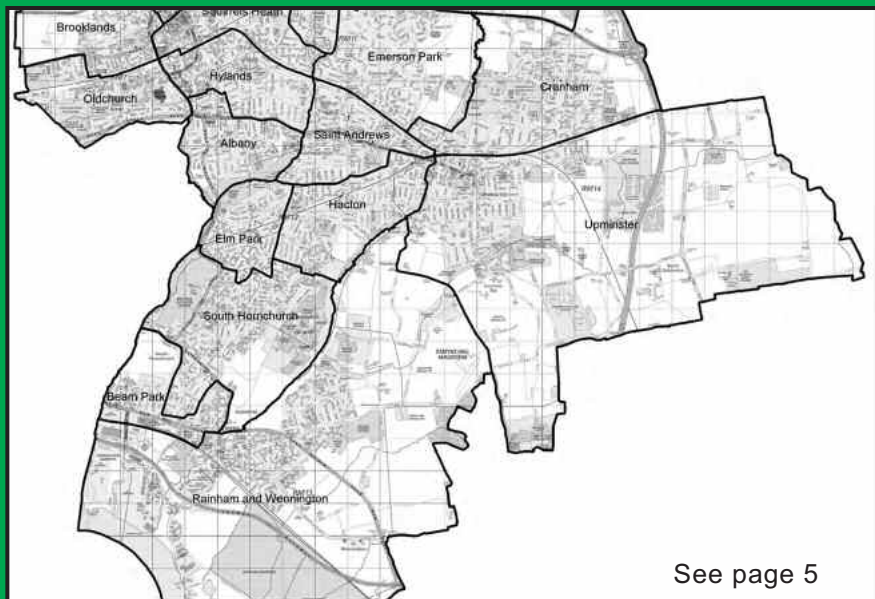


# HORNCHURCH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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See page 5

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	<b>HYLANDS</b>	✓
	<b>ST ANDREW'S</b>	✓

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**HAVE YOUR SAY - WILL ELM PARK WARD BOUNDARY CHANGE?** The Local Government Boundary Commission published draft recommendations on 28 July for new wards, ward boundaries and ward names for Havering Council. The Local Government Boundary Commission review periodically updates wards according to population. Natural boundaries and communities are taken into account and everyone has the right to comment. It has been agreed to keep 54 councillors with our rising population, but the wards are liable to change.

In the case of Elm Park, it is proposed to squeeze us down to 2 councillors from 3 and put a large chunk of our ward into South Hornchurch Ward. Similarly, Hacton and Upminster Wards are also proposed to be reduced from 3 to 2 councillors. Is it a coincidence that these wards are popular resident association wards?

In the proposal Elm Park high street will no longer be split, the new Elm Park ward will take in all roads up to and including the whole of Warren Drive and the whole of Elm Park Avenue. It will take in Tadworth Parade, Maylands Avenue and all roads on the left of Coronation Drive. Previously only the right hand side of Coronation Drive was included.

The downside is that from Wood Lane to Mungo Park Road, including Cavendish Crescent area and Heron Flight estate, will all be moved to South Hornchurch Ward.

Similarly, all roads to the left and right of Airfield Way will go to South Hornchurch Ward.

The current proposal shows Elm Park as a 2 member ward with approx. 7,000 electors and South Hornchurch as a 3 member ward with approx. 12,500 electors. It is not an easy ward to find natural boundaries, but we do not want to lose any of our electorate, we feel we have an excellent community and would wish to retain 3 members. If you would like to comment on the proposed changes, and we would encourage you to do so, please visit [www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk](http://www.consultation.lgbce.org.uk) to make your views heard. If you don't have a computer or would like any help, please contact us.

**GARAGES REAR OF GILLAM WAY** A few years ago a resident contacted me regarding how dangerous some garages were at the rear of Gilliam Way, the entrance being in Bader Way. Well, I contacted the London Borough of Newham to get them to make them safe and they did, but it was reported that sadly now some of the wood seems to have been stolen and parts of the garage are falling down and a burnt out car was inside. What was disappointing is that Newham Council did not seem to take the safety concern as very important, so I decided to put a complaint into Newham Council so they would make Havering safe.

**OVERGROWN SHRUBS** We have reported overgrown shrubs at the entrance to Harrow Lodge Park in **Warren Drive** and weeds to be cut back in the alley in **Ullswater Way**. We have also asked about weeds being removed but were told they can only be removed by the road sweepers (we miss them) if they have been sprayed and are dead as otherwise the seeds spread.

