



OCTOBER 2007

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MOUNT VERNON CANCER CENTRE

Speaking to the Community Voice in September, Dr Peter Ostler, Director Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, reported that four new linear accelerators are already in use and the final one will be operational in a few weeks. New offices, planning facilities and the MRI scanner for radiotherapy planning, are all making life easier for staff.

The brachytherapy suite, gifted by a most generous donor, brings revolutionary new treatment for prostate and other cancers, and cryotherapy can be used for prostate cancers that have not responded to other treatments.

Some things still need to be

done. The ward block needs to be rebuilt and IT needs to be strengthened. Expansion of the chemotherapy suite is the next project, which will assist research plans. However, despite national shortages, the Cancer Centre has a full complement of radiographers and other critical staff. Physics staff were particularly praised for commissioning the new linear accelerators in record time.

The decision not to build a new hospital at Hatfield means that the Cancer Centre is safe at Mount Vernon for the next few years, but its long-term future remains uncertain. It is still managed by East & North Herts NHS Trust in Stevenage. Early

discussions are exploring the possibility of linking Mount Vernon with another cancer centre, such as the Royal Marsden or University College London.

“Save Cancer Services at Mount Vernon Hospital”

The Community Voice petition to “Save Cancer Services at Mount Vernon Hospital” had over 65,000 signatures early in September and is still growing! This shows the strength of local support for our much loved cancer centre. Organisers were confident that the petition would reach its target of 70,000 before the end of the month.

(Joan Davis)

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General Meeting,

At the forthcoming General Meeting Duncan Jones, Waste Development Manager at LBH, will speak on the subject of Waste Recycling.

8pm, Monday 15th October

A COMMUNITY OF FLAT DWELLERS?

More applications for the replacement of family houses with blocks of flats! In Kingsend there are proposals to replace nos 16 & 18, 51 & 53 with flats. (Local resident, Sue Browne writes, page 2).

Other roads attracting developer's attention are Sharps Lane where, at No 35, an

application has been submitted build a three storey block of flats.

McCarthy & Stone recently exhibited of proposals to replace 22-28 with a three storey block for the elderly. We understand that developers have also approached residents in Eastcote Road and Bury Street .

As a variation, two more recent applications for increased density housing, at 2 Warrender Way and 96 Park Ave, propose demolishing existing houses and replacing with a block of 4 houses. Both schemes are for back to back housing, which we feel is out character with the area.

(John Williams & Mike Hodge)

Ruislip Residents Association News

Your Residents Association is moving into the 21st century. See back page to find out more and see how you can help.

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST FLATTED DEVELOPMENTS

Many local residents are incensed by the number of planning applications for the demolition of perfectly good family houses to build blocks of flats. On 1st September over 80 residents demonstrated in the High Street. Participants spoke of the rash of plans in their roads from Wood Lane near the to Park Avenue.



March in Ruislip High Street 1st Sept

In a few years redevelopments have resulted in 105 apartments at Kings Lodge and 44 apartments on the old Sainsbury's site. In the last year, many plans have been approved by Hillingdon Council to develop flats on sites that were not previously used for residential purposes: Windmill Pub (39 flats), Crown House (24 flats).

Local residents believe that the building of blocks of flats on the sites of existing family houses is unnecessary, ruining the character of the area and reducing the number of family houses. Local residents were shocked to see the demolition of five detached houses in Wood Lane (nos 2- 10), where a

total of 33 flats were completed in 2005. Similarly, 8 family homes were demolished at 32 - 46 Pembroke Road earlier this year, in order to build 83 flats, some of which will be in a four-storey block.

"...character and demographics would be unrecognisable..."

In the last year, the number of such plans submitted for planning permission has escalated. Developers have intensified their efforts to approach homeowners of central Ruislip, close to the Station, to snap up more family houses and replace them with one or two bedroom flats. In one road, Kingsend, residents have been fighting plans that involve demolishing 10 houses to build a potential total of 87 flats, with over 90 car parking spaces. The road is recorded to have 67 original homes. If all 10 houses affected by these plans are approved for demolition (or passed on Appeal) the number of dwellings would increase by well over 100%. The road's character and demographics would be unrecognisable.

