

## Changes to Libraries - what do you think?

The Council needs to make savings of £65 million over the next 4 years; in March 2011, the Council agreed that the Library Service should make savings of £1 million.

Following a detailed assessment of local need in Waltham Forest, a strategic review has been prepared along with a development plan which proposes a new model for Waltham Forest Libraries. Full details are available in Waltham Forest libraries, or on line at <http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/library-review.htm>. The Council is keen to get feedback from all those who have an interest in the library service. The consultation questionnaire is available in all Waltham Forest libraries or online at: [http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/surveys/Libraries/libraries\\_2011.htm](http://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/surveys/Libraries/libraries_2011.htm)

**The closing date for consultation is 9th September 2011.**

**For further information, please contact: [consultation@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:consultation@walthamforest.gov.uk) or 020 8496 3000**

## Traffic Issues – Reducing the speed!

In February this year - ATC cables were put in around the Highams Park Area. Originally their purpose was to see what effect the road narrowing had at the bottom area of The Charter Road and Falmouth Avenue.

We have figures of the average speeds recorded for roads on the estate which are of most concern regarding speeding;

Montalt Road - Northbound 26.6mph and Southbound - 28.4mph

Henry's Avenue - Eastbound 26.8mph and Westbound - 33.4mph

The Charter Road - Eastbound 32mph and Westbound 33mph.

supplied by Chris Harrison, Senior Project Engineer, Waltham Forest Council.

### Litter Message - PICK IT UP!

See that faded white blob on the pavement over there? That's litter that was left so long, it finally got trodden into the tarmac in the wet weather. See that plastic milk bottle and those pieces of paper floating down the road? That's because a neighbour hasn't anchored them properly in their recycling black bin, so they get blown away by the slightest gust of wind.

At times in recent months, but especially over the winter, parts of the estate have looked quite tatty because of the amount of litter floating around. Strictly speaking none of this litter is your problem, and, yes, it's infuriating to find litter outside your house front or in your garden.

But if you value the quality of life on this estate, don't just leave it there, remove it, and just put it in your wheelie-bin! This will keep the estate tidy, and help it live up to its cherished 'Special Character' designation.

The forthcoming move to a covered recycling bin system sometime this autumn, should finally remove the black bin litter problem. But in the meantime, could they please be packed sensibly?

*(This article was written by one of our residents. If you have an issue you would like raised please email a short article about it to the HRA and it could appear in the next newsletter).*



# Highams Residents' Association

Founded in 1955 for the residents of The Highams Estate

NEWSLETTER - Aug 2011 No.7

## For Home Improvements, take a look at the 'LBWF Planning Portal' or 'Planning Explorer'

One of the aims of the Highams Residents' Association (HRA) is to maintain the standards of development on the Estate to preserve its character. As we have been designated 'An Area of Special Character' this gives some protection from the worst excesses of property development and speculation.



With continuing increases in living costs, 'moving house' is not always an option so the decision to develop your property can be the next step. In the majority of cases - property developments on the Highams Estate are completed with care and

consideration, and can create a good investment for the property and the area, making it more desirable. There are two important 'tools' you can use, *which you may not be aware of*, that will allow you to gain information and advice.

### The LBWF 'Planning Explorer'

You can now look at any planning application and architects' plans for any property in the whole of Waltham Forest.

Visit: <http://planning.walthamforest.gov.uk/PlanningExplorer/>

The online planning service allows you to do the following:

- Search for Planning Application by a variety of criteria such as address, date and type.
- View details of Planning Applications.
- Identify the status of a Planning Application.
- View documents related to a Planning Application.
- Application Documents are available for inspection through the website within 5 working days of receipt.

With recent concerns from residents regarding 'over developed' properties, it is important to realise that written warning of developments is only given to neighbours living adjacent to that particular property. If these properties are also owned by the developer then the approval can go through without any appeal. There is a chance that you could then end up with a low-storey block of flats being built very close to you! In the 1960's the HRA were able to prevent this very development from happening.

### The LBWF 'Planning Portal'

To provide online planning tools, visit: [www.planningportal.gov.uk](http://www.planningportal.gov.uk)

- To create and fill out a planning application.

