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LOOKING AFTER OUR COMMUNITY

MARCH 22

2022/23 Council Tax Budget

At the time of writing, there is a proposed council tax increase for the forthcoming year of 2.99%. 1% of this increase is on adult social care and 1.99% will be on general expenditure. This increase could be higher if the Mayor of London increases the precept on Council Tax bills to fund transport and policing. Unfortunately the Council has to make around £13 million in savings for 2022/23. The Government has however announced a £150 rebate to all households that are on bands A- D for Council Tax to help with soaring energy bills. We are waiting for final details to see how this will be applied to households in Havering, though this rebate should help to offset any Council Tax increases for a considerable number of residents in the borough.

However, as Councillors for the Harold Wood Ward, we were disappointed to learn about the recent increase in cabinet positions that was announced by the Leader of the Council. We believe that this decision is totally wrong especially at a time when the council may have to make redundancies. We feel that if this expenditure is available, then it could be used more effectively and be redirected and used for additional resources in Street Cleansing

Harold Wood Wombles Anniversary



As Chief Womble I would like to take this opportunity on our 1st Year's Anniversary to thank all the Wombles who have helped litterpick throughout this year. We have collected rubbish in Harold Wood Park every single week except for Christmas and some of us have also accompanied The Harold Wood Councillors on their monthly litter pick of Painesbrook Park. We have collected around 500 bags of rubbish and taken great delight in seeing our beautiful park litter free at least for a while. We have watched the changing seasons, met up with some lovely dogs with their owners and even done a couple of litter picks in the rain. We also have several Wombles

who clear the areas in Harold Wood where they live and beyond and I would also like to say thank you to them for showing such great Community spirit. Thank you also to my husband Brian who has never missed a week and was also responsible for equipping us with litterpickers, gloves, rings, bags, high viz jackets etc. and also makes us a lovely cup of tea when we have finished our litter pick. If anyone is interested in joining us for an hour or so for litter picking on a Monday or a Wednesday please ring Bunny Eagling on 01708 373027. Equipment will be supplied.

Tesco Development Planning Application – Appeal

We have been advised by the Planning inspectorate that Weston Homes have formally submitted their appeal to overturn the Council decision to refuse planning permission for them to develop 87 homes within the bottom half of the car park.

Details of the letter received is shown on our website below and we shall be submitting our own representations to the planning inspectorate. We also urge local residents also to make your own representations on the planning portal. This needs to be done by 17th March 2022

<https://www.hwhpra.org.uk/2022/02/13/tesco-gallows-corner-development-planning-appeal/>



Rainbow Bridge Update

The Environment Agency (EA) continues to delay the application to remove the old bridge as they have requested more details on wildlife and ground conditions as they would prefer works to take place in the summer. Forestry England have requested a site visit with the EA which would be a more effective way of providing the information. Forestry England has also produced the final draft design for the replacement bridge and this will be part of the applications to the EA and the Council Planning Department which will be sent at the same time.



Forestry England has funding in place to remove the bridge and the local Thames Chase FE team have made a request for the necessary budget to be provided next financial year to cover the replacement bridge.

In the meantime, an improved route of the diversion has taken place by the Council as the gradient of the slope has been reduced sufficiently and the planings have bedded in well.

Further updates on this in the coming months

CLLRS BRIAN EAGLING, MARTIN GOODE AND DARREN WISE

Flower and Craft Festival 2022

We are holding our community flower and craft festival on Bank Holiday Monday at St. Peter's Church, Harold Wood, on Monday 2nd May 2022. We would like to invite any residents who might be interested in participating by showcasing their skills and/or selling their crafts to contact us by email at stpetersflowerandcraftfestival@gmail.com for further details. Thank you, The Flower and Craft team, St Peter's Church, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood, RM3 0QA



Platinum Jubilee

This year, it is HRH Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee so if you intend to have a street party or celebrate some other way, may we suggest you start planning as soon as possible as time soon goes.



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Havering Antique Collectors Club & speaker



Friday 18th March - Paul Atterbury from BBC Antiques Roadshow speaking on "Eastern Dreams - The Victorians obsession with the Orient"

Friday 8th April 7.30 for 8.00 - Gordon Bailey - Artefacts Through the Ages - £8 (week early due to Easter)

Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOME - ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP £30, GUESTS £5. FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT CHAIRMAN MRS CHRIS LOVETT 07947 367 258

Harold Wood Neighbourhood Centre - Diary Dates

SATURDAY 5TH MARCH - HANDLE WITH CARE (BAND)

SATURDAY 12TH MARCH - S.A.D. (BAND)

SATURDAY 19TH MARCH - ROB N MANDY (DUO)

SATURDAY 26TH MARCH - D.J. BLOCKSTA (BRIAN LOCKE)

SATURDAY 2ND APRIL - RANT 'N' RAVE (BAND)

SATURDAY 9TH APRIL - ALANA ROXAMME (FROM FILTHY GORGEOUS)

New Members Welcome for Choir



Would you like to experience the feel good effects of singing with a friendly and welcoming local choir. If so, New Dimension Community Choir would love to hear from you. Rehearsals are held weekly with performances in summer and at Christmas. For further information please visit our website www.newdimensionchoir.com

MEN'S LUNCH - OUR NEXT DATE -

Men's Lunch



is TUESDAY, 8TH MARCH 2022, from 11:30am in St. Peter's Church Centre, Harold Wood.

