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RAM

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Members

THE MAGAZINE OF
THE HESTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
APRIL/MAY 2020

HOUNSLOW WEST STATION – the FUTURE?

(see page 35)

THE HESTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

(Non-Party Political)

Founded in 1928 as 'The Heston Ratepayers Association' DEDICATED to the preservation of our heritage and the maintenance of an acceptable standard of environment for all residents of Heston present and future.

VICE PRESIDENT: D R Blackett, 16, The Glen, UB2 5RS. 8843 0705

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Copy for inclusion in RAM by 10th of each month.

Monthly meetings are held at Heston Community Centre, Vicarage Farm Road, Heston, on the FIRST Wednesday of each month at 7.30pm, except August. New Members welcome.

Visit us at www.hestonresidentsassociation.org

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - AGM MARCH 2020

Heston Residents' Association was founded in 1928 following the opening of the Great West Road in 1926 by King George V. There was an immediate need to safeguard the interests of both existing residents and those moving into the area, attracted by the new job opportunities.

There was a requirement for more housing and school places, improved public transport and health services. Greater pressure was placed on public utilities (electricity, gas and water/sewage) and importantly too, the need for leisure services (parks, swimming pool and libraries).

In 2020 there remains a continued demand for residential build, particularly affordable, which we are witnessing in our local area such as Tesco / Homebase, Hounslow Town Centre and the potential redevelopment of station car parks – Osterley & Hounslow West.

Reflecting, in 2018 we celebrated not only the 90th Anniversary of the Association but, I believe, the dedicated efforts of its founder members who monitored the significant changes necessary to service the needs of the new residents. In so doing they safeguarded the local environment and residents' interests. Although the original Heston "rural village appeal" may have diminished, thankfully some still remains, particularly in the vicinity of St Leonards Church and the War Memorial.

The challenge has always been to retain some semblance of the early twentieth century character and this was achieved, to some extent, with the establishment of the Heston Village Conservation Area in November 1974 and the recognition more recently of a significant increase in the

number of locally listed buildings in Heston and Cranford. Since 1926 the face of the Great West Road has changed considerably with new industry and change continues with the Tesco / Homebase site a current example and the presence of Heathrow, irrespective of the future, will always impact on the local area.

Environmentally there are ever present problems in the area such as fly-tipping and litter, which may be attributed to a relatively small number of people, not always residents, with a could not care less attitude and lack any sort of pride for the public realm.

In the 21st century, as in the 20th, there remains a need to embrace change when it is for the better and for us to alert Hounslow Council and developers of our views, problems and opinions.

The house magazine RAM continues to attract favourable comment both at home and abroad , which I personally find extremely rewarding. Unlike many similar organisations HRA has managed to retain a solid membership, with new members joining each year.

I frequently reflect on whether HRA's founder members ever thought that the Association would celebrate a 92th anniversary.

On 2 June 2018 we learnt that we were a recipient of the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service a prestigious award and a tremendous achievement. The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK in recognition of outstanding work done in their own communities. It is the MBE for volunteer groups.

On a personal note, I joined Heston Residents' Association in March 1993 and a year later took on the position of Treasurer and in 1997 added Advertising Secretary to my portfolio. In 2004, I became Chairman. Since the turn of the century I have managed the production of RAM, assisted by Vivienne and Editor Lyn Streather. As indicated a year ago, I am standing down at this AGM, but propose to carry on with the production of RAM. Finally, I should like to thank Vivienne, RAM Distributors, Lyn Streather and Clive Burnett for their unstinting support, local businesses for supporting the Association by advertising in RAM not forgetting our printers, Darwin Press Ltd for their assistance. Finally, the support of the membership which every voluntary organisation relies on.

Thank you.

D R Blackett

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CORONAVIRUS ANNOUNCEMENT

On the 7 March Hounslow Council posted the following notice on the Council web-site

“Hounslow Council is working closely with our NHS partners and Public Health England to control the spread of coronavirus.

Plans are in place to help manage any potential impact on services.

To help keep yourself and others free from infection:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, or a hand sanitiser if you're out and about, particularly after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose, eating or handling food, and when arriving at work or getting home.
- Catch your coughs and sneezes in a tissue, or use your arm if needed, throw the tissue away, then wash your hands.”

If you think you or someone you know may have coronavirus, please visit NHS111 online

More information about the virus, its symptoms and the current situation is available at NHS online

SPEAKER'S CORNER - HRA MEETINGS 2020

Meetings scheduled for Wednesday 1/4, 6.5 & 3/6 Cancelled.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2020

Annual Subscriptions were due on 1 January 2020.

The minimum subscription is £5.00 (£10.00 postal) to:

The Treasurer, 68, Sutton Road, Heston, Hounslow TW5 0PL

Cheques should be made payable to:

Heston Residents' Association.

Please use the form and envelope provided with the January RAM.

Please do not send cash through the post

Members are encouraged to renew subscriptions as soon as possible.

HESTON & CRANFORD AREA FORUM & PLANNING COMMITTEE
DATES 2020

Heston & Cranford Area Forum: 18/6 at Heston Community Centre at 7pm

Planning Meeting: 2/4 and 14/5 at Hounslow House at 7.30pm

For further information contact: Committee Administrators: Joti Patel 8583 3356 (H&C Area Forum) or Wendy Merry 8583 2061 (Planning)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 4 MARCH 2020

Annual Accounts – 2019 – General overview

Income of £6225 was below expenditure by £162 and below that of 2018 (£7882) due mainly to a grant from the Heathrow Community Fund of £1220 towards the Association's 90th Anniversary event in 2018. There was a downturn on Advertising income of £468 due to the termination of some agreements.

Expenditure of £6387 exceeded Income by £162 and was below that of 2018 (£7879) due to costs associated with the 90th Anniversary (£1543) mainly offset by the grant of £1220 – see above. Stationery & Printing costs (£250) rose year on year by £135.

Overall, the bottom line for the year was worse than 2018 by £166.

However, at the year end the balance sheet remained at a very healthy £26,447.

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MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER

The coronavirus is of course a grave concern for us all. I want to assure you that the Council is working closely with our local partners, particularly those in the NHS, Public Health England and the Government, to control the spread of **coronavirus**. Plans are in place to help manage any potential impact on services, and we're meeting with local community and voluntary groups to see how best we can support and help coordinate this inspiring groundswell of good work.

It's so important that together, as a borough, we all pull together during these difficult times to support each other and help keep our more vulnerable residents safe. These are our parents, grandparents and friends who have existing health conditions which makes them more vulnerable, and we all have a responsibility to follow the guidance from Government and the NHS to try to keep ourselves and others free from infection, and help prevent the disease from spreading.

