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RAM

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Free to
Members

THE MAGAZINE OF
THE HESTON RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION
SEPTEMBER 2021



CONVENT WAY REGENERATION
(see page 22)

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.

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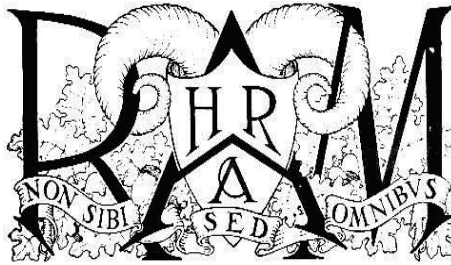
Copy for inclusion in RAM by 10th of each month.

**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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IMPORTANT NOTICE for MEMBERS

Now that the Covid restrictions have been lifted the Heston Community Centre has “opened” its doors and things are gradually getting back to normal.

I am pleased to say that Heston Residents' Association will be holding Its first General Meeting since February 2020 on Wednesday 8th September. In October things will return to the first Wednesday, with the meeting on the 6th. Meetings will commence at 7.30pm.

PLANNING APPLICATION – NEW HESTON ROAD

A planning application – P/2021/2203 – in respect of 44 – 80, New Heston Road, incorporating 109, Westbrook Road has been submitted to and is being reviewed by Hounslow Council.

As outlined in the May edition of RAM, during the pre-application consultation. the proposed development involves the demolition of existing properties and the construction of houses and residential blocks providing 168 new homes, consisting of 149 flats across 4 blocks of 4 - 7 storeys with setback top floors, and 19 houses with associated access, amenity space, landscaping, refuse storage and car and cycle parking.

The flats will be located at the eastern end of the site with some parking. It is proposed that the new build will be environmentally friendly, involving heat pumps, solar panels and energy efficient building materials. A communal garden with an interactive play area is proposed for the central area with appropriate landscaping.

As highlighted earlier the owners of properties to be demolished have reached agreement with NFC homes regarding the sale of their properties, subject of course to planning permission being given. 82, New Heston

Road - corner of Westbrook Road – is not affected by the proposal, neither are the allotments.

Entry to the site will be via The Lane, on New Heston Road exiting via Westbrook Road. It is thought the development would be over three stages over a 2/3 year period.

If approval is granted it is understood that building would not commence before 2022 and that the development would be phased.

For HRA's comments see page 39.

Compiled by D R Blackett

HESTON & CRANFORD AREA FORUM & PLANNING COMMITTEE DATES 2021

For further information contact: Committee Administrators: Joti Patel 8583 3356 (H&C Area Forum) or Wendy Merry 8583 2061 (Planning). The next Heston & Cranford Area Forum is currently scheduled for the Wednesday 20th October.

SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2021

**There are still a few Annual Subscriptions outstanding.
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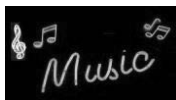
The Treasurer, 68, Sutton Road, Heston, Hounslow TW5 0PL
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THE BEST ROADS IN LONDON

Hounslow's roads are the best in London, according to a newly released report. The following appeared on the Hounslow web-site following the publication of the annual "State of the City" which found that Hounslow's roads have the lowest backlog of potholes to be fixed across London.

"Thanks to residents who have been actively reporting potholes, and over £100m invested from the Council since 2013, Hounslow roads and footways have emerged in pole position.

The annual State of the City Report provides key information from/on all 32 London boroughs and reveals the best and worst in its annual report.

Hounslow was found to have the lowest backlog of potholes to fix, which is vital for keeping our borough moving and the economy thriving.

Reacting to the report, Cllr Guy Lambert, Cabinet Member for Highways, Recycling & Companies, said: "This latest report shows once again that Hounslow's roads are the best in London and the most well maintained.

"Our partnership with Hounslow Highways is delivering exceptionally well for our residents, despite pressure on resources during the last year and it is testament to the hard work of all our Highways colleagues.

"It's also thanks to our residents who are identifying problems and reporting them so that we can deal with them swiftly.

"Hounslow has consistently registered great results in previous State of the City Reports and has now emerged as the only borough in the capital with a low maintenance backlog.

"Our ambitious 'Pothole Pledge' allowed us to strive towards achieving even higher levels of maintenance and gives our residents a say in where we direct further repairs.

"Of course, nobody will claim that our roads and footways are perfect, but we are in a very good position compared to all other London boroughs.

"But we won't stop there and we have the ambition to go even further by continuing this great collaborative work with Hounslow Highways and residents."

Hounslow also received a perfect score for its road maintenance asset management for the second year, highlighting the strength of the Council's industry leading practises and delivery models.

The borough's highways have been managed under contract by Hounslow Highways since January 2013. Since they took over, a huge amount of work has been undertaken including the resurfacing of approximately 210 km of carriageways and 232 km of footpaths, 15,799 street lights replaced with new LED lanterns, the refurbishment of five major structures, and the replacement of 13,695 traffic signs. In addition to roads/footpaths and street furniture Hounslow Highways is responsible for street cleaning, the

removal of fly-tipping and graffiti, managing trees and grounds maintenance.

One of the pledges that Hounslow Council made to the people of Hounslow for its current term was to invest over £2 million to fix potholes in local roads and invite residents to report potholes that needed the most attention. Residents' views and feedback are encouraged, if possible via the Council web-site.

Since the pledge was made, through the borough's established road maintenance programme, Hounslow Highways has had over 689 issues reported with 35 potholes having been repaired and treated in full. As we enter the final year of the pledge, a programme to treat as many more roads as possible is being finalised.

For more information on Hounslow's road maintenance programme and pothole pledge visit the Council's website.





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FURNITURE RECYCLING

It never ceases to amaze me the items and in some cases their quality, which are disposed of at the recycling centres – skipped, witnessed frequently on the BBC programme “Something For Nothing”.

Well there is an opportunity locally to bypass the skip and “dispose” of unwanted / reusable furniture / electrical goods in a far more practical way.

The **Hounslow Furniture Recycling Project (HFRP)**, which is based in Isleworth, is dedicated to redistributing reusable furniture and electrical household appliances to those who may otherwise struggle to afford such items.

Unwanted Furniture & Household Appliances

If you have furniture or electrical appliances that you no longer need and they are in good condition please contact HFRP; if you would like the items to be collected. Find out more about items HFRP is looking for and how to arrange for them to be collected.

To Buy Furniture and Electrical Appliances

The items available for purchase are displayed in the showroom in Isleworth. The items can be bought at very reasonable prices reflecting the socially inclusive focus of the service. Items for sale are of good quality and all electrical items are safety tested and come with either a 3 or 6 month guarantee. HFRP sells new single and double divan beds and mattresses and new electric cookers, fridges and freezers at reasonable prices.

There is no need to make an appointment to come to the showroom in Isleworth. It might be a good idea to ring on 020 8892 4916 before your visit if you are wishing to purchase a particular item of furniture or electrical item.

The furniture and electrical appliances on display change each day as two deliveries of newly collected goods are delivered each day to the showroom.

Payment is by cash only.

Location of the Hounslow Furniture Recycling Project - Carnegie Hall, Northcote Ave, Isleworth, TW7 7JQ No appointment is necessary to visit the showroom.