Well folks that's all for now; I hope you are all safe. Please remember this is our Elm Park, our Havering, so please contact me so we can keep Elm Park great. Don't forget about the car park next to Savers in Elm Park; **it's not a Council car park** and if you just drive through it you might get a PCN. In Elm Park we are back to 60 minutes' free on the pay and display machines and in the car park by the library and free parking on Sundays.

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**Boundary Commission** Back in April 2020 I informed members that there were likely to be some major changes to the ward boundaries in the St Andrews Ward following the submission sent to the Commission by Havering Council. The main proposed changes were as follows:

The St Andrews Ward would be reduced in size from three councillors to two. The following roads would be moved to the new St Georges Ward (formally Hacton Ward).

Hacton Lane, Kenley Gdns, Highfield Crescent, Highfield Way Highfield Road, Mariam Gdns. Tindall Mews, Urban Avenue, Cedar & Beulah Roads. Some of Suttons Avenue, Ravenscourt Grove & Drive.

The Elm Park Ward would reduce from three councillors to two losing a large part of the west side of the ward to the South Hornchurch Ward as well as losing several roads to the new St Georges Ward.

The Hacton Ward would change its name to St Georges but will continue with 3 councillors.

Hylands Ward would also be split in two with one part being called Harrow Lodge and the other being called Hylands. There would be two councillors in each of the new wards.

Councillor Middleton, Bryan Vincent and I wrote to the commission expressing our concerns with the proposal being submitted by the council.

On 28<sup>th</sup> July 2020, the Commission submitted their proposal as to what the ward boundaries should be. I am pleased to say that they did listen to some of our suggestions but there were some surprises.

**St Andrews** would remain a 3-councillor ward. We would unfortunately lose the following roads. Benhurst, Diban, Eyhurst, & Elm Park Avenues, Warren Drive, Beech, Brian, Hazel, Maple & Willow Closes. These roads will now fall under the Elm Park Ward, which does make a lot of sense.

The St Andrews Ward would pick up all the roads that run alongside the Elm Park to Hornchurch railway line which are currently in Hacton Ward. The railway line is a natural boundary between St Andrews & Hacton Wards, so their proposal also makes real sense. In addition, we would also pick up several roads which are currently in the east of the Hacton Ward adjacent to Upminster Bridge station.

**Hacton Ward** would reduce from its current 3 councillors to a 2 councillor Ward; this was a total surprise. With a lot of the roads being moved into Elm Park and the St Andrews Wards. The proposed name change is still to be decided.

**Hylands Ward** The council suggested that Hylands should be split in two wards, but the commission dismissed this proposal out of hand. Hylands will remain a 3-councillor ward. They also concluded that we should remain at 54 councillors and not the 56 the council wanted.

If you would like further information or just want to understand why they came up with the suggestions, they have made, please copy and paste the following link into your browser:

[Local Government Boundary Commission for England Consultation Portal](#)

We, the Hornchurch Residents Association, are presently studying the Commission's proposal and will be looking to make further recommendations that will truly reflect our local communities. Further information will be communicated to our members when we have a clearer picture of what can be achieved within the commission's strict rules which we must follow.

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The commission will treat equally any recommendations that residents or local groups make. Please do not leave this to the current Administration and the Romford MP; they will do what is best for them and not you, they will only have their party's' best interest at heart. If you believe you have a better suggestion, please let the commission know as soon as possible. The consultation will finish on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

### **Graffiti**

A resident contacted me in early August to report that a so-called Banksy is now working in Hornchurch. His latest masterpiece was spray painted on the wall next to be bus stop opposite The Avenue. I am not an art critic but let's hope whoever it is, they move on very quickly.

### **Planning Application**

It has always been important that residents check on a regular basis for any new planning application in their area. This is now doubly important following the Government announcement on 2<sup>nd</sup> August that new homes and hospitals will be granted "automatic" permission to be built as part of sweeping planning reforms in England. The Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick announced a "permission in principle" will be given to developments on land designated "for renewal" to speed-up building. This comes after the PM pledged £5bn to "build, build, build" to help soften the economic impact of coronavirus.

Below is the link to the council's planning web site. Please use it. If you come across anything which concerns you, please get in contact with your ward member. Our contact details are in this magazine!

<https://development.havering.gov.uk/OcellaWeb/planningSearch>

### **Dog Fouling**

A while back I was contacted by a resident from Priors Park regarding the dog poo and rubbish which had accumulated in the alleyway near her home. At long last I was able to get a street cleaning manager to visit the site to see what could be done to improve the area.

