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HORNCHURCH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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REGISTERED PLUMBER

I'd like to start my article this month by thanking residents for getting in touch with us about our articles, letting us know when problems we have dealt on their behalf have been resolved and being appreciative of all we do. Please spread the word about our FOCUS magazine, we want everyone to know what we do on behalf of residents. A big welcome to all the new subscribers in Wood Lane who we signed up recently.

As well as representing residents in our wards and our strategic role on committees, as councillors we are asked to represent Havering Council on "outside bodies". In this capacity I am the representative for Havering Association for People with Disabilities - HAD. Next year they are celebrating their anniversary of 50 years which I think is a marvellous achievement. They are starting two new services for residents:

- Citizens Advice Havering – 15 November, 13 and 17 December (10 am-2pm)
- Benefit Advice Surgery – 4th Wednesday of each month

Please book an appointment at HAD 01708 476554 or admin@hadhavering.co.uk

International Day for the Disabled – Event on 3 December 9.30-4.30. Free tickets are available from www.eventbrite.co.uk and HAD will be there.

Bretons: By now the public meeting and presentation should have taken place on the proposals for the Bretons site. There is a 20-year strategy and currently the "concept" stage will be presented to the Cabinet members this month. As you know it is a huge site, 168 acres of green belt and it has been stated that current users will get purpose built facilities and they will not have less than they have now. The plans encompass current users, potential users, demographics and ways to create opportunities for users. Bids for budgets have been put in, but architects' plans will need to be in place for most funding and these could take up to a year, if Cabinet approval is granted. There's a long way to go yet.

Police Panel: Apart from ward meetings, there are also Panel Meetings held on a regular basis. Sometimes before the ward meetings at the Baptist Church, sometimes in Hornchurch Police Station. You know, the police station the conservatives claim to have saved. Really?? As there is nothing negotiated, let alone in writing, no lease, no business case merely an option to obtain prime building land, I think they are jumping the gun somewhat. Let's remember Hornchurch Police Station hasn't been fully operational for many years and if Havering Council did buy the plot and lease a room to the police service, one wonders how long this arrangement would last. Surely it's preferable to obtain funding for extra police officers?

The next SNT meeting should be on Wednesday 21 November in the Baptist Church, Rosewood Avenue at 7 pm, but please check the SNT website.

London in Bloom: Once again Elm Park town centre was awarded a Silver Gilt Award. We are very proud of this and thank all involved, especially R J Mitchell and St Albans Schools for the wonderful artwork, Elm Park Regeneration and participating businesses. Only 5 points away from the Gold – oh well there's always next year.

Community Clean Up: Saturday 3 November, meet at Brittons car park 10 am. Organizer: Kelly Smith – 07877147317 or email: kelly_white908@yahoo.co.uk

Response to residents:

Air Field Way: Noisy manhole dealt with and resurfacing scheduled

Dowding Way: Shrubs cut back to a safer level.

Gull Walk: White lines have been blackened out to prevent illegal parking.

Midhurst Close: An order raised for willow tree crown to be lifted by 5 metres



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Simpson Road: Faulty timers on the street lights were reported and quickly dealt with.

Kilmartin Way Development: I requested a site visit on behalf of residents as there are still a number of outstanding issues. I contacted highways about the missing kerb at the corner of the access road and was advised this is down to the contractor to finish. The issue was a damaged power cable and this has affected lamp post number 7. I also asked about more robust signage, "give way to pedestrians" and a stop sign or mirror. I was advised that these are also down to the contractor as they are not on the highway. These items along with the other two out of action lamps, National Power cables with cones over them and lights that are too bright will all be chased as a priority by the surveyor. The height barrier is on order for the car park.

New residents are moving in this month and I am advised that the "Sopwith Close" sign is also down to the developer to supply. You may have seen the historical plaque on one of the dragon's teeth, supplied by Glenman with information supplied by the Hornchurch Aerodrome Historical Society. Many thanks to both. Unfortunately Havering Council has had to take the decision to remove the other dragon's tooth as it is badly damaged with many sharp surfaces.

Meals on Wheels: The hot meal delivery service to approx 80 residents provided by Sodexo will cease on 30 November 2018. It is anticipated that there will be a transfer of service to the new provider, Aki Catering at that time. Details will be sent from Sodexo to each user of the service.

Carries Hall: A new planning application (number P1425.18) has been received by the Council to demolish the hall and build 4 houses on the site. Two houses with 3 bedrooms and two with 4 bedrooms. You will remember that all the user groups were told to quit the hall last year and a similar planning application was submitted. This was refused on the grounds of:

"Irrevocable loss of a community facility and offers no replacement provision.....The proposed development would, by reason of the inadequate provision of amenity space, result in a cramped over-development of the site to the detriment of future occupiers and the character of the surrounding area".