Teams across the Council have identified our residents and staff who may be at particular risk and are supporting them to stay healthy and get advice at the earliest opportunity should they become unwell. Our priority for now, above all else, is the protection of our vulnerable residents and the delivery of frontline services on which people rely.

We know it's been a particularly difficult time for schools, with teachers facing constant challenges and tough decisions as they continued to keep schools open where possible. Now that we know schools will be closing on Friday, this creates a range of other challenges, particularly for parents. We are now considering how best we can support our communities in these unprecedented circumstances.

There is also huge uncertainty for businesses, large and small. The Government's financial support is welcome, though we are still waiting on the details of how we should administer it. We are speaking to local businesses and business organisations to advise them as best we can, and will ensure the funding support reaches them as quickly as possible once we can access it.

The Council has a '[Coronavirus advice](#)' section on its website which is updated daily and pulls together a range of information and advice.

We're also going to be sending out regular e-newsletters to residents with updates on the latest information, access to support and ways you can get involved in the community effort.

I want to thank everyone so far who has gone above and beyond in their efforts. I'm very proud of the residents and businesses of Hounslow and I'm sure, if we all work together over these coming months, we will be stronger for it.

Cllr Curran, 18 March



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PARKING CHARGES linked to VEHICLE EMISSIONS

Hounslow Council recently announced that it is proposing to introduce differential parking charges linked to vehicle emissions, for sessional parking in on-street pay and display bays and in council-run car parks. This is in order to incentivise a move away from higher emission vehicles and towards low or zero emission models.

For example, the current flat rate of £1.20 per half hour on street would be replaced with a variable rate as follows:

Period	Charges for zero emission vehicle	Charges for low emission vehicle (defined below)	Charges for all other vehicles
Up to 30 minutes	£0.80	£1.20	£1.60

Zero and low emission vehicles generate significantly less local air pollution, especially NO₂, so more residents switching to less polluting vehicles would help improve air quality in the borough in line with the council's Air Quality Action Plan. This in turn would have a positive impact on the health of the borough's residents.

Pollution from road vehicles accounts for around a third of carbon dioxide emissions in London. In line with the council's declaration of a climate emergency last year, Hounslow has committed to taking action to reduce carbon emissions wherever it has influence.

For these proposed changes, "low emission" for a passenger vehicle means a vehicle registered on or after 1 April 2017 whose CO₂ emissions figure does not exceed 50g/km, and for a goods vehicle, means a vehicle registered on or after 1 April 2017 whose emissions figure does not exceed 100g/km. For pay and display parking, these discounts will only be available to those using the Pay by Phone system and will be applied automatically once an eligible vehicle is registered with them.

While the principle of having different charges based on vehicle emission levels is now well-established for residents' parking permits, having been approved in Hounslow in 2017, Hounslow Council would like to hear your views on the proposal to apply the same approach to business permits and parking charges.

As part of the same consultation, the council is also proposing to extend charging times in Hounslow town centre to cover Sundays.

This reflects the fact that Sunday in the town centre is now often just as busy as other days. Bringing in charges therefore helps ensure a good turnover of spaces to maximize availability for potential customers across the trading day.

If these changes are approved by Cabinet, they will take effect from April 2020.

The HOUNSLOW ALLIES PROJECT

Are you over the age of 18, live in Hounslow and want to help and support young people?

The Hounslow Allies Project recruits, trains and supports adults from the local community to become Allies (independent visitors) to children and young people looked after by the London Borough of Hounslow. No special skills or qualifications are needed, just a willingness to make a difference.

If you are interested please contact:

Barbara.regnier@volunteeringmatters.org.uk or call 07823 413255

STORM CIARA

It was reported that a British Airways flight propelled by a 265mph tailwind associated with Storm Ciara flew from New York to London in under five hours, setting a subsonic passenger jet record.

The Boeing 747 landed at Heathrow just after 11.20pm on Saturday, 8 February, after a journey time of just four hours and 56 minutes, having achieved a top speed of 825mph.

The flight typically takes six hours 50 minutes while the average cruising speed of a passenger jet is 575mph. According to the online tracking service Flightradar24, the BA flight was a minute quicker than a Virgin Atlantic Airbus A350 which had landed at Heathrow just before it.

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LOOKING BACK – a REFLECTION

I left Heston in 1971 and everything I remember is so different now. Mum & Dad joined the Rate Payers Association in 1948 and as a young lad I remember there was always a pile of yellow fronted RAM magazines on top of the wireless. After they had both died I decided to remain a member, partly for sentimental reasons and partly to see what was going on in the area where I spent my first 26 years. Is 72 years of membership a record?

I use Google Earth on my computer to see the area as it is these days and everything looks so different. As is so often the case I tend to remember Heston & Hounslow town with childhood memories rather than my 1971 memories.

Here are a few memories of things all long gone, mostly 1950's: the library and swimming pool in Treaty Road, The White Fathers church on Heston Road, The tiny library next to the village hall that looked very similar to it, where I borrowed my first library book, Clarke's shoe shop in the Vicarage Farm Rd /Cranford Lane parade where they x-rayed my feet to confirm if my new shoes were a good fit.

It was fun playing in the gravel pits and the big lake, on what was Heston Aerodrome. The Territorial Army hall at the junction of Vicarage Farm Road and New Heston Road, where I went with mum to get a new post war Ration book, The hugely high scary slide in Heston park and the little hut where the park keeper sat.

Job's diary's depot next to the Cranford Lane shopping parade, where I helped Harry the milkman for 2 shillings during my summer holidays, A church being built at Hounslow West at what was then known as Gibbins Corner, named after the big shop where all the locals bought their furniture,

My friend in a flat at the end of the little road next to the Hounslow West station,

Sorry for the ramble, just had a senior moment.

You (HRA) are doing a great service for the local community and I am pleased to see you have been recognised with the recent award. (Queen's Award for Voluntary Service – 2018).

Such memories, submitted by [Vince Celano](#)



LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS Heston & Cranford

CoL = Certificate of Lawfulness

45, Clunbury Avenue:P/2020/0669:Conversion of the garage into a habitable room

162, Ash Grove:P/2020/0680:CoL for the continued use as 3 self contained residential units.

57, High Street, Cranford: P/2020/0776: CoL for the retention of a single storey side extension.

57, High Street, Cranford: P/2020/0777: Retrospective application for the retention of a single storey side extension.

