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**NO CREDIT CRUNCH AT
 HAVERING COUNCIL!**

We read yet again in the Havering Council's accounts that they are spending your money on high salaries for their staff and the Council administration.

When combining the salaries of the Chief Executive and the Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council, Havering residents are paying these three people over £250,000 per year and in addition there are 313 council employees earning over £50,000 a year. This is incredibly high for us Council Tax Payers to pay especially when there are a number of families in the borough who are struggling to pay their everyday bills and some 420 homes being repossessed as a result of the credit crunch.

It certainly is interesting to note that the Chief Executive of the Council earns more money than the UK Prime Minister, surely there is something wrong here!

On top of all this, there is over £1.1m being paid out for Councillors Allowances and some of this money goes to a number of Tory Councillors who live outside the borough. The question that residents have to ask is whether these Councillors are worth it as they have no interest in the borough apart from taking your money.

It is also alarming to note that there is over £13.8m in Council Tax that is owed to the Council and whilst this may be from families that are struggling financially, it may also be owed by others who can afford it. I am keen for the Council to explain what measures they are taking to recapture the loss of the owed Council Tax as I am sure a number of you will also want to know. Just imagine if the Council retrieved most of that money, then this could be invested in local services, improved roads and pavements and help to reduce our own contribution to the Council Tax.

We will continue to press the Council hard for answers.

What a Cost!

- **£1.1 million for Councillors**
- **£50,000 -plus Salaries Rise**
- **£170,000 Highest Earner**
- **£13.8 million Council Tax Owed**

DARREN WISE



**CLOCKS
 GO BACK**

Please note that clocks go back on Saturday 24th October.

**OAK ROAD,
 HAROLD WOOD**

I regularly visit the shops in Oak Road and whilst I try and walk there as often as possible I sometimes use my car and I was horrified to hear that the Harold Wood Councillors are proposing Parking Meters and when I queried this with several of the businesses they confirmed that they had not been consulted and were totally against the charges. The first they heard about the proposals was when Brian Eagling from the Residents' Association informed them – thank you Brian.

As we pay one of the highest Council Taxes in the Country to introduce Parking Meters is just another tax and will cost a fortune to introduce. These Councillors are out of touch and simply do not represent this area – they need to be replaced.

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HAROLD WOOD HOSPITAL

We understand that the Planning Application to build dwellings on the former Hospital Site will be going to the Council's Regulatory Services (Planning) Committee on Thursday 8th October Evening at the Town Hall Romford.

As Nigel Broom wrote in last months *Bulletin* "We urge you to attend the meeting and show your feelings". Local Residents are very concerned over the Proposed Development.

pavement, we managed to get this cleared so that it didn't affect pedestrians walking past. Secondly, following our intervention we managed to get a pathway fixed (see picture below) which had paving stones uplifted and was a danger to residents.



SUCCESSES IN AMERSHAM DRIVE!

As reported last month, we raised a number of issues with Streetcare and due to our persistence we managed to address two issues in Amersham Drive. Firstly outside one of the houses that had overgrown shrubbery protruding onto the

PAVEMENTS IN INGREWAY

Whilst out meeting residents in Ingreway we noticed that the state of the pavements were an absolute disgrace and are a danger to pedestrians. We have made representations to the

Council and we have asked them to urgently undertake an inspection so that they can assess the pavements themselves.

HAROLD WOOD AREA COMMITTEE

Just a reminder to let you know the next area Council Committee for Harold Wood and Emerson Park is on 20 October at 7.30pm and will be held at Mead School, Amersham Road, Harold Hill. Residents who live in Harold Hill and Harold Park are able to attend this meeting and give their views on local services.etc.

A BIG THANK YOU!

Once again, your action team of Brian Eagling, Darren Wise and Ron Ower would like to take the opportunity to thank our advertisers, deliverers, members and article contributors for helping us to keep the *Bulletin* on track and packed with local

news, articles and features that can be shared in over 17,000 homes locally. We welcome your support in any way that you can give us as without this, it would make our lives a lot harder. With only about 9 months to go before the local elections, your action Team is out there tackling the issues that matter most to you and we will raise issues with the Council on your behalf to ensure that they are giving you value for money.

HOMES IN HAVERING

We have been working with Officers from "Homes in Havering" – the organisation set up to manage Havering Council's Dwellings to have a number of areas of overgrown vegetation – bushes etc cut back. May we take this opportunity to thank the workmen for their assistance – if you are aware of areas needing a clean up – please

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contact us. We will continue to keep pressure on Homes in Havering.

PAVEMENTS, PAVEMENTS

Elsewhere in the Bulletin, Darren has provided details of success with the Council's StreetCare department where work has taken place and has highlighted areas of serious concern especially with regards to dangerous pavements. We are continuing to look at all pavements and roads in all areas – please get in touch with us if you are aware of an area needing attention providing us with clear details of the location – Remember Dangerous Pavements will cause accidents and the only ones to blame will be the Council.