Call us on : 020 8892 4916 for general enquires and stock availability.

The showroom is within short walking distance of the H20, H37 and 267 bus routes.

Hounslow Furniture Recycling Project

Open Monday to Friday from 8.30am to 4.30pm and every Saturday from 10am to 4pm.

Please call Monday to Friday on 020 8892 4916 for general enquiries and to arrange for us to collect unwanted furniture and household appliances call 020 8814 2225

MESSAGE FROM WARD POLICE

Over the past few weeks we have had a number of thefts of Catalytic Convertors in the area. It appears to be BMW cars that have been targetted by thieves of late. These BMWs are not new cars, tending to be about 5 to 10 years old. We would like to remind people the importance of reporting any suspicious activity you see around cars late at night, usually involving a group of men. Please do not try to approach these men, they can carry tools to assist with their escape if challenged. The most

important thing is your safety and if you are able to obtain descriptions of the men and also number plate details of cars used. Although these crimes can happen within minutes and it can be hard to catch people, the important thing that can aid the capture of them is descriptions and early contact with the police with any concerns you have.

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

Footnote:

A recent Which report shows that, between 2019 and 2020 alone, incidents of catalytic converter thefts in England, Northern Ireland and Wales rose by 104% on average. The rise is despite the effect of national lockdowns, when many people and their cars were at home.

London had 13,716 recorded incidents in 2020, other areas badly hit were Bedfordshire (319), Derbyshire (154), Dorset (247), Hertfordshire (896), Lancashire (292), Northamptonshire (287), Suffolk (201), Warwickshire (180) and the West Midlands (1626),

The cars most likely to be targeted are Honda Jazz, Toyota Prius, Toyota Auris and Lexus RX and now BMWs .

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WhatsApp ACCOUNT COMPROMISE

The Met Police advise that they have seen a rise in the reporting of WhatsApp accounts being hacked. Criminals are targeting WhatsApp users, taking over accounts and trying to defraud or hack their friends too.

How the hack works

The criminals abuse the legitimate process of transferring a WhatsApp account from one phone to another. They use an already compromised account to message the account owner's contacts. The criminals impersonate the owner of the hacked account and usually claim that they are having problems receiving a six-digit code, and asking if they can send it to the friend instead (or that they have sent it to them by accident) they then request the friend to tell them the code or forward it on to them. The code is the WhatsApp verification code for the new victim - by sending it to their friend they are really sending it to the criminal who is then able to transfer the new victim's WhatsApp account to the criminal's phone.

What follows is normally the criminal impersonating the victim and requesting money from their contacts (usually for an emergency but always on the promise of being repaid) or the criminal will use the compromised account in the same manner as before to hack more and more accounts.

Never share your WhatsApp SMS verification code with others, not even friends or family. **Sharing codes can cause you to lose your account.**

Learn more here: <https://faq.whatsapp.com/general/account-and-profile/stolen-accounts/>

If you're unfortunately tricked into sharing your code and lose access to your WhatsApp account, read the instructions below on how to recover your account.

Please note, WhatsApp is end-to-end encrypted and messages are stored on your device, so someone accessing your account on another device can't read your past conversations. But they will be able to read and reply to any new messages you receive and post in any groups you are a member of.

How to protect yourself

If you receive a suspicious or unexpected message from a friend or "mutual" on WhatsApp (or any social media), **contact them via other means** to check the message is genuine.

Never share any codes or pin numbers.

Set up 2 factor authentication (2FA) It's quick and easy to set up and adds another layer of security to your account. WhatsApp's website <https://faq.whatsapp.com/general/verification/about-two-step-verification> gives a guide on how to turn on 2FA - **open WhatsApp > Settings > Account > Two-step verification > Enable.**

Don't give your login details (email/number & password) to anyone. Only enter your login details on the official website or app.

Be extremely **wary of sharing your phone number** or email address over social media. / Instant messaging.

Always **double check friends requests or “being added” by contacts** and don't accept them from people you don't know.

Always **challenge** requests for your information.

How to recover your account;

Sign into WhatsApp with your phone number and verify your phone number by entering the 6-digit code you receive via SMS..

Once you enter the 6-digit SMS code, the individual using your account is automatically logged out.

You might also be asked to provide a two-step verification code. If you don't know this code, the individual using your account might have enabled two-step verification.

You must wait 7 days before you can sign in without the two-step verification code. Regardless of whether you know this verification code, the other individual was logged out of your account once you entered the 6-digit SMS code.

More information can be found here;

<https://faq.whatsapp.com/general/account-and-profile/stolen-accounts/>

THE NEED to SWIM

The July / August RAM highlighted the fact that Swimming and water safety have been a statutory element of the national curriculum for physical education in England since 1994. All primary schools must provide swimming and water safety lessons in either Key Stage 1 or 2 and every pupil is required to be able to do the following:

- a) Perform safe self-rescue in different water-based situations
- b) Swim competently, confidently and proficiently over a distance of at least 25 metres
- c) Use a range of strokes effectively, for example, front crawl, backstroke and breaststroke.

In response to an enquiry concerning swimming for Primary School children in Hounslow, I received the following reply from Duwane Sinclair, Operations Director, Lampton Leisure, A subsidiary of the Lampton 360 Group.

“Helping children gain the ability to swim 25 metres is one of the key targets that Lampton Leisure sets for the business. Currently we run two programmes that work towards this objective, **School Swimming** and **Swim School.**”

“We run **School Swimming** on behalf of the local schools and since the reopening of the facilities a large proportion of the previous bookers have already resumed taking part in the programme. Due to ongoing concerns with Covid some schools have chosen to wait until the start of the new academic year, however early indications are all previous usage will resume in September. Many of the schools have made enquiries to increase their sessions to catch up on time missed during lockdown. The aim of the syllabus is to have all children swimming 25 metres by the time they leave their primary education.”

“Our internal **Swim School** programme follows the STA teaching programme and starts at pre-school through to stage 10, once children reach stage 6 in our programme they will have reached the ability to swim 25 metres. Social distancing has meant we have been unable to go back to full capacity in our programme, but once these measures have been lifted we will be back to almost 7000 children in the borough learning to swim in our Learn To Swim programme.”

On a more general note, the recent Tokyo Olympics served to emphasise the importance of sport, not just swimming in which there was such great success, but for young people not only the vitally important exercise - at least an hour a day - but also the benefits associated with character building and team sport derived from the various disciplines.

Compiled by D R Blackett

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WILDFLOWER EVENT

Hounslow's Environment, Culture & Customer Services unit recently gave notice that 5000 wildflower plugs were ready to be planted by the Heston Community on the 5 mounds at Heston Park. They were grown from seed,

and to order, but due to the cooler Spring months needed a little more time to be ready for planting out.

The mounds, which have been the target of much criticism following the upgrading of the Park some years ago, were prepared and ready for planting.

The community was encouraged to attend, on Saturday 26 June, and assist staff in planting the plugs.

It is noted that other locations in the borough have also been earmarked for the introduction of wildflowers to assist in making the streetscene more attractive.

HELP & SUPPORT for DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The following notice appeared recently on Hounslow Council's web-site:

On the pitch or at home, violence and abuse is not acceptable.