116, Great West Road: P/2020/0811: Erection of a 2 storey side extension, a single storey rear extension and a front porch extension.

259, Bath Road: P/2020/0719: Erection of a single storey rear infill extension. Change of use from a minicab office to an A3 cafe.

380, Great West Road: P/2020/0050: Erection of a part single/part 1 storey side and part single, part 2 storey rear extension.

31, Oak Avenue: P/2020/0798: CoL for a detached single storey outbuilding. #

4, The Vale: P/2020/0773: CoL for the erection of a hip to gable and enlargement of a rear roof extension and 1 additional roof window.

212, North Hyde Lane: P/2020/0524: Formation of a vehicular access.



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CYBER CRIME in HOUNSLOW

Members may recall that on 30 October PC Thomas Lee, a member of the Met Police Cyber Crime Unit, visited HRA and gave a well received presentation on the Unit's work. He has now provided some recently reported statistics on Cyber Crime incidents in Hounslow. In October there were 149 Cyber Crime offences reported in the borough resulting in a total loss of some £530,000 an average of £3557 per incident.

Examples of some of the recognised forms of Cyber Crime: **Online Shopping & Auctions** 27 cases recorded losses of £11k,

Cheques/Plastic Card/ online Banking (see below) 11 cases, losses £7k,

Mandate Fraud 3 cases, losses £331k, **Door to Door Sales & Bogus Tradesmen** 6 cases, losses £23K, **Dating Scams** 3 cases £20k losses, **Advance Fee Frauds** 15 cases, losses £20k and **Push Payments (see below)** 4 cases, losses £36k

Banking and Card Fraud - Online Banking - the use of online banking or people using banking apps on smartphones and tablets has grown. People use them at home or when they are out and about.

To stay safe while banking online you must protect your password and personal details to stop criminals from accessing your accounts. Many banks provide one-time passcodes sent to your device when setting up new payments. These should *never* be shared with anyone, even from the bank. If you're speaking to your bank on the phone, and they ask you for it, you are certainly speaking to a criminal, not your bank.

How to protect yourself - choose, use and protect passwords and memorable words with great care. Watch our video on passwords at www.met.police.uk/littlemedia for further advice.

Keep online banking software and banking apps up to date. Always download updates when prompted.

When logging in whilst in public, take extra care to shield any PIN codes or passwords.

Always log out of your online banking account or banking app when you have finished using it. Closing the app or web page or turning off your device may not be sufficient.

Do not use publicly available Wi-Fi networks for banking. It is very difficult to tell if a hotspot is secure.

Don't share any security codes with anyone.

If your bank has called you, take a reference number, and then hang up before recalling on a number you know to be safe after a few minutes to clear the line.

Push Payment Fraud - Online banking makes managing money easier for the general public, however criminals are taking advantage of this ease of banking and using it to defraud the public.

Criminals can pretend to be from some official, for example, your bank, or the tax office. They contact you via email, phone or social media, and then warn you of fake suspicious or criminal activity on your bank account. They state that they've set up a safe account for you to transfer your funds into.

However, this is their account.

How to protect yourself:

Be suspicious of a call out of the blue from someone claiming to be from a position of authority.

Take down the person's details (name, authority, department, branch etc.) and verify using independent source contact details.

A genuine official from the Police, your bank, HMRC or any other trusted authority will **NEVER** call you to ask you to verify your personal banking details, PIN or password, or threaten you with arrest.

Never transfer money into another account unless you are 100% certain of the owner of the account. Your bank will never set up a "safe" account for you. If you are a victim, contact your bank *as soon as possible*, as they may be able to help stop the transfer.

Watch our video on Impersonation Fraud at www.met.police.uk/littlemedia.

Remember - Your bank will never set up a "safe account".

Caution - Unless you know who the account belongs to, it might not be safe.

Think - Who told me this account was safe? Have I checked their identity?

Consumer Fraud- **commonly defined as deceptive business practices that cause consumers to suffer financial or other losses.** The victims believe they are participating in a legal and valid business transaction when they are actually being defrauded. Fraud against consumers is often related to false promises or inaccurate claims made to consumers, as well as practices that directly cheat consumers out of their money.

Research the company before purchasing goods or services. Use trusted, reviewed companies.

Avoid using direct bank transfers when purchasing items online, instead use a credit card.





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The CRANFORD AGREEMENT

At a meeting held on 2nd October 1953 with Residents' Associations what came to be known as the Cranford Agreement, regarding the use of the northern runway at Heathrow was re-affirmed by the Minister for Aviation, this followed a period of ongoing dialogue between interested parties. In October 1955, the Parliamentary Secretary, in reply to a question in Parliament by Mr Hunter MP for Feltham, again confirmed the Cranford Agreement, which only applies when Heathrow is on easterly operations.

Heathrow submitted a planning application to end the Cranford Agreement to the London Borough of Hillingdon in 2013 – as part of a plan to alternate runways on easterly operations, winning on appeal when Hillingdon had earlier rejected the application.

At a meeting of the Heathrow Airport Consultative Committee, Heathrow Airport Ltd announced it would wait until a final decision on a third runway had been reached before initiating plans to alternate runways on easterly operations – meaning the Cranford Agreement stays. At a meeting of the Local Focus Forum in February Heathrow indicated that the Agreement would not be “set aside” until 1925.

In order to enable easterly take-offs on the northern runway on a fully operational basis, there is need to construct additional facilities to allow aircraft to access the runway at the western end; in addition the construction of a “sound wall” was included in the planning application.

Compiled by D R Blackett

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If you have missed your last cervical screening test, book an appointment with your GP Practice now or contact: 07753 869453 to book an appointment.

This phone line is staffed 10:00am – 4:30pm, Monday – Thursday.

With thanks to Voluntary & Community News for Hounslow's Community Partnership Unit.

THE AGEING POPULATION & HOUSING

The Office for National Statistics recently published the results of a survey carried out by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & local Government, the lead points were

The UK's population is ageing and is projected to continue to age, because of declining fertility and people living longer. Understanding how older people live their lives currently and how a future older population might live their lives is important for understanding the implications of an ageing population.

Almost three-quarters of people aged 65 years and over in England own their home outright.

- Younger people are less likely to own their own home than in the past and more likely to be renting. Half of people in their mid-30s to mid-40s had a mortgage in 2017, compared with two-thirds 20 years earlier.
- People in their mid-30s to mid-40s are three times more likely to rent than 20 years ago. A third of this age group were renting from a private landlord in 2017, compared with fewer than 1 in 10 in 1997.
- If this trend persists in the future, older people will be more likely to be living in the private rental sector than today.
- Changes in housing tenure patterns could have implications for what life will be like for older people in the future.

