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July 2023

We are not part of the HRA / Labour administration

Wildflowers Destroyed



It is with great frustration that contractors have cleared the wildflower area within the Station Carpark. This is private land managed by TFL and we have asked the council and TFL if it was their contractors that cleared the area though unfortunately both authorities have denied this. Last autumn pupils from Harold Wood and Harold Court primary schools, along with volunteers and other community groups worked hard on this over the last year to plant over £200 of wildflowers seeds which had been kindly donated by members of the community. The wild poppies, cornflowers and other plants that had started to bloom, have all been cut down by these contractors. Rachel Grimwood who organised the initial planting of the flowers has been liaising with TFL and they have agreed for the area to be replenished in the Autumn as a generous community gesture. A special thanks to Alan Gosling from TFL and of course to Rachel Grimwood who has been liaising with TFL on this.

School Absences

The Council has launched a new drive to reduce the number of children missing school.

The move is to stop pupils falling behind on their studies and to help parents and pupils to realise the impact that missing school can have on children long-term.

New laws introduced last year, give local authorities permission to not only work with Council-run schools, but also academies to look at the trends for missing school and how to tackle them.

Although at present, school attendance for Havering children is a little higher than the national average – with 94% for Primary and 92% for Secondary, the Council is working to improve these figures.

Some parents may feel 90% of their child's

attendance is acceptable however, this equates to half a day a week of missed school, which adds up to four weeks throughout a school year.

There is a range of help and support available and parents should discuss any concerns with their child's school for advice and guidance.

PLEASE BEAR THE ABOVE IN MIND AS YOU MAY END UP WITH A SCHOOL ABSENCE FINE!

Amber not Uber

As a local business in Harold Wood, we want to serve our community and provide a reliable service to residents in Harold Wood. We constantly find firms such as Uber coming into the area and taking the work away from us which impacts the lives of our drivers. Please support your local minicab firm so that we can grow and have more drivers to support this area otherwise Uber will just drive prices higher in the long term and residents will be affected.

Think Local for your taxi needs, Think Amber not Uber when you want to book a minicab. Call Amber cars on 01708 343030/ 347777 who are Proud to serve and care for our Community.

ARNIE

Car Crimes and Thefts

At a recent meeting with the local Police Team we were advised that theft from motor vehicles for the period Feb to April 2023 were 41 crimes and comparing this to last year for the same period was 19. Theft of motor vehicles was 15 for Feb to April 2023 (5 for same period in 2022).

It certainly seems that this area is being targeted and is on the increase so we would urge you to keep any valuables hidden and preferably not inside your vehicle, ensure your doors are locked, windows shut and your keys are in a faraday pouch. Also why not consider a steering lock as well. Try and make it difficult for these car thieves as ultimately it will push up all our insurance premiums. Also please report any vehicle crimes online or call 101.

Wombling in the river

On a lovely sunny Wednesday morning Cllr Brian Eagling and John, a trusty Womble, put on their Wellies and went down to the river to clear some plastic



barriers and an iron fence following several complaints by residents. These items had been left behind when the Rainbow Bridge was completed. Although this problem had been reported to the Council it seemed to be taking quite a while to be addressed so Brian and John decided to resolve the matter during our Litter clearing morning over Harold Wood Park.

They quite enjoyed it although carrying the heavy items all the way across the park to the pick-up point in the car park as agreed by the Council was perhaps not quite as enjoyable.

THANK YOU, BRIAN AND JOHN,
FOR YOUR HARD WORK.

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Safer Neighbourhood Police Ward Panel

In our May meeting with the local Police Team a number of issues were discussed about what is happening in our community and it was agreed with the panel that the priorities for the local team to concentrate on over the next quarter are Drugs, Theft from Motor Vehicles and Anti-Social Behaviour in Shepherds Hill.

Happy Families

I seem to be hearing of more and more local families splitting up, owing to mortgage rates, with the children buying houses way out of town. This seems to be the only way they can afford to get on the property ladder. Luckily, with the growth of the personal computer a number can work from home. It means grandparents such as I, will see less of our grandchildren, still it does mean they might pick up fewer bad habits from each other!

