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# THE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

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### NOVEMBER 12th

#### THE DAY HAROLD WOOD FOUND ITS VOICE!

The weather was terrible but there was a fantastic turn out of concerned residents. In voice and physical presence we were determined to show the Councillors on the Regulatory Services Committee how deeply we feel this threat to our community. Diane Smith and I, as well as being part of the protest outside the Town Hall had the privilege, as well as the responsibility, of outlining the details of the community's concerns to the Committee. I have to admit we both felt that having only 2 minutes each to present the case against was a real challenge. Diane and I had liaised prior to the meeting to decide on our individual areas of focus. Diane was keen to home in on concerns re Education - just where will the school places be; Health - will the polyclinic's location prove problematic for older residents and can reduced waiting times for a doctor's appointment be guaranteed; Leisure facilities for children and young people and, of course, the big one Infrastructure and the issue of traffic!

My focus was the more technical issues - the density of housing units per hectare; the poor quality of the proposed amenity space - raised decking, communal decking, shared hard space, SMALL gardens - all of which fails to meet Supplementary Planning Guidance; the seeming willingness to impose URBAN features on Harold Wood; the idea that you can create "a community within a community" without proper regard to social and community cohesion is very worrying. I was at pains to point out to the Councillors that in their much heralded "Living

Ambition - A Vision for Havering in the next 20 years" they had stressed the importance of engaging people in the decisions which affect them. This would, I suggested, mean they should be LISTENING to the 1800 people who had written to the Planning Department to oppose these plans. Bearing in mind the Leader of the Council had only recently stated "Houses are more in keeping with the character of Havering than flats" the plan to have a 70 to 30 split Flats to Houses on the site was in conflict not only with the Leader's statement but also key elements of Living Ambition.

We are all aware that outline planning permission for 423 housing units was granted in 2006 but the density was 49.4 housing units per hectare as opposed to 69 in the current proposals. At the eastern end of the development, close to the station and Gubbins Lane the density would be 95 housing units per hectare. I suggested there was a major

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discrepancy here! The \$64,000 question was whether the Councillors themselves would want to live on such an estate? In conclusion I urged them to have the courage to go against the recommendation of the Planning Team which was to pass the application. The unanimous decision to defer was a good result for the people of Harold Wood.

Just to sum up, all the arguments that we put forward were based on key elements of the Local Development Framework and the Core Strategy. Also the DETAILS of the technical issues that I raised are all to be found in the Report presented by the Planning team to the Committee. We should now organise ourselves for the next stage of the campaign.

We will keep you informed of further developments

NIGEL BROOM

### BIKEABILITY

Year 6 pupils at Harold Court Primary School in Harold Park were very excited this year to be participating in Bikeability for the first year. The new Head Teacher, Mrs Beverley Swain, feels that learning to ride safely is a very important skill for year 6 pupils.

“At Harold Court Primary School we are keen to prepare pupils for the transition to secondary school by building confidence for independent travel and also to embrace a healthy lifestyle”.

The Government approved Bikeability scheme was introduced 2 years ago to

replace the old cycling proficiency scheme which taught children how to ride in a school playground environment but not how to ride safely on the road. This new scheme takes young people out on to quiet roads where they learn safe cycling techniques in controlled environments in a real life situation, but under close supervision. “In Havering the Transport for London sponsorship for this initiative has doubled in the last year,” says Ray Crane, Havering Council’s Road Safety Manager. “This will allow far more children and their families to receive training to learn to cycle safely in and around Havering.”

If you are interested in finding out more please contact the school travel plan team on...

### JANUARY GARDENERS CORNER

There is very little work to do on the established lawn this month, apart from removing fallen leaves. You can do nothing to help the grass in the wet and often bitterly cold weather, but you can harm it by walking on the waterlogged or frozen turf.

This is a good time to have the mower overhauled and to make sure that the other lawn tools are ready for use in the spring. Turfing is possible during a fine spell.