The Survey indicates that home ownership among the older population has increased in recent years, with an increasing proportion paying off their mortgages by the age of 65 years.

Almost three-quarters (74%) of people aged 65 years and over owned their homes outright in England in 2017, up from 56% in 1993. This group

includes the first to benefit from the “right to buy” initiative, which saw social housing stock sold at reduced prices from the 1980s, and boosted home ownership.

This scheme was open to a large proportion of the population: in 1979, a third (33.2%) of all dwellings in Great Britain was social housing. This compares with a quarter (24.9%) in 1990 and 17.6% in 2017, The percentage of older people in the social rental sector has halved since the early 1990s, from 32% to 16%, while the percentage renting privately has remained low, staying at around 6%.

The LONDON BOROUGHs of CULTURE – 2021 and 2023

The Mayor for London, Sadiq Khan recently announced that London Boroughs of Culture for 2021 and 2023 will be Lewisham and Croydon respectively

In making the announcement Hounslow Council’s web-site acknowledged that “The competition for the titles was intense with all bidding boroughs having submitted very strong proposals to put culture at the heart of their boroughs and to host a year-long programme of its celebration, bringing residents together, stimulating creativity, investment and opportunity for all. Three boroughs were also awarded a Cultural Impact Award of funding up to a maximum of £200,000 to deliver specific projects from their bids. These were Sutton, Hammersmith & Fulham and Haringey.

“Naturally, there is disappointment for Hounslow. The bid, using the concept of a ‘Culture Superhighway’ to create an unstoppable movement of people, ideas and opportunities, mobilised considerable support from our residents, our cultural partners such as Watermans, Feltham Arts and from a range of stakeholders, such as University of West London and JC Decaux.”

THEFT of CATALYTIC CONVERTERS

In the January 2020 edition of RAM we reported that the theft of catalytic converters appeared to be on the increase and that thieves were quite blatant in their actions, frequently operating during the daytime.

Recent Metropolitan Police statistics revealed that some 8,248 converters were reported stolen in London in 2019, this compares with 1484 stolen in 2018 and 174 in 2017. There was a significant “spike” in thefts in September when 1406 were reported stolen, in October 1225 and in November 1390.

Individually catalytic converters do not contain a great deal of precious metal however organised crime gangs steal them to order for shipment abroad to factories that will salvage the precious metal on an industrial basis.

It follows that the number of thefts relates directly to the current market price of precious metals which can be extracted from a converter, the metals can be stripped out and sold on for thousands of pounds. Rhodium recently reached a peak price of £7,700 an ounce, five times the value of gold. Palladium and platinum sell at 70-80% of the value of gold. Once salvaged from the stolen catalytic converter the metals can be recycled for use in jewellery, dentistry and electronics.

Apparently Toyota UK has now developed a catloc security device to deter theft.

Not for the first time the police advise that: "We currently have a number of Catalytic Converters being stolen from cars at night, these can be taken in a couple of minutes by using a simple car jack. Please be on the look out for any out of the ordinary issues with people working on cars at night using a car jack. If it does not look right please call the police and observe the actions of the people until police arrive."

If you need to reply regarding this message, tap on this email address:
c742518@met.police.uk

A catalytic converter is an exhaust emission control device that reduces toxic gases and pollutants in exhaust gas from an internal combustion engine into less-toxic pollutants by catalysing a redox reaction.

Compiled by D R Blackett

INCREASINGLY a BURDEN on the NHS

An analysis of statistics, recently published by the NHS, by alcohol addiction treatment experts UKAT, revealed that the number of people admitted into hospital because of problems with alcohol has risen across London by 28 per cent since 2012/2013, and is a figure that has continued to rise for the last six years.

There were 169,670 people admitted to hospital in 2018/2019 where the primary reason or a secondary diagnosis was linked to alcohol, which is 10 per cent more than the previous year (154,580) and 28 per cent more than in 2012/2013 (132,310).

Conditions for hospital admission due to alcohol abuse include cardiovascular disease, breast cancer, alcohol poisoning, and alcoholic liver disease.

Not one borough across London had managed to lower its rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions over six years.

The 10 London boroughs with the least number of admissions were: **Kensington & Chelsea – 2,920**, Kingston - 3,120, **Richmond - 3,470**, Barking & Dagenham – 3,740, **Merton – 3,870**, Sutton – 4,120, **Islington – 4,260**, Hammersmith & Fulham – 4,400, **Westminster – 4,430** and Camden - 4,490

The 10 London boroughs with the greatest number of admissions were: **Ealing – 8,900**, Brent – 7,970, **Enfield – 6,790**, Croydon – 6,770, **Barnet – 6,720**, Hillingdon – 6,610, **Hounslow – 6,270**, Lambeth – 6,270, **Southwark – 6,220** and Newham – 6,060.

The boroughs recording the most significant increases were: Harrow 65%, Brent 54%, Hounslow 53%, Kingston 44%, Ealing 43%, Richmond 42%, Hackney 38%, Hammersmith & Fulham 38 %, Kensington & Chelsea 35% and Westminster 32%

Across London, the number of men greatly outweighs the number of women admitted in 2018/2019 due to alcohol. a trend which has remained the same over the last six years.

Nuno Albuquerque, Group Treatment Lead at addiction firm UKAT said: "The problem with alcohol in this country is a ticking time bomb about to explode.

"NHS Hospitals in particular across London boroughs are crippling under pressures directly attributable to the misuse of alcohol - a drug that is so socially accepted yet so incredibly dangerous.

Compiled by D R Blackett

CORONAVIRUS SCAMS UPDATE

There was a 400% increase in coronavirus-related scams in March, with victim losses totalling almost £970,000.

Full story: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/alert/coronavirus-related-fraud-reports-increase-by-400-in-march>

Please be aware, there are as yet **unverified** reports of fraudsters going door to door claiming to be NHS staff conducting coronavirus tests or welfare visits.

NHS staff are not going door to door.

Call the police if someone knocks on your door claiming to be conducting coronavirus tests. Do NOT let them in to your house.

The above advice was circulated by the Met Police Cyber Crime unit

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IMPACT of MAJOR SITE DEVELOPMENTS

In response to a recent request for an update on the situation regarding the impact of the Tesco / Homebase site and other significant developments, Mark Frost, Hounslow Council's Asst Director Transport, Parking & Environmental Strategy provided the following information:

Infrastructure: - The Council has produced a draft Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP). The primary purpose of the IDP is to identify the infrastructure such as hospital/GP surgeries, police, schooling, transport and parking that are considered necessary to support the development proposed in the borough over a short, medium and long term period and to outline how and when this will be delivered. The IDP is developed by working with infrastructure providers for the borough and plays a key role in demonstrating that planned growth can be accommodated in a sustainable manner, through the timely and coordinated delivery of critical and strategic infrastructure. .