Anyone can be affected by domestic abuse, and it can harm their physical and emotional well-being. Domestic abuse can be committed by a partner, ex-partner, or family member, and can include:

Threatening behaviour, **Stalking**, **Physical** abuse, **Sexual** abuse, **Economic** abuse, **Psychological** abuse, **Emotional** harm and **Coercive** and controlling behaviour

If you're afraid of a partner, ex-partner or family member, you can contact the Hounslow Domestic & Sexual Violence Outreach Service on 07810 031 780 or the 24hr National Domestic Violence Helpline on 0808 2000 247.

BLOOD DONORS REQUIRED

More people than ever can give blood in the UK as selection rules changed on Monday 14 June to mark World Blood Donor Day.

The NHS is also calling for more black donors because of a rise in demand for some rare blood types that are more common in people of black heritage.

The 19th June marked World Sickle Cell Day and United By Blood hosted special blood donation drives across the country in memory of 21-year-old Evan Nathan Smith, who tragically died in hospital after suffering a Sickle Cell crisis in 2019.

At Evan's inquest Coroner Dr Andrew Walker said his life may have been saved if a blood transfusion had been given when he requested help.

As black donors are ten times more likely to have a blood type needed to treat the 14,000 people in the UK with sickle cell disease, United by Blood and the NHS are appealing for more people from black African and black Caribbean backgrounds to register and become regular blood donors in Evan's memory.

To book an appointment, please call the dedicated booking line on 0300 303 2737 or email customer.services@nhsbt.nhs.uk with your name and telephone number and one of the team will call you back.

FIXED PENALTY NOTICES – a SIGNIFICANT INCREASE

A report produced recently by the Manifesto Club highlighted a significant increase in the use of the Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN) by local authorities over the last twenty years.

Perhaps the most striking indication of the change in the role of the local authority has been the dramatic rise in not only the number but the range of penalties issued by councils. Twenty years ago, local authority fixed penalty notices (FPNs) were relatively rare and applied only for a limited range of offences. Now penalties have grown in number and are also issued for a wider range of offences.

For example, in 1997-8, local authorities issued only 727 FPNs for littering, and 292 for dog fouling. Three years later in 2000-1, they issued 2247 for litter and 1817 for dog fouling. In 2006-7, they issued 52,049 fines for all environmental offences, including 42,058 for litter. Waste receptacle offences (bin fines) went up from 999 in 2006-7, to 2,734 in 2011-12. By 2018, there were 250,676 fines for littering alone.

Today, local authorities issue a larger number of penalties - more than 6 million - for a larger number of offences. Annual penalties have reached: 250,000 for littering, 4.7 million for parking, 1 million for 'moving traffic offences', and 10,000 for 'anti-social behaviour' offences. There are also new penalties for handing out leaflets without a licence, putting items in the wrong bin, and for violating legal orders issued by the local authority. It is of concern that local authorities retain fines income (unlike the police).

In addition to the above, FPNs have also been issued for eyesore gardens, playing the radio without due consideration, early morning cockerel crowing and encouraging (feeding) gatherings of pigeons.

Data collected for the report shows that Covid measures have extended local authorities' enforcement roles. In total, local authorities reported that they issued 1,201 penalties to businesses for violating Covid business restrictions, to a value of £1,076,820. Three London councils (Redbridge, Hounslow, and Newham) issued over £300,000 in fines between them. This included penalties for failing to prevent mingling, for violations of the rule of six, and for people dining in mixed-household groups. In addition, new Covid road closures starting in July 2020 led to 222,702 penalties by the end of the year.

Perhaps the most striking indication of the change in role of the local authority has been the dramatic rise in the number and range of penalties issued by councils. Twenty years ago, local authority fixed penalty notices (FPNs) were relatively rare and applied only for a limited range of offences. Now penalties have grown in number and the range of offences.

FLY - TIPPING

As one travels the borough an unwanted feature of the street scene are the many incidents of fly-tipping where people have illegally deposited bags full of domestic waste and potentially recyclable materials next to street litter bins which are primarily for small scale “on-the-go” litter such as drink cans, lunch and fast food wrappers.

Fly-tipping on streets and green spaces, blights neighbourhoods and the street scene generally, endangers wildlife and impacts on people's pride of place as well as putting added strain on Council services.

In March, Hounslow established a dedicated enforcement team, Special Waste Service, to crack down on those guilty of fly-tipping and since then over 200 Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) have been served. Very often FPNs have been raised as a result of a council officer searching through the contents of a bag - imagine that - to establish identification.

Residents can support the local authority by reporting fly-tipping incidents via the Fix My Street app or via the website and can dispose of bulky waste by booking a slot at a local reuse and recycling centre or by arranging a bulky waste collection.

Hounslow Council advises that it clears 99.9% of fly-tips within 24 hours of notification. The cost? In excess of £1million pa. In the year April 2020 – March 2021, 56,959 bags of rubbish were cleared from the borough's streets. **Fly- tipping can be reported @ [hounslow.gov.uk/report](https://www.hounslow.gov.uk/report)**

Those proven guilty of fly-tipping face an unlimited fine or up to 5years in prison.

Hounslow Council is aware that in some instances some tenants have not been provided with proper provision for waste disposal by their landlord and encourages people who have this problem, or simply don't know how to do the right thing to contact Recycling@hounslow.gov.uk for advice and to help arrange appropriate waste storage.

SUPPORTING BUSINESS RECOVERY

In her latest Newsletter, Seema Malhotra, MP for Feltham & Heston writes “We are at a critical moment in our fight against the virus. We need government to take responsibility, not pass the buck to businesses. Businesses I have spoken to have been looking forward to this time, when the economy fully reopens, restrictions ease and business as usual can resume. That’s why it’s so disappointing to hear businesses now say that this is the worst handled announcement from the government in a year, leaving them unprotected and forced to make public health decisions they do not feel equipped to make.”

“As Shadow Minister for Business and Consumers, I have been working with businesses to listen to their needs and call for economic support to go hand in hand with public health measures. We are only at the start of the recovery. It’s vital that the Government now introduce a flexible plan to deal with debt and help businesses pay back their loans when they are generating profit. From my recent speeches in Parliament on a plan for more affordability of electric vehicles to reducing fraud, you can keep up to date with my work as Shadow Minister for Business on my social media pages and my website www.seemamalhotra.com”

“Last week I also was a keynote Speaker at the Hounslow Chamber of Commerce Regeneration and Recovery conference where I spoke about the 2021/22 economic situation and how we need to work together to support the recovery of jobs and businesses in our local economy. The event focused on education and employment with local colleges plus major local employers all presenting.”



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RECENT EDITIONS of RAM

Recent editions of RAM have highlighted problems associated with:

1. Water Companies illegally dumping raw sewage into rivers. A recent report in the national press drew the reader's attention to the fact that up to 675,000 litres of untreated sewage - can you imagine that? - was discharged by Welsh Water into the Afon Clywedog at Wrexham in September 2018. The incident occurred when Water Company workers were trying to remove a snail colony and a tank overflowed, and 3,000 fish were killed.

At a court hearing at Llandudno, Prosecutor for Natural Resources Wales said it was "the largest "fish-kill" incident in North Wales for several years, a fine of £200,000 was imposed.