I did request that signs could be put up to discourage such antisocial behaviour. The manager informed me that unfortunately when they have done this in the past in other areas and it's made no difference to people's behaviour. I also asked about having the old waste bins returned. He stressed that from his experience if you return the bins it only encourages people to put more rubbish around them.

The manager did confirm that he would investigate the possibility of increasing the frequency of cleaning in these areas.

### **Loose Manhole Cover**

I received a report of a loose manhole cover in Abbs Cross Lane in late June. I contacted the council requesting that it be repaired. It now turns out the manhole belongs to the water company and they have the responsibility for the repair.

So, I contacted the water company in early July and was amazed to find that the earliest they could complete the repair was 18<sup>th</sup> August. How about that for customer service!

## **Hylands Ward Update**

**Jody Ganly**

**Earth mound at the back of the New Harrow Lodge Sports Centre** - Residents of Wallis Close on St. Leonards estate got in touch to say they had received a letter from Havering's Planning Department to vary a condition on the plans of the New Sports Centre build. The new plans proposed to leave all the mud mounds that had been dug up for the new building in situ,

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and to just green them up. I was sent photos so I could see how high the earth had been piled up, and the lack of privacy this was causing Residents of Wallis Close. The Residents told me that if these mounds were left, people would not only be able to see into their back gardens, but also their bedrooms. I advised them to call their local Councillors to call in the application, which they did. The earth is to be spread around the Park on the Council Leader's request, funny, as it was the Contractor that the

Council employed who put in the application to leave the mud mounds in place. Normally there is a democratic process to go through with planning, but as the Leader intervened that process just went out of the window. I am so pleased that this has been resolved for the residents.

**Safer School Streets** - The Council launched a consultation late July to ask what people think of having car free streets around schools :

*"Residents' are being asked to have their say on plans to introduce safer streets around schools in Havering from September.*

*As lockdown continues to gradually ease and the Council seeks to improve safety for residents, the new School Streets scheme would introduce pedestrian areas around 18 of the borough's schools at set times of the day in a bid to reduce traffic and improve safety and air quality.*

*The scheme will also help with new plans that have been set out for social distancing, allowing pupils to return safely to schools in the autumn.*

*Instead, parents and pupils would be encouraged to leave their cars at home and walk or cycle to school, where possible.*

*The scheme, which would be run for the first time in the borough, is part of the School Streets initiative by Transport for London (TfL) to convert the area outside schools to walking and cycling only.*

*TfL has provided £220,000 to fund the project and if additional money is approved, a further 39 Havering schools could also have School Streets.*

*Havering's Cabinet Member for Environment, said:*

*'As we continue to recover from the pandemic, it's an opportunity to introduce a scheme that will also help to reduce pollution caused from engines running and improve the community's overall health and wellbeing.*

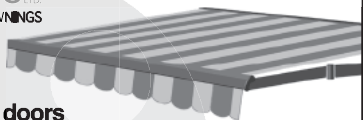
*We want to see an end to cars causing pollution and safety issues in streets around the school gates. Instead, we're encouraging children and parents to walk or cycle to school to help improve safety and congestion outside schools.*

*We really want to hear from residents – so please complete the questionnaire to help us make the best decisions to ensure a safer school-run."*

*Although parents won't be able to use their cars, residents living in the affected streets will still be able to access the roads and be able to register for an exemption to the scheme so they aren't at risk of a penalty.*

*However, anyone else trying to access the road during the restricted times, which could be up to an hour and a half in the morning and again in the afternoon, will be subject to a fine.*

*To ensure that parents comply with the new scheme, signposts would be put in place and schools would have a number of cameras to capture anyone breaking the new rules.*



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*The scheme would replace the existing Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) project around four schools, which has now expired and are no longer enforceable. PSPOs were also a more costly scheme to run.*

*If given the go-ahead, School Streets would initially run for nine months and a decision on whether the scheme would become permanent will be made following the trial.*

*The schools included in phase one of the Havering Schools Streets scheme are:*

*Branfil Primary School, Clockhouse Primary School, Concordia Academy, Drapers' Academy, Drapers' Mayland Primary School, Drapers' Pyrgo Priory School, Engayne Primary School, Lime Academy Forest Approach, Harrow Lodge Primary School, Hylands Primary School, Mead Primary School, Oasis Academy Pinewood, Parsonage Farm Primary School, Squirrels Heath Infant School, Squirrels Heath Junior School, The James Oglethorpe Primary School, Towers Federation - Towers Infant, Towers Federation - Towers Junior “*

Residents have been in contact with me to complain of little information given in the consultation, will people who live in the roads where schools are have to pay to register their vehicles? What about deliveries? How will carers have access if they cannot register?

