



Ruislip Residents' Association

TOWN CRIER

The Voice of Ruislip Residents
September 2010



Pembroke Road - chaos



Windmill Hill - new pedestrian crossings

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OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE - RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Officers		Committee	
Chairman:	Joan Davis	Ian Cantley	Tessa Kershaw
Vice-Chairman:	Mike Hodge	Martin Cartwright	Peter Lansdown
Treasurer:	John Hawley	Elma Hutton	Sue Seagroatt
Secretary:	Penny Rutherford	Ivor John	John Williams
Chief Road Steward:	Brian Cowley	vacancy	vacancy
Deputy Ch. Rd. Stwd.	Mary George	vacancy	vacancy

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Editor: Peter Lansdown peter.lansdown@btinternet.com

Please help us! Road Stewards are needed to deliver Town Criers and collect annual subscriptions. If you are willing to volunteer, for even a few homes – near where you live or further away – please contact Mary George on 01895 472541 or me on 0208 582 7810. Mary, our Deputy Chief Road Steward, is now responsible for those roads to the north of Eastcote Road. We also need two Area Stewards to oversee the distribution of the Town Crier to roads west of Bury Street – perhaps an existing Road Steward would like to take this on.

Brian Cowley, Chief Road Steward

Road Stewards Meeting: Road stewards are the eyes and ears of our Association. They are the hub of what we do and are greatly valued. We will be holding a wine and cheese party for all road stewards on Tuesday, 19th April 2011, for them to meet our Executive and to exchange views on priorities for the future. Each will receive a personal invitation nearer the time.

RUISLIP RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
GENERAL MEETING & OPEN FORUM
Monday 25th October 2010 at 7:45 pm Winston Churchill Hall
Guest Speaker: Chief Supt. Julian Worker, Borough Commander

- Agenda:**
1. Apologies
 2. Motion: That Peter Lansdown be elected a Vice-President of the Association; proposed by Brian Cowley, seconded by Joan Davis
 3. Updates from committee members
 4. Guest speaker: Chief Superintendent Julian Worker,
Borough Commander, Hillingdon Police
 5. Open Forum – Panel of committee members and Councillors
- Followed by light refreshments and informal discussion

The Open Forum gives you the chance to air your views on local matters.

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE (*Joan Davis*)

It is an honour to be Chairman of Ruislip Residents' Association, which endeavours to respond to the concerns of nearly 8,000 households. Many members do not know how widely our Executive is involved in every aspect of local life, but I am very proud to lead our strong team. However, constant renewal is essential in any vigorous organisation and we are always ready to expand into new fields, so we always need new blood. Please let us know if you would like to help, or if you have concerns for us to address.

Your Executive Committee is delighted that our previous Chairman, Peter

Lansdown, is continuing to give active support to our Association by becoming Editor of this magazine and it wishes to recognise both this and his many past contributions. It is therefore hoped that he will be elected a Vice-President at the General Meeting on 25th October. A motion to that effect will be proposed by our President, Brian Cowley, which I shall endorse.

I look forward to meeting many of you at the next General Meeting (see above) when you will have an opportunity to comment and ask questions on any matters of interest.

COMMUNITY NOTICE BOARD

HILLINGDON MOTORISTS' FORUM

Aims are to:

- a) ensure that the views of Hillingdon motorists are taken into account when the Borough's transportation plans & programmes are being drawn up
- b) influence the decisions made by Transport for London / Mayor of London as they affect the Borough of Hillingdon
- c) Ensure that the Council receive a balanced view on transport issues and are not dominated by other pressure groups.

If you are a motorist or drive a motor cycle and would like to make your views known on a transport issue why not come and join us, either as a regular member or for just for one meeting to see what we get up to.

We meet at the Uxbridge Civic Centre bimonthly.