As I understand it, just because the hall has been empty for a year, is no reason to say it is no longer required. Please make comments on Havering's website, email the planning officer brenda.louisy-johnson@haverling.gov.uk or write to the Director of Planning, Havering Town Hall, Main Road, Romford RM1 3BD.



HAVERING ASSOCIATION FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
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26 November – Christmas Craft & Food Fayre, 10.30am to 12.30pm - £3.00. Learn how to gift wrap presents and taste delicious festive foods with Clover from Tesco

27 November – Christmas Card Craft Workshop, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm - £4. Come join us to create your very own festive cards followed by light lunch. Telephone 01708 476554 to book

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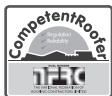
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Sunrise Estate/Parkhill Close, Redevelopment - I recently attended a presentation by Wates detailing the proposed redevelopment of the Sunrise Estate comprising Solar, Serena & Sunrise Court alongside Sunrise Avenue and Parkhill Close off Abbs Cross Lane. The site in front of the 3x12 storey blocks overlooking Harrow Lodge Park is part of Havering Council's regeneration programme to deliver 3,000 new homes over 12 sites across the borough. The Sunrise Estate development will comprise 178 new homes, of which 118 are 1-bed and 60 are 2-bed apartments for residents over 55. The homes are arranged in 5 blocks with a 3 storey block backing onto the gardens of existing homes along Bethany Close/Abbs Cross Lane. 2x4 storey blocks along a service road backing onto the gardens of existing homes along Sunrise Avenue and finally 2x5 storey blocks facing the existing three 12 storey blocks. The plans show the 5 blocks sitting within landscaped gardens and courtyards.

The redevelopment (due for completion in early 2020) will no doubt lead to increased traffic going in and out of Parkhill Close and Sunrise Avenue. However, whilst I have been critical in the past of the over-development of Havering and still am, the estate does appear to be well planned offering Council accommodation for single and married resident of Havering over-55.

Planned Parking Zones - I have received several e-mails from residents in the Ward worried they may have missed the chance to comment on proposed consultation surveys. Paul has detailed the situation to date in his report, but please rest assured Paul, Gerry and I will ensure that all residents get the opportunity to comment on parking plans for their road.

Dorrington Gardens - I have been contacted by a resident regarding overgrown Leylandii trees behind houses in Dorrington Gardens on the border of the elevated section of the adjacent car-park. The matter has been reported and I will progress the matter in the coming months. To ensure the car-park is not too exposed when viewed from the rear gardens I am suggesting the trees are reduced in height not totally removed.

Fairkytes Arts Centre Activities - This month I would like to highlight at the centre the "FairkytesLive" venue at the rear of the building in Studio One and in particular the "Open Mic Nights" held every few months. Next night 2 Nov followed by 8 Feb and 26th April next year.

"FairkytesLive" is committed to finding new talent and providing opportunities for our local performers to progress to maybe one day stardom. Since the venue opened in 2014 they have helped some 30 bands and more than 100 singers, as well as poets, comics, impressionists and even a magician. The team at the venue and indeed the supportive audiences will make the process as enjoyable as possible for any would be budding artist. If you are interested in performing, please email: collete.fraser@havering.gov.uk to arrange a slot for your act.



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Harrow Lodge Sports Centre Update - Last year I attended the planning hearing for the new Sports Centre application, which was approved with certain conditions. The building works were due to start after the Local Elections in May, but there has been a delay to the commencement of construction for the new Centre. Once the Council's Regulatory Services Committee approved the planning application, the decision was automatically referred to the Mayor of London (GLA). The report was not taken to the Mayor's committee until the S106 agreement was agreed and signed, which took a while but has now been completed.

SLM's project team (the company that runs the Council's Sports Centres), including their building contractor, made a request to amend some of the detail around the temporary car park agreed in the planning approval. The changes proposed will save time at the back end of the development by about 5-7 weeks. The Council have given SLM approval on the new proposals, however SLM now have to submit a S73 planning application to amend the conditions of their planning application. This unfortunately will delay the start on the site by some weeks whilst the S73 application is decided. On checking, this was put before the Regulatory Services Committee on 11 October. I have looked at the new amendments to conditions and can only see that 6 extra temporary bays are being requested along with the reconfiguration of the proposed main, temporary and overspill car parks. Updates to follow.

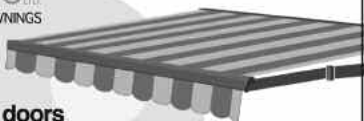
Alleyway from Lyndhurst Drive through to Allotments - Residents contacted us with concerns over a possible camper home that had been set up in this alleyway. There were rumours of a rough sleeper, possible drug dealer who was now residing in this walk through. Apparently, this had been a concern by residents for some weeks, and I am pleased to say that as soon as this was reported to the Police and Council, the matter was dealt with quickly, with the rubbish and makeshift den cleared.