Will residents in surrounding roads be consulted as this will impact them? How will parents returning to school know what roads are exempt? Please be assured we are asking all these questions on your behalf and will give you an update in next month's Focus.

**Crime figures for the month of July-** Sorry these figures are late in getting to you; due to the Covid restrictions, only a few members of the Ward Panel were able to attend.

<u>Burglary 2020</u> Residential Burglary = 3 Attempted Burglary = 5 Business Burglary = 1	<u>Burglary 2019</u> Burglary = 3
<u>Motor Vehicle Crime 2020</u> Theft Of MV = 3 (x1 recovered) Theft from MV = 12	<u>Motor Vehicle Crime 2019</u> Theft Of MV = 3 Theft from MV = 6

PC Topp is currently investigating a suspect from trying car door handles/motor vehicle interference on Hylands ward, hence why the figure is higher than normal.

**Environment issues** - A resident asked for a tree in Grosvenor Drive to be inspected as it is causing damage to a driveway. I reported a faulty lamp post in Adelphi Crescent on a resident's behalf. A resident asked who he should complain to regarding anti social behaviour that was occurring at the back of his garden in Harrow Lodge Park. I gave him our Parks Police number 07904 805872 and also advised that you can email on [parksprotection@haverling.gov.uk](mailto:parksprotection@haverling.gov.uk).

## **Elm Park News**

## **Councillor Stephanie Nunn**

It's been a very busy month since I wrote my last article. I've attended Pensions Committee and a Planning Committee, both on Zoom. During the Pensions Committee there was a power cut and I was disconnected twice. I have also had large numbers of residents contact me as they are venturing out more.



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You will remember there was a caterpillar invasion along South End Road, I have more recently seen the web covering shrubs in Airfield Way and Petworth Way and have asked for both of these to be dealt with.

**1 Ambleside Avenue** – For the third time a planning application was made to turn this 4 bedroom semi-detached house into a nursery. The applicant had made changes to their plans and the report was put before the committee to discuss. As one of the ward councillors for Elm Park, I had been notified by many residents that they did not want this and one resident registered to speak at the meeting. Although officers recommended this for approval, Councillor McGeary (Labour) proposed objection, I seconded it and the application was rejected by the committee with the exception of the Chair. Councillor Mugglestone sent a statement to be read and I spoke on the night sharing residents' concerns of how it would affect them. I had to comment that I was very surprised there were no objections from Highways, as it is on a bus route, roundabout, has double yellow lines outside and would have 37 children being dropped off and picked up daily (not all by car of course). A year ago, we had also requested a crossing to be installed outside A Star Nursery (Rosewood Avenue) and this had been agreed as feasible by Highways Committee although there is no funding as yet. We do find as a committee that Highways very rarely make any comments.

**Claygate Close** – A resident contacted us about difficulty in accessing the garages here. We had a site visit and it was proposed to put footpath parking on one side after first getting dense shrubbery removed. This was all done very quickly, and I must thank Mr Nunn (no relation), the Highways Engineer. With regard to footpath parking, if it is a new scheme the engineers design it, but repainting of faded lines has now moved to another section, highways maintenance, so apologies if this is taking a long time. I have been promised **Tuck Road** is next, but I know you have all been waiting a long time for this to be done.

**Finucane Gardens** – Another site visit here to photograph, and report rubbish round the back by the garages (Newham's responsibility) and to look at parking issues. A resident advised us that the refuse truck often knocks and asks residents to move their cars as the gap is too narrow to pass through. This time Mr Martin of Highways had a look and measured the footpath parking which he advised could go back a bit further on the footpath giving a greater gap for the refuse truck to pass through. We have requested all the lines to be repainted, not sure when. However, I don't advise residents to paint their own, particularly when they do it with pale pink paint like the ones in Finucane Gardens!



**Deere Avenue** – I have reported a tripping hazard outside number 19 and came to photograph the fly tipping including a fridge in the alley next to number 29. I asked for the old bike carcass to be removed from **The Broadway** in Elm Park as it is an eyesore. I reported that the alley between Ennerdale and **Wood Lane** needed sweeping and light number 6 wasn't working in **Wood Lane**.

