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ANGER AT PARKING METERS

At the last Harold Wood area committee which was held in July, the two Conservative Councillors and one Liberal Democrat Councillor that represent Harold Wood informed the community of proposals and changes that affect our area.

Brian Eagling and Darren Wise were appalled to hear that Harold Wood Councillors were in agreement to have parking meters installed and parking restrictions imposed in Oak Road. When challenged on this issue by us, the Councillors informed us that this proposal was agreed by the shopkeepers. We did not believe these comments were true, so following our investigations the next day, the shopkeepers were also amazed that no communication or letters had been sent to them and were shocked by the proposals.

We have now helped the shopkeepers organise a petition on this matter and so far there has been about 500 names from local residents who are against the proposals for parking charges. When the Chairperson of the Area Committee was quizzed by a local newspaper as to which shopkeepers agreed to the proposal, she was unable to recall any shopkeepers names!

If you have any views and thoughts on this then please email us at hwhpra@btinternet.com

INTRODUCING YOUR LOCAL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The following are some of your questions answered:

We are a local association and have no connection with national political parties; in fact we see very little difference between them. Yes, we will be selecting 3 Residents' Association candidates for the next local election in May 2010. We believe you, the residents, come first not party politics.

There are currently 17 Resident Councillors on Havering Council and we are the opposition to the Tory administration. We believe that after the elections next year there will be more. Local residents are angry that the present Tory Councillors claim the highest allowance in the country. It is a disgrace.

Yes, we agree the council tax levels in this borough are too high. We also intend to continue to fight for value for money. We agree that the parking restrictions and fines are becoming outrageous.

Yes, with your support and help the *Bulletin* will still be published and delivered every month and we will have 3 Resident Councillors to serve you come the elections next May.



RON OWER



DARREN WISE



BRIAN EAGLING

HELP PLEASE!

We need volunteers to deliver the *Bulletin*.

Telephone Brian on 373027.

RESIDENTS' COMPLAINTS IN DAVID DRIVE

Whilst out meeting with residents in David Drive, we received many complaints from residents who were annoyed that they had to pay for a permit to park outside their own homes as there is a residents parking scheme in place. If Residents' Association in this area wish to raise this issue with the Council then please contact us and we will help you on this matter.

SENSORY GARDEN

Ron and Brian attended the opening of the Sensory Garden at the St Bernard's Day Centre in Peel Way, Harold Wood. The project was organised and implemented by Trevor Marlow and the Gardening Team from St Peter's Church who have done an excellent job. While in attendance and on behalf of the Residents' Association a donation of £100 was made to help with this very worthwhile scheme.

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GETTING THINGS DONE

Slowly but surely we are getting the council to put things right especially in relation to the Streetcare department. As you can see below we identified an issue with a tree in Gubbins Lane



(Opposite Saxon Close) which had branches and roots protruding out into the pavement making it very difficult for residents to pass. Within a few days of raising this matter, the problem was rectified. There are a lot more things that require addressing and clearly your current local Councillors are not delivering on streetcare issues and it is left for

the Residents' Association to raise on your behalf.

We have also raised a number of other Streetcare issues in Amersham Drive, Halesworth Road, Harlesden Walk and Firham Park Ave with the Council recently and we will be watching carefully to see if they are resolved over the next few weeks though we do know that there are other unresolved issues that the Council have seemed to conveniently



forgotten about! Though clearly we haven't and we will be chasing them up!

Noisy Trains

Following complaints from local

residents living close to the Harold Wood Station we have been advised that the trains are blasting their horns as they race through the station disturbing the tranquility of the day and those people sleeping at night. One resident wrote and was strongly objecting to her eardrums being bombarded by the train drivers devilish timings of their horn blasting just as they seem to go past her house. The resident raised this matter with the Harold Wood Station Manager who indicated there was not the famous whistle board there and suggested that a complaint be sent to National Express and they could investigate as there is a data box on the trains.

Therefore if you are a train driver on this line, please can you give a thought to local residents who work shifts and have to sleep during the daytime and also those residents who don't want to be

woken at night with a large blast of the horn.

CCTV Smart Car

Whilst out delivering the *Bulletin* in Amersham Drive on a Sunday morning at 10.15am, I was appalled to see the CCTV Smart Car driving around this area deliberately trying to catch people who may have parked on the pavement so that the Council can increase its parking revenue. People generally have a lie-in on a Sunday morning and do not want to find out in a few weeks time that they may have a £60 parking fine sent to them.

Some of you may have read in the national press lately that motorists issued with parking fines after being caught out by so-called "spy cars" may now have grounds to appeal after a legal ruling.

