



September 2018

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**7.30 pm, Thursday 18th October 2018
at Christ Church, Redford Way, Uxbridge**

It is a privilege to have as our Speaker Richard Sumray, Chairman of the Hillingdon Hospitals' NHS Foundation Trust.

He will tell us about the current challenges and issues facing Hillingdon Hospital and about the project for expansion of the A & E Department, which is already in hand. There is also a possible future partnership between the Hospital and Brunel University, which sounds very exciting. There will be time for discussion and questions.

This part of our Meeting will conclude around 8.30 p.m., when we shall have a 'coffee break'. We shall resume at 8.45 p.m. We have reserved a half hour slot for the WICKES/HALFORDS development proposal – see later in this Newsletter. At the time of writing, we do not have a Planning Committee date, but this Meeting could give residents the opportunity for update, to take stock and plan future action.

At 9.15 we shall carry out the business of the AGM, including receipt of financial and other reports and the appointment of Officers.



As well as the national fly past and other events, a parade was held in Uxbridge on 14 June to mark the 100th anniversary of the RAF. This is very appropriate, as Uxbridge is the home of the Command Bunker and the splendid new Battle of Britain Visitor Centre, of which we can all be proud. Please visit.

Wickes / Halfords

The proposal by Canada Life and the Watkins Jones Group to develop the existing site has given rise to immense public opposition. The proposal is for the demolition of the two Stores and the erection of three tower blocks (one of 12 storeys) to provide 264 self-contained units. No car parking would be provided for residents, except disabled spaces. Residents have lodged six Petitions with Hillingdon Council:-

- Lancaster, Mead and Press Roads
102 signatures
- Wilmar Close 35 signatures
- Laburnum Court 37 signatures
- Kent Close 26 signatures
- Uxbridge Common 58 signatures
- Pages Lane & Princes Mansions
43 signatures

NURA has lodged a detailed Objection with the Council, dealing with the valuable function provided by the existing retail uses, the adverse effect and overshadowing of nearby housing and the relevant Planning Policy which states that high rise development ‘.... only be considered in areas whose character would not be affected adversely by scale, mass or bulk of tall or large buildings.’

On the key issue of the absence of parking provision, we comment:

‘The assumption that RtL (units to let) can be car free within PTAL 5&6 locations may be just credible for inner city London sites, but not at London’s perimeter where car ownership is likely to be the norm (with easy access to Motorways) and where, in the light of this, there is potential, even likely, abuse of the limited kerbside parking by future occupiers.

While a reduced standard below 1 on-site space per unit can be argued because of the site’s proximity to public transport, the site is elevated above Harefield Road, so there is an obvious option by excavation to provide a parking deck accessed at road level. Indeed, earlier renditions of the scheme did indicate some 55 spaces.

NURA asserts that car parking should be provided for each unit, made possible by reducing the number of units. This will also bring the development down to a scale compatible with the site’s transitional location between the Town Centre and the housing area to the North.

We consider that nothing in the scheme suggests a material benefit to the existing community – rather the converse. It is a poorly conceived and insensitive proposal, which must be resisted as incompatible with local residential amenity’.

HS2 Update

HS2 Limited have set up a Hillingdon Traffic Working Group consisting of themselves, Contractors, LBH Officers and Residents Associations, including ourselves. Disruption is already evident, with road closures and more planned. The ‘big dig’ is not expected to start until June 2019. This will create the deep Cophall Cutting. This is an extract from the Newsletter of the Hillingdon Against HS2 Campaign Group: Once construction work gets underway, we are likely to be subjected to around 550 HGV lorry movements per day for months on end, through the Ickenham area, heading for Swakeleys Roundabout. We have long argued that our road networks will not be able to support this, but no real alternatives have been found. “Haul roads” have been ruled out and HS2 Limited, with the support of TFL (but not LBH or ourselves) have opted for the signalisation of Swakeleys Roundabout as a solution. Whilst we agree that such improvements will be a benefit and a legacy from the HS2 project, we don’t believe it will solve the construction traffic problems.’

4 Toucan (pedestrian + cyclists) crossings will be installed together with shared use of footways/ cycleways along with lane changes. After public consultation, the signalisation works may start early in the New Year.

We have recently learned that there is no local electricity capacity to supply enough power for the giant TBMs (Tunnel Boring Machines). So a cable will have to be laid

from North Harrow to Ickenham, potentially along the tube line and /or by forming 1-metre deep trench openings in the roads along its length this is known as 'spreading the misery'.

Uxbridge Police Station

There has been no response from MOPAC to Hillingdon Council's offer to keep the 'front desk' open. The Police Station currently only continues in use as a patrol base.

Uxbridge Auto Show

4,000 people came – a little down on 2017, probably due to the extreme heat. The Rotary Club still hope to make around £15,000 for charity. Over the past 30 years or so they have raised £600,000 for charity, which is a magnificent result.



The Drought in Uxbridge 2018 – Ann Rix

As I write on 7th August the brown, dried grass on Uxbridge Common has just gained a tinge of green following the half inch of rain in late July. This was the only rain since the end of May.

Common Pond has a very low water level with an unpleasant surface scum and unwanted weed growth. However Water Lilies are thriving. The resident Mallards and Moorhens have moved elsewhere.

Butterfly numbers in the UK have fallen steadily for several years. We seem to have plenty of Large Whites here but fewer Peacocks and Red Admirals. Even my Buddleia has little to show. Rainfall is needed for plants to produce pollen for bees and nectar for the butterflies but also good, green leaves for egg laying and caterpillar food later. Without this we can expect butterfly numbers to continue to fall in 2019.

Farmers have reported low yields of grains this year due to the drought. Seed eating birds should find adequate food in the Winter but, by Spring, reserves will be low. A lack of caterpillars for nesting chicks will affect breeding populations. Autumn migrant birds may find less food including our regular Fieldfares that reach the Common in the Winter.

Eventually records will be published and compared with 1976 as the driest year since when...?

FAIRGROUND ON UXBRIDGE COMMON - SHOWING SIGNS OF DROUGHT!



Uxbridge and West Drayton Hub

The Hillingdon CCG are well advanced in getting approval for the building of a local health service 'Hub' on the site of the existing Central Uxbridge Surgery. This requires provision of suitable temporary accommodation for the Surgery during building. The CCG have asked Hillingdon Council for help in identifying this. As soon as we have details of the Hub scheme and the preferred site for temporary accommodation, we will call a Special Meeting of residents. Caroline Morison, the Chief Operating Officer of the CCG, has agreed to come and speak to us.

NURA Website

Our Website is now live - northuxbridgeresidents.org

We will seek feedback from you at the AGM and then discuss how we intend to use it. In the meantime, we repeat our request to residents to let us know your e-mail addresses. Many of you have already done so. Please write to our gmail address. We would use this only to update you on local issues/news flashes, etc., e.g. the date of a significant Planning Committee Meeting.

Road Representatives

One of NURA's strengths is having 'people on the ground'. Please let Sheelagh know if you are willing to act as a road rep - to act as our 'eyes and ears', deliver Newsletters and subscription envelopes'.

Surgeries

Our Uxbridge North Ward Councillors hold regular surgeries on the first Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to midday in Uxbridge Library (5th floor). No appointment needed. Our MP holds a surgery, but an appointment is needed.

NURA Officers

Chairman: Paul Johnson

Subscription Secretary: Sheelagh Butler

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Peter Manley

e-mail: northuxbridgeresidents@gmail.com

This Newsletter is published by NURA, designed by Rob Shepherd and sponsored by Cameron Estate Agents, Uxbridge.