2. Litter is a constant problem for many organisations not least of all local authorities and not forgetting farmers. It was therefore worrying to note that in just one week in Bournemouth 123,000 items of litter weighing 1.5 tonnes were deposited on the beach.

This occurred during the May half-term holiday, a third of the rubbish consisted of glass bottles. In addition there were some 47,467 cigarette butts, 32,678 pieces of paper, including receipts and napkins and not forgetting plastic, of which there were 6,578 so called fragments.

This sad and worrying report doesn't end there because researchers also recorded 1677 food sachets, 1530 plastic bottles, 370 toys, 342 wet wipes, and 147 juice cartons.

The survey, carried out using drone technology, which can identify 47 types of litter and high resolution cameras monitoring 18 seafront sites, an overall area of 475,000 sq. metres, was the first of it's type to be carried out in Britain. It followed a trial of the drone technology carried out in the Italian town of Sorrento, in summer 2020.

A local councillor noted that it was the minority - 20% - who failed to bin the offensive items or take them home who were responsible for the problem.

CAVALRY BARRACKS BEAVERS LANE HOUNSLOW TW4 6HD

The following is based on a notice on the Hounslow Council web-site:

An important chapter in Hounslow's history will come to an end this summer as the borough bids farewell to the Irish Guards. The closure of Hounslow Cavalry Barracks, which has stood at the heart of the local community for over two centuries, will see the end of the Army's presence in Hounslow West after 229 years.

The barracks' farewell came in the same week as Armed Forces Day, on Saturday 26 June. The Council marked the national event to commemorate the service of men and women in the Armed Forces currently on duty as well as the service of veterans and cadets. While COVID-19 restrictions have prevented a celebration event taking place, the Council expresses its gratitude to all current and former members of the Armed Forces for their courage and fantastic work serving the country.

In July 2019, the Council agreed a planning brief for the future of the site that sets out the restoration of historic listed buildings, quality new homes, including for social rent and shared ownership, a large public park, sustainable travel, and community use of the site. The Council is currently reviewing the planning application for the site.

The 15 hectare site contains 59 buildings, 14 are Grade II listed, a further 10 locally listed. The majority of the buildings were first built in 1796, with recent additions for residential purposes built between 2007 – 2013.

A Hybrid Planning Application, ref. P/2021/0920 / 00092/A/P20, currently sits with Hounslow Council proposing to develop the Cavalry Barracks Site in phases to include full application for: 801 residential units (C3 Use), 1,652 sqm (GIA) non-residential floorspace (Use Classes E and F), demolition of some buildings and structures; retention, conversion and re-use of some statutory and locally listed buildings, new and modified access, car parking, public space and sports pitches, landscaping and associated works.

Also, an outline application with all matters reserved except access for up to 828 residential dwellings (C3 Use), up to 1,021 sqm (GIA) non-residential floorspace (Use Classes E and F), car parking, public open space and sports pitches, landscaping; car parking and other associated and ancillary works

In summary the proposed development consists of:

Up to 1629 residential units (40% affordable) – apartments and town-houses. Up to 2673sq.m. for commercial and community use. 12717sq.m. of private amenity space to include balconies, terraces and private gardens. 43,320 sq.m. of community open space including provision for two football pitches. Car parking based on 0.3 spaces per residential unit providing 493 spaces, including 10 visitor spaces. 3044 cycle spaces.

To view and comment on the proposals visit www.hounslow.gov.uk/planning and search the planning reference 00092/A/P20.

Note: A local planning authority may accept a 'hybrid' application, that is one that seeks outline planning permission for one part and full planning permission for another part of the same site.

An Application for Outline Planning Permission form is generally used to find out, at an early stage, whether or not a proposal is likely to be approved by the planning authority, before any substantial costs are incurred.

Compiled by D R Blackett

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LONDON'S PROPERTY MARKET

The pandemic appears to have had a significant impact on the property market in London.

Residents' needs appear to have changed as a result of encouragement for people, particularly office workers, to work from home, in many cases premises which for one reason or another are rather cramped. In many instances too the desire for more recreational space within the footprint of the property – bigger gardens. For some time now there has been a trend for many to move from central London in the search for more space.

Data published by the Office for National Statistics analysing property prices for the year to December 2020 highlights the changes compared with the previous year. A trend for people to seek out properties with more

recreational space has resulted in a significant decrease in house prices in local authorities in central London. Westminster, the City of London, Greenwich and Newham all experienced average house prices drop in 2020.

In Westminster prices fell by 4.47% to an average of £941k, in the City of London prices fell by 3.22% with an average of £832.4k, In Greenwich prices fell by 2.17% with a new average of £450k, Newham experienced a fall of 0.48% with an average of £415k

On the other hand in other areas the trend was quite different, in Barnet house prices rose by 9.62% to a new average of £570k, in Richmond prices rose 9.06%, to £692.5k, in Ealing prices were up 8.84% to an average of £506.1k, Merton experienced an increase of 8.51% averaging £510k and in Islington prices were up 8.33% averaging £650k

Other selected local authority areas: Kingston £504k +3.92%, Hillingdon £440k +4.76%, Kensington & Chelsea £1.3mill. +5.40%, Hammersmith & Fulham £775k +6.16%, Hounslow £442.5k +6.63% and Harrow £495k +8.32%.

Thinking of moving?

Compiled by D R Blackett

MESSY LOT

In the aftermath of the Euro 2020 final at Wembley, staff from Veolia, the waste management company were confronted with a massive clean-up task. Cleaners worked through the night in the Trafalgar Square and Soho areas and on Wembley Way to clear-up a trail of bottles and cans etc - nearly 30 tonnes – to ensure that the damage to the street scene was short lived.

The need and benefits of recycling clearly haven't sunk in.

GUNNERSBURY PARK MUSEUM

Gunnerysbury Park Museum reopened on the 3 July. The museum will be open 12.00pm to 4.30pm Thursday to Sunday, with extended opening until 8pm every Friday.

TESCO / HOMEBASE PROPOSED SITE DEVELOPMENTS

The latest is that it seems unlikely that Hounslow Council will pass the planning applications to the Mayor for London before the end of August.

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CONVENT WAY REGENERATION

At the Cabinet meeting on 20 July members approved the proposal to move forward with the regeneration of the Convent Way Estate. The following is a summary of notices on the Council web-site and the Cabinet report.

Background

In January 2020 the Cabinet approved a 20-year Estate Regeneration Programme following an analysis of 171 estates across the Borough identifying six estates which would benefit from regeneration activities. The report then approved progressing the regeneration programme up to ballot stage at Convent Way, with arrangements for engagement with tenants and leaseholders, and a ballot.

The ballot at Convent Way followed 18 months of intense engagement and consultation with over 400 residents on the estate. Working within the constraints of COVID-19 restrictions, the Council's Estate Regeneration team reached out to each and every resident and household on the estate to provide opportunities to engage meaningfully with, and inform, the development of the regeneration proposals.

The ballot was undertaken by Civica Election Services, an independent organisation specialising in delivering voting projects. The voting ran from Monday 5th June to 28th June 2021. The turnout was 85.5%, of which 80.2% voted in favour with only 19.8% voting against the regeneration proposals. Civica has notified the tenants of the result of the ballot.