**Manston Way** – We were pleased to finally have a site visit here to discuss parking on the bend of the road. Several residents joined us, and we considered options available. The Highways engineer suggested two options which will go forward for consultation with residents (this will not be quick). He also suggested where extra parking bays could be put in. We were also asked about the apparently unclaimed piece of land on the bend of the road between numbers 36 and 38. The previous owner of the plot before the new house was built had put fencing round this area. I contacted Havering and was told it does not belong to the council.





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Therefore, all I can say is that it was a lot tidier before when the previous owner claimed it. There are little patches of land on other housing estates that were never “adopted” by the council and therefore do not get maintained. In Manston we also reported a pothole.

**Mungo Park Road** – A resident asked me when the trees along the shopping parade would be pruned, I was advised at the end of August, so hopefully they are done now. Talking of trees, the roots are beginning to surface at **Debden Walk** and I have asked for these to be inspected.

**Elm Park Shops** – We said goodbye to Martin at the Hobby Shop which will be missed by many as the longest serving shop in Elm Park, over 60 years. We have also lost ANCO Blinds and gained a new fish and chip shop. As I always say, please use them or lose them; our local shops have done us proud and served us well during the pandemic.

## **Hacton Ward**

## **Councillor Ray Morgon**

### **Summer Lull**

Well, normally August is a month that I can relax a bit more. With many Council staff on holiday there a very few meetings in the Town Hall and, of course, there is the six week period where the schools are closed and many families go off on holiday for a well deserved break.

But like so many other things, 2020 has been turned upside down by the Coronavirus and I have to say last month was my busiest August that I can ever remember.

There was, of course, what I would term the normal bread and butter issues to deal with such as requests to deal with fly-tipping, street cleaning, tree and bush pruning to name a few, but there was also a rise in many other less frequently reported matters.

Noise nuisance and anti-social behaviour complaints jumped which in turn lead to increased contact with the local Police who appear somewhat stretched as they are being abstracted to attended other issues. This is not how we understood the Tri-borough policing agreement would work.

I did have a long discussion with the local Safer Neighbourhood Team Sergeant for Hacton Ward who asked me to remind residents that if they have any non-urgent issues for the Police to deal with to call 101, as this will ensure that the issue is properly recorded and prioritised for action. Please let us know of any difficulties that you encounter using this service.

### **Boundary Commission**

There is normally a periodic review of the ward boundaries (the last one was twenty years ago) to ensure that the wards reflect their natural communities and boundaries, together with ensuring that the number of Councillors per elector is roughly equal.

Normally, these kinds of reviews pass quietly under the radar, but the current review in Havering has certainly not done that.

As many of you may be aware from reading the Romford Recorder or the Evening Standard or indeed are a listener to local radio station, Time FM, the Leader of the Council, Damian White has become embroiled in what is increasingly being dubbed “Boundary Gate”, as the Leader of the Council was secretly recorded back in February bragging to his Conservative Group colleagues about how he has been allowed by the Chief Executive of Havering Council to manipulate things to allow the Council’s submission to the Boundary Commission to be to their

political advantage. A process which is more usually known as “Gerrymandering”. Many of you may remember this term from the Lady Shirley Porter scandal back in the eighties.

The full transcript of the recording can be found on our website.

Residents’ Association Councillors have called for an independent inquiry into this very serious matter, but this is being strongly resisted by the Council and although they have (at the time of writing) offered what they consider to be an external person to look at this issue, the person in question is a Director at One Source, an organisation jointly owned by Newham and Havering Council. Hardly, what you would call an independent person.

Serious discussions are now taking place within the various Resident Association Groups about seeking legal advice on this and other issues.

For example, the Mayor accepted a request from the Leader of the Council for urgent business to be added to the March Council agenda. The business in question was to replace ex-Conservative Councillor Bob Perry as chairman of the Crime and Disorder Committee and replace him by Councillor Sally Miller. Maybe her reward for joining the Conservatives?

It is legitimate to submit urgent business without the usual notice period under the Local Government Act 1972, providing that you can show “special circumstances”? The Mayor stated that the special circumstance in this case was the prudent and diligent transaction of business. Hardly a special circumstance and therefore in my opinion a breach of the Act was allowed. Sadly, during this current Administration, the system in which we have to operate looks to have become more and more compromised.

Clearly, the Leader of the Council fears (as he should) being defeated in the 2022 local elections, not by the Labour Party or any other national party, but by rapidly growing and a resurgent Residents’ Association Groups who intend to stand in many more wards to gain enough seats to run the Council.