The IDP is also an infrastructure planning tool which can be used as a framework to guide decision-making on infrastructure delivery, including the future allocation of funds from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and S106. The IDP provides a strategic overview of how and when **key infrastructure will be required**, highlighting schemes which may be required to unlock development, providing the basis for supporting the delivery and implementation of a Local Plan.

Health Care Provision: An expected increase of 7,500 new homes in the Great West Corridor area will require: • 9.4 full-time equivalent GPs; • Approximately 1,320m² of facility floor space; and £5.6 million in capital expenditure.

The Hounslow Clinical Commissioning Group is establishing six Locality Hubs which will deliver a range of services co-located to increase localised and specialised care. In the wider area, there will be Chiswick Hub, West Middlesex Hub and Brentford Hub. These Locality Hubs will each be over 500m² and provide a range of services including primary care, community care, public health and social care.

In Chiswick, a brand new Health Centre will be built to replace the existing one. The new facility will house 5 x local GP practices. There are

negotiations with the West Middlesex Hospital for the development of a Locality Hub on the hospital site.

Brentford Health Centre has been identified as a potential second Locality Hub in the Brentford and Isleworth area; as per the Chiswick Health Centre the CCG is currently working through plans to have a new health centre built on the existing site. The Brentford Hub will house 3x local GP practices.

The primary mechanism for Hounslow CCG services comes from the central capital funding programme, paid through the Department for Health. Funding for estates development has been provided in-part through S106 agreements based on individual scheme developments; however, legislation changes in 2014 restricted the use of s106 contributions for individual developments. In the absence of central NHS capital funding, Hounslow CCG will look to funding from One Public Estate initiative and innovative use of both S106 contributions with developers and via strategic CIL funding as they provide an essential service to support growth and development.

Recreation: In the area, Redlees Park will be subject to improvements to access, paths and public realm. Furthermore, there is a £6 mill. Council programme for general improvements to parks in the borough. There is also a £5.8 mill. programme of play and fitness improvements across the borough including Robin Grove and Jersey Gardens and parks improvement and restoration works at Boston Manor Park and Gunnersbury park.

In terms of Leisure Centres, there will be £4 mill. to be spent on improvements to Osterley and Isleworth Sport Centres. The lifetime of Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre is coming to an end and it is planned to be comprehensively redeveloped. Furthermore, every single large development will be required to provide a significant amount of communal amenity space, including play space for children.

Public Transport: In terms of transport, Mark Frost adds that Hounslow Council is in active conversation with TfL about improving bus services in the corridor and we are also hopeful we will be able to improve bus facilities (stops, bus lanes etc) significantly in this area, particularly if the proposed workplace parking levy for the area progresses to

implementation. Plans for the E1 and H28 will be consulted on further in the summer. We are also exploring a potential 'X91' that would mimic the private shuttle services between Osterley and Gunnersbury.

TfL also have advanced plans for replacing the Piccadilly line fleet in the next few years which will support faster journeys, as highlighted in the December 2019 RAM (p 23). TfL also has wider (but as yet unfunded) aspirations to upgrade the signalling.

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ALWAYS in the NEWS

It was reported recently that even more non-recyclable waste household waste is being put out for recycling. It is argued that this is due to the fact that householders are confused by unhelpful labelling on products. Some

15% of waste sent to recycling plants cannot be re-used, an increase of 5% on earlier years.

The Daily Telegraph recently reported that there were 58 widely used labels on packaging, plastic, glass and batteries. Veolia is calling on labelling to be nationally standardised in order to overcome the existing confusion.

A Defra spokesperson commented that “It’s clear that the public wants to do more for our environment, but confusion over what can be recycled is holding them back”.

Presently, many inner city authorities tend to have one recycling container for everything, except for food waste, this can have the disadvantage of perfectly clean items becoming contaminated. As a consequence more “recyclable waste” becomes destined for general waste – landfill or incineration.

There has been an increase of up to 5% in contamination, with averages now up to 10 – 15%. Hounslow, after investigation, elected to adopt the system of separate containers which should result in higher recycling volumes and in the out-turn an improved financial benefit.

Some householders could be more helpful by rinsing out containers prior to recycling. The urban fox will always be on the (night time) prowl seeking out those tit bits. Plastic bottles should be flattened and the cap replaced and it is helpful to flatten cardboard boxes removing any tape.

Compiled by D R Blakett

LOW CARBON ENERGY

Hounslow Council recently announced that:

“Hounslow Council will be amongst the first of local authorities to work with its energy supplier to deliver large scale new renewable energy projects which will ultimately secure low carbon or renewable energy sources.”

“Its energy supplier, LASER has energy frameworks from 2020 onwards which have been set up in a way to maximise the options for customers to meet their green energy and carbon reduction targets.

In addition to energy supply, the framework contains a panel of providers which can provide renewable energy and energy efficiency services in a compliant manner. For the supply of electricity, the supplier is effectively a 'conduit' for the energy purchased and LASER has the flexibility in determining the source of that energy."

Cllr Katherine Dunne, Cabinet Member for Communities & Climate Change said: "Councils and other public bodies are increasingly taking a long term strategic outlook on energy use which in the immediate future will minimise the financial impacts of rising energy prices and secure low carbon or renewable energy sources."

"These drivers coupled with our capability to take a long term view and access to low cost capital puts us in a unique position to build or invest directly in a new energy generation. This could entail solar farms on council-owned land, direct investment in offshore wind farms, building heat networks or simply committing to take renewable electricity at a long term fixed price".

CAUSE for CONCERN?

According to estimates recently published by Public Health England nearly 17% of over 16's in England have been diagnosed with common mental disorders (CMD); the figures include any type of depression and anxiety. However, in the London area estimates indicate nearly 1 in 5 (19.3%) being diagnosed with Mental Health disorders.

Whilst the estimate for London is the highest in the country, the levels of CMD vary considerably across London's boroughs; Richmond records the lowest at 13.2% but the highest is Hackney with a worrying 24.4%, Newham records a similar figure of 23.9%.