The Convent Way plans include building approximately 900 new, energy-efficient council homes for residents, with new shops and a community centre, new parks and a revitalisation of existing sports and open spaces.

In the review, Convent Way, built in 1960, was identified as no longer suited to modern living, difficult and costly to maintain and difficult to adapt to meet residents' housing and accessibility needs. The new plans for the Convent Way estate aim to:

Ensure residents continue to play an active role in how their neighbourhood is shaped designed and managed.

Provide new modern community and retail spaces – including high-quality community amenities and shops as well as greater and better use of green spaces and underused play areas across the estate.

Provide opportunities for improved housing conditions for those currently in unsuitable accommodation – for example, where households need home adaptations or to tackle overcrowding.

With the Cabinet's endorsement the Regeneration Team will now progress to design and submit a planning application by March 2022, with a view to

securing a resolution to grant planning consent by August 2022. The application will be a hybrid one with an Outline for the whole estate and a detailed one for the first Phase. This timescale is considered reasonable considering the proposed size of the new estate.

To implement this Ballot Result to Planning stage, a budget of £2.5m is required. This work will be funded from the resources allocated to the Council House Building Programme in the 2021 HRA Business Plan and provides for both the Outline and Detailed application.

Compiled by D R Blackett

MACKAY'S MEMORIES

A new advertisement, Mackay's Memories, appears in this edition of RAM (see below) which features a service providing the opportunity for items to be customised.

A miscellany of items, including Rock Slate, T Shirts, Book Marks, Note Pads, Ceramic Coasters, and Chopping Boards are just a few examples of some of the materials / items on to which a customer can have a "message" or symbol transposed.

Customers should contact the Advertiser regarding any specific requirements,

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SHED SECURITY

Many people fail to secure their sheds and garages and yet the house is locked and bolted and fitted with an alarm. The worrying point being that the garage and shed in many instances is home to highly valuable items which have a significant market value. A few tips to assist you in improving security:

1. Firstly it is handy to ensure your insurance covers the contents of your shed and/or outbuildings from theft.
2. Make sure hinges are not easily removed.
3. Double check the strength of the windows – these could be vulnerable unless they are secured with wire mesh or grills.
4. Hide what you can inside secure lockers.
5. Mark bicycles and secure to a lockable stand within a locked shed.
6. Drape old sheets over items to keep them covered from view.
7. Secure with a padlock with no exposed screws.
8. Consider a battery – operated shed alarm which responds to movement or door contact.
9. If you have been a victim of a break-in/burglary please report to the police on 101 or in an emergency call 999.

HOUNSLOW COUNCIL'S BULKY WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE

Hounslow Council notice:

Hounslow Council's Bulky Waste Collection Service is a cost effective and convenient collection service for the removal of large household items that are too big for normal household waste collection bins (such as broken furniture and fridges). Don't know what to do with your unwanted items? Help us keep Hounslow clean and tidy and book a bulky waste collection.

To use the Bulky Waste service, you must be registered to pay Council Tax in Hounslow and your payment details must match your Council Tax address. Landlords with properties in the borough can also utilise the Bulky Waste service.

Collections are available 5 days per week Monday to Friday with the option to select your preferred collection day (subject to availability) resulting in reduced waiting times and greater flexibility.

The cost of the service is £40 for up to 5 items, with any additional items charged at £8 per item. For landlords the cost is £70 for up to 5 items, with additional items charged at £14.

Residents in receipt of Council Tax Reduction are eligible for the discounted rate of £15 for up to 5 items, with any additional items charged at £3 per item.

Comment: The danger always is that the use of the unlicensed dealer is always attractive. However a problem arises, as is so often the case, if the “waste items” are flytipped and if a search exposes the “owner”, in which case legal action could, indeed should, be taken by the local authority.

Note: a householder could of course share the service and cost with a neighbour.

Additional Comment: I recently moved and utilised this excellent service three times!! Just a note to bear in mind that 1 x bed = 2 items – ie base & mattress. This caught me out on the first booking as to me a bed was “one item”, and I could not find any mention on the booking form explaining this. (Lyn)

The FINAL STEP to FREEDOM

On 12 July the Prime Minister confirmed that, with effect from 19 July the shutters would be lifted, and that England would return to something like normal following a series of lockdowns associated with the Covid pandemic. The measures announced were:

Social distancing/face coverings

No limits on social contact

1m-plus rule removed (except in some settings, such as ports of entry and medical settings)

No legal requirements for face coverings (although their use will still be advised in hospitals, healthcare settings and enclosed, crowded public spaces)

Events/hospitality/businesses

Nightclubs permitted to reopen

Capacity caps on businesses will be lifted

Hospitality businesses will no longer be required to provide table service only

No limits on numbers at weddings and funerals

No restrictions on communal worship and singing

No limits on people attending concerts, theatres or sports events

No legal requirements for Covid certificates for any venue or event

Guidance on working from home will also end.

Limits on visitors to care homes will be removed.

On 16 August most Covid restrictions in schools - including "bubbles"- will come to an end, ahead of the Autumn term.

Symptomatic testing and contact tracing will continue - and it will still remain a legal requirement to self-isolate if you test positive for Covid.

The decision to set aside the legal requirement for face coverings to be worn in certain environments, leaving it to the discretion of the individual was perhaps the most contentious and controversial, particularly in shops / supermarkets and on public transport.

Following on from the Prime Minister's announcement that wef 19 July the wearing of face masks would no longer be mandatory, the Mayor for London, Sadiq Khan has made face masks a condition of carriage for the Tube, bus, tram, DLR, Overground and TfL Rail. Face coverings will also be required in taxis and private hire vehicles by both drivers and passengers unless they are exempt.

This means that, despite the easing of restrictions on 19 July, it will be listed as a condition in a legal agreement between Transport for London (TfL) and its customers.

It is noted that most supermarkets will encourage customers to keep wearing masks. It is reported that Tesco, Sainsbury's, Waitrose and M & S will all recommend the wearing of face coverings in their stores. In addition Waterstones and John Lewis expect customers to keep wearing the mask. Many smaller retail units also have notices requiring the wearing of masks, it is regretted however that many customers are failing to observe such notices.

The UK Government web-site also advises that:

While cases are high and rising, everybody needs to continue to act carefully and remain cautious. This is why we are keeping in place key protections at step 4 from 19 July:

Testing when you have symptoms and targeted asymptomatic testing in education, high risk workplaces and to help people manage their personal risk.

Isolating when positive or when contacted by NHS Test and Trace.

Border quarantine: for all arriving from red list countries and for those people not fully vaccinated arriving from amber list countries.

Cautious guidance for individuals, businesses and the vulnerable whilst prevalence is high including:

Whilst Government is no longer instructing people to work from home if they can, Government would expect and recommend a gradual return over

the summer, Government expects and recommends that people wear face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport;

Being outside or letting fresh air in.

Minimising the number, proximity and duration of social contacts.

Encouraging and supporting businesses and large events to use the NHS Covid Pass in high risk settings. The Government will work with organisations where people are likely to be in close proximity to others outside their household to encourage the use of this. If sufficient measures are not taken to limit infection, the Government will consider mandating certification in certain venues at a later date.