During the last 10 months, 13 petitions have been lodged to Hillingdon Council with a total of 608 signatures opposing these plans for Kingsend. In 2006, the demolition of 30 Kingsend were approved. This lovely, unique house was demolished in August, to

be replaced by a three-storey block of 11 flats and the front garden of trees, shrubs, hedges and lawn, will become



30 Kingsend, now demolished

a car park. In February, a second plan to demolish 41 Kingsend was approved and another huge bulky four-storey building is being built with 14 flats and 17 car parking spaces.

Plans at **28/28A Kingsend** to build 7 flats were discussed at Hillingdon's North Planning Committee on 30 August, and were rejected. However, a previous plan for 9 flats is subject to an appeal lodged with the Government's Planning Inspectorate. At **43/45 Kingsend** plans to build 14 flats were refused on 6 June, and the developers are appealing against this decision. There are three other plans to demolish **51 and 53 Kingsend** to build 14 flats, to convert **16 & 18 Kingsend** to build 14 flats, and to demolish **53 Kingsend** to build 9 flats.

When does all this stop? The whole of central Ruislip could end up as an area of expensive flats, and so the profile of residents will quickly change.

(by Sue Browne)

Planning Information Online

You can access details of planning applications in your area from the Council's website www.hillingdon.gov.uk follow the links from their Home Page through Environment & Planning/Planning/Planning & Building Control/ Planning Application/Search/Application Search. Insert the road name and Ward, click "submit" and the latest applications will be displayed.

Recycling & Re-use.

New facilities for recycling **Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment** (WEEE) are now available at both the New Years Green Lane Civic Amenity site in Harefield and the Victoria Road Civic Amenity site in South Ruislip.

...And Hillingdon Borough Council's Waste Division has also created a

special **Re-Use Bank** - sometimes known as a 'scrap store' - at the New Years Green Lane site. Residents are invited to take their unwanted goods to the Re-Use bank. Whilst you are there why not browse through the items already delivered for re-use and help yourself to anything you like.

Both sites are open 7 days a week 8:00am - 4:00pm. (6pm during BST).

HEALTH IN BRIEF

(Joan Davies)

Northwood & Pinner Community Hospital

It is accepted that this site will be re-developed for healthcare use. Barbara Wood has met GPs from Northwood Health Centre to discuss options within a wider strategic context. Options could include making it into a polyclinic.

“Healthcare for London - A Framework for Action”

Professor Sir Ara Darzi, published his report in July. He has since become a Lord and a Junior Health Minister. The report can be obtained by 'phoning: 020 7932 3728. A summary is also available.

PCTs will be undertaking public consultation from November 2007 to February 2008, to discuss how they plan to use these guidelines in their own areas.

Hillingdon Hospital Car Parking

Good news at last for frustrated drivers! Our Council is changing 28-30 car park spaces outside Hillingdon hospital from residents' parking to pay and display. 40 additional car parking spaces are also to be made available within the hospital grounds.

Hillingdon and Mount Vernon Hospitals are seeking Foundation Trust status.

This is a chance for local people to have a greater say in the running of their local hospitals. So make sure you apply!

Foundation Trust status would give the Trust greater freedom to control its own affairs, but it would still be within the NHS.

To become a Foundation Trust it needs around 2,000 local people to become Members of the Trust. Members will receive information about the Trust's plans, will be able to attend meetings with the Governors and Directors, and will elect the Trust's Governors. 'Phone 0800 8766 953 for an application form.

PLANNING IN BRIEF

(John Williams & Mike Hodge)

Planning Applications

The last two months have seen a rush of applications for conversions and new dwellings in Ruislip Manor.

These include the conversion of 125 Beverley Road. At 103 Torrington Road a new 3 bed house is proposed.

Elsewhere new houses are proposed on land adjoining 7 Brickwall Lane and 27 Grasmere Avenue.

Bury Wharf, Bury Street

An application to demolish the existing warehouse and replace it with a three storey office block gives residents in Dell Farm Road concern about the impact on their homes.

Our Council's proposals to extend Breakspear Crematorium are concerning locals, particularly in respect of security and traffic.

Government White Paper

The Council recently held a Seminar to explain to local groups the implications of the Government White Paper, which was then at the consultation stage. The proposals are intended to speed up the Planning process and the two aspects likely to be of most interest in this area are at opposite ends of the scale. They relate to major infrastructure projects (e.g. Heathrow) and permitted development (small domestic extensions). The attendant members of your Committee found the seminar helpful and have submitted some comments to the Dept of Communities & Local Government.