Some 23 of London's boroughs are above the national average, the top10 are:

Hackney 24.4% (total diagnosed 53,226), Newham 23.9% (64,544), Tower Hamlets 22.8% (55,856) Islington 22.7 (44,736), Waltham Forest 22.5% (48,207), Barking & Dagenham 22.4% (34,276), Haringey 22.3% (48,273), Lambeth 22.1% (59,068), Lewisham 21.8% (52,223) and Southwark 21.4% (54,712).

Apart from Richmond 13.2% (20) the "bottom" five included City of London 13.4 (871), Kingston 14.4% (20,071), Bromley 15.1% (39,755) and Merton 15.5% (25,258).

Selected, Hillingdon 17.4 (41,289), **Hounslow 18.3 (38,518)**, Ealing 19.2 (51,534) and Hammersmith & Fulham 20.5 (30,710)

Although the figures have just been released, they relate to data from 2017 and so trends may have changed since then, but nevertheless they do give cause for concern.

According to mental health charity Mind, waiting times for mental health services on the **NHS** are hard to calculate but waiting times of several months are "known to be commonplace".

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LOCKED and BARRED?

Recent burglary statistics published by the Met. Police for a 12 month period make interesting reading.

In Hounslow there were some 2,250 burglaries, the area worst hit by the villains was **Turnham Green** with 223 recorded incidents, an average of 19 a month, in **Brentford** there were 188 burglaries, including 58 in commercial properties, overall an average of 16 per month. In **Osterley & Spring Grove**: there were 130 burglaries an average of 11 per month followed by **Syon** with 129.

Other selected areas were Heston East -108, Heston Central -101, Cranford – 90, Heston West - 80. Hounslow Town Centre had 117 recorded burglaries.

Householders and business owners are constantly reminded of the precautions and measures that should be taken, not least of all for insurance purposes, to deter the burglar, irrespective of the time of the day and season of the year. There are of course added warnings concerning the safeguarding of valuable items, such as jewellery, cash and other items of personal value.

Regrettably in many instances the burglar, particularly the experienced and/or determined one, will overcome the defences, gain entry and leave a trail of devastation for the householder to overcome as well as a feeling desolation.

Compiled by D R Blackett



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THE LONDON PLAN - HOUSING

The **London Plan** is the statutory spatial development strategy for the Greater London area, written by the Mayor of London's office and published by the Greater London Authority.

The regional planning document was first published in final form on 10 February 2004. In addition to minor alterations, it was substantially revised and republished in February 2008 and again in July 2011. In October 2013, minor alterations were made to the plan to comply with the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes in national policy.

The current London Plan of March 2016 was published and amended in January 2017. The current plan has a formal end-date of 2036.

Introduction - the background: legislation stipulates that the **London Plan** should only deal with things of strategic importance to Greater London taking account of the principal purposes of the GLA which are: promoting economic development and wealth creation, promoting social development and promoting the improvement of the environment.

In developing a Sustainable Development Strategy for London, there is need to consider

- the principle that there should be equality of opportunity for all people.
- reducing health inequality and promoting Londoners' health.
- achieving sustainable development in the United Kingdom.
- climate change and the consequences of climate change.
- the desirability of promoting and encouraging the use of the Thames, particularly for passenger and freight transportation and
- the resources available to implement the Mayor's strategies.

Housing – 2019/20 - 2028/29: a London-wide Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) has identified the need for 66,000 additional homes per year. The SHMA covers overall housing need as well as exploring specific requirements for purpose-built student accommodation and specialist older persons accommodation within the overall figure.

Further assessments indicate that there is capacity across London for approximately 40,000 new homes a year on large sites, (0.25he and above) and that there is capacity for development on small sites for 24,500 new homes a year.

Overall the situation is that for the 10 year period to 2028/29 London boroughs targets are:

Barking & Dagenham 22,640, **Barnet** 31,340, **Bexley** 12,450 **Brent** 29,150,
Bromley 14,240, **Camden** 10,860 **City of London** 1,460 16,480
Haringey 19,580 **Croydon** 29,490, **Ealing** 28,070, **Enfield** 18,760,
Greenwich 32,040, **Hackney** 13,300 **Hammersmith & Fulham** 16,480,
Haringey 19,580, **Harrow** 13,920, **Havering** 18,750, **Hillingdon** 15,530,
Hounslow 21,820, **Islington** 7,750, **Kensington & Chelsea** 4,880
Kingston 13,640, **Lambeth** 15,890, **Lewisham** 21,170, **London Legacy Development Corporation** 21,610, **Merton** 13,280, **Newham** 38,500, **Old Oak Park Royal Development Corporation** 13,670, **Redbridge** 19,790,
Richmond 8,110 **Southwark** 25,540 **Sutton** 9,390, **Tower Hamlets** 35,110, **Waltham Forest** 17,940, **Wandsworth** 23,100,
Westminster 10,100 **Total 649,350**

The small site targets - less than 0.25 hectares - total 245,730 including: Croydon 15110 Barnet 12040, Brent 10230, Bromley 10290, Ealing 10740,

Enfield 9830, Newham 9500, Hillingdon 7650, Richmond 6340, Kingston 6250 and **Hounslow 6800**

The strategic target in respect of **affordable housing** is that 50 per cent of all new homes delivered across London should be genuinely affordable.

Compiled by D R Blackett

HESTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION - PLANNING

Presentation by HRA Planning Officer, John Mullins, at the AGM on 4th March

HRA has a robust planning team which reviews and comments on every domestic planning application anywhere in the borough that is not compliant with the Council's planning policy or national planning law. A wrong decision anywhere in the borough can establish an unwelcome precedent elsewhere in the borough.

This is a considerable amount of work for the two members of the HRA Planning Team – Nick Marbrow and myself, but we are highly effective to the extent that we can now claim to have won the “beds in sheds” battle.

Each week the number of applications submitted to Hounslow Council for planning permission for various proposals ranges between 50 and 100 and the number of proposals that have been decided are usually in similar numbers.

Whilst we analyse as many applications as possible our priority has to be Outbuildings – HMO's - Hip to Gable Conversions – Rear Roof Extensions and Evasion of Council Tax by people living in outbuildings.

Applications to be decided at Committee - we analyse the officer's report provided to the Planning Committee to ensure that all relevant information is recorded in a proper and transparent manner and that no facts are being withheld from Members and the public. If we find any such problems with the report, we convey the information to the officer.

Outbuildings - applications for planning permission for outbuildings can be made either as a full application or for a certificate of lawfulness. The rules governing full applications are made by the council and the rules for permitted development are made by Parliament. Both sets of rules state

that no primary residential facilities are permitted in an outbuilding, primary facilities include, a living room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom.

