



THE BULLETIN

Harold Wood, Hill, Park Residents' Association



For up to date info
visit our website:
www.hwhpra.org.uk



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LOOKING AFTER OUR COMMUNITY March 2021

PLEASE DISTRIBUTE OUR BULLETIN FAR AND WIDE AND SIGN UP TO OUR BULLETIN MAILING LIST

Census Day – Sunday 21 March 2021 – The Office for National Statistics has announced this date as Census day. This happens around every 10 years and helps to inform Government and Local Authorities to plan and fund services for the future. This will be a digital-first census and support will be available if you cannot do it online. It is a legal requirement to complete the census otherwise you may be liable for a £1000 fine.

Budget Newsflash

The Council budget has been approved by the Council following a delay due to the pandemic and waiting for the Greater London Authority (GLA) to provide details of its precept to Council Tax Bills. The following are the key highlights:

Overall Council Tax increase for a Band D property is 5.43%. This is made up of 3% Precept for Adult and Social Care, 1.5% in relation to Havering Council Services generally and an additional 0.93% for the GLA. The GLA increase amounts to over 9.5% from last year.

Good news however is that:

- **Free** parking for up to 1 hour still remains in Harold Wood and Harold Hill and also other on street pay and display shopping areas within the borough.
- **No increase** on parking charges in the boroughs car parks
- Sundays will remain **free** parking.
- Overall there are minimal increases across the board

Harold Wood Evening WI (Women's Institute.)

Are you a woman over 18 years old & wonder what the WI is or what it's about? Then come to our 'Find out more' chat on zoom to be held on Thursday 18th March at 7.30pm.

In normal times we meet at Harold Wood Memorial Hall, the 1st Wednesday of the month. At this time meetings are held via zoom until we can meet again in person.

Not only do we have a monthly meetings with a speaker or activities, we also have other clubs you may want to be part of once you become a member. They range from, book clubs to film club & many more. We meet for a weekly zoom coffee and walks when restrictions allow. We are even having a virtual pub night soon.

Why not contact us for more information or come join us at the 'Find out more zoom' just let us know if you would like to come via email: haroldwoodeveningwi@outlook.com so that we can send you an invite. Looking forward to meeting you soon.

St Neots - Trees Cut Down

Residents will have noticed that 2 trees were cut down on the green in St Neots. This was because these were not safe and were both dead. These will be replaced during the Councils Tree planting Season.

Trees Planted on Gooshays Green



Following on from the successful collaboration between the Independent Harold Hill Residents Association Gooshays Cllr Jan Sargent and the Harold Wood Councillors, Brian Eagling, Martin Goode and Darren Wise in helping to stop the building of new homes on Gooshays Green in 2019, we are pleased to announce that we have worked together to get new trees planted on the green. This is wonderful news for Harold Hill Residents and this initiative will help to preserve the green for future generations to come.

Thank you Havering Council for planting the new trees.

Court Ave

We have been made aware of large potholes in this road and these have been reported and repaired by the Council.



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Unightly Rubbish left in Residential Front Driveway.

Whilst, it is the responsibility for the property owner and/or leaseholder to arrange for the removal of any unwanted household Rubbish, broken furniture etc. We were notified of a particular case where some household rubbish had been left in the driveway of a property and was gradually being added to by a resident of the property. Amongst this very unsightly pile of Rubbish there was also an old mattress which is of particular concern as this can attract vermin.

We notified the Council, expressing our concerns and insisted that they investigate the matter. In response, Havering Council, immediately contacted the Manager of the residential property, who very quickly arranged for all the rubbish to be moved and the driveway cleaned up.

Cllrs, Eagling Goode and Wise

Clunkety Clunk

A resident in Shepherds Hill, notified us of a loose drain cover, that was situated directly outside their house. The cover was unsafe and was causing a disturbing noise day and night, every time a vehicle drove over it. We chased up the Council, who very quickly arranged for their maintenance team to inspect the cover and make it safe.



Cllrs Goode and Wise

Look after your health

If you haven't received your bowel cancer screening test and you are between 60 and 74, or if you are over 75 and wish to have a test sent to you please contact freephone 08007076060. That number is the direct line to the NHS Bowel Screening department. They are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.

Cllr. Brian Eagling

Keeping Havering Clean

We often receive a number of concerns from residents, enquiring as to where to report concerns about graffiti, dog faeces, rubbish, fly-tipping and animal carcasses on the carriageway.

We are always happy to report these cases for you but, please be advised that Havering council have now set up a new online enquiry page in order to speed up the council's response. All concerns and enquiries should now be raised on the council's website at **[Havering.gov.uk](https://www.havering.gov.uk/info/20013/environmental_issues/126/keeping_havering_clean/5)** under the **[keep havering clean pages](https://www.havering.gov.uk/info/20013/environmental_issues/126/keeping_havering_clean/5)**

Alternatively, there is an phone app that can be downloaded to iphone or android called 'Love clean streets,' (the web version is at **www.lovecleanstreets.com**). When using the phone app it will identify where you are and has the capacity for a mobile phone picture, of the concern, to be attached to your report.