If you are interested, or have a particular concern, please contact the Chairman, Richard Walker - richard.walker31@btopenworld.com - tel no 020 8866 6900

FRIENDS OF EASTCOTE HOUSE GARDEN

- Sunday 31st October 2010. Volunteers needed to help complete the Walled Garden project. Several thousand Spring bulbs to be planted. Also, in conjunction with Eastcote Residents Association, planting of crocus bulbs on the grass verge at Forge Green.
- Eastcote House Volunteer Gardeners meet on the third Thursday of each month. Every one welcome, tools and refreshments provided, no experience necessary. Meet in the car park at Eastcote House Gardens 9.30am.
- For more information please contact: Lesley Crowcroft lesley.crowcroft@fiscali.co.uk

EASTCOTE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION — OPEN FORUM

Tuesday 9th November 2010 at 7.30pm

St Lawrence Church Hall, Bridle Road, Eastcote

Guest speaker: Cllr. Ray Puddifoot , Leader of Hillingdon Council

Ruislip Manor Chamber of Commerce - Lighting up the Manor

Saturday 13th November 2010

12am – 6 pm

**Switching on the Ruislip Manor Christmas lights at 4.30pm,
by the Mayor of Hillingdon, Cllr David Yarrow and the Mayoress Mrs. Rita Kilroy.**

EDITORIAL *(Peter Lansdown)*

Four more pages in this issue! Hopefully you will think this worthwhile. Please let me have your comments and articles and photos for future issues to peter.lansdown@btinternet.com.

Education

It has long been an aim of the executive committee to be able to liaise with schools and colleges. Unfortunately there has never been anyone available with the time to devote to this on top of other RRA duties. Is there someone out there, perhaps a teacher, parent, ex-teacher or governor, etc., who would like to help with this? It would be good if we could, for example, have an input into school travel plans. Although schools and residents often agree, this is not always the case!

Road-works

During the summer months we have been beset with many road-works. No sooner was Kingsend returned to near normal than Pembroke Road was dug up, now followed by Elm Avenue. Then it was decided to install pedestrian crossings on Windmill Hill! Coupled with bus diversions and peripheral happenings on Cuckoo Hill and Swakeleys Road, a good time to be away - apart from crowded airports and national traffic jams.

Pedestrian Crossings, Windmill Hill

The pedestrian crossings referred to in my Chairman's Round-up in the last issue are now in operation. However it has come to my notice that the road markings at each end of the traffic island have been changed to solid white lines preventing vehicles turning round the island. The good news is that this change is an error and that broken white lines will soon be back.



FROM OUR NEW MP FOR MANOR WARD - JOHN RANDALL

I am delighted to introduce myself as the (relatively) newly-elected Member of Parliament for Uxbridge and South Ruislip. This is a totally new constituency which has come into being as a result of the redrawing of the parliamentary boundaries throughout the country. I have previously represented the Uxbridge constituency since 1997.

I had never really considered a parliamentary career. I found myself working in the family retail business in Uxbridge, becoming the fourth generation to do so. However, my frustration at aspects of the political system both locally and nationally meant that I became involved. I felt it was no good relying on others to do what needed to be done.

On the unexpected and untimely death of Sir Michael Shersby, the extremely hard-working and highly respected Member of Parliament, just after the General Election in 1997, many people suggested that I put my name forward for the nomination of the Conservative Party. I did and eventually found myself elected.

After thirteen years in Opposition, the last ten of them on the Front Bench, the transition to being in Government is quite daunting. However I was delighted to be asked by the Prime Minister to become the Deputy Chief Whip.

Despite the urban myths about Whips being the enforcers and proponents of the “dark arts”, the reality is far more mundane. It is very much more like a mixture of human resources, business manager and diplomat. My years in retail, dealing with staff, suppliers and customers, holds me in good stead. It is also important to have a good working relationship with all parties across the House, which I believe I have. In fact, in a shocking confession for a Whip, I have to say I am always saddened and even hurt by outbreaks of blatant party politicking especially when directed at a personal level.

My job, which has the rank of Minister of State, actually also comes with an almost Gilbertian title of Treasurer of Her Majesty’s Household. I was personally presented by Her Majesty with a wand of office, a little like a billiard cue it is true, but a great honour all the same. Even more exciting for a furnisher from Uxbridge, I rode in a carriage from Buckingham Palace to Westminster and back on the day of the State Opening of Parliament in May. However the invitation to become a member of the Privy Council was when I really had to pinch myself. I am lucky that my constituents keep my feet firmly on the ground. Despite occasional forays into the world of pomp and circumstance, I remain a proud son of Metroland.