Compiled by D R Blackett

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URBAN FOREST TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

Hounslow Council recently announced that all Hounslow's trees are to be mapped online for residents to explore in a new interactive website. Greentalk, as it known, will help residents connect with and explore the borough's vast range of trees across parks and open spaces.

The borough has more than 350 tree species and over 120,000 trees that are owned and managed by the Council. Hounslow Council plants a tree for every child born and last year alone 4,500 new trees were planted.

The new Greentalk interactive website – the first Council website of its kind - will provide residents with unique in-depth details about their trees including species, age, height, how rare or common the tree is, and who is responsible for pruning, watering and general maintenance.

If residents take a shine to one tree in particular there is even the opportunity to adopt it, after all, our trees play an enormous role in keeping our planet healthy by helping to reverse the effects of climate change.

The interactive map allows residents to explore the greenest nature walks nearby or create a route from any starting point. The website will soon feature opportunities for residents to leave comments or 'likes' and send feedback to the council.

Hounslow Council has just launched phase one, mapping trees, green spaces and planting plans alongside tools for users to explore them, but this is just the start of an ambitious programme that will see these features rolling out soon:

Liking and commenting on individual trees, **Feedback** to tree managers, **Adoption** of trees by residents, **Hot weather** watering prompts. **Neighbourhood** community group support, **Opportunities** for environmental volunteering.

Greentalk is a tool that helps land managers combat climate change.

Comment: This initiative together with the planting of some 4,500 trees in 2020. is welcomed. However, there is an underlying need for there to be an active programme of tree husbandry across the borough. This includes the removal of dead trees, particularly in local roads and replacements introduced; this does not appear to be on the "to do list".

To visit Hounslow Greentalk and to get involved visit:

<https://hounslow.greentalk.io/>

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THE LONG WAIT?

Recently published figures - as at April 2021 - indicate huge differences amongst London's local authorities regarding waiting lists for Council

accommodation and the length of time that applicants have to wait, often in excess of 10 years, particularly for 4 / 5 bed units.

The largest waiting lists occur In Lambeth with a waiting list of 36018, in Newham 32062, Greenwich 23893, Tower Hamlets 20974, Southwark 15239, Islington 14530, Haringey 11719, Wandsworth 11538, Ealing 10910, Lewisham 9944.

Selectively, others are Harrow 4004, Hillingdon 2738, Hounslow 3338, Hammersmith & Fulham 2825, Kensington & Chelsea 3110, Kingston 4004 and Richmond 4893.

In Hounslow the average length time a person spends on the waiting list is for 1 or 2 bedrooms more than 2years, for 3 bedroom more than 4years and 4 or more bedrooms over 5years.

Havering was the shortest list, just 2081, but had an average wait of 7 years. In Hillingdon a 3 year wait, Kensington & Chelsea 5/6 years (excl. the impact of (Grenfell) and Richmond 4/5 years.

POLICE MESSAGE

The following message was circulated on 12 July following the European Cup Final the previous evening. The underlying message applies irrespective of date or occasion

Another night of misery has hit us after losing the European Cup Final and time to rethink where it all went wrong and what we could have done better.

The same with all of us when we are a victim of crime we think why me, why did it happen to me then we get over the disappointment in time and think what could I do. The important thing is that we learn from our mistakes and keep our defences up and take guard, things like closing windows and doors and locking them when we go out or ensuring we alarm the car and check the car doors are locked and windows closed. Not forgetting the garage and garden shed.

Other things that can help, for example our neighbours looking out for us and reporting things that they see or are unsure about. People who commit crimes don't wear stripped black and white shirts and carry a bag marked swag and a burglar mask, they may be acting in a strange manner like looking around a car or outside a property or spending a lot of time in one place and hiding their faces. If you are unsure of something please report it to the police in order that we can look into it and deal with it.

However, the most important thing is to learn from mistakes and build a better and stronger team the way we can do this is building a sense of community and trust in our neighbours. If you think people would benefit from advice please let us know. We can all play a better part in our

community please share the importance by joining Owl Neighbourhood Watch. If you need to reply to this message, please email: c742518@met.police.uk

The EXPORT of PLASTIC WASTE

In 2020 about 40% of the UK's plastic waste exports were sent to Turkey, however it was found that much of it was dumped in landfill and/or burnt and not recycled.

The July / Aug edition of RAM reported that "Turkey had now stopped importing plastic waste". In fact the ban on imported plastic waste began on 2 July. However, a few days later the Turkish Government went back on that decision following discussions with country's plastic industry.

Not surprisingly campaigners are concerned that the lifting of the ban could result in British plastic waste intended for recycling again being shipped to Turkey and as before end up being dumped or burnt. Greenpeace reports that Turkey is "Europe's largest waste dumpster" with some 240 lorry loads arriving daily.

Megan Randles, political campaigner at Greenpeace UK is reported as saying "The UK Government must even more urgently ban all plastic waste exports and stop our plastic impacting other countries". The top 3 countries for plastic waste exports from Britain are Turkey, the Netherlands and Poland.

HAMMERSMITH BRIDGE

The 134 year-old Grade II listed bridge re-opened on 17 July to pedestrians and cyclists, in addition boats will be allowed to pass under the bridge again. The bridge was closed to road traffic in April 2019 and fully closed in August 2020 when cracks in the pedestals worsened during a heatwave.

Engineers have given the go-ahead after completing safety investigations which include the benefits of a system to control the structures' temperature. Local authorities on either side of the river said they were pleased that it was safe to partially re-open.

Some 12,000 pedestrians and 4,000 cyclists used it each day before the closure.

The long-term future of the bridge, and who should pay for repairs or replacement, remains a controversial issue.

It is reported that consideration is being given to a double-decker engineering solution developed by world-leading architects Foster + Partners and bridge engineers COWI which would see a temporary framework laid over the existing decking, saving £40m while potentially cutting three years off the current timetable. The proposal would also allow sections of the bridge to be removed and taken downstream by barge and repaired off-site

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PLANNING APPLICATION - QUATTRO LAND FORMING PART OF FORMER WESTERN INTERNATIONAL MARKET SOUTHALL LANE.

Planning Ref. P/2020/2769 & 01032/E/P48

At the July Planning Committee meeting members agreed to defer a decision on this application pending a definition of acceptable or unacceptable levels of dust to be established and for a monitoring regime to be agreed.

Erection of construction and demolition waste recycling facility, concrete batching plant and associated weighbridge, weighbridge office, site office and welfare facilities, storage bays, substation, car and HGV parking and other ancillary structures, and use of land for fleet parking (works applied for retrospectively). Consent sought for temporary period ending 21 December 2027.

CRANFORD PARK the LATEST NEWS

Things are changing for the better in Cranford Park. In fact it is on the cusp of the biggest enhancement in a generation. A new northern cycling/walking path was completed from Watersplash Lane to St

Dunstan's subway in April. Eventually, a similar path will circle the whole park, allowing mud-free walking, running and cycling. Undergrowth clearance near the cobbled courtyard area has revealed long neglected rhododendrons in the old pleasure garden. Dead trees have been felled in the ancient woodland, allowing more sunlight to enter and encouraging the bluebells. Volunteers have been removing ivy and undergrowth from the ha-ha (one of several 18th century features and the longest of its kind in Greater London) to be clearly viewed.