## In Memory of Sir Henry Warner



The Association very much regrets to announce the recent death on 8th April of the Association's President Sir Edward Countenay Theydon Henry Warner, usually known as Sir Henry Warner. Sir Henry was born in 1922 and as a young man enlisted as a regular soldier in

the Armoured Division (tanks) of the Scots Guards. He took part in the D-Day landings, where, through injury, he lost a leg. This brought his military career to an end. Sir Henry gained his business experience mainly in the City of London where he was a fund manager for the Pearson Group for over 20 years. He was treasurer for over 6 years and chairman for one, of the Society of Investment Analysts. Henry Warner was appointed chairman of Warner Estate and inherited the Baronetcy on the death of his father, Edward Warner in 1955. As the landlord of a large mainly residential estate he was always considerate to the tenants and staff alike. As manager of the Walthamstow Estate had the pleasure of working for him and with him for over 20 years. Sir Henry and Lady Warner have three sons. The eldest, Philip, is currently Company Chairman. Although Sir Henry never lived in the Borough he always took an active interest in local Societies and Associations, including our own. The Association has lost a good friend. Thank you to Mr. Philip C Plummer who wrote this article. Resident at 68 The Charter Road 1938 – 1960 Resident at 24 Nesta Road 1983 - 2007

- To find out whether your household project requires planning permission or contact the Duty Planning Officer on 020 8496 3000 or email [dcmal@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:dcmal@walthamforest.gov.uk).

Unfortunately - there are occasions where developments have not been so successful and are completed more for profit than for benefit! The LBWF do have strict guidelines for planning consent but with the rapid growth in developments we have come across decisions that have been hastily approved. Such inconsistency in this area only causes upset and ill feelings within a community. The Highams Estate is for everybody.

*The HRA do not have powers to stop a development but we can advise and assist you in accordance to the LBWF guidelines. Just email us; [highamsra@me.com](mailto:highamsra@me.com).*

*It is important to say that the HRA openly encourage the improvements and developments on the Highams Estate to make the area desirable and pleasant to live in, but not to the detriment of residents to cause upset and distress.*



## Neighbourhood Watch news and information Safer Neighbourhoods Teams – Who are they? What do they do?

The Highams Estate is covered by two Teams - the main part including the park is **Hatch Lane SNT** and the lower end inc. Nesta Road is **Hale End and Highams Park SNT**.

Both teams are comprised of Police Officers and Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) and they are dedicated to making your neighbourhood a safer place to live in, work in and visit. They listen and talk to you, and find out what affects your daily life and feelings of security. Their priorities are then set by the local community and they work with you and other agencies to find a lasting solution.

**Hatch Lane** team members are: Sgt Lee Palmer, PC Adewale Akano, PC Steve Kilbey, PCSO Aaron Prayter, PCSO Thomas Appiah and PCSO Sue Coughlan

You can contact the team at any time on 020 8721 2641 or 07920 233822. Leave a message and one of the team will get back to you.

PCSO Aaron Prayter is keen to set up a **Park Watch** which involves the residents keeping an eye on what goes on in the park, particularly those residents who back onto the park or those who use the park on a regular basis. For more information on how to become involved with park watch

please contact Aaron on the phone number above or by email on [aaron.prayter@met.police.uk](mailto:aaron.prayter@met.police.uk)

Unfortunately burglaries have been on the increase generally and within the local area. So a reminder, particularly for those of us with uPVC doors, that in order to fully engage the locking mechanism, you must lock with the key. As summer holidays are also here please make plans to leave lights on timers and cancel milk and newspaper deliveries whilst you are away.

### UPDATE - Your safer neighbourhoods teams

Sergeant Paul Gibb is now managing Chapel End Ward and Hale End and Highams Park Wards. If you wish to contact him please call him on 07920 233816.

We are very pleased to announce that PCSO Michael Wheeler is now back on The Hale End and Highams Park Safer Neighbourhoods Team. If you wish to speak to Michael or the team please call on telephone number 020 8721 2646 SNT email: [ChapelEnd.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:ChapelEnd.snt@met.police.uk)

Telephone: 020 8721 2647

SNT email: [HaleEnd.HighamsPark.snt@met.police.uk](mailto:HaleEnd.HighamsPark.snt@met.police.uk)

Telephone: 020 8721 2646

**[www.highamsra.org.uk](http://www.highamsra.org.uk) – email: [highamsra@me.com](mailto:highamsra@me.com)**

# A Successful 56<sup>th</sup> Highams Residents' Association Annual General Meeting

The 56th Annual General Meeting for the HRA held on Thursday 7th April 2011 was fairly well attended. Thank you to those who came. With various issues raised in the meeting we were able to take the questions to our Cllr Marion Fitzgerald. For the minutes of the meeting, please see the website where they can be downloaded in full.