I have long held the view that the present Leader of the Council will say or do whatever is needed to keep him and his colleagues in power, but we will stand on our platform of honesty and integrity in politics and working on your behalf rather than our own.

### **Hornchurch Police Station**

A couple of residents contacted me recently about the current position with regards to the above building. Many of you will recall that the Conservatives claimed to have saved the building and would be purchasing it.

Indeed, just prior to the General Election last year, the Leader of the Council (outside Elm Park Station) stated that the Council had purchased the building or was about to purchase it. Which one was it Damian?

Actually, it was neither. The documentation to purchase the building was with the Mayor of London and had been there for a number of months. There was no indication at the time that the documents would be signed.

### **Hall Lane mini golf, Upminster**

As expected, planning permission was agreed by the Conservative majority on the Strategic Planning Committee to build 37 new dwellings at the above location with the loss of a large chunk of green space, even though it was against the council’s own policy and over 900 local residents objected.

One of the arguments was the lack of demand for a pitch and putt course, although strangely an application has now been submitted to the Council to have part of Raphael’s Park in Romford turned over to an adventure pitch and putt course. How ironic.

## **Covid 19 Review**

Opposition Groups have at long last been given their wish to review the actions taken by the Council during the Coronavirus to ensure that the system used is as robust as possible in case there is a second wave of the virus later in the year.

We commend the Council for the work done during the virus. However, given the unprecedented nature of the crisis without doubt there are probably some things that could be improved upon and should you have any suggestions in this regard, please let me know.

During the crisis, Resident Group Councillors played an active part in supporting the Council and many of us offered to volunteer, but strangely this was not taken up. Apparently, the Chief Executive decided that it would be unfair to place pressure on us Councillors to offer our services. My view is that maybe they did not want us too close to the coal face so to speak.

Whilst providing support, the Resident Groups also provided responsible scrutiny and challenge to the operation, although we were limited in the number of questions that we could ask. In a so called open and transparent Council why would you want to limit the number of questions asked?

Perhaps, it was because we always seemed to be ahead of the curve in the questions that we asked, which is why the green waste collection came back in operation quicker than it would have done if left to the Administration. The same thing applied to the re-opening of Gerpins Lane.

We were only allowed to ask questions of the officers and not the Administration in case we became political. If political choices are being made, shouldn't those decision makers be held accountable? Apparently not.

## **30,000 New Homes**

My article last month about planning, together with changes that residents may have recently heard about on the TV/radio or read in one of the daily newspapers, prompted a number of calls from residents expressing their concerns. I share their concerns. In fact, it reminded me that the Council are already planning to build 30,000 new homes and I do worry about the undoubted impact it will have on our quality of life.

The Residents' Groups have always put forward the argument that no major development should take place unless there are guarantees that the necessary infrastructure is built at the same time and also the necessary numbers of medical, educational, policing service personnel to name a few, are also in place. Whenever we raise questions about this, the response is not very positive.

It is estimated that an extra 30,000 homes could increase Havering's population by anything from 60,000 to 80,000 people. What impact will that have if the necessary infrastructure or service personnel are not in place?

Our estimate is that we could have up to £1/2 billion short in the funds needed to create the necessary infrastructure. And what about parking capacity? It is already stretched, as not a week goes by that I do not receive a complaint from a resident about parking problems in their road.

I still love living in Havering, but there are some worrying signs flashing ahead, but you can be assured that we will certainly do all that we can to preserve our quality of life.

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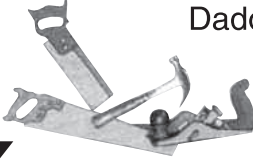
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## **Romford Market**

As many members will know, the Conservative Administration have thrown considerable sums of your money at improving the market. Remember a couple of years back when they wanted to spend over £3 million on a market house?

We were at the forefront in challenging the proposal and calling for the business case to see if what was being proposed stacked up.

In the end, they dropped the plan because of increasing negative feedback from residents about the proposed market house in front of church and the huge cost. They wasted £1/4 million on that project.

I understand that the Council have now engaged a new set of consultants to consider improvements to the market. Is there no end to the amount of money the Administration is prepared to spend on Romford Market? What about the rest of Havering?

I note that during the Coronavirus the Leader of the Council wrote a specific letter to the Chancellor to ask for support for the Romford Market traders. Whilst I have no problem with that per se, what is so special about the market compared to the rest of the businesses in Havering? Just more evidence of the very Romford centric Administration that we currently have.