Hyland Way Visitors - A call came through that a converted van had set up home in Hyland Way near to Hylands Park entrance. Concerned residents quickly reported this as they had been kept awake for the best part of the night that the van had arrived, due to noise and generator sounds. This was swiftly reported to the Council's Street Scene Enforcement Team and the Police. Happy residents contacted me the next day to say the van had moved on. Such a quick response from the Council and Police, Thank you.

Postcard Lottery Scam - There are so many different types of scams going on at the moment, it is shocking! One lovely lady took the time to call me to say she had received a letter from the Postcard Lottery to say she had won £75,000, then read in the letter that to cover the Insurance of such a win she should send a Cheque for £2,400 to a certain address. Bless her, she told me that her and her husband had (in their minds) bought a new kitchen and had given all the grandchildren money. She contacted the number on the letter that came through, they reassured her to deposit the money into their account for Insurance purposes. Alarm bells started to ring, she found the real number for her Postcard Lottery Company who told her it was a scam. I advised her to report this to the Police and have forwarded it to Havering's Trading Standards Team.

Laburnum Avenue/Upper Rainham Road Junction - It has been brought to my attention that cars parked on both sides of Laburnum Avenue are causing concerns for drivers trying to turn in and out of this corner. I have kindly asked the resident who reported this to take some photos as the Council ask for photographic evidence on dangerous junctions, and as much as we do all we can for our Hylands residents, all help is greatly appreciated.

Hylands Environment Issues - Blocked drains in Hornchurch Road, abandoned cones in Hyland Way, potholes in Hyland Way and excessive rubbish at Tesco's Roneo Corner have been reported on your behalf by your Hylands Residents Association Focus Team. Remember we are here to help, so please call, our numbers are on page 3 and we always get back to you!!



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November March: On 25 November there will be a march from Havering Town Hall to Redbridge Town Hall, starting at 1pm. We will be marching in protest against the closure of King George Hospital Accident and Emergency Unit.

I would appreciate your help and support. Please join me and my colleagues and let the NHS know that they need to rethink their policy. Back in 2011, it was decided and signed off by the then Secretary of State for Health Andrew Lansley MP to close 19 Hospitals, 24 Accident and Emergency Units and 11 Maternity units. 44 Sustainability and Transformation Programmes (STP) were created to prevent a £22billion shortfall by 2021.

The North East London STP were asked if they were going to stop closure of King George Hospital A&E. Their reply was, they will not revisit past decisions. It means KGH A&E will still be on the cards for closure in 2019.

The Clinical Commissioning Group propose to provide emergency ambulatory care to all hospitals in the East London and Care partnership, with the exception of King George hospital. Queens A&E is already overloaded with vastly extended waiting times. Queens A&E constantly breach the 4hour waiting time. Queens A&E four-hour performance in July was 72.48% with 15.379 patients attending.

The original proposal of 2011 was for KGH in Ilford to not continue as a full District General Hospital site and should be transformed into a less acute site providing elective services for BHRUT and local hospital services including an Urgent Care Centre. Accordingly, changes were made to the KGH site including the closure of the maternity unit in 2013 with blue light ambulances conveying children being diverted elsewhere. Changing emergency services from a full A&E to an Urgent Care Centre.

NHS England, CCGs and BHRUT are still going ahead with this plan, both Havering and Redbridge residents have been against it. We are aware of that Queens Hospital cannot cope with the demand for its A&E, not to mention its car parking problems.

There will be another 30,000 housing units being built in Havering. The same in nearby local authorities. BHRUT still claims that the propose closure of King George A&E will improve the services to residents.

(Breaking News) The Chemotherapy unit at KGH will close and transferred to Queens hospital from 12 November.

St George's hospital: Residents have been voicing their concern about this site. They strongly believe that Bellway should never have been given planning permission unless they built the Health facility, they state (this was the original intention with the previous plan).

This site has been empty since 2012 and transferred to the ownership of NHS property services in April 2013. With the exception of a section of land set aside for Healthcare provision, NHS healthcare commissioners declared the rest of the site surplus to local health requirements.

NHS property services proposed marketing the surplus land to developers with the benefit of outline planning for housing. Bellway purchased the site without the reserved plot which NHS England along with Havering CCG who will lead the business case for a state of the art new health facility.

Bellway has nothing to do with the healthcare plot of land and was never involved in any condition. The plot of land belongs to NHS property which North East London Health and Care partnership and Havering CCG aim to develop (an integrated clinical model with community and primary care in mind) a state of the art Health Centre. I will keep you updated.



