



Highams Residents' Association

Founded in 1955 for the residents of The Highams Estate

Newsletter 10 - July 2012 - PARTY IN THE PARK

Highams Residents' Association

HRA's 2012 Party in the Park

Sunday 22 July 2012, 2pm to 4pm
in The Highams Park, Woodford Green

FREE ENTRY

Please come along and meet your neighbours – we can't have a party without you!

There will be lots of fun and prizes for all the family, from Making Butterflies and Storytelling for the younger children to a Football Shootout competition for all ages!

Three Legged Race • Sack Race • Egg & Spoon Race • Badminton • Horse Racing • Swingball • Knock Down Alley • Ball in The Bucket • Cricket Bowling • Cake Stall.

In attendance will be; Fire Brigade, St Johns Ambulance, your local Community Safety Officers AND

the Mayor of Waltham Forest.

We are asking all residents to please bring cakes for our Cake Stall. We also need a couple of Gazebos for the English Weather. Can you help with this? Let David Jennings know at highamsra@me.com.

Just a safety note; Children will need to be accompanied by an adult and we ask that where the games areas are dogs must be kept on leads. All the games are at the competitors' own risk, most of them will be supervised by adults. There will be water available but please bring your own provisions and - cakes to share at our cake stall. Thank you.

See you there!



www.highamsra.org.uk – email: highamsra@me.com

HRA's 57th Annual General Meeting - a short report:

For those of you unable to attend the HRA's AGM on THURSDAY 26TH APRIL 2012 in the Woodford Rugby Club, here are a few of the highlights:

Firstly, thank you to those of you that attended - Committee members and approx 50 other members, a superb turnout.

We started with Paul Thomson, Superintendent at Epping Forest. He held a very informative presentation to explain the reasons for the proposed work to be carried out at the Highams Park Lake. The work is as a result of Highams Park Lake being a high risk reservoir with potential for loss of life. The water sports centre will be removed and the downstream and upstream slopes reinforced. It is proposed that the work will start in November 2013 and finish in April 2014. If you'd like further information you can email; paul.thomson@cityoflondon.gov.uk. The HRA will keep you updated with this progress.

Our new Chairman: David Jennings highlighted a number of activities that had occurred during the last year.

Website: the website was a continuing success providing useful information about the activities of the Association and a useful and efficient means of communication.

Continued overleaf...

Newsletters: there had been a number of newsletters distributed giving details of events relevant to the members.

Litter Pick: a number of residents had been involved in the litter pick which had taken place as part of a borough Spring Clean.

Email: David encouraged residents to send their email address to the Communications Committee Member to facilitate easy communication.

Party in the Park: It was noted that a residents' party in the park on 22 July 2012 was proposed this year instead of the usual Tea Party

Ransom Strip: The easement in respect of the emergency access to the school was legally completed, (Some 2 days after the AGM). It was noted that in 2011 the trustees had granted it on the strict proviso that it was for emergency access only. All residents were asked to be vigilant about the use of the access.

Election of New Officers and Committee Members

Chairman: David Jennings.

Secretary: Alison Ring

Treasurer: Henry Whymand

Membership secretary: Ian Hill

Subs collector: Beatrice Straker

Planning Advisor: Jerry Crowley

Trustees Manager: Jill Carter

Communications: Hazel Gadsby

General: Maureen Dorrington, Steve Ball, Lina Fajerman, Malcolm Billingsley, Simon Hole

All of the above officers were proposed by either Richard Moules or Anna Twinn and seconded by Mrs Abbess or Maureen Dorrington and passed unanimously.

Any Other Business: It was noted that in order to preserve the Special Character Status of the estate that the residents will have to positively adopt the planning "rules" for the estate.

Welcome to new residents...

If you've recently moved to the area and would like to tell us a bit a bit yourself please email a few words to: highamsra@me.com. Now meet Louisa...

Louisa Kennedy: Recently moved to The Charter Road

We have always been drawn to this area because of its close proximity to Epping Forest - a slice of rural life in the city! Also, we heard many excellent reports about local schools, which is a priority for our 2 small children.

We originally come from Aldersbrook which is where I started my career as a professional pianist and Music Practitioner. 2 years ago I founded the 'London Music Academy' in Walthamstow, which offers musical tuition to all ages and abilities. Following its success I am setting up classes here in Highams Park, which I hope will interest local residents. Classes will run at a mutually convenient time at my house on Charter Road. If you've ever considered learning an instrument, please have a look at our website! www.londonmusicacademy.co.uk I'm planning to run some short courses (tasters) for local residents (children to grandparents) on Saturday mornings, for piano tuition/vocals/accompaniment/any other musical requests!

So keep an eye on the website or email me: info@londonmusicacademy.co.uk for updates.
Tel: 07541 274611.

How To Assess Compliance With Our 'AREA OF SPECIAL CHARACTER'

In the last Newsletter we explained the unique nature of our Area of Special Character designation. We also said that our response to planning applications had long been guided by this, and would continue to do so. So what are our yardsticks for judging compliance with the ASC?

This is less straightforward than it looks. This is because the estate has already changed so much since the ASC was granted (1988), and even more again since the time it was built (early 30s). But much the same could be said of every other estate in the land - new construction techniques, materials, and changing tastes have wrought huge changes everywhere.

Our estate's ASC is based on its numerous historical features and relative uniformity of design. But equally, there are big differences in the size of plots, houses and garages as between the various roads. So this uniformity is actually accompanied by great diversity, greatly contributing to the estate's attractiveness.

Given all this, in order to respect the ASC, new developments should avoid the following: bulky and over-dominant structures, particularly where these impact on the street scene; poorly designed ugly ones that lack sympathy with surrounding properties; size and type of windows, roof pitches and materials out of sync with the latter; and above all, anything that creates a bad precedent, which can then be used a reference by future planning applicants, leading over time to a material adverse change in the character of our estate.



Neighbourhood Watch news and information

"No Cold Calling" Zone

The HRA are continuing with the initiative of setting up a 'No Cold Calling Area' on the Estate.

At the AGM we asked for a show of hands to see if this was of interest and we had a vast majority in favour. However, to make this happen we need a member from each road to step forward - if you could email or call our Comms Officer (Hazel Gadsby) on 0208 504 5911 or email; highamsra@me.com. **Don't worry, this is an anonymous process and it only takes a few people from each road to take this initiative further.**

Many thanks - I look forward to hearing from you. If emailing; just put 'No Cold Calling Zone' in the subject, your name and road.