## **Scam**

A member contacted me about a company that she engaged to do some fencing work which went wrong. I have forwarded the relevant details onto Trading Standards.

It was a sad reminder that there are some rogue companies out there and you should be very careful before engaging any company.

Naturally, we would refer you to our own advertisers, as although they are not formally vetted, they do know that if they do not perform as we would expect, they would be removed from our magazine.

Even during the Coronavirus, there are those out there who are only too willing to relieve you of your money. Always be on your guard and treat any call from someone who you are not expecting to call with great suspicion. Don't let these people get hold of your hard-earned cash.

## **St Andrews Ward Work**

**Bryan Vincent**

With life returning to some degree of normality (or the New Normal as I have heard it called), do not forget it could all change at the drop of a hat. Wear your mask, if required, avoid crowds and stay safe.

With schools re-opening this month, or at the time of writing that is the plan, I can only guess at the problems for teachers with social distancing in the classrooms, especially in primary schools. Whilst I am sure the arrangements teachers will plan for the classrooms will work; it is in the playground where it will be harder to maintain. If my 7-year-old granddaughter is anything to go by I do not envy her teachers. She has not played with her school friends for months and is in dire need of interaction with other children of her age.

**Potholes** - This old favourite will never go away and the council will never be able to say – that is it all done! As fast as they are repaired in one road, they appear in another. However, whilst delivering the Focus magazine to our deliverer in Kenley Gardens last month there before my eyes was a rather large deep wide hole that from talking to residents appeared very quickly and was getting worse. I understand some residents have reported it, but to be sure I have followed



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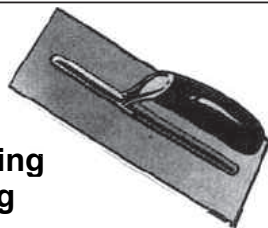
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this up with an urgent request for action, as Kenley Gardens is a quiet road it could get put on the non-priority list.

**Pest Control** - I was contacted last month by a lady in Lambourne Gardens regarding a wasps nest that appeared amongst the bushes in her garden. Having rung Havering Council and been told it was her problem as it was on private land, she was left to resolve the problem herself. She rang the Hornchurch Residents' Association but I was unaware of a local small company that could clear her problems without too much expense. However, I phoned around to friends and was directed to Affordable Pest Control or APC. The lady in Lambourne Gardens was pleased with the way APC resolved her problem and I understand would recommend the company to anybody in Havering with a similar problem or come to that any pest problem. APC can be contacted on 07932 730194 (ask for Derek). I would not normally recommend a company or person without personal knowledge of their work but in this case the lady in Lambourne Gardens was pleased with their work and thus I have no problem passing on the name of APC for pest control.

**General** - I have visited the barbers, arranged a visit to the dentists, had a telephone consultation with my doctor over a small problem and I am trying to plan a trip to France. Could life be getting back to normal, sorry the New Normal? I say the New Normal as the barber had a large facemask on and my dentist wants to know the state of my health first. Although the doctor's telephone consultation I admit did go well. However, the trip to France is proving a problem for as I write this if I go, I might have to self-isolate on return. Welcome to the New Normal!

## Hylands Ward Info

Del Ganly

A little while ago, someone rang to ask when the **hoarding** would be coming down from the **Roneo Corner** building site. Unfortunately, we are going to be stuck with this for some time as permission was granted for another block to be built, fronting Roneo Corner itself and perpendicular to Vickers House. Add to this the conversion of the Neopost building AND the latest application for four new blocks to be built, the hoarding will probably become a landmark! I know, well, we all know that more places 'need' to be built to house our ever expanding country, but 600+ units on that little corner? Infrastructure? School places, healthcare facilities, Police etc. etc. How will Havering cope!

Jody and I were invited along to the inaugural meeting of the '**Friends of the Secret Garden for the Blind**' group, set up to keep the garden working as a sensory venue for all to enjoy.



The group will undertake fundraising opportunities, and special events with the monies ploughed back into plants and sensory items, and for associated costs of running a community space. This was previously taken on by **The Havering Volunteer Centre (HVC)** but as you can imagine, they have been extremely busy with supporting all the residents in Havering who have been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, and co-ordinating all the volunteers.

The socially distanced meeting was held in the garden itself, while some of HVC's volunteers put in place a fairy trail for people to wile away a few hours. We met some lovely people from



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various charity organisations, and amongst us all we managed to elect members for the posts of Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary & Treasurer, with the rest of us remaining as the committee.