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD POLICE TEAM

Please note Public Meeting on

Monday 19th October at the Harold Wood Neighbourhood, Gubbins Lane, 7.30 pm to 9 pm.

Your Safer Neighbourhood Team will be pleased to see you all.

Your local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team wish to start further Neighbourhood Watch Schemes in this area – if you can help please attend the Police Meeting on Monday 19th October.

RAISING THE FLAG AT HAROLD WOOD PARK

On the 25th of August we witnessed the proud moment of the Green Flag being raised over Harold Wood Park. This award was the result of months of effort from the Friends of Harold Wood Park's, Parks Department. This prestigious award is given to those Parks which are judged to be accessible, safe, secure, clean and well maintained. The Friends group committee meet bi-monthly, utilising the Pavilion in

Harold Wood Park, where we discuss issues, development opportunity and potential fund raising /community events. Our focus is both Harold Wood Park and Painsbrook play area. Our positive attitude has helped to enhance facilities in both Parks over the past 3 years. We are acting on behalf of the community and are completely voluntary. We are acting as the voice of the community and therefore your ideas, comments and support would be very much appreciated. If you would like to join the Friends group as a member or a potential committee member or have any ideas or comments please contact me - Nicky Simmons, Chair of the Friends of Harold Wood Parks: Nicola.simmons04@ntlworld.com

HAROLD WOOD HEALERS

The Harold Wood Healers provide hands on healing every Wednesday 8:00 pm to 9:30 pm

at the Old School Building, Harold Wood Community Centre, Gubbins Lane, Harold Wood. No appointments required. No fees, just a free will donation for the use of the hall if you want to. The Harold Wood healers are a branch of The Essex Healers Association who have been providing healing to east London & Essex for 62 years. Come along and see what healing can do for you. Enquiries 01708 340628.

5 MINUTE CHOCOLATE MUG CAKE

- 4 tablespoons flour
- 4 tablespoons sugar
- 2 tablespoons cocoa
- 1 egg
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 3 tablespoons chocolate chips (optional)



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A small splash of vanilla extract
1 large coffee mug (MicroSafe)

Add dry ingredients to mug, and mix well. Add the egg and mix thoroughly. Pour in the milk and oil and mix well. Add the chocolate chips (if using) and vanilla extract and mix again. Put your mug in the microwave and cook for 3 minutes at 1000 watts. The cake will rise over the top of the mug, but don't be alarmed! Allow to cool a little, and tip out onto a plate if desired.

EAT! (this can serve 2 if you want to feel slightly more virtuous).

And why is this the most dangerous cake recipe in the world?

Because now we are all only 5 minutes away from chocolate cake at any time of the day or night!

8TH SQUIRRELS HEATH SCOUTS

Our Leaders put in a lot of time and effort for our young people. We are desperately in need of new Leaders, especially an 'Akela' to run our Cub Pack. If the idea of becoming a Leader in such a worthwhile organisation appeals to you or if you are interested in helping out in the Group in any way, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me. Our major fund raising event is the:

AUTUMN FAYRE
Saturday, 17th October, 2009
at Kingsland Hall,
(Rear of Abbey Building Society)

Station Road, Harold Wood
11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.

Hope to see you all there.
Sue Hamilton, Group Scout Leader (Tel: 01708 375549)

RESTAURANT STAFF OF THE FUTURE

The Jubilee Restaurant at Havering College, Quarles Campus, Tring Gardens, Harold Hill has reopened. The meals are prepared and served by the students. Many of the students go on to work in some high-class establishments for their work experience and are successful in obtaining full-time employment. Some students come back to the College to further their culinary skills at a higher level. Choice of 3-course lunch is £7.95. High Afternoon Tea is £5.25. Thursday Evening Fine Dining Experience choice of 3-course meal is £11.95. Gourmet Dinners 5-course set meal is £17.95 (4 during 2009/10). For bookings phone Tony Pecoraro on 01708 462886. The students need your support and the food is excellent.

CCTV SMART CAR

A local resident from David Drive contacted us to tell us that he too has been the victim of the Council CCTV Smart Car. The resident who is the holder of a Disabled Blue Badge had parked just inside the bus stop outside the Co-op in Harold Wood for just over two minutes so that he could get a pint of milk. He was unable to find a parking space and had parked in a way as not to cause an inconvenience to the local traffic. To his dismay he received a Penalty Charge Notice fining him £50 if he paid within 21 days though if he challenged the decision the fine would be increased and doubled to £100. The resident goes on to say that the smart cars are photographing every minor traffic infringement in order to justify their costs and that Havering is now not a popular place to live. This just goes to show what the local residents of this area think about this Council and its revenue enhancing schemes and its use of the CCTV Smart Car.

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