FROM OUR MP FOR WEST AND EAST RUISLIP WARDS - NICK HURD

It is not a week I will forget. It started with a call from the new Prime minister on my birthday, asking me to be a Minister and ended with me, on a beach in Cornwall, asking Clare to marry me . The answer to both questions was a resounding yes and my feet have not touched the ground since!

My specific new responsibility is to be Minister for Civil Society. That is the name we give to all those organisations where people come together to take action that is independent of government and business. We are lucky to have a rich ecosystem of such groups in Ruislip: scouts, guides, charities, community groups and of course, residents' associations. I see them as the glue that holds communities together and do not think we should ever take them for granted. Running these organisations has always been hard and has got even harder in a recession. So my job is a simple one: to see what Government can do to support and strengthen civil society. It is central to the Big Society message of encouraging people to think more about what they can do to help others and improve their communities.

Some of you will know that this job and agenda goes to the heart of my core political belief that we need to get local people much more involved in the decisions and actions that shape communities. That is why I took the Sustainable Communities Act through Parliament and that is why I try to work closely with all our civic groups, such as residents' associations, who help give people a voice.

I believe that the local voice will get stronger. For example, we will have much greater say on planning matters, particularly when it comes to new housing developments. I am delighted that my long standing "Stop the Garden Grab " campaign has won the day and gardens will be given much greater protection from greedy developers. People are being encouraged to take over community assets such as parks and even set up schools or run local services if they think they can do it better. I know that many communities will need support in this new world of opportunity. That is why we need a strong civil society to give that support and mobilise people.

I am lucky to represent a constituency where the sense of community is already so strong. You just have to visit the Ickenham festival or have been one of the hundreds who came to reopen the walled garden at Eastcote House this summer. We cannot take this community spirit for granted and that is why I salute the work of the residents' associations and other groups who bring people together and hold people to account. I am here to help if I can and as always can be contacted on hurdn@parliament.uk. Now I am off to get married!

HISTORY: RUISLIP PARK, WHERE'S THAT? (Eileen Bowlt)

Ruislip Park was the pleasure ground attached to Park House, a building that still stands on the east side of the High Street, almost concealed by twentieth century shops, and now the home of the British Legion. The original timber-framed cottage was purchased by Harry Edgell Esq, a barrister-at-law, in 1806. Over the next twenty years he modernised the house and created a 40 acre park around it by buying up and demolishing the houses within the area bounded by the High Street, Ickenham Road and Sharps Lane and throwing their gardens and pasture land into his estate. He left Byway Cottage in Ickenham Road (between the present Byway House, No 32 and St Cloud, No 28) standing and also a cottage on the High Street close to Park House, that was later known as Mrs Gooderson's shop. Whether he failed to persuade the owners of the properties on the corner of the High Street from The Swan (now Café Rouge at the Swan) to The George (Harvester now on site) to sell, is not known, but they remained outside the Park boundary. (See Map 1).

Mr Edgell built a lodge at the corner of Ickenham Road and laid a carriage drive to the main door of his greatly extended house. He had to pay more rates than previously because the general value of the property was increased by £10 in 1827 because of 'improvements to the mansion'. Public access to the Park was

via the alley beside The Swan (now The Oaks). Having climbed over a stile, pedestrians could follow a footpath straight ahead to Little King's End, or another, known as Church Path, to Great King's End. The footpaths were fenced to prevent trespassing on the lawns and around the two sheets of ornamental water that beautified the grounds.

Mr Edgell moved to Iver in 1832, but is buried at St Martin's. A procession of owners followed, the last being Cornelius Thompson who died in 1905. The estate was put on the market and the solicitors in charge wrote to King's College on 4 May 1906: 'Ruislip Park was sold today for £9,500. It was considered a cheap sale. The purchaser is Mr Morford of Eastcote who has bought it as a speculation either to resell at a profit or else to develop for building purposes.' He chose the first course, leaving the new buyers, Dickens and Welch of High Wycombe, to lay out King Edwards Road, Manor Road and Church Avenue, these last on the lines of the two footpaths and divide the land into generously sized building plots. Sales took place in 1906 and 1911.