BRIAN EAGLING

### PARKING CONTROLS UNFAIR

It was highlighted to us by a resident about the unfair targeting of vehicles by the

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Council's Parking Enforcement Officers and the CCTV Smart car whereby they had received 2 penalty notices within about 30 minutes of each other for the same offence. The resident who has use of a disabled Blue Badge was parked in Park End Road, Romford adjacent to the Town Hall on Saturday 21st November and because there were a number of cars already parked on the yellow lines due to an event in the nearby church and there was no room to park they decided to park in a suspended parking bay which had a bag over the parking meter. Obviously they thought that due to having a Blue Badge that this would be legal to park here only to find out that when they returned to their car there was a penalty charge notice on this car and

another car behind that also had a Blue Badge and parked in a suspended meter bay. To make matters worse, a week later they received another penalty charge notice where the CCTV Smart car had taken a picture of the car for the same offence only 30 mins earlier than when the Parking Enforcement Officer had issued a ticket. We have told the resident to appeal against this as it is absolutely ridiculous that they would have to pay 2 £60 fines for the same offence. However be warned that on no occasion should anyone (Blue Badge Holder or not) should park in a suspended bay as if you do get caught you will receive a penalty notice. Yet again, this council is hell bent on targeting the motorist and residents of this borough and

they use this CCTV Smart car as just another way of sneakily trying to take your money to line the pockets of this administration.

DARREN WISE

## HALESWORTH ROAD

I felt you should be aware of the following – I was very concerned to read in a Liberal Election leaflet details of a derelict house in Halesworth Road, Harold Hill. Whilst the property is in a poor condition and privately owned – it is still in occupation by an elderly lady. Together with your Residents Team I have been visiting the property regularly on a number of occasions cleared rubbish. I have been liaising closely with the Council and have been

pushing them for action as I have been very worried on what damage is being done to the neighbouring property, vermin infestation, and the condition of the elderly resident herself.

The elderly resident has in fact paid for her property to be boarded up – sadly this has given the appearance of being empty. I have been assured a number of times by Council Officers that they are in contact with the resident owner of the property who wants to remain in the property. We will continue to monitor this delicate situation.

RON OWER

## MORRIS DANCER

Darren Wise and Julia Rogers met with the licensing Team at Havering Council along with the Police representative to



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discuss Residents ongoing concerns about anti-social behaviour at the Morris Dancer Pub and the state of the surrounding area. The landlord had been invited to attend and many emails and correspondence from the Council were sent to him and he failed to show up at this meeting despite their being a number of conditions that had been put on his licence in 2009.

In order for the council to take any further actions, it is important that local residents record any disturbance and incidents from customers leaving the pub and they should log the date, time and nature of incident. Please feel free to email us at hwhpra@btinternet.com with these incidents so that a record

can be kept. Alternatively you can call the Council Noise Team and speak to a duty officer on 01708 433999 on the following evenings Thursday:7pm to 11pm or Friday & Saturday: 10pm to 2am.

The council will be writing to the landlord and the brewery owners to discuss the matter with them and we will keep in touch with the Council on this and we will keep you informed when we have some further news.

MUSIC EVENINGS

Our 2010 Music Evenings commence with a Concert of Viennese Music on Wednesday 20th January. Main Meeting Room Hornchurch Library at 7.45pm Admission FREE.

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BADMINTON

Interested in playing recreational Badminton? Then why not come along to Redden Court School, Harold Wood. Our club meets every Tuesday evening during term time, between 7:30 and 9:30. New players very welcome! Call Susan on 020 8592 0582 for more details.

MAYLANDS CAR WASH

Your Residents Association have been constantly chasing The Council on why this illegal and dangerous operation near Maylands Fields



is still open. Our Residents Councillors Clarence Barrett and Linda Hawthorn have openly questioned the Council on the delay in closing the site they have now been informed by Council Officers that the Council should be taking the owners of the land to Court this month where it is hoped that the owners will be served with an injunction. Failure to stop the operation could lead to high fines.

RON OWER

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTS

Letters of complaints have been received due to their being no Christmas lights or Christmas trees in Station Road. It's a shame that our current councillors couldn't have organised or helped for us to have at least one of these.



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