



Highams Residents' Association

Founded in 1955 for the residents of The Highams Estate

NEWSLETTER - Jan 2011 No.6

Making The Highams Estate a safer place – are 'Speed Bumps' the answer?



Firstly, A Happy New Year to all! We hope you have had a safe start to 2011 - we'd like to make it even safer!

Our first article continues the issue of 'speeding traffic' throughout the Estate. More residents are contacting the HRA to complain about damage to other cars and fatalities of loved pets that have been killed from thoughtless speeding. Sadly, three pet cats have already died, one occurring last week!

We have particular interest from The Charter Road, Henry's Avenue and Montalt Road to install speed bumps

in their roads. One HRA member will possibly be setting up a petition and we'll keep you updated about this - quoted from a resident;

"Yet another cat was killed out on Montalt Road this morning. Soon it could be a child."

We have been in touch with the Council who are currently carrying out research in the Highams Park area. You may have noticed the cables across the roads at various points - these are called 'ATC' cables (automatic traffic counters) and they monitor and record the volume and the speed of traffic.

We contacted the LBWF to find out what HRA members can do, they replied;

"If members in the Highams Resident Association feel there needs to be a change or have any comments on the current speeds, or layout of the surrounding roads the best way to is to email Traffic.Scheme@walthamforest.gov.uk or Environmental.Services@walthamforest.gov.uk where your email will be logged in the system, given a reference number and referred to the appropriate person where you should get a response back within 2 weeks, that way there is more assurance that your enquiry wont get 'lost in the system. A petition is a good idea and I would advise either including your ward councillors or copying them into any emails or suggestions."

Thank you for your emails, keep them coming, they will all be replied to within 24hrs.

Subs Collectors on the way!

Please have your £2 ready for one of your friendly neighbourhood HRA 'sub collectors'! As mentioned in our last newsletter the subs have increased- this is to cover the costs for our website, newsletter, tea party and running costs. I'll hope you'll agree it's very good value for remaining a member!

*Due to the weather we weren't able to collect last years' subscription, so you've had a year for FREE!
Any extra donations will be gratefully received!*

The Highams Park, it's for Everybody!



Following on from the 'Long Grass' article in the last newsletter - a few weeks later, the grass was thankfully cut, but we have been informed by Mike Punchard (Nature Conservation for LBWF) that it will be bought back for the Summer!

We will forward your many comments we received to them as many of you were not impressed with the 'new look'

park. Apparently the cutting will be monitored this time, the areas will be more natural, and there will be signage added to inform residents of the proposed 'wild life' areas - watch this space!

The Highams Park article also brought to light other 'Park' issues. In particular, the number of 'dangerous' dogs off their leads in the park. It is one of just a few parks in the Waltham Forest area that allow dogs to be kept off leads whilst in the park. **Do you mind dogs being off their leads in the park? What would make you use the park more?**

The HRA take every opinion seriously and we act on behalf of the whole estate. There are far more good responsible dog owners than bad, but unfortunately it's the few that ruin every bodies enjoyment of the park. The Park is for everybody after all!

Get in touch and email; highamsra@me.com

What's Happening to our Trees?



We've received a number of emails from residents asking why the trees are disappearing from our streets and why they aren't being replaced. Most of the trees have been removed due to the damage they have caused to underground pipes and house foundations. However, it is the Council's responsibility to replace the trees and keep our streets green and pleasant!

The HRA have been in touch with the Environment department at Waltham Forest who have had this to say; "The issue you have raised is regarding trees owned by the Council which are Highway 'street trees' it's the responsibility of the operational part of the Tree Section. The Arboricultural Manager left the authority a year ago and has not been replaced. Presently this role is currently being covered by Chris Moran our Service Development Manager. The authority take replacing its tree stock seriously and where ever a tree is removed if deemed appropriate it will be replaced with a suitable species. The planting season normally starts in October and ends at the end of February, though can be slightly extended into March if necessary as the trees are container grown rather than bare rooted."

Some older residents have pointed out that Cherry Trees use to line the streets with an amazing display of blossom in the Spring, the Council have also responded to this; "Regarding cherry flowering cherry trees in particular our operations officers have experienced problems with the roots of this species, conflicting with the highway surface. Many of the tree stock are senescent in the borough and are due for replacement, normally due to declining vigour disease or multiple root issues. It will be down to the discretion of the inspecting arboriculturalist to decide what species is appropriate, which where ever possible will be to reflect the charter of the area.

There are other issues that will lead to decline of the tree stock such as off street parking schemes, that will increase the compaction around the rooting area and damage to the tree trunks from vehicles hitting the trees and dropped kerb applications, which can be extremely close to existing mature trees causing conflict and reduce the life expectancy of the tree stock and change the character of the area."

So, as you can see there is in principle a plan to put trees back but AGAIN it's up to the resident to remind the Council. If you would like a tree replaced in your road please email your address to the HRA or give the Comms Officer a call 0208 504 5911 and we will forward the list to the Tree Officer at LBWF.



HRA 56th AGM - Thursday, 8pm, 7th April 2011

In the Pavilion of Woodford Rugby Club, High Road, Woodford Green (pedestrian access in Nesta Road),

The HRA Tea Party - Sunday, 26th June 2011.

More details to follow.

There are two NEW events that we would like to suggest and if you are interested in organising or helping, please contact us. They are;

'The Big Lunch' on Sunday 5th June - www.thebiglunch.com

and

'Love Your Parks' - 23rd to 31st July - a week of events in parks around the country, which may be more suited to us as we live around one! What about a picnic in The Highams Park? www.lovetoparksweek.org.uk

Community Forums

Community Forums will be replacing Community Councils. Community Ward Forum meetings will take place in each ward, 3 times a year.

The meetings will be open to individual residents, community groups and business representatives who want to help shape and improve their neighbourhood. This is an opportunity for local people to get together, meet their ward councillors, and discuss the important issues affecting their area.

The forums will be Ward based, though two or more wards may join together for some or all of their meetings. No dates have been fixed for these meetings yet. We hope to learn more about them in the near future.

Each ward will have a small budget of £10,000. This budget is designed to be used to add extras such as flowers or benches which will benefit the community ... relatively small things, which would benefit people throughout a ward or area. If you have any suggestions about what community money could be used for in the Highams residents area please let us know.



Neighbourhood WATCH

We are due our next NW meeting in March. If you have any specific queries you would like adding to our agenda, please contact the HRA.

Those of you who have emailed the HRA are automatically added to our Early Warning System which is an email sent out only to our residents to keep you updated with information from the Police and fellow residents regarding crime or suspicious behaviour in your street.

Although our Estate has very low crime in comparison to other areas, it is still a problem and the more information we have, the more likely we can catch the criminal involved.

Please note - revised telephone number to contact Hale End and Highams Park Safer Neighbourhoods Team; 020 8721 2646