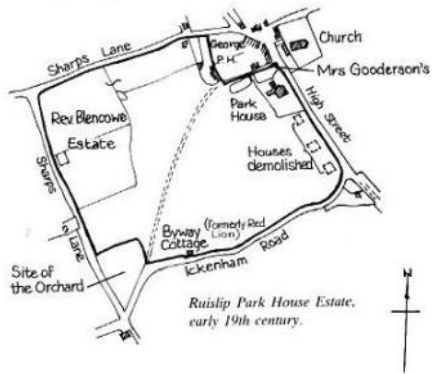
One of the houses built in 1911 was *Dulce Domum* (Sweet House), No 12 King Edwards Road, for Miss Lydia Bigwood and her companion, Miss Gertrude Hammond, ladies of inde-

HISTORY: RUISLIP PARK, WHERE'S THAT? (cont.)

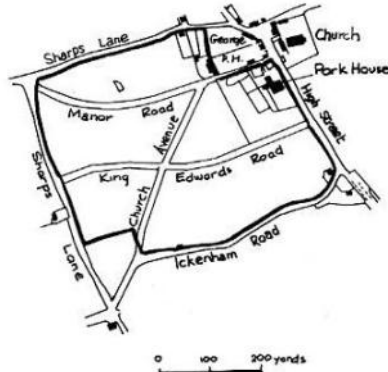
pendent means. They took an interest in social questions, sitting on the board of managers of Ruislip Manor Cottage Society when it was founded in 1911, and were not trammelled by the conventions of the day. They went on holidays abroad on their Raleigh cycles before the First World War and Miss Bigwood affected knee breeches with a long jacket when in the house and garden (her roses were famous), putting on a skirt of homespun material when going into Town. They regarded their house as a Cotswold style cottage. It is certainly an attractive house.

It is fortunate that the Park was being developed just at the moment when Garden Suburbs were in the news (Hampstead Garden Suburb began in 1905) and there were many architects designing in the Arts and Crafts style, whose influence can be seen all over the Park. The Ruislip-Northwood Urban District Council, formed in 1904, was led by men like the architect Frank M. Elgood and solicitor Edmund Abbot, who were deeply interested in Town Planning and concerned that the new suburb should develop on such lines. As soon as the 1909 Housing and Town Planning Act was passed, they established a Housing and Town Planning Committee and started working towards a Town Plan for

Growth of Estates in the 19th century and their eventual break-up



Ruislip Park House Estate, early 19th century.



Ruislip Park House Estate 1911.

the area, that would ensure generally low density housing, decent gardens and plenty of open spaces.

Meanwhile the plots in the Park were being filled with large detached houses. Several, including St Cloud, have towers. The house on the corner of King Edwards Road and Church Avenue is one. It was built for Mr Keyworth at the time of his marriage in 1914. It was

HISTORY: RUISLIP PARK, WHERE'S THAT? *(cont.)*

called Dunholme Lodge after his bride's father's estate. Kelvin House, a few doors down, has a tower too. It was run as a school by Canon Todd and his wife. Now called College House it is used as business premises. The Gables in Church Avenue is particularly splendid.

Owing to the size of the gardens, some of the Park Estate houses fell to developers in the 1970s and others have not been well cared for, but many of the buildings and much of the original ambience survives, which is the reason

that the whole of the Park was included in the extended Ruislip Village Conservation Area in 2009. It is worth a visit, just to get the feel of a particularly spacious part of an early twentieth century Garden Suburb.

More about the early history of Ruislip Park can be found in the Journals of the Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society, 1981 and 1985; Ruislip Around 1900 (RNELHS Research Group) and The Goodliest Place in Middlesex (Bowlt)- available in local libraries.

<p align="center">Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society Lecture Programme 2010—2011 Meetings held in St Martin's Church Hall, 8.15pm. Visitors welcome.</p>		
18 October	AGM & Vehicle Manufacture in Hillingdon	Tony Beadle Soc. of Auto. Historians
15 November	"Good God! <i>Women!</i> " Suffragettes in a Military Hospital	Jennian Geddes Women's Hist. Researcher
20 December	Ian Tait's Ruislip in the 1920s (Repeat of December 2009)	Eileen Bowlt Chairman RNELHS
17 January	Hogarth: a Social Commentator	Alan Read NADFAS Lecturer
21 February	The London Doughnut Prehistoric/Iron Age Settlement	Jon Cotton Museum of London

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT *(Penny Rutherford)*

You may remember that I told you about the Sustainable Communities Act in the last issue of the Town Crier. Passed in October 2007 and sponsored by local MP Nick Hurd, it is designed to improve local democracy, to give people and Councils a chance to have real influence on the actions of Central Government and in some circumstances to devolve funds from Central to Local spending.