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September Council Meeting - On behalf of the Residents Group, I put down a motion at September council to debate how the council operates to ensure that it operates in a fair, equitable and modern way. At the start of any new Administration, in my view, there is no better time to look at what you do and how you do it. At the present time, it is felt that the way in which the committee system operates is not fit for purpose and the time is right for change. The Leader of the Council feels differently and thinks that it would be a waste of officers time to make any changes, but when many of his group who chair various committees receive an allowance of at least £7,500 a year for a few hours of work every other month, it makes you wonder what are his priorities - putting Administration councillors first!! In my view, the number of committees and chairmen could be radically reduced in number thus saving tens of thousands of pounds which could be better spent to improve council services.

My fear for the next four years is that the Conservatives will carry on in the same way as they have for a number of years, but with less money. The consequence of this will be the deteriorating quality of all services.

Graffiti - Sadly, back in September, a large area of the bridge by Hornchurch Station and other sites in the immediate area were "tagged". The following day I reported this to the council, but weeks after they were still chasing the various land owners for permission to remove the "tags". However, had the graffiti been offensive it would have been removed within 24 hours. Why the distinction? I think that we are all offended by these people ruining our area. I shall be pressing the council to have a much quicker system in removing graffiti. A similar problem occurred on hoardings on a site in Springbank Avenue. The longer graffiti stays in place, the more encouragement this gives to those who do this kind of thing, so if you spot any, please let us know as soon as possible, so we can get it removed.

Parking - I am receiving an increasing number of complaints about parking meters being out of order, together with the Phone and Pay arrangement. Please let us know when you come across a meter that is out of order or any difficulties that you have faced paying for your parking. Did you know that almost a third of parking tickets issued by Havering Council last year were cancelled. Makes you wonder how many of them should not have been issued in the first place. Certainly something for further investigation.

Rough Sleeping/Beggars - A couple of residents contacted me about some rough sleepers/beggars outside both Hornchurch Station and Hornchurch Town Centre. Please let us know if you witness anything similar, so that we can contact Housing Services who are working with the local police to eradicate this problem by offering to provide help and support where appropriate.

Parking Around Schools - Sadly, another new school term has brought the usual problems with a small number of parents thinking that they can behave as they like, parking over people's driveways and when residents say anything giving them a whole lot of verbal abuse. This is not acceptable. If parents wish to drive their children to school, I do not have a problem with that, particularly as children now live much further away from their "local" school, but please do not inconvenience others by your actions. One parent blocked the driveway of a resident and when the resident returned to her house could not access her driveway. When the parent eventually returned to the car, the resident questioned why the person parked over her driveway. She got a whole lot of verbal abuse. She contacted me and provided the person's registration number which I forwarded to the local police. They subsequently visited the driver's property and had a word in their ear so to speak. I will not hesitate to do the same again.

Childrens Services - Have you encountered any difficulties with this LBH service, particularly when applying or receiving a Disabled Facilities Grant? If you have, please let me know.

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Club 2004 - I have been advised by the former owner of the above club (located by Hornchurch Station) that the sale of the club has finally been completed. We now wait to see what plans the new owners bring forward to re-develop the site. Originally, it was suggested that there would be a small flatted development, but we shall see. Whatever the plans, let's hope it provides positive improvements to the area.

Don't Be Shy - Hornchurch Residents Association Councillors are always keen to hear from our residents about issues in their street whether it be that dodgy piece of pavement, a pothole, an overgrown tree/bush or that street light that has not been working for ages. Don't leave it to your neighbour; give us a quick call or send us an e-mail to bring these things to our attention.

Faded Lines - Following issues raised with me by a resident, I arranged for the faded lines in Alma Avenue and some other parts of the Racecourse Estate to be repainted. In Elm Park, one of the marked parking bays had been repaired with new tarmac, but in the process, some of the existing markings had been covered over and the resident received a parking ticket. Most unfair. However, I asked for the lines to be reinstated asap and lobbied for the parking ticket to be waived. There was success on both fronts.

So if you have lines that are faded in your road or area, please let us know about them so that they can be repainted as soon as possible.

IN AND AROUND ELM PARK

Councillor Sally Miller

Elm Park Christmas Lights Switch On – The Christmas lights will be switched on at 5pm on Thursday 6 December, the fun and free activities for children start at 3.30pm. I am dusting off a suitable outfit. If you would like to have a stall or volunteer, please see Karen in the Eye Clinic for details.

Street Watch – The volunteers and I have attended a number of events.