A motorist challenged three £60 fines issued by Wirral Council using evidence gathered by Smart Cars fitted with periscope cameras

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as it was stated that on each occasion, she had parked briefly on double yellow lines outside the off-licence she runs. The tribunal upheld her claim she was loading and unloading her car when the Penalty Charge Notices were issued. The fines were overturned by the Traffic Penalty Tribunal, because there was a lack of evidence that adequate signs were in place about the cameras.

ALZHEIMERS SOCIETY QUIZ NIGHT

A Quiz Evening on Saturday 10th October at the Ingrebourne Centre Gubbins Lane Harold Wood Tables of 8 Tickets £5 per person 7.30pm start. In aid of Alzheimers Society, Havering Support Group. For further information please telephone Marjorie Law on 01708 347 145. Proceeds will go to the support group.

BACK TO CHURCH

"I might come back to church again, if someone invited me ... or if I could be sure of a welcome." Well, you are invited - on September 27th, and you will be welcome - at least, I speak for St. Peter's, Harold Wood where I am the vicar. But this is a national invitation, and, if people do not feel any sense of belonging or welcome in a church gathering, then shame on that church fellowship! Why do people stay away, or never come? I wager that most is built on prejudice or ignorance. Why not come back to Church on **Sunday, September 27th?** Why not come any Sunday? St. Peter's-in-exile meets at Redden Court School at 9.15am, 11.00am, 4.00pm or 6.30pm - at least for 3 more months! It looks as though we'll be back in our buildings at the end of November. Rejoice with us.

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HAROLD WOOD EVENING W.I.

We meet at The Memorial Hall in Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood

on the first Wednesday of each month (7.30 pm for 7.45 pm start). We have more than 40 members. Each month we have a different speaker covering a wide range of subjects. We also hold a monthly raffle and competitions. During the year we run outings and hold social evenings. Members receive the "W.I. Life" magazine keeping us in touch with national news and campaigns like 'SOS for Bees'. Essex WI monthly newsletter contains reports from County Wis, events, craft days and outings. We also join Noak Hill and Homestead WI members, for social activities and outings. So why not come along to a meeting or ring Doreen (our secretary) on 01708 780928 for more information. New friends, new activities - its all here in Harold Wood.

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GARDENERS CORNER FOR SEPTEMBER

The autumn programme begins this month with the increasing interval between mowing and the raising of the height of cut to the autumn level, which is a quarter of an inch above the summer cutting height.

Worms may become active – there are no longer any chemical worm killers so brush away the casts and increase soil acidity next year by applying Lawn Sand in Spring. Use an autumn lawn fertilizer now if the lawn is pale and thin. Carry out lawn repairs during showery weather at the middle or end of the month. The September routine for all lawns is to scarify first, then spike any compacted areas and finally top-dress if you can possibly spare the effort and time for this vital operation.

It is also a busy time for the new

lawn – this is the best period for sowing seed but turf laying should be delayed until next month.

BRIAN EAGLING

SAVE THE WOOD

Many of you will have, hopefully, read my letters in the local press opposing the current development plans for the Harold Wood Hospital site. For me this is THE big issue for the residents of Harold Wood and the surrounding area. The likely dates for the Regulatory Services Committee to hear the application are 17th September, 8th October or 29th October. Remember we will have only ONE week's notice of the actual date. It is vital that everyone who attended the meeting at St. Peter's Church in May 2008, and their friends and neighbours, turn up at the Town Hall that evening.

We need to make it clear that we

oppose, totally, the current scheme. We are not against residential development of the site- we welcome it. But we want it to reflect the character of the neighbourhood. 'People power' is required to convince members of the Committee that what is currently proposed is in breach of key elements in the Local Development Framework and the Core Strategy.

We started the job by objecting by letter. Let's finish the job by turning up in large numbers on the night of the Planning Application hearing to show how strongly we feel on this issue.

NIGEL BROOM

DID YOU KNOW ???

The Romford YMCA runs a fitness club for the over 50's. The club runs on Monday mornings and Wednesday and Friday afternoons, and the price of this club is only £3.30 per

session for members and £6.00 for non-members. Activities included in the "50+ club" are use of the gym, badminton, Body Balance class, Circuit Training class and Tai-Chi class AND you get a cup of tea/coffee and a cake included in that price! There are other classes like Yoga and Line Dancing that are not included in the "50+ club" but still suitable for the more 'mature' participant and if you are a pensioner it can be even cheaper, so if you need more details or membership information ring the YMCA reception on 01708 766211.

COUNCIL GARAGES

Following residents concern and our intervention the rubbish etc has been cleared from the garages rear of Kingsbridge Road. We will continue to monitor our area.



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