## Below responses to each point raised.

1. Sign for Keysham Avenue that this is local access only - *This has been raised many times before. Cars race down Keynsham Ave/Lichfield Rd from Chingford Lane thinking they are driving down The Avenue. A sign stating a no through road/dead end/local access only would help prevent this from happening.*  
Steve Halter, Client Officer, Signs & Street Furniture Maintenance has been investigating the use of suggested signage in situations such as the ones explained above. Unfortunately there is no clear guideline which clarifies appropriate use of such signage to specific situations. The use of such signage is unlikely to alter drivers' behaviour, and additional signage on the highway is something which we try to minimise to the absolute legal minimum as within current guidelines. At present we would seek not to place additional signage, although Mr Halter is still waiting to see if any differing advice is given by our traffic section. If the advice is different he will act accordingly.
2. Small street dustcarts were dumping their rubbish in Highams Park and it was eventually collected by a bigger dustcart. Is this the current process? Concern about Highams Park becoming a rubbish dumping ground. Can you tell us more about this please?  
Terry Finney, Contract Monitoring Officer has provided the response: The depot was handed over to Kier Street Services in their contract in 2008. Although it has been traditionally used as a grounds maintenance depot, Kier are currently using it to provide a more efficient street cleansing service. If this causes a nuisance to residents it can be reviewed and we can consider how best to minimise its impact.
3. Highams Park - overwhelmingly the response was; 'no wild flowers or long grass please'. Many residents were sending their responses back to Mike Punchard but the overwhelming view was for no long grass.  
Mike Punchard, TPO/Nature Conservation Officer has provided the response: The request for local Park users' views finished on Monday 11th and the detail from these responses is currently being populated into a spread sheet. Once the views have been properly collated the results and decisions on the long grass will be published and the relevant people informed. This has since been published and there has been a noticeable compromise in the upkeep of the park - **we think the HRA have had great success with this issue.**
4. Frequency of bin emptying in the Highams Park over the summer is a concern that comes up every year - particularly the lack of visibility of litter collection in the summer.  
Terry Finney, Contract Monitoring Officer has provided the response: The site is currently scheduled to be litter picked (and bins emptied) on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays. This can cause problems due to high usage in fine weather, especially if staff get held up on other sites. The responsibility for this is in

- the process of being transferred from the parks' mobile teams to street cleansing and it is hoped that this will provide a more responsive service.
5. Tree stumps: where trees had been cut down with tree stumps remaining there was no indication of when these would be removed.  
Chris Moran, Service Development Officer has provided the response: Trees are usually only felled if they are dead, dying or dangerous or are too big for their location and causing property subsidence problems.  
A tree is normally felled to leave a one metre high stump so that pedestrians do not trip over it. Normally several trees are felled as part of a contract and the contractor returns later (can be several weeks) with a special stump grinding machine and grinds all the stumps as one exercise. That is why stumps can be seen left for several weeks.
  6. Dissatisfaction was expressed re the road works and not knowing how long such works were going to last.  
When road works are taking place in the area is it possible to let residents know approximately how long the works are going to last - eg Chingford Lane works that happened earlier this year.  
Stuart Atkins, Asset Management & Works Co-ordinator Manager has provided the response: Information on all notified road works or utility works that are in progress or planned is available from the council web site in the 'My Place' section. A link to the site follows, <http://myplace.walthamforest.gov.uk/?layer=roadworks#h:map-tab>
  7. Highams Park: It was noted that the gates were regularly left unlocked with the result that a car was in the park on one occasion. A resident had to remove someone driving a car in the park  
Terry Finney, Contract Monitoring Officer has provided the response: This is related to use of the depot by Street Cleansing. Kier were asked in February to ensure that cleansing operatives close the gates when they leave the site, and for checks to be carried out to ensure that this is happening. This will be raised again but if any further specific incidents occur it would be helpful to know the dates and times.
  8. Please can we consider having a part time park attendant. This would resolve a lot of these issues and greatly improve the environment in which we live.  
Ben Frearson, Service Development Officer has provided the response: Green Space are fully aware of the benefits and advantages of having staff based in parks and open spaces. However, there are unfortunately no funds available to provide staff in the park. Green Space will discuss this request with Kier. There may be a possibility of undertaking more regular patrols of the park.  
For information, any person working in a park needs to have access to toilets and shelter. If funding did become available for provision of staff in the park these facilities would have to be provided.  
**We hope the information provided has been useful. Please feel free to contact any of the named officers if you require further information or email the HRA; [highamsra@me.com](mailto:highamsra@me.com)**



## HRA Tea Party 2011 - *great but could do better!*

The HRA's annual Tea Party held on Sunday the 24th June 2011. We think the hot weather was responsible for the small turnout of residents although a great time was had by all! The contributions of homemade cakes, sandwiches and treats were outstanding. Well done!  
Henry's quiz kept everybody chatting and although it was rather hard (easier questions next year please Henry!) we had a well deserved winner; Richard Moules from Montalt Road, he won a bottle of wine.

It would be great to have a few more faces there next year - it's such a good opportunity to meet up with neighbours that you usually just say 'hello' to on passing. And for anybody new to the area it's a great chance to get to know your neighbours and meet the HRA committee. Remember, it's a FREE event and relies on you to keep it going. Looking forward to next year's already.  
**A Vote of Thanks:** to Mrs Angela Thompson and others who organised the drinks and to the Rugby Club for making the Pavilion available.

## Community Ward Forums - explained...

The Council has changed the way it engages with people in their local areas. Community Ward Forum meetings take place in each ward, 3 times a year. The meetings will be open to individual residents, community groups and business representatives who want to help shape and improve their neighbourhood. This is an opportunity for local people to get together, meet their ward councillors, and discuss the important issues affecting their area.

Highams Residents' Association residents live within two wards of Waltham Forest - **Hale End** and **Highams Park and Hatch Lane**. There has already been one meeting for these two wards held at Highams Park school on 24 May 2011. The next meeting is on Tuesday 6th September 2011 from 7pm-9pm at Thorpe Hall Primary School, Hale End Road Walthamstow, E17 4DP.

The agenda for the next meeting includes a representative coming along from Tesco's who will talk about the new store in Highams Park and a presentation on the Library Consultation currently underway. The meeting will also include discussion of proposals for spending the £10,000 ward funding.

- Each ward has £10,000 to spend annually on local initiatives.
- How do you think each ward should spend this money?
  - Do you have an idea?

Councillors for the wards are looking for projects and initiatives that will improve the local environment or provide activities or a service to residents of the ward. In order to give time for an officer to research suggestions and find out how much they will cost, Councillors are asking residents to contact them as soon as possible. The deadline for suggestions was 31 July 2011. However if you do have a suggestion please email your local councillors or the Highams Residents Association.

## ROYAL RAVE 2011



Thanks again to local residents - the Royal Wedding was celebrated in style. As well as a street party in Marion Grove, the 'Green Triangle' was used for an impromptu street party (photos above). The residents certainly created a great community feeling. Well done all involved. Let's hope we can think of something for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year or what about a special Olympics event!  
Anybody wishing to organise a street party or who would like help please email the HRA or call Hazel on 020 8504 5911.  
To mark 60 years of the Queen's reign the Diamond Jubilee will take place in 2012. The celebrations will centre around an extended weekend in 2012 on 2, 3, 4 and 5 June.  
The Queen came to the throne on 6 February 1952 and her coronation took place on 2 June 1953. She celebrated her Silver Jubilee (25 years) in 1977 and her Golden Jubilee (50 years) in 2002. The only other British monarch to celebrate a Diamond Jubilee was Queen Victoria in 1897.  
Buckingham Palace will be co-ordinating a programme of events centred around the extended weekend. This will include a Big Jubilee Lunch, a Diamond Jubilee Pageant on the Thames, a concert at Buckingham Palace and the lighting of 2012 beacons throughout the United Kingdom. The Queen and other members of the Royal Family will also attend a Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral.

**The Highams Residents Association - call 020 8504 5911**