We are thrilled to welcome this month - JOHN BAKER - as our guest speaker. Although John, who is the Associate Minister for Youth & families at St. Peter's, and his family joined us back in July 2020, this is really the first opportunity (due to the Pandemic) that ML has had to invite him. It will be great to get to know him, his background, and maybe what he does here at St. Peter's.

Members 'old and new' would be most welcome so we hope you can join us. To reserve your lunch place or to cancel, please telephone St. Peter's Welcome Desk on 01708 342080, or email: welcome.desk@stpetersharoldwood.org.

See you on the 8th March!

JULIAN HARRIS, CHRIS KNOWLES AND THE MEN'S LUNCH TEAM

PS: A date for your diaries! Our APRIL Lunch will be held on TUESDAY, 12TH APRIL when we hope to welcome JOHN CHAN (one of St. Peter's Church Wardens).

LATEST IS GREATEST

At 17, I decided I was old enough to make my own decisions. I was in a reserved occupation in a munitions factory, not liable for call-up, turning out components for bombers, 12 hours a day, 6-days a week. I had plenty of time to plan my escape. I volunteered for RAF air crew, passed the entrance exam and medical, much to the dismay of Mum, as the death rate for air crew was 50%. Fate took a hand and I received a letter from the RAF explaining that following the D-Day landings, they had not had the losses expected, so as I was keen to fight, I was on to a special offer of a choice of any airborne outfit in the army! I wanted to fly planes, not jump out of them! "Serves you right for volunteering" said Dad who had himself volunteered in 1916 at the age of 16. After primary training, desperate to avoid leading the invasion of Japan, I took a trade test and became a vehicle mechanic in R.E.M.E.

On demob in 1948, not keen on returning to the work bench, I joined a company that supplied and maintained office machines, the attraction being, it was engineering surrounded by girls.

I'd just about got the hang of fixing punched card machines, when electronics arrived and it was back to evening classes. The comprehensive knowledge of the thermionic valve I gained took a back seat with the arrival of the transistor and the room-sized chunk of humming electronics was replaced by silent fridge-sized boxes. I invested in a pair of glasses and accept miniaturisation, but then solid state chips

came in. Now I couldn't even see the boxes, let alone fix them! I was at an age where retraining was becoming tiresome and soon interlinked personal computers were introduced and the days of fixing free-standing computers were over.



I got out and it was over a year before I gave in and became a computer user. By now I was in my sixties and once again, just when I'd sussed out the current Windows, something new came along and I was back into obsolescence.

I purchased a mobile phone, thinking it would be ideal for ringing people whilst riding my bike. It was soon obsolete and everyone had a model that was full of apps far beyond my understanding. At least I could still fix the bike!

I'm convinced the only decision I made that wasn't overtaken by events, was marrying my wife 73 years ago! We too have changed, but not as fast as the world around us.

DENNIS GOODWIN

Stolen Padlock

We were contacted by a local resident who advised that the padlock to the barrier gate at the entrance to Cornflower Way had been stolen.

We therefore, immediately notified Havering Council, who very quickly arranged for a new padlock to be issued.

The padlock was replaced within 48 hours.

CLLR'S EAGLING AND GOODE

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The School Run

I was alerted again to the number of vehicles that are parking dangerously and illegally around the school gates at Harold Court Primary School during the busy drop off and collection times.

Due to the number of complaints already received, Havering Council's traffic enforcement team have been out regularly to monitor the situation very closely and will continue to do so.

Whilst, we all try and keep our children safe when travelling to and from school, It is so important that if parents or guardians have to use their vehicles, then please ensure that you park safely and legally for all concerned.

CLLR MARTIN GOODE

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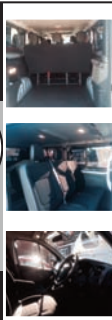
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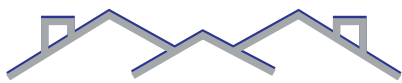
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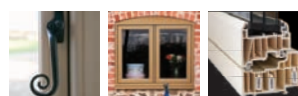
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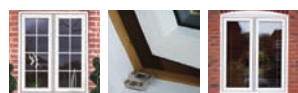


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