Delayed Household Waste and Green Bin Collections

Quite often residents contact us to report that their weekly collection has been missed. Lately this seems to be happening quite regularly, but we continue to discuss this issue with Havering Council. We have been informed that if for whatever reason a scheduled collection gets missed, Serco the service provider should report the details of any missed collections and enter the location, onto a missed collection action report in order for those collections to be carried out the following day. Normally, this will happen. However, please let us know if you experience a missed collection, and we will be happy to chase this matter up with the Council for you.

Street lighting

Several residents have reported their concerns to us that some street lamp columns were not working in Church Road, Geoffrey Avenue, Queens Park Road and Station Road. We have escalated these concerns to the Council, who will arrange for these lamp columns to be inspected and repaired in due course. If you do spot a lamp column not working then please provide us with the Lamp column number and street name.

Cllr. Eagling and Cllr. Goode

Being a Councillor

Being a Councillor can be seen as giving something back to the community and trying to make a difference to the people living within it and supporting them when issues arise.

Generally our time is taken up with case work taking up issues for residents and making representations to the Council and there are far too many instances to mention in this **Bulletin**. Over the last month we have:

- Liaised with the Council and Residents on vehicle crossover issues;
- Sorted some pavement resurfacing problems;
- Reported damaged grass verges and dangerous paving slabs on pavements to the Council;
- Liaised with the Trees Team in respect of trees being cut down;
- Supported our neighbouring ward in opposing a planning application on green space.
- Supported council housing tenants on some housing issues;
- Managed to get trees planted;
- Reported properties where planning permissions have not been correctly sought through proper channels;
- Dealt with HMO issues.

Unlike National Parties whom rely on national press coverage, local parties such as ourselves have to continue promoting what we do by producing our **Bulletin** and keeping our website and Facebook page up to date as best we can.

Councillors are here to try and support and represent you on matters as best we can but we cannot guarantee that we will always get the outcomes you want but we are united to ensuring that we fight for our area and that we get the best outcomes that we can when dealing with the Council.

If you are interested in getting involved in any way and wish to find out more then please email or call us. Details at the top of the Bulletin.

MARCH 2021 UPDATE from the Men’s Lunch Team at St. Peter’s Church, Harold Wood.

The recent daily news seems to be just a little more positive. The vaccine rollout is continuing at pace with – as I write this - over 12 million doses administered. By the time you read this, it is very likely the Government’s target of vaccinating all the main vulnerable groups will have been met.

Looking ahead, it is of course, still very difficult to know when restrictions will ease. Therefore St.Peter’s groups like ‘Men’s Lunch’ and ‘Good Companions’ cannot make concrete plans. However, the ML team are regularly considering the latest ‘rules’, and we can assure you that when it is legally allowed, we will start to plan a grand re-launch! We will continue to keep everyone updated.

The Men’s Lunch Team would like to thank folk for ‘sticking with us’ and for the positive comments received.

If you’d like to get in touch, please contact us via email: welcome.desk@stpetersharoldwood.org

or telephone: 01708 342080 and leave an answerphone message. The St. Peter’s staff team are picking up messages fairly frequently.

For information: During this current National lockdown, St. Peter’s continues to livestream a Sunday service at 10:30am on its YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/StPetersChurchHaroldWood/videos>

Julian Harris, Chris Knowles and all the Men’s Lunch Team.

Men’s Lunch



CORONA MOANER

Even though it wasn’t in print, it was quite satisfying to finally come across a letter in the on-line Bulletin apropos of the latest of my twenty years of Bulletin articles. Hopefully, the interesting letter will encourage others to write in with their recollections of past times in the area. Incidentally, my granddad too was also a plate layer on the old Great Eastern Railway. I always imagined him in the dining car dishing out lunches and often wondered why he’d go out “Fogging” on misty nights with a Gladstone bag containing a red/green lamp and maroons, as I assumed his job was laying plates!

I need feedback from my pieces as lockdown seems to have given me writer’s block, amongst other things. Not meeting people and picking up anecdotes, means I’ve no hook to hang my musings on. Even talking on the phone doesn’t work. Most friends are in a similar position, for it seems not conversing with others dries up the imagination. Things are getting serious when I’m stuck for something to say.

With the Ingrebourne in full spate there seemed to be something to write about, but it soon subsided, as I did and all I could find interesting was conflicting facts about its source. It appears to start near Brentwood in Wikipedia, but known as Weald Brook in another article. I know it meanders 20-odd miles into the Thames at Rainham, as I often visited Murex Welding and had another customer Thames Board Mills in sight, but unreachable, , the other side of the now wide Ingrebourne river and it was a long journey back to the main road to visit both. I feel the Ingrebourne deserves a plug, not to stop it overflowing, but because it provides a lifeline during this pandemic for those of us desperate for fresh air and fresh surroundings. Just gazing at the fishes, not wearing facemasks, contentedly swimming around together gives me hope things’ll get better.

Dennis Goodwin

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Cllr. Brian Eagling

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