- An Islamic awareness day held at Myplace.
- The Community Safety Day Romford Market – a well-attended event bringing together all the partners who form the Havering Safer Neighbourhood Board. The old police cars and fire engine were a hit with the children. Well done to everyone that took part.
- A fundraiser for the scouts at Hornchurch Police Station – another well attended event to raise money to send local scouts to a Jamboree in America.
- Held a Community Safety Stand, Tesco Roneo - thanks again to PCSO Williams for organising this, another successful event. The next one is on 15 November 11.00hrs - 13.00hrs.

Met CC - I attended a meeting at the Met Control Centre in Bow, where response times to 101 and 999 were discussed. Unfortunately, these numbers are still used by members of the public for the wrong reasons e.g., my cat's gone missing. These unnecessary calls tie up the lines.

As a rule of thumb you should call 101 to report crime and other concerns that do not require an emergency response e.g. your car has been stolen, your property has been damaged, you suspect drug use or dealing in your neighbourhood, or to give the police information about crime in your area. You should always call 999 when it is an emergency, such as when a crime is in progress, someone suspected of a crime is nearby, when there is danger to life or when violence is being used or threatened.

Safeguarding week, 1-5 October - I attended a presentation at Havering Museum to those working in this arena about what it means to work as an Appropriate Adult in custody.

Traffic Lights, j/o Heron Flight Avenue and South End Road - A resident contacted me with concerns regarding the phasing of the lights and subsequent build-up of traffic at this junction.

The council officer has advised *"I have been informed by Highways, Traffic and Parking that they have reported this to Transport to London (TfL), as they have the remit of the phasing of traffic lights, but have been advised that these lights are not showing any faults. It is thought that this is due to an increase in the amount of traffic. Should any residents have any further issues, they are advised to contact TfL direct at contactus@tfl.gov.uk".*

AROUND ST ANDREWS WARD

Councillor Paul Middleton

Winter is definitely on the way - If only it were not for the Indian Summer days we are still seeing I would have said Autumn is here. I do not know whether to wrap up warm or not. I will say I am rather enjoying the good weather though.

Update on the Upminster Bridge CPZ (controlled parking zone) - In last month's magazine I wrote about a new consultation expected regarding the proposed parking restrictions to be implemented between Upminster Bridge station through to Westland Avenue (about half way down).

Firstly I must apologise, being a new Councillor I had expected something to happen, perhaps a little naively. Gerry, Bryan and I had walked the length of the CPZ. We walked around the area with members from the highways team and clutching hold of the initially proposed plans. We made several suggestions where we believed changes should be made. This was in conjunction with feedback we had received from several residents who had let us know their thoughts.

At the end of this walk-through, we expected the council to re-issue the consultation letter asking people if they believed there was a problem that needed a resolution or not, and more importantly to detail the options open to them and not just the permit parking (8am-6pm Mon-Sat), yellow lines and pay and display areas. This repeat informal consultation did not happen. Instead the council cabinet issued clearance to move the proposal to the next stage. This would then be a formal consultation. We have asked the council to put the consultation back to the informal stage, all 3 ward councillors asked for this at a meeting held at the town hall in October as none of us supported the plan as it stood. It is all a little bit up in the air at present. We hope that a re-consultation will take place (the Tory run council may yet try to force this through again), and this time the consultation should contain more (all?) of the options open to you if you desire parking restrictions.

We urge you to consider what you are asking for. Permit parking comes with a cost, please take into account parking for visitors (including service people, builders, etc) you will have to pay for scratch card parking permits for these people if they come during the restriction period if you do not have enough off street parking for them. If the issue is mostly down to commuters parking or students parking for the 6th form college a single 1 hour no parking or 2 separate 1 hour no parking periods Mon-Fri may be enough to make all the difference. Perhaps we need a mixture of permit parking, pay and display and yellow lines. You should get the option to say again before we move this project forward. This time you should have more of the facts and options explained to you. If/When the new consultation letter is distributed and it is still not clear to you, please contact one of your Focus team members for St Andrews so we can explain.

Langtons Infant School – I was invited to meet a couple of classes of children at the school. I was impressed by the politeness and manners of all the people at Langtons. It was a pleasure to have a chat and question and answer session with the children.

A main point that was raised several times was the car parking and speed issue outside the school at the start and end of the day as parents drop off and collect their loved ones. Even though it is 'only for 5 mins' the parking and number of cars using the road outside of the school is extremely high, making crossing the road a dangerous option. I urge anyone dropping off

and collecting children from the school to use the free half hour parking in Fentiman Way car park behind the school or Sainsburys car park (2 hours free parking). Both are within 5 minutes walk of the school. Consider how you would feel if your loved one was injured or worse because the driver could not walk a few yards and park elsewhere. The children will be writing to the highways department with their questions and suggestions on how to make the road safer for them.