(More details about how it works can be found at www.localworks.org and www.lga.gov.uk)

Councils have to take action to opt in to use the Act. In response to letters and a question to the full Council Meeting from our group of Residents' Associations, Hillingdon have said they will use the Act only when a suitable proposal arises. They have focussed so far solely on the possible financial benefits rather than on the potential boost the Act could give to local democracy by providing a channel for residents to make proposals for action.

The Act prescribes the use of local residents' panels for consultation and initiating proposals. Hillingdon, like some other boroughs, do not want to set up new panels. Instead they want to use existing organisations, including Streets Ahead, Street Champions, Neighbourhood Watch, Police SNT Panels and several others. They do not, however, include residents' associations in this which we find puzzling in view of some local residents' associations large memberships, demonstrated commitment to improving local life and ability to make constructive suggestions. We are to ask a question about this at the next full Council Meeting on September 9th.

Our group of RAs is also looking for a proposal to put to the Council which could lead to them using the Act. We are hoping to find a suggestion that will chime with what we believe the Council themselves would like to achieve and which could be made possible via a proposal through the Act. Sorry if that sounds a bit mysterious, but we are only in the very early planning stages of this at present. We hope to help the Council to appreciate that we really can be constructive and do not wish to be a nuisance to them!

Our Group will continue to meet and to exert pressure on the Council to implement the Act. I will keep you updated about what is happening in future issues of the Town Crier.

CONSULTATION - LETTER TO THE COUNCIL LEADER *(Joan Davis)*

Cllr Ray Puddifoot, Leader of Hillingdon Borough Council
Civic Centre, High Street, Uxbridge, UB8 1UW

25th August 2010

Dear Councillor Puddifoot,

I write to you on behalf of Ruislip Residents' Association to express our concern that Hillingdon Borough Council fails to recognise the valuable role that residents' associations could play in the development of community strategies for Hillingdon. We believe that greater co-operation between the Council and these important local organisations could be of mutual benefit.

In our own case, we represent around 8,000 households. We have an active Executive, which closely monitors local affairs and engages with its community through the Town Crier, published three times a year and delivered to the majority of homes in our area, and through regular meetings at which members raise issues and mandate our activities. Other local residents' associations engage similarly with their local populations and are equally well informed about the views and concerns of Hillingdon residents.

However, although Hillingdon Council has developed a partnership with a number of local organisations, that co-operation has not extended to residents' associations. The Local Development Framework Core Strategy was produced with no input from these organisations at the formative stage, when it would have been most useful. Subsequently, at the consultative stage, there appeared to be no appreciation of how to engage with these groups effectively.

The consultation period took no account of the fact that residents' associations need time to book halls, contact members and distribute information. Ideally, co-operation on timing would permit use of routine meetings and news-sheets to reduce expense, but, even if associations are willing to call special meetings, a six week period is totally inadequate for them to play a meaningful part in public consultation. Sadly, requests for a time extension were refused.

Initially the only access to information about the consultation proposals was through the internet or by a CD. Many residents do not have access to either of these forms of communication, and those that do typically find it impossible to focus on such lengthy documents on a screen. We were ultimately privileged to receive a few paper copies when we attended a meeting called specifically for residents' associations, following protests at their exclusion – but this was too late for the paper documents to be of major use or for us to properly consult our members.

CONSULTATION - LETTER TO THE COUNCIL LEADER *(cont.)*

There are many other examples of the Council not involving residents' associations when it would have been appropriate to do so and we would be happy to list them if you wish. From informal exchanges with other residents' associations, we believe that you will be hearing independently from others on this issue.

We hope that you and other Councillors will recognise that residents' associations can offer the Council both support and democratic credibility. We also hope that greater co-operation will become the norm. It could be helpful if larger residents' associations were able to meet with relevant Councillors and Officers to agree a way forward for the future.