We check each application to see if any of these facilities are included and if so we submit an objection

We check the decisions list and if any application has been approved with these banned facilities, we lodge a complaint with the relevant officer. Some of them will acknowledge their error and others simply ignore the complaint.

HRA has been advising Hounslow Council since 2007 that it was breaking the law by approving outbuildings containing bathrooms. They ignored our advice until late 2019 when they started refusing planning for such applications.

Hip to gable conversions incorporating a rear roof extension - applicants can apply to the council for full planning permission for these. The council has produced rules which in general are quite straight forward and easy to understand.

The works may be carried out as permitted development. The Department for Housing, Communities & Local Government sets the rules for this type of application, however, the rules provided by the DHCLG are vague and extremely ambiguous in certain aspects. As a result applicants are unsure what is permitted and what is not, that also applies to our local planning officers, so we can end up with several different variations of what is intended and believe me it is not a pretty sight.

We quickly became aware of the serious problems with these developments and brought the matter to the attention of our LPA. I believe most officers now understand the rules but some applicants continue to submit dodgy applications. In some cases applicants submit and get approval for a proposed hip to gable conversion compliant with the rules but proceed to build something different. The same applies to outbuildings where approval is acquired for a one room outbuilding but the applicant decides to build in a kitchen and bathroom. If we become aware of any such breaches of planning we report them to planning enforcement.

It recently came to our attention that many outbuildings are still being used for residential accommodation and no Council Tax is being paid on the

outbuilding. We believe there is massive evasion of tax taking place and we have established that in one road containing just over 30 properties, the amount of Council Tax evasion is estimated at £200k. That's just one road, so what is the total figure for the entire borough?.

That is a brief account of what Nick and I do on a weekly basis on planning issues but of course it has to be said that we get involved in far more than I have touched on here.

HMOs – Nick Marbrow spoke about the contentious subject of HMOs, which will be covered in a future RAM.

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Friday 24th April. St George's Quiz Night. 7.30 for 8pm.

Group of 6, £5/person.

Light refreshment at interval. Raffle. Trophy and M & S Vouchers for team winners. All proceeds to the Church fund.

Friday 8th May. VE. Day Celebration music by Mary Rose and her Band. Free entry. Bottle of Prosecco for the best dressed.

Please check our website for pictures & latest news

NEWS in BRIEF

OSTERLEY STATION - It is understood that the planning application (P/2019/3551) in respect of the redevelopment of the Osterley station car park with a proposal to construct two residential blocks comprising 68 self contained units is to be recommended for refusal.

20 MPH ZONES - LBH Traffic advises that it is in the process of completing the "borough-wide" 20mph speed limit implementation and have a small list of roads left to complete. "We were hoping to have them

all completed by the end of March this year, but this may slip a little due to stretched resources and delays with implementation elsewhere in the borough.” It is anticipated that all roads will be completed by the end of June at the latest.

HESTON PARK – pleased to report that 3 replacement trees have now been planted in the entrance avenue to the park. Also the flagpole is now in place – with the **Green Flag** atop. **Heston Park** was one of 13 parks and open spaces in Hounslow to be awarded Green Flag status for 2019/2020 as reported in the September RAM.

Coronavirus Alert– The National Fraud Intelligence Bureau Coronavirus Related Scams

The City of London Police recently circulated the following:

Fraudsters are exploiting the spread of COVID-19 coronavirus to facilitate various types of fraud and cyber crime. Since February 2020, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB) has identified 21 reports of fraud where Coronavirus was mentioned, with victim losses totalling over £800k. Ten of these reports were made by victims attempting to purchase protective face masks from fraudulent sellers.

Reporting numbers are expected to rise as the virus continues to spread across the world. Fraudsters are also sending out coronavirus-themed phishing emails in an attempt to trick people into opening malicious attachments or revealing sensitive personal and financial details.

Fraudsters purporting to be from research organisation’s affiliated with the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) contact potential victims over email. They claim to be able to provide the recipient with a list of coronavirus infected people in their area. In order to access this information, the victim needs to click on a link, which leads to a malicious website, or is asked to make a payment in Bitcoin.

Advice watch out for scam messages: Don’t click on the links or attachments in suspicious emails, and never respond to unsolicited messages and calls that ask for your personal or financial details.

Shopping online: If you're making a purchase from a company or person you don't know and trust, carry out some research first, ask a friend or family member for advice before completing the purchase. If you decide to go ahead with the purchase, use a credit card if you have one, as most major credit card providers insure online purchases. For more information on how to shop online safely, please visit:

<https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/shoponlinesafely>

Protect your devices from the latest threats: Always install the latest software and app updates to protect your devices from the latest threats. please visit: <https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/guidance/securing-your-devices>

Note: Psishing is the fraudulent practice of sending emails purporting to be from reputable companies in order to induce individuals to reveal personal information, such as passwords and credit card numbers.

If you have been a victim of fraud or cyber crime report it to:
Actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040

SCHOOL PLACES

Hounslow Council's web-site reported that:

Ninety-four per cent of Hounslow pupils due to start secondary school this September have been offered a place at one of their six preferred schools, while two out of every three students in Hounslow have received their first choice.

Figures were released by National Secondary Offer Day by the Pan London Admission Board, the body with overall responsibility for the coordination of school admissions in the capital.

The figures for the borough, released today (Monday 2, March), reveal:

- 94 per cent of pupils received one of their preferences
- 91 per cent of pupils received one of their top 4 preferences
- 87 per cent of pupils received one of their top 3 preferences

The figures also revealed that two out of every three Hounslow pupils received their first preference choice of school.

Cllr Tom Bruce, Cabinet Member for Education, Children & Youth Services, said:

“There is much competition for places in Hounslow’s schools which is indicative of the esteem in which schools in the borough are held by parents and pupils alike. I am very pleased that 94 per cent of students in Hounslow have received an offer for one of their six preferred schools and am particularly pleased that two of every three pupils in the borough have been offered their first choice.

“I am very proud of the high-quality education provided in this borough and I look forward to seeing our students walk through the doors of Hounslow’s schools next September.”

For further details on school admissions London-wide, visit www.londoncouncils.gov.uk.

Enquiries specifically relating to Hounslow should be directed to admissions@hounslow.gov.uk.

LAND AT HOUNSLOW WEST STATION

A planning application (ref SC/2020/0685) (00083/K/SCREEN2) has been submitted screening opinion for a 420 residential units, retention of a Grade 2 Hounslow West ticket hall and adjoining retail/commercial units, a replacement station concourse and new entrances, up to 1400 square metres (sqm) of new flexible retail/community floorspace, landscaping and public realm, including play, access and car parking.