Otherwise, much of the work connected with the park's National Lottery Heritage Fund Project has been 'behind the scenes'. I refer to surveys (drainage, electricity supply, dry rot, bats, to name a few), as well as developing architectural drawings and choosing appropriate materials for the historic site. A reminder: Hillingdon Council's Round 2 Bid to the NLHF was successful in June 2020. £2.28 million was awarded towards a total project costing £3.47m (for the park and buildings). During the autumn, contractors will begin on-site work that includes repairs to the Grade 2 Listed stable block. This will house a visitor centre, office and space to let for community groups. A café will be built on the footprint of Cranford House. It will also permit access to the vaulted cellars (also Grade 2 Listed) for the first time since the house was demolished in 1945.

Two new playgrounds will be other features, along with interpretation of the park's historical and natural highlights. An activity plan will be drawn up too, with something to interest the whole community. The Cranford Park Friends is playing an important part in the proceedings. The volunteer group has been working towards this enhancement project for nearly ten years. Though the new park facilities will not be ready until later in 2022, some exciting volunteering opportunities are coming up. A community archaeological dig will take place during the autumn. Work on the park's community orchard will also step up. This beautiful resource reflects this area's long heritage of fruit growing.

More details about the Cranford Park project and events can be seen at www.cranfordparkfriends.org.

Bob Barton, Secretary – Cranford Park Friends

FALLING BEHIND

Recently published statistics confirm that as the vaccine roll-out continues across the country, London has fallen well behind the rest of the country. In fact of the 20 local authorities in the UK with the lowest percentage of

those double jabbed, 18 were in London. The highest uptake in the UK so far is the Outer Hebrides with 85%; the highest in London are Bromley and Bexley with 58%.

In London the 10 authorities with the lowest % double jab take up: Tower Hamlets 29.3, Hackney & the City of London 33.1, Newham 33.6, Islington 33.7, Hammersmith & Fulham 34.3, Lambeth 35.6, Southwark and Westminster 36.1, Camden and Wandsworth 36.9.

Other selected local authorities: Kensington & Chelsea 38.5, Ealing 40.7, Hounslow 42.9, Kingston 48.2, Hillingdon 49.3, Harrow 51, Richmond 53.

As at the 15 August , in the UK 89.4% of those eligible had had the 1st dose and 76.7% the 2nd. In Hounslow 67.8% had had the 1st and 55.9% the 2nd.

These figures will obviously change as we move on with the vaccination programme with special drop - ins being set up and the younger age groups taking advantage of the vaccination opportunity. However they do serve to illustrate that residents in some London's boroughs have elected not to take the opportunity to be vaccinated.

THE PLOUGH INN

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SOME CAUTION PREFERRED

A most recent survey carried out by the Office for National Statistics produced some interesting results.

A large majority of adults continued to feel that wearing face coverings (90%) and social distancing from others not in their household, childcare or support bubble are important (88%) in slowing the spread of COVID-19.

More than half (57%) of adults in Great Britain, surveyed between 7 and 11 July 2021, said they are worried about the plan to remove legal restrictions. This includes one-fifth (20%) who are very worried.

The percentage that believe normal life is a year or more away was 28%, slightly more than the 25% who believed this a year ago, between 8 and 12 July 2020, but down from the peak of 41% who thought so between 16 and 20 September 2020. Over half (54%) of adults said they are looking forward to going on holiday abroad when coronavirus rules end.

The easing of restrictions differs between countries. In England, face coverings will no longer be required by law, but will be required on public transport in London and other parts of the country as a condition of travel.

HEATHROW UPDATE

Heathrow passenger numbers are still nearly 90% down on pre-pandemic 2019 passenger numbers, and much lower than EU rivals.

European countries that have supported their aviation sectors throughout the pandemic are seeing the fastest growth as they emerge from the pandemic. Both Schiphol and Frankfurt have surpassed their 2019 cargo volumes, growing by 14% and 9% respectively compared to 2019, whereas cargo tonnage at Heathrow, the UK's biggest port is still down 16%. Almost all air cargo is carried in the hold of passenger planes, and UK travel restrictions are limiting trade compared to our EU rivals. Always subject to announcements on the easing of travel.

The closure of Britain's transatlantic links is costing the UK economy at least £23 million a day. Passenger traffic from Heathrow to the US is down by around 80%, whereas in the EU, which has reopened unilaterally with the US has seen traffic recover to only around 40% down. Britain's long held competitive advantage on transatlantic trade is at risk if borders remain closed.

Getting Britain trading again with the rest of the world is critical to the Government's plans for a Global Britain post-Brexit. Heathrow alone has the potential to facilitate a £204 billion trade bonanza benefitting British businesses in every corner of the country, creating opportunities for the entire aviation sector and strengthening the UK's trade network - but only if Ministers move to reopen trade as soon as possible.

Flight movements

Last month we outlined how we expected to see between 400-860 flight movements during July, depending on what action the government took to ease Covid restrictions on 19 July. The lowest daily number of flights in the month was 430 (6 July) and the highest was 624 (25 July), falling well below our upper forecast levels. Our forecast for August ranges between 510-800 flight movements a day, with ongoing daily variation as we have seen throughout the pandemic and a steady build through the month as various restrictions are lifted and airline and consumer confidence grows.

Runway operations

As mentioned in our previous updates, we returned to dual runway operations on 5 July, alternating at 15:00 as usual when we are on westerly operations to provide local communities with respite.

Since 2 August and until 14 August we are changing to single runway operations overnight from 20:00, landing on and taking off from the southern runway to accommodate essential surface repair works to our northern runway. These works coincide with our scheduled night-time runway alternation pattern which specifies the southern runway during this period. We will resume dual runway operations each morning at 06:00 in line with our normal published alternation pattern.

The works will not take place if there is a risk of low visibility the following morning, so the decision to proceed with the works will be made on a daily basis.

Quiet please

It is noted that Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab MP has welcomed the decision that the loudest aircraft movements will be banned from operating overnight at Heathrow from October. Mr Raab said it was an important win, and that residents have repeatedly raised the issue of night flights at Heathrow with him over recent years and the decision will make a real difference.

Why Heathrow jobs matter

A new report from Airports UK, shows how critical aviation jobs are to the UK. On a conservative basis the aviation industry supports some 536,000 jobs. The report shows that 116,000 jobs in London depend on aviation. This includes, for example, 8,565 jobs in Brentford & Isleworth, Feltham & Heston 7,553, Hayes & Harlington 6346, Twickenham 3797 and Ealing & Southall 3732.



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PAULA REGO AT HOGARTH'S HOUSE

Hogarth's House is hosting a special exhibition by the artist Paula Rego, recently featured on BBC TV, described in The Times as 'Britain's Greatest Female Artist'. The free entry exhibition will run from July 20 to November 26, 2021. Paula Rego was honoured with a Damehood in 2020, and is recognised as one of the most significant artists of her time, whose imaginative power has played a key role in redefining the possibilities of figurative art and in particular the representation of women. The exhibition will include a range of 42 of her works throughout her career and explore her admiration for Hogarth's work and its influence on her own. Hogarth has always been one of Dame Paula's favourite artists and has been a big influence on her work.