Your response to the issues raised in this letter will be awaited with great interest.

Yours sincerely, Joan Davis, Chairman

HIGH SPEED TRAIN - COMPENSATION *(Peter Lansdown)*

The Exceptional Hardship Scheme, set up to compensate those who may be affected by the proposed HS2 rail service between London and Birmingham, is about to come into operation. While many could benefit from the scheme, as the government may buy their houses, others may not be eligible for even the limited help that is available, as there are restrictions, e.g. a property needs to have been on sale for at least three months and its owners must not have received offers over 85 per cent of the market value.

As the scheme stands, only people who are close to the line will get compensation. Those who are a little further away are excluded and will be severely affected by the construction disruption and operating noise.



The government insists that anyone who qualifies for compensation will receive it.

The new 200mph trains will complete the journey in 49 minutes. Each train will carry up to 1100 people and operate at the rate of 14 trains an hour. It should be noted that the route was drawn up by the previous government and may change.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE *(Peter White—President Ruislip Chamber of Commerce)*

The Ruislip Chamber of Commerce (RCC) was established in 1928 by the traders in a growing village High Street. Little information remains about the activities from then until the end of WWII, as the archives were lost. However, at that time the Chamber continued its involvement in the local community, helping it to grow to what we know today.

In 1981 with membership dwindling, the Chamber was re-launched through the enthusiasm of independent traders, many of whom remain in the High Street today. The Chamber, as we know it, dates from this time. Soon it introduced the now famous Victorian evening, an annual shopping event for Christmas, with all sorts of entertainment - at its peak it was said to have the largest attendance for an event in West London, after the Notting Hill carnival.

The Chamber was now established at the heart of the business community. It lobbied the council for CCTV and raised a five figure sum to ensure the project got off the ground. Ruislip was the first High Street in the borough to have a free period for parking. We continue to work with the Council to improve signs and machines to ensure that no one falls foul of any parking restrictions.

We now work closely with the Ruislip Residents' Association. There is no better example of this than the redevelopment of our High Street in 2008. Clearly, business and residents will not always agree on issues, but by working together, we find common ground and compromise for the benefit of Ruislip as a whole.

The Chamber continues to grow and since 2009 we have welcomed all businesses in the Ruislip area and help to tackle the every day problems they face. We have just launched our own web site with information for businesses and residents alike. The site lists details of our members, their business and contact details.

With Ruislip, we have come a long way in the past 82 years. One thing you can be sure of - the RCC will continue to act for the benefit of the whole community.



♪ Santa Claus is coming to town ♪

Santa will be in Ruislip High Street on Saturday, 27th November, at noon, together with kiddies rides and lots more

The children's Annual Treasure Hunt starts that day and continues for a whole week with super prizes to be won!

For Mum and Dad, the popular free Christmas shopping draw

Merry Christmas from the Ruislip Chamber of Commerce

SKATEBOARDING EVENT *(Steve Wilcox)*

In celebration of the sixth anniversary of the Kings College skate-park in Ruislip a skate and BMX competition was held on Saturday, 4th September. This was the second Kings Jam at the park, following the success of last summer's event. Kings Jam 2010 had a lot to live up to and it didn't disappoint.

A total of seven categories attracted young entrants from all over Hillingdon and from London as well. Participants, who ranged in age from six to their mid-twenties, competed in either skateboarding, inline or BMX disciplines. The aim: to pull off the best tricks and impress the judging panel, which included members from Ruislip Youth Skaters who originally campaigned for the skate-park some seven years ago.

But it wasn't just the judges who had to be impressed. There was the crowd of spectators too. The youngsters who risked it all to land that next trick entertained the crowd, which must have been approaching 200 people for most of the afternoon. Highlights included back-flips by both inline and BMX entrants, which the crowd responded to with awe.

After three rounds in each of the seven categories Bronze, Silver and Gold medals were awarded to the youngsters who established themselves as winners. David Thorpe of Elthorne-Hillingdon Rotary Club, who had kindly donated some of the money required to cover the event's expenses, distributed the awards and prizes to the proud winners.

Janice Andrews, who was involved in the organising of the event and was also the main driving-force when campaigning to have the skate-park built in the first place, said of the event: "The day exceeded my expectations. It proved to be an example of community co-operation and celebration, involving 50 plus contestants and a large audience of all ages."

