul Middleton

Office: 01708 444480 Mobile: 07866 395 831

Monday – Friday 8:00am to 8:00pm

Weekends – 10:00am to 4:00pm

Email: info@essexPCfix.co.uk

Web www.essexPCfix.co.uk