Lidl – I have heard from people who have received a parking ticket for overstaying the 90 minute allowed parking time. Some people contacted Lidl immediately and have had the ticket quashed (if they could prove that they were shopping there) although I have also heard from 1 person who had paid the ticket and then contacted Lidl to see if they could refund the ticket, they were told to contact the parking management company.

The moral here is, if you have overstayed and receive a ticket, if you can prove you were shopping in Lidl, contact Lidl before paying the fine. No guarantee, but that appears to work the best.

A few months ago the HRA councillors met with Lidl Management regarding the No Right Turn restriction. Lidl were keen to remove the NRT. The councillors agreed in principle that the restriction is confusing and potentially unnecessary, however, Lidl would need to come up with a scheme that would allow the NRT restriction to be removed while not interfering with the traffic flow. I have chased an update a few times and received no response. I visited the store and talked to the store manager. I am now waiting for an official update from the Lidl UK head office.

Utility Bills all in the man's name – It might be an old fashioned thought, but back in the day the man would earn the crust while the lady of the house kept everything running. The crust earner would pay the bills. Life was simpler back then.

I was contacted by a resident who had recently moved and needed to renew the details on both his and the wife's Freedom Pass. Renewing his details was not a problem as he could produce plenty of evidence of where he lived which was acceptable to the council. His wife on the other had was more of a problem. None of the acceptable forms had her name on.

In the end we had to request the utility bills to be reissued with the wife's name included. Please consider adding your spouse to the utility bills, it could help save time later.

Scams to watch out for - Tree Surgeons, roofers etc – please be aware that scam artists are always busy this time of year, if someone knocks on your door offering to prune or reduce trees in your garden, replace missing tiles etc. Please remind them that you do not accept contact where they have knocked on your door. If they give you a leaflet or one is pushed through your door consider putting it in the bin, there are tree surgeons, builders, plumbers etc all advertising in the Focus – these are genuine. Always get a second quote to confirm the price is correct.

Pick pockets are active in Hornchurch Town Centre. Please keep your purse in your bag and your bag fully closed. When you are using the cash machines, please make sure that no one is looking over your shoulder. If the cash machine swallows your card, do not leave the cash machine, send someone in to the bank (a friend or someone you trust). Often a device is fitted to the cash machine that stops your card from being ejected, the person who did this will be waiting for you to leave the machine alone and will take your card as soon as your back is turned.

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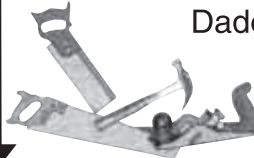
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Morecambe Close/Lancaster Drive Junction - After residents contacted us about people parking on the junction, we contacted the schemes department to see what could be done. We are all aware the Highway Code informs us we can't park on junctions and we all agree this is unsafe, so the officer stated yellow lines are needed to protect the junction and extra footway parking bays. One resident was against the proposals as they said some drivers do not park in the bays, so the officer said they will be boxed bays; that means the footpath and the road will be marked with a box and the drivers need to be inside this box. If drivers park in the road in this area they will receive a PCN. Please inform other residents and visitors to make sure they are parked on the pavement inside the white lines.

Remembrance Sunday - Please come to the Elm Park RBL Branch Remembrance Sunday, it's on Sunday 11 November, there will be a two minutes' silence outside the Branch in Maylands Avenue, then a parade to Saint Nicholas Church for the Remembrance service. This year the church is very pleased that the Bishop is coming to conduct the service. Over the last four years the church has been remembering WWI, a lot of credit goes to one of the Branch committee members Brian Vallis who is also a very active member of the Church, well done to all at Saint Nicholas Church. After the Church service all who have taken part in the Parade and Service are welcome to come back to the club for an afternoon of fundraising for the Poppy Appeal with an Auction and Raffles etc. Last year's Poppy Appeal achieved the highest the Branch has raised £36,631, well done to Joanne White and her team.

Bretons Manor Planning Application - As informed in last month's FOCUS, the application for four dwellings was withdrawn, but that does not mean it has gone away, but with so much overwhelming support I would expect the developer has given up, but we will continue to monitor this. I would like to thank the resident in Rainham Road who I have been in contact with, for the petitions received and also Tigers FC for all their support. I presented these petitions to the council with my objection, People Power wins again, well done to all. Whilst on Bretons the master plan has gone from a big Master plan to a Mini Me plan, as we thought another pie in the sky dream from the Conservative administration, and at what cost to us.

Wood Lane - As I said in a previous FOCUS the council are looking to put traffic calming measures in place. The plans have been designed and it will go to consultation. Please voice your opinions and also inform us so we are aware of what the residents want.