**HVC** has been busy getting the garden looking lovely for the launch of **Fairyland** with lots of additional items all dotted around the garden hopefully making it look like fairies are living in the garden. They have put together a **FairyQuest** and those wishing to take part can donate £2, receiving a pack containing clues, quizzes, information, a prize for taking part and some fairy dust. All funds raised will go towards the upkeep of the garden and purchase more audible items as a beacon of direction around the garden. This becomes the Friends group's first official event and there is also a Just Giving page, setup for any donations that people are willing to make. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/haveringfairyland>

## **St Andrews News**

## **Councillor Paul Middleton**

### **Extra on street Pay and Display parking**

There have been quite a few things of note happening this month. You may have seen that we now have several new P&D parking spots (29 in all) dotted around the town centre.

The council send out daily updates, one of which was the announcement that 'On Street' Pay and Display (not to be confused with car parks) will enjoy a free 1 hour parking allowance.

I am all for the 1 hour, as it will allow the person parking to do much more in town, especially if they queue to get into shops.

I pointed out to the leader of the council that of the announced 1000+ on street P&D spots, there were over 200 in Romford but only a handful in Hornchurch town centre (I was aiming at getting our free parking in car parks back).

A few days later I received some information about additional P&D spaces in Hornchurch to be implemented under special "experimental measures".

There was no consultation with the residents or the Ward Councillors, the changes bypassed all the normal checks and balances that are there to make sure changes are implemented where it makes sense, do not make matters worse and are necessary.

As soon as I saw the proposal, I asked for the project to be "called in" which would normally slow down the process and allow for greater scrutiny. I was told that as this was signed off under special "experimental measures", I could not call the project in.

Even though this was completed under "experimental measures", the council did not follow the rules governing these changes – this was rushed through. Why?

Within days the new parking bays were marked and the P&D machines installed. I was amazed; it can take over a year to get a little yellow line implemented where it is required for safety reasons and yet with the correct push from 'up on high' they can complete a project like this in a matter of days. There must be more to this than meets the eye.

We now have P&D parking in Fairkytes Avenue (9 spaces), Mavis Grove (3 spaces) and Fentiman Way (17 spaces)

The problem is – Fairkytes Avenue was previously free to park, but now we have some P&D bays and the rest of the road has double yellow lines on ONE SIDE of the road. You get a free

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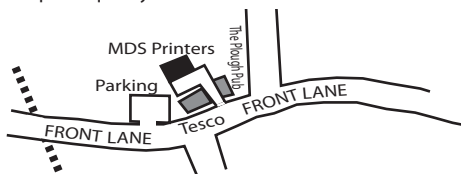
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The poor residents on the far side of the road now have every available space taken with some possibly blocking drives. I cannot see this working well.

Fentiman Way – the 17 spaces have been installed next to the car park. A car park that is often mostly empty since we lost the free parking allowance in Hornchurch. Where is the sense in that? Why not just give us back our free parking?

I have asked some questions of the teams involved – these “experimental” implementations are only active for between 6-18 months after which time they will be accepted or removed. If the residents do not like the implementation, if it is causing issues, the residents can write to the council with their objections. If enough letters are received the implementation will be considered for removal. [schemes@haverling.gov.uk](mailto:schemes@haverling.gov.uk) is the place to send your views.

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We would like to thank everyone who completed the straw poll we set up regarding the possibility of receiving the magazine online. The response was very useful (poll still open). We want to allay any fears, a printed version of the magazine will always be available to those that want to read the magazine on paper (not everyone has a computer).

One of our main costs is printing. Having the option of an online version of the magazine will allow us to do more campaigning and produce more leaflets that will go out to all residents rather than just members. This will possibly spread our message further.

We can also get the magazine out even if there is another lockdown and it will ease the burden on our small army of deliverers (if anyone is willing to be a deliverer, please let us know, typically this is about ½ an hour a month. It will help us out and it is good exercise).

---

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## HOME PC REPAIR by Essex PC Fix

- Install new equipment, printers, cameras etc
- Upgrade/repair your current PC or laptop
- Wireless Networks set up and secured
- Virus removal
- Advice given
- PC Tuning

**Fast, Cheap, Friendly and Reliable service (over 20 Years' Experience)**

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

**Please see our website or contact us for list of services and costs**

**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](mailto:info@essexPCfix.co.uk)

Web [www.essexPCfix.co.uk](http://www.essexPCfix.co.uk)