As a founding member of the Ruislip Youth Skaters, I feel immensely proud that the skate-park is still being well used and looked after by so many talented local youngsters. Though us older ones can't skate and ride as hard as we once did, the next generation certainly did us, the crowd and their families, proud at the Kings Jam. I just can't wait to see how far they've progressed at Kings Jam 2011!

View more photos from the event at: <http://bit.ly/kingsjam2010>

PLANNING MATTERS *(John Williams)*

We reported at the AGM in June the publication by the Council of their consultation on the draft Local Development Framework Core Strategy. This document set out where the Council proposed to provide new jobs and housing, protect and enhance heritage and the natural environment, and ensure the right infrastructure to support the borough's communities up to 2026 and beyond. At 170 pages long, and with only six weeks to consider, it was not possible to consult our members on their reactions to the proposals. However the committee considered the document and responded on behalf of the Association. A copy of the response can be forwarded by email to any member on request.

Following the recent approval of 66 homes at Mill Works, Bury Street, the developer is now proposing to enclose the site with electronically controlled gates. Members have expressed concern that this would not be in keeping with the area and would separate the development from the local community. Also in recent months there have been reports of fatalities as a result of children being trapped in similar gates. We have therefore written to the council registering our concerns about the proposal.

Two applications submitted late last year, and about which we had expressed concern, have finally been determined. At 53 Pinn Way the proposed large rear and side extension was refused on the grounds that it would detract from the character and appearance of the area. The proposed three-storey block of flats at The Ferns, Withy Lane, was refused on the grounds of overdevelopment of the site.

Since our last issue in May, the government has published further guidance for householders on the new rules applying to permitted development. These may be viewed at www.planningportal.gov.uk

Ruislip Lions Annual Christmas Concert

Featuring: The Yiewsley & West Drayton Band
Capital Connection

The Breakspear School Choir and more

Saturday 11th December 2010, Winston Churchill Theatre at 7.30 pm.

Box Office: 07806 766993. Tickets: £12.00 (children under 16 £8.00).

PLANNING MATTERS *(Mike Hodge)*

Telecoms masts are back in the news with a new proposal to erect an alternative 20m mobile telecoms tower at Ruislip Manor Sports and Social Club, Grosvenor Vale. With radio antennas and ancillary equipment the proposed structure would be 21.3m high. This is a joint application by Vodaphone and O2. Health concerns still surround such developments, but are not considered planning issues at this time.

An alternative planning application has been submitted for 157-161 High Street proposing a two storey attached building, containing 2 two-bedroom and 6 one-bedroom flats and part ground floor for use as enlargement of existing Health Spa. This involves part demolition of the building, change of use of second and third floor from C3 (Residential) for use as Health Spa and ancillary offices. We are supporting local residents concerns over this proposed development.

There is also a recent planning application for development of land to rear of 51/53 Pembroke Road proposing the construction of 2 five-bedroom detached dwellings with habitable roof-space, associated parking and amenity space. This is already an area of dense development particularly in recent times and there are a number of

adverse features that we have commented on.

We are aware of two planning appeals where the Householders Appeals Service is being used. This allows the appellant to deal directly with the Planning Inspectorate with no opportunity for third parties to express their views. Both applications are to be decided on the basis of an exchange of written representations and they are in respect of the construction of a rear conservatory at 10a St Catherines Road and the erection of a part first floor rear extension at 7 Field Close.

REPORTING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR *(Ivor Johb)*

Many members believe that reporting ASB is a waste of time because nothing is done. You can rest assured that all reports of ASB to Hillingdon Council are logged and recorded. Those areas that regularly have many instances logged are reviewed and action taken to minimise problems. All members are encouraged to report occurrences of ASB to 0800 6940240.