Transport for London and A2dominion recently held their first public consultation for the proposed redevelopment of the Hounslow West station car park. The three key aspects of the proposal are stated as: a considerably improved public realm, better access to the station and affordable housing.

The main points of the proposal are:

1. 420 new affordable homes, 1,2 and 3 bed units; 10% with wheelchair access.
2. New build in 4 blocks, consisting of: Ground +4, G +9, G +12/13 and G+ 2-4
3. Retail outlets at street level.
4. Public under-ground car park with 100 places (currently 441).
5. Residents disabled parking

Interestingly, a survey of car park users revealed that 65% lived 5km or more distant, 19% at 2-5 km and 16% lived less than 2 km from the station. These statistics generated the inbuilt proposal to limit the public car parking spaces and encourage commuters to use alternative means of public transport from further afield.

Such a proposed development again gives rise to concerns about the local infrastructure and its ability to cope with such a development, not forgetting the proposed developments of the Hounslow Cavalry Barracks site in nearby Beavers Lane and the old Morrison site, currently well advanced in construction. Whilst local public transport services attract a high PTAL rating, other amenities must be addressed, principally education, hospital and GP services and the public utilities.

A second pre-application consultation is planned for April/May, followed by the submission of a planning in June with a decision anticipated in the Autumn.

See www.hounslowwestrenewal.co.uk

D R Blakett

STATEMENT FROM HOUNSLOW COUNCIL REGARDING HEATHROW

After the recent ruling by the Court of Appeal that the Government's plans for a third runway at Heathrow failed to consider the UK's commitments to reduce carbon emissions under the Paris agreement, the following statement appeared on Hounslow Council's web-site:

Cllr Steve Curran, Leader of Hounslow Council, said:

“Hounslow Council has a long-held position that Heathrow should be better, not bigger – whether that be additional flights, a third runway or a relaxation on runway operations and night flights.

“Nevertheless, we want the airport to be successful as it plays such an important role in our economic success and status as the gateway borough to London. I hope that the Government and Heathrow Airport can agree a way forward that protects our environment as well as allowing the airport to flourish.

“We remain committed to working constructively with Heathrow, supporting its ambition to improve while ensuring the best outcomes for local residents and businesses.”

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FOOD WASTE RECYCLING

Hounslow Council recently announced that it had teamed up with the West London Waste Authority to encourage residents to recycle more food waste. It's part of a six-borough wide campaign to increase food waste recycling, tackle climate change and save taxpayer's money - and it's the first of its kind in London.

What will happen to my food waste?

Food waste is collected by Recycle 360 as part of your recycling collection and taken to the transfer station in Brentford. Bio-collector trucks then collect the food waste and take it to the anaerobic digestion plant in Mitcham where it's composted in large, sealed containers. The end products are biogas, used to fuel the trucks and generate electricity for west London homes, and digestate that is, used as a fertilizer in local farms and parks. (see p 23 February RAM)

Why should I recycle my food waste?

Food waste currently makes up 30 per cent of all residual black bin waste, costing the council to collect, transport and incinerate as part of the energy from waste process.

In the UK we throw out 7.1 mill tonnes of food every year, 70 % (5 mill. tonnes) of this is avoidable.

This waste equates to around £700 per year for the average household

If each west London household recycled just 2kg of food waste per week, it would save 600,000

tonnes of CO² per year

In Hounslow, the new Bio-collectors partnership will play a key part in achieving the London wide municipal waste recycling target of 65 per cent by 2030, as well as to reduce the borough's overall CO² emissions.

Cllr Guy Lambert, Cabinet Member for Highways, Recycling & Trading Companies, said: "Many Hounslow residents show great commitment to recycling but in Hounslow and across the nation we need to do much more,

and for everybody to take part; this food waste initiative is a great opportunity to recycle more, help reduce greenhouse gases and save money.”

How do I get involved if I haven't recycled my food waste before?

If you are currently unable to recycle your food waste and receive a kerbside recycling collection, then until 30 April and whilst stocks last, you can order a free indoor 5L caddy, outdoor 23L caddy and receive additional compostable liners to start your food waste recycling journey. If you live in a flat, then food waste recycling is on its way - so look out for more information over the coming months.

Alternatively, a householder can always establish his own compost heap mixing vegetable waste with garden waste which can be used on the garden.

For more details and to order your food waste kit visit:

www.westlondonfoodwaste.com

Note: the above is based on notice published by Hounslow Council.



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CORONAVIRUS ANNOUNCEMENT

On the 7 March Hounslow Council posted the following notice on the Council web-site “Hounslow Council is working closely with our NHS partners and Public Health England to control the spread of coronavirus.

Plans are in place to help manage any potential impact on services.

To help keep yourself and others free from infection:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water, or a hand sanitiser if you're out and about, particularly after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose, eating or handling food, and when arriving at work or getting home.
- Catch your coughs and sneezes in a tissue, or use your arm if needed, throw the tissue away, then wash your hands.”

If you think you or someone you know may have coronavirus, please visit [NHS111 online](#)

More information about the virus, its symptoms and the current situation is **[available at NHS online](#)**

COUNCIL BUDGET for 2020 -2021

At the Borough Council meeting on 25 February members agreed to increase the council's element of Council Tax by 3.99%. This will add an extra £48.92 a year, or £4 a month, for a typical Band D property (excluding the greater London Authority precept). Two per cent is ring-fenced to protect adult social care – an increase requested by the Government – and 1.99 per cent is a general increase reflecting the impact of inflation on the council's costs.

Cllr Rajawat, Lead Member for Finance & Corporate Services, said: “Our responsibility as a council is to provide local services for residents and ensure our borough is a great place to live, work, study and visit. We have ambitious plans for Hounslow but need to respond to increasing local demand and government requirements.

“Over the past 10 years we have had to manage unprecedented reductions in funding from the Government, meaning we have had to save £160 million from our core budget since 2010. We also continue to face significant increasing costs, particularly in adult and children's social care, special educational needs, homelessness and waste disposal. Through sound financial management we've been able to cover these increases, but it remains extremely challenging.

“To minimise the impact on services, we have focused on increasing our efficiency by encouraging greater use of online services, reducing contract and insurance costs, working smarter and reducing back office costs. Our move to a smaller, modern, efficient and environmentally-friendly building – Hounslow House – in April 2019 has also resulted in lower running costs as well as placing us at the heart of the community providing easier access and increasing visitors to our library.”

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