Bus Stop Shelter - A resident has contacted me regarding the bus stop that has been relocated opposite the shops in Mungo Park Road and asked why it did not have a shelter. I asked the question at the council and they, as always, informed me it is a Transport for London issue. So I contacted the community officers at TfL and they informed me that when the bus stop was relocated it did not have a shelter in its original position, so that is why there is no shelter. They informed me the cost of a brand new shelter is in the region of £20,000, and currently there is no funding available; the positive is the bus stop has been designed for a shelter, so I will continue to monitor and look for when funding is available.

Sainsbury Elm Park - A resident contacted me regarding the wooden posts next to the disabled bays in the parking area in front of Sainsbury's Elm Park, they said the bollards cause them a problem when trying to get out of their car. This car park does not belong to the council and the council did not put the bollards there, however I will speak to Sainsbury's to see what can be done.

When talking about this, remember and tell your friends and neighbours this area is only parking for people with disabled badges and the other area marked out is for lorries to load and unload, also the enforcement in this area is by a private company not by the Council Enforcement Team.

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Trees - A number of residents have contacted me this month regarding problems they are having with trees that are adjoining their gardens. The main issues are generally the size and height and the reduction of light to their homes. I contacted the Council to see what could be done. Unfortunately the response was not positive; unless the trees are on council owned property they are unable to offer any assistance. Therefore I would suggest the following.

- In the first instance you should discuss the problem with your neighbour, explaining the issues.
- If the trees branches are overhanging your property you are at liberty to remove them, but you must inform your neighbour that you intend to do so.
- If you then decide to remove any branches that are overhanging your property it must be done in a safe manner and must not cause damage to your neighbour's property.
- The removal of branches must not cause the tree to become unstable or fall over.
- Any branches removed must then be returned to their owner. Don't just chuck them over the fence.

If by trying the above approach the problem cannot be resolved, the only course of action is possible legal proceedings. This could become very expensive.

Diban Avenue RPZ Questionnaire Results - I just want to update you on the result of the informal review carried out by the Highways Department during September. The figures are as follows.

| Diban Avenue RPZ Questionnaire | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|---------|-----------|----|-------------|-----|
| Road | Addresses | % Returns | Returns | In Favour | | % In Favour | |
| Diban Avenue inc. Diban Court | 184 | 53% | 97 | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| | | | | 53 | 44 | 55% | 45% |

Further work is still required and we will report back as soon as possible.

Drug Dealing in Diban Avenue - As previously mentioned there has been an issue with drug dealing in Diban Avenue.

I am pleased to report that on 10 October a drugs raid was carried out on one of the properties in Diban Avenue by our local Safer Neighbourhood Police Teams. This has resulted in four persons being arrested and a quantity of drugs being confiscated. I would like to thank our SNT officers for listening to our concerns and acting on our behalf.

Police Request - Our Safer Neighbourhood Police Team has requested that we ask all residents to report any crimes they have witnessed. This will help them get a clear picture where crime is happening in our ward so that they can police our ward more efficiently. You can report a crime by either by calling 02086493527 or Email StAndrews.snt.police.uk

Disabled Parking Bays - An elderly resident contacted me to see if it was possible to have a disabled parking bay installed outside their property. In this instance it would not be considered due to the fact that the resident has off street parking. That said each request is taken on its own merit and would be considered.

Refuge Vehicles - It has been reported by residents that a refuge vehicle has been spilling

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liquid waste on to the roads and pavements in the Elm Park area of the St Andrews Ward. I have reported this to the council who will investigate. If anyone else is aware of a similar occurrence can you please let me know?

The Alleyway between Fentiman Way and the High Street Hornchurch - A resident reported that the bushes in this alleyway still had not been cut back and the drains are still blocked. In addition it would appear that some people are using the alleyway as a toilet.

I have once again reported the issues to the council. Hopefully next month I will have some good news.

Rough Sleeping - You may have noticed during September that there were a number of people begging in Hornchurch Town Centre. This problem was reported to the police and the people concerned were moved on. Unfortunately it would appear some of the people did return. We again contacted the Police. Can I ask residents and shopkeepers not to give money or provide food and/or drinks as this encourages them?

Planning Issue - It was reported recently that a resident had built a rather large shed in their garden and neighbours were worried that the shed could be used as a House of Multiple Occupancy (HMO).

We reported it to the council and following an investigation by council officers the shed had not applied for or was given granted planning permission. The resident was told that they would need to apply for retrospective planning permission. The shed does comply with current planning rules and permission will be granted, but planning approval will stipulate that the shed cannot be used as a HMO.