The White Paper “*Liberating the NHS*”

Since our last Town Crier we have all been bombarded with TV and other media items on proposed changes in the NHS. If you are confused, you are not alone! The Community Voice, of which RRA is a member, has a range of material on this issue – for more details see its website www.communityvoichealth.org.uk or contact Joan Davis, Tel: 01895 636095

Main proposals of the White Paper

Patient choice is to be extended. A single contact number is to be introduced for all urgent NHS and social care. Strategic Health Authorities and Primary Care Trusts are to be abolished. Consortia of GPs are to become responsible for commissioning NHS services and spending £80bn of NHS money. All hospitals are to become or be within Foundation Trusts, with greater independence than now. The Care Quality Commission (CQC) will be responsible for NHS standards – targets will be replaced by outcome goals. The CQC will host HealthWatch England to champion patients and carers. Local Involvement Networks will become Local HealthWatch, funded by and accountable to local authorities. NHS funding will increase annually but management costs are to be reduced by more than 45% over four years.

Timetable

Autumn 2010 Public consultation on the White Paper until 5th October 2010
A Health Bill is expected and a number of documents expanding the White Paper proposals. A Public Health White Paper is expected.

2011 Patient choice of preferred consultant-led team. Patient choice of treatment and provider in some mental health services. Cancer Drug Fund established.
White Paper on social care reform. Introduction / expansion of patient choice in:
Care for long-term conditions / Diagnostic testing / Freedom to choose a GP anywhere. Publication of quality accounts, with nationally comparable information.
GP consortia established in shadow form.

2012 NHS Commissioning Board - commission GPs and family health services (dentistry, pharmacy etc), Local authority health and wellbeing boards - to coordinate public health, NHS and social care. Monitor's role established as economic regulator of the NHS. Abolition of Strategic Health Authorities. Abolition of Primary Care Trusts.

2013 All NHS Trusts to be Foundation Trusts. New commissioning system by GP consortia in place (possibly just one GP consortium in Hillingdon). Patient choice of treatment and provider for most NHS services.

Polyclinics

Shortly after taking up office, our new Secretary of State announced that *Healthcare for London* plans would not go ahead. In protest, the Chairman of NHS London and several non-executives resigned. In practice this means that plans for polyclinics across the capital have been overtaken by political changes.

At the next Board meeting in public of NHS Hillingdon, the CEO, Yi Mien Koh, said that development of polyclinics would no longer go forward as such in Hillingdon, but the principle of services in the community and close to patients would continue to apply, as would co-operation between neighbouring GPs.

NHS financial issues in Hillingdon

The latest position for which we have NHS Hillingdon data is at month 3, June 2010, when our Primary Care Trust (PCT) had a surplus of £597k, £401k below plan, with the underlying position actually worse as these figures included a £700k credit note. The key issue was over-performance, particularly at The Hillingdon Hospital (THH). Work is underway between NHS Hillingdon and THH to combat over-performance, particularly as THH receives only 30% of tariff for over-performance, with the 70% balance being paid to NHS London, which benefits no one locally. The PCT is required to achieve a surplus of £4m in 2010/11, which it is still hoping to achieve despite these difficulties.

For Hillingdon Hospital Trust, June's financial surplus of £281k was £174k worse than plan, caused by an increase of £100k in pension liabilities due to early retirements. Year-on-year inpatient activity rose by 13% and outpatient activity by 28% yet NHS Clinical Income rose by only 3.6% because of the caps on what the Trust can charge; on a comparable 2009/10 basis that revenue would have risen by 6%. The forecast year-end position is a surplus of £295k.

Scandal of contaminated surgical instruments at Hillingdon Hospital

Hillingdon Hospital was the victim in a scandalous incident in late August 2010, when its staff identified 24 contaminated packs of surgical equipment and prevented any of them being used. The Trust immediately set up an enquiry into how a private company, which supplies both it and other NHS hospitals, failed to supply it with clean sterile surgical packs. Operations were temporarily suspended at both Hillingdon and Mount Vernon hospitals while checks were made, except for three clinically essential operations - which went ahead with sterile equipment. Through the care of Hillingdon staff, no patient was put at risk.

MEDIEVAL FESTIVAL, 14th/15th August 2010



Yet again a wonderful event and congratulations are due to all those who made it possible.

Many hundreds of people braved a showery summer day for what was undoubtedly the best festival yet, complete with mounted games and jousting.



SKATEBOARD KINGS JAM, 4th September 2010



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Email updates

If you would like to receive the monthly reports from our committee members, please contact Brian Cowley at b.cowley@blueyonder.co.uk