The exhibition is open Tuesday - Sunday from 12:00pm - 5:00pm. There is no need to book, just turn up. **Hogarth's House, Hogarth Lane, Great West Road, W4 2QN**

TAKE CARE TAKE FIVE

Hounslow Council posted the following notice in July:

This week many of the restrictions which were in place during the Government's road map out of lockdown were lifted. This included social-distancing rules and restrictions around events and travel.

The Government has asked everyone to take responsibility for their own risks, and those of others, it's important we all understand what that means and how to keep ourselves and each other safe, beyond social distancing.

Hounslow Council will be producing a new weekly bulletin in place of our former COVID-19 updates to help you access all the support the Council, our partners and wider community have to offer as we come out of lockdown around these 5 key areas:

Taking care of yourself and others through COVID-19 (including vaccine and testing updates)

Taking care of your mental health Taking care of your physical health

Taking care of your employment skills Taking care of your finances

You are invited to visit: hounslow.gov.uk/takecare

The 20mph SPEED LIMIT

The continuing implementation of the 20mph speed limit has resulted in it being in force on nearly a third of the country's roads. In London more than 50% of roads are restricted to the 20mph limit. Decisions by Cornwall and Cambridgeshire to expand 20mph schemes has resulted in more than 21million living in areas with 20mph schemes.

Critics of the speed limit argue that such a scheme does not make sense and that there is no evidence that it will reduce serious accidents. Brian Gregory, Alliance of British Drivers argues that a lower speed might in fact reduce road safety. He said "If you are driving at 20mph you are focusing on the speedometer and not looking out of the window." There is evidence to suggest that that when you focus on the speedometer your peripheral vision gets worse, which is what you need if you are trying to avoid accidents."

A 20mph limit, it is argued, may result in a false perception of speed and that it is not a dangerous speed to drive at and indeed to exceed. Campaigners have argued that the 20mph could reduce casualties by a sixth or 215 in Westminster resulting in a saving to the taxpayer of £11.8mill. a year.

The UN is also promoting 20mph limits as the international default for streets "where people walk, live and play". Department for Transport sources have commented that there are no plans to review national speed limits for England, exemplifying the simplicity of the current system.

The problem is that some drivers, whilst they may be aware of the 20mph limit ,become frustrated and impatient by the driver immediately ahead of them, who is observing the limit, overtake putting the lives of other drivers and indeed pedestrians at risk. Certainly in many of the side roads where 20mph has been introduced there is a noticeable refusal to observe the limit. Such are the hectic lives we lead.

D R Blackett

A MESSAGE from HOUNSLOW'S DIRECTOR of PUBLIC HEALTH

With the recent launch (see p 36) of our new Take Care, Take 5 campaign to provide on-going information and support to residents and businesses, Kelly O'Neill, Hounslow's Director of Public Health, has given advice to residents

"The easing of lockdown restrictions from 19th July shows significant progress has been made. While this is good news for our communities, businesses and economy, I want everyone to understand that it does not mean the pandemic is over. We are a long way from that. However, we now have to learn to live with COVID-19.

"Infection numbers in the borough are high, at about 250 per 100,000 people who live in Hounslow. This means that 700 people tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 7 days. This number is increasing and will continue to do so unless we are cautious.

"Residents and businesses in the borough have listened and followed the rules. Our workplaces are safer, and as restrictions ease while infection numbers increase, I ask you to be very cautious and continue enforcing COVID-secure measures; to maintain regular testing, social distancing, hand washing, and wearing masks whilst we are seeing this further spike in cases. This all reduces the risk of outbreaks. Residents and employees will be safer, and this help maintain business continuity.

"If you have questions, ask someone who knows the answer. Ask your GP. Ask me. Ask my team. You can contact me via publichealth@hounslow.gov.uk"

As a Borough now is the time for us all to take care of ourselves and others and follow the premises specific guidance. Our new campaign, 'Take Care, Take 5', provides information about vaccination and community testing, but it also gives advice about ways to look after your mental and physical health as well as taking care of your finances and employment skills. Visit: www.hounslow.gov.uk/takecare.

HOUNSLOW LIBRARY RE-OPENS

After having been closed for more than a year Hounslow House Library re-opened on 26 July, the opening times are

- Monday and Thursday – 9.30am - 8.00pm
- Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday – 9.30am - 5.30pm
- Sunday – 11.00am-4.00pm (from Sunday, 8 August 2021)

Please note that to ensure that all residents feel safe returning to libraries, hand sanitisation stations will remain throughout the building, public computer capacity has been reduced to allow for customers to socially distance, and there will be no newspapers or magazines available

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PLANNING APPLICATION - NEW HESTON ROAD

Heston Residents' Association has objected to this application for the following reasons:

- 1.The redevelopment of numbers 44 - 80 can be classed as development on a brownfield site, however, all of the development that is proposed to the rear of the existing houses is development on a greenfield site. This would be in conflict with the 9th June 2010 law change to protect green open spaces.
- 2.LBH must investigate the existence of Covenants on any or all of these existing properties prohibiting development on the rear gardens as proposed. If such covenants are present then the proposed development would be unlawful.
- 3.Proposed Blocks B and F are to be 8 storeys in height, this is in conflict with the context and character of the area, and thus conflicts with the Local Plan. It should be noted that the new flats on the opposite side of the road are just 4 storeys high.
- 4.It is proposed to demolish 8 pairs of semi-detached properties and 3 detached properties and replace them with totally out of character terraced ones.
- 5.The new proposed houses are a very poor design, especially the roofs and the centre valley box gutters which have proved ineffective, unreliable and expensive to maintain/replace in the past.

PROPOSED CONTROLLED PARKING ZONE

Hounslow Council's Traffic, Transport & Parking Dept. has recently written to householders in Chrislea Close, Devon Way, Dorset Way, Memorial Close, New Heston Road, North Hyde Lane (part of), The Croft, The

Warren, Walnut Tree Road and Westbrook Road regarding a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ) consultation.

The consultation did include Banks Yard and Hunting Place but a CPZ would not include these roads.

This follows complaints received concerning “indiscriminate and obstructive parking” that has been occurring in Chrislea Close and adjacent roads. “It is reported that the additional demand for parking following the construction of new developments along with visitors to the Leisure Centre has increased difficulties for some local residents and their visitors”. In addition to such complaints, on-street observations have shown a high density of parking in the other roads mentioned.

Responding to the complaints / observations, the Council held a preliminary consultation with local residents *regarding the possible* introduction of a CPZ seeking resident’s views to determine the support and the extent of such support. The preliminary consultation – both online and written – closed on 20 August.

The results will be reported to local ward Councillors for consideration which will be fed back to local residents. If it transpires that there is general agreement for the introduction of a CPZ and Councillors approve, further detailed design consultation will be undertaken regarding the possible scheme design (parking bay locations etc) and operational times.

Also to be borne in mind is the proposed residential development on New Heston Road.

Based on a letter directed to residents of the affected roads.

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