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SPRING 2005 NEWSLETTER

Chairman's Message

Welcome to the Spring 2005 Newsletter of your Residents' Association. This issue is kindly sponsored by Japan Services.

There is no formal subscription for membership of the Association but donations are welcome to cover Committee expenses. £2 to £5 per household should be sufficient for normal needs. If you are unable to go to the AGM, please send your donation to our Chairman, Bob Gurd, payable to Hanger Hill (East) Residents' Association. We currently have no Treasurer. This is not an onerous post, and we would welcome volunteers from residents to help our Association function efficiently.

The 2005 Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday 28 April in the Hall of the Church of the Ascension, Beaufort Road, at 8pm. Drinks will be served from 7.45pm, and all residents are welcome. We will have as our speaker Carl Morlese from Ealing Council, responsible for streets, who will talk about Street Watchers and the Council's Response Programme.

Parking

The residents' parking scheme (CPZ), linked to Park Royal and Hanger Lane Stations, which a majority of residents voted for last year, is currently being installed. Before it is made operational later in the Spring, the Council will be asking every household for how many vehicles they wish to buy a permit (£25 pa). The scheme will cover all of the Haymills Estate plus Connell Crescent, but will exclude Ashbourne and Ritz Parades while an ownership problem is resolved. A further scheme covering Boileau Road, Golf Road and the Garden Estate was approved following a consultation last year. It is intended that the installation of this scheme will follow later in the year, which will minimise the period when commuter parking displaced by the Hanger Hill scheme will worsen the conditions in Boileau Road. After around a year of operation of the CPZs, Ealing Council will consult residents again to see if any changes need to be made to the operation of the CPZs or to their boundaries.

HANGER HILL SPRING FESTIVAL

Church of the Ascension, Beaufort Road

Saturday May 14th 12 noon to 3pm

FREE PLOUGHMAN'S LUNCH

Plants - cakes - books - music - flower festival
kids play area

Guest of honour: the Mayor of Ealing, Ian Potts

All welcome!

Street Watchers

When it comes to keeping an eye on Council services there is no substitute for local knowledge – the Street Watcher. There are many residents at home during the day who could influence street services issues for their local area. Street Watchers can be the additional eyes and ears of the Council. With easy direct access to the Council Contact Centre by the use of unique identification numbers, Street Watchers can participate in a valuable partnership and impact on service performance. The input of Street Watchers will assist the Council to focus on real, local issues and help to inform future street services contracts. The reporting of local problems - vandalism, graffiti, lighting, dumped rubbish and cars - by Street Watchers directly to the Council's Contact Centre ensures that such matters receive appropriate attention without undue delay. As indicated in the last Newsletter, the scheme is running in our area but volunteers are still needed for Ashbourne and Ritz Parades, Chatsworth Road and Rise, Dallas Road, Hanger Lane from the hill to the Gyrratory, and The Ridings. If you are interested, please contact Graham Fowler or come to the AGM.

University of the Third Age

One of our residents is secretary of the Ealing branch of the University of the Third Age (U3A). The U3A is a learning co-operative of older people which enables members to share many educational, creative and leisure activities - anyone who is not in full employment is eligible. It is a university in the original sense of the word - a collective of people devoted to learning. The Ealing U3A meets every Thursday at Ealing Town Hall 10.15 a.m. until 12 noon for a weekly talk on a variety of subjects. They also have small groups covering a wide range of issues. Come along to Ealing Town Hall any Thursday morning during term time (£1 entrance), or telephone 020 8997 8630 for further details. Website: www.ealingu3a.org.uk.

Flooding on the Estate

Thames Water has recently been investigating complaints about flooding on the estate. One reason for increased flooding is the gradual paving-over of front gardens which leads to greater volumes of water run-off into the surface water sewers. The

sewers, which were laid when the estate was built before and after the last war, were never designed to take this increased volume and overflow. Simply increasing their capacity is not the answer because the water has to go somewhere and in violent storms can end up in the River Thames with other sewage, which kills fish and wildlife. So please think carefully before you consider paving over your front garden -- not only does it affect the character of the estate it also has a serious environmental impact. This can be lessened by ensuring that special porous paving is installed. Also remember the rules relating to hardstanding: planning permission is required for any works which changes the existing front garden and at least 50% planted area should be retained. If in doubt consult the Council's planning department (for details see below).

The Tram & Crossrail

The results of the tram consultation have just been received: the official consultation showed a majority against whereas the survey of around 1000 residents in Boroughs along and close to the route have indicated a majority in favour. TfL explained the difference by saying that those opposed to the scheme were more likely to express their views! Meanwhile, Ealing Council has agreed to become a joint sponsor of the Bill to Parliament assuming that the Mayor decided to proceed. The Crossrail Bill has also just been published and hearings will start shortly in Parliament.

This year the London 'Open House' Day is on 17/18 September. A tour of the Estate will be conducted on **Sunday 18 September** starting at Park Royal station at 2pm.

Conservation Area Matters

A new phenomenon has recently appeared on the estate -- the building of basements under existing houses and into their gardens. Your Conservation Area Panel considers that these basements are generally out of character with the estate and were very disappointed when planning permission was granted for one despite strong objections from the

panel and neighbours. The building works subsequently caused much distress and nuisance to neighbours and we believe that the Council has learned a number of lessons from this episode. Hopefully, permission for basements will only be given in exceptional circumstances and only where strict conditions are attached to minimise the impact of excavations upon neighbouring properties.

There has been the usual spate of unauthorised changes to houses and flats in the last year, particularly following approaches to householders by contractors who encourage them to undertake works without seeking planning permission. In many cases this resulted in enforcement action being taken by the Council, to the embarrassment of householders concerned. Outstanding enforcement action will appear on Council searches which could make it impossible to sell your house. The Council's planning department on 020 8825 6600 will advise if you are in any doubt. If you see what you believe may be unauthorised alterations please contact the Council's Enforcement Officer on 020 8825 8913. Felling or pruning of trees with trunks greater than 7.5cm in diameter (measured 1.5 m above ground) require the clearance of the Council's arboricultural section (telephone 020 8825 6999).

When carrying out building work ensure your contractors don't break guidance from council in relation to hours: on weekdays building work can only be carried out between 8am and 6pm; at weekends only between 8am and 1pm on Saturday. No Sunday or bank holiday working is permitted. Contact - Council's Environmental Health Department on 020 8825 8111.

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Hanger Hill (East) Residents' Association Annual General Meeting: Thursday 28 April 2005
Church of the Ascension, Beaufort Road at 8pm

Agenda

1. Chairman's/Secretary's Report
2. Treasurer's Report and Auditor's Report
3. Appointment of Auditor
4. Election of 2005/06 Committee
5. **Speaker: Carl Morlese, Streetcare Manager, LBE**
6. The Tram
7. Other Traffic Matters
8. Conservation Area Matters
9. CCTV and Crime Update
10. Any Other Business

New committee members are always welcome, especially from Ashbourne Road, Chatsworth Road and The Ridings: please contact Bob Gurd, 60 Beaufort Road (020 8998 4417 - black.gurd@virgin.net) or Graham Fowler (020 8997 5785) for details.