Interested in Planning Matters?

We know they say never volunteer for anything but being involved with planning is fascinating. There is so much going on and it is increasingly difficult for us to give some applications the attention they require. If any of our readers have a few hours to spare, would like to get involved and make a valuable contribution to their community please call 01895 639004.

Mobile Phone Masts

Recently the Council, have decided upon a more flexible approach to the siting of telecommunications equipment on their land. Applications will now be considered from major operators, subject to certain conditions being met.

Residents associations, and other bodies, will get the chance annually to discuss and comment on the telecoms yearly roll out plan. The Council will review the impact of the revised policy in one to two years time, including the latest health evidence, unless there are material new facts that warrant an earlier review.

RUISLIP HIGH ST REFURBISHMENT

Work started at the North of the High Street on the east side in August and should all be completed by March 2008.



Work is progressing well and the Contractors expect to complete the East side, to Midcroft and the much of the West side by end November. The bus-boarder outside M&S will remain and another pedestrian crossing has been installed outside Woolworths.

The design of new railings for the Northern end of the High Street has now been agreed. The Northern area will be in good order for the Remembrance Parade on 11th November.

Strict control of A-boards, is in effect. The pavements are already looking better and are safer for pedestrians.

(Peter Lansdown)

POLICING OUR COMMUNITY

(Ivor John)

CrimeStoppers

Since the last edition of the Town Crier, information supplied anonymously by members of the public via CrimeStoppers led to the arrests of two graffiti taggers in Ruislip Manor. Please use CrimeStoppers if you have information that could help solve crime.

Ring anonymously on 0800 555 111

Motor Vehicle Crime

This is one of the major crimes within Hillingdon, theft of vehicles and theft from within vehicles. Police warn never leave SatNav equipment on display including fixtures. Even remove traces of suction pad marks that indicate a SatNav was fitted. Remove all items from display in the car that may attract thieves, laptops, handbags and anything expensive looking. We can all be more careful to help prevent crime.

Photographing Your Valuables

If you have a digital camera, photograph your cherished and/or valuable items. Take several shots at different angles if needed, then put them on a CD or memory stick. Better than trying to describe the items if they are lost or stolen!

Ruislip Residents Association in the Internet Age

You will have noticed the new look Town Crier. Well, we are bringing your Residents Association up to date in other ways too.

You can now receive important information and announcements, about matters local to you, direct to your email in box. Just send an email with your name and road name to: membership@ruislipresidents.org.uk

...and take a look at our website at www.ruislipresidents.org.uk.

Did You Know?

Road works search tool from Hillingdon Council.

Now you can search online for local road works information through the council's website.

Get to the Electronic Local Government Information Network (ELGIN) through the website road works section. The map-based search facility illustrates scheduled works going on in your area and other areas of the UK as well. Go to the council website for more information:

<http://www.hillingdon.gov.uk>

Getting Local Weather Forecast

RAF Northolt has a Met Office and you can obtain forecasts for 10 day and next day (even split into hourly forecasts). Go to their website at:

<http://uk.weather.com/weather/local/UKXX0524>.

Can't get much more local than that!

Distributing the Town Crier

We have always been dependent on volunteer residents to distribute the 'Town Crier'. In each of our 15 areas, Area Stewards distribute the appropriate number of TC's to the Road Stewards in their area. This only takes 2 to 3 hours three times a year. We need three Area Stewards in West Ruislip & Manor wards to replace those who have moved away.

We do also need more volunteers as Road Stewards throughout Ruislip.

Please contact me (Tel: 0208 582 7810 e-mail b.cowley@blueyonder.co.uk) if you think you can help.

Brian Cowley, Chief Road Steward

Ruislip Residents Association GENERAL MEETING

Talk: Waste Recycling by Duncan Jones,
Waste Development Manager, London Borough of Hillingdon

8:00pm Monday 15th October 2007
Winston Churchill Hall

Contact us:

Lewis Hawken, Chairman, 21 Sherleys Court, Wood Lane, Ruislip, HA4 6DD. Telephone: 01895 632 405

email: feedback@ruislipresidents.org.uk
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