Pre-war, in my parents day, the entire family lived near the factory that provided their jobs. After the war, my generation, being mobile, moved to the suburbs and travelled to work. This splitting up of families was fine until one got to my age when help is usually needed. All one can do then is follow the kids to their rural retreat. Perhaps then depleted suburbs like Harold Wood will have a supply of houses for sale at affordable prices, though I can't guarantee this will happen!

DENNIS GOODWIN

ULEZ

At the May council meeting there was another protest about this unfair charge that the Mayor of London is bringing in and also a further protest was held in Hornchurch Town Centre in early June. We continue to support our residents on this as many residents just cannot afford to buy new cars or pay the charge on this tax. The Mayor clearly has to rethink his strategy on this.



School Streets survey

Residents living within the Redden Court/ Harold Wood Primary school streets zone have been sent a letter along with the school's themselves to ask them to undertake a survey on the scheme and how it is operating. Please complete this by 4 August as this is your chance to give your views on this. The council will then make a decision after to decide whether to make this scheme permanent or have it removed and this decision must be within 18 months of the start of the experimental scheme.

Large Tree Fallen Down

We were notified by a resident that a large tree had fallen down in Harold Wood Park. We immediately contacted the council to arrange for its removal and the Council have confirmed, that the tree will be removed as soon as they can. Cllr Eagling, went to visit the site and as you can see from the photograph this was quite a large tree.



Phillida Road and Shepherds Hill

The council have now publicly advertised to implement double yellow lines on one side of Phillida Road as residents requested this following parking issues from Array customers. These should be installed soon once the legal formalities have been completed. With regards to Shepherds Hill, there has been site visits by officers to work up a scheme and a plan and we will be updated on this in due course. We will keep you informed of any updates.

Beware of the Scammers

Fraudsters are becoming even more sophisticated in their ways they manipulate and con people out of their hard earned savings. Recently, there have been a number of notices that have been sent to individuals by email that appear to be from their own bank, sometimes even including previous messages, so they do look genuine, but they are false. Money can be transferred immediately from your account if you follow the instructions that are given in these false email messages.

If you do receive an email that appears to be from your bank or building society or looks suspicious, please be extra cautious: Do not click on any link that is provided or telephone the number that is provided in the email.

The best way to check to see if the notice that you have received is genuine or not, is to call your Bank or Building Society directly by using the telephone number that your Bank has provided to you which normally appears, either on your bank card or statement. Your bank or building society will be only too happy to help and to confirm if it was them or not, who sent you the message. They will also provide you with advice on what you should do.

Don't Get a Parking Fine

Further to our previous article in the May edition of the Bulletin, where we provided a few tips to ensure you don't get a fine. Parking enforcement officers are now even issuing tickets for vehicles that are parked on resident's own private driveways where the

vehicle is very slightly protruding over the pavement. Please take care when parking your Vehicle.

The HRA/Labour Administration have increased parking wardens from 33 to 63 to ensure they get more parking tickets issued and they have been warned to be more proactive.

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Park Byelaws Consultation

The council are in the process of updating park byelaws & they want to hear from you.

Join the consultation below & have your say as we look to continue to make our parks & open spaces places to enjoy. Consultation closes on 31 July 2023.

<https://consultation.havering.gov.uk/environment/open-spaces-byelaws-consultation/>

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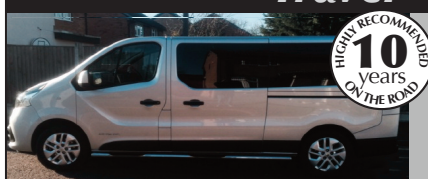


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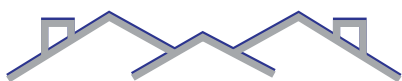


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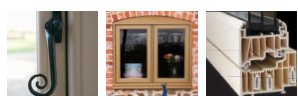
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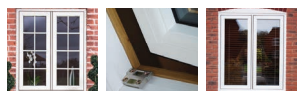


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