HYLANDS MATTERS

Del Ganly

At the Council Chambers - in September I attended the planning meeting to hear the applications for (1) the installation of temporary classrooms, (2) the demolition of one of the old buildings and the construction of a replacement building at the **Albany School** (now Hornchurch High). Luckily for me this was brought forward as there were quite a few concerned residents also at the meeting, mostly from the St Leonards Estate, and both applications were heard at the same time. This was to lessen any duplicate concerns etc. but they were both voted on as separate applications.

The speaker on behalf of the residents put a very good case across, including the fact that all the noise from machinery associated with ventilation and the running of the new building, would have an impact on his and his neighbours lives as they live so close. He also drew attention to the other sites in the school grounds that could accommodate such a building without impacting on anyone. At first this was dismissed with the excuse that the Sport for England Association were not happy with the building in any location other than where it currently sits. But there was no evidence to support this, and we were told the residents had actually spoken with them and confirmed they were OK with an alternative area.

The Committee decided to defer the application (2) in order to have a site visit to see where it may be better placed, and voted to approve the (1) temporary classrooms, which seemed strange, for if the building goes elsewhere, those temporary buildings might not have to be utilised, and at a cost of over £1M would offer a significant saving to the School. I will keep an ear out for the outcome for a later edition.

Scam alert - A concerned resident who helps one of her very elderly neighbours, was sorting that week's mail and came across a letter wrongly addressed to GB London Maintenance, but with his postal address. The letter was from Sharda Parmar, of Metroline Travel Limited in Cricklewood, London and looked very professional. It explained that they had mistakenly made



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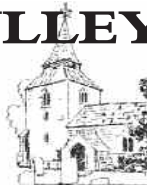


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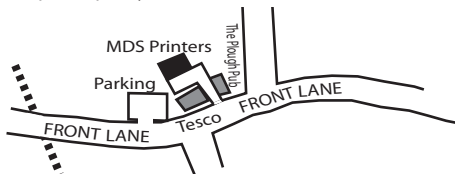
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him a payment of £2414 which should have gone to another supplier. No surprise then that the next sentence asked for it to be credited back to them, giving their bank account details and their appreciation. The neighbour alerted the Police and Trading Standards, but wanted us to relay the scam to our members.

New deliverers - I must thank all the members who offered their services for delivering in **Lyndhurst Drive**, as our long-term hero had to retire from service, I hadn't even got back home after taking FOCUS to our deliverers before there were several messages on my answerphone. Some deliverers also move away occasionally, which opens up the opportunity to help us while getting some nice easy exercise and all the fresh air that come with it. One 'round' of 21 copies that we are still in need of help with is **Crescent Avenue** and **Upper Rainham Road**. You don't have to live in these roads as I will drop them to you wherever you live in Hylands. It does take less than an hour a month but would help us out no end, and as usual you can contact me via the details on page 3.

Defibrillators - While delivering FOCUS in Lyndhurst Drive, I came across two members making sure a painter/decorator was comfortable after he had fallen from his ladder, and that an ambulance was on the way. I made them aware that I was a first aider and they told me what had happened and what they had done. I was very impressed with their actions and their calmness, which helps the patient no end (who needs someone flapping around!) and I merely stayed there observing just in case things worsened and to provide support. The ambulance turned up within 30 minutes as it was a priority call due to a head injury, even though it must have seemed a lot longer.

While waiting, one of the residents asked me about the locations of defibs as they had crossed his mind. I know that all Fire Engines have them on board and co-responding with the Ambulance Service is being trialled in some boroughs. They are also at Rail and Underground stations, and I am sure there are some at various GPs surgeries, however, checking the AED (Automated External Defibrillators) locator map on the <http://www.heartsafe.org.uk> website only revealed 2 in our immediate area, Richer Sounds in Main Road, Romford, and on the Industrial Estate at Gallows Corner. Not great.

Uncannily, I was contacted the week after by the cricket club in Hylands Park, **Hornchurch Athletic Sports Club** to give its proper name, who have been approached to possibly having one installed in a tamper proof case on the outside of their building. As it is quite a substantial amount of money (currently £1250+VAT), they will be fund raising and any donations are welcome. The Friends of Hylands Park will be adding to the kitty and providing as much support as possible to get this off the ground, and then we can add it to the map.

Recycling your old specs - A very kind resident rang to ask if I could give her the location of the Eyeglass Recycling bin I had mentioned in a previous Focus article. I contacted The Havering Volunteer Centre who confirmed they now have a bin at their premises in South St, Romford, opposite the Havering Museum. It's just inside the foyer and donations are welcome, although not the cases which can go in the orange recycling sacks, according to a member of the Romford Lions Club International. I am also told there is a bin at Tesco Roneo Corner provided by the Lions, and a web search showed Specsavers in Hornchurch and any Marie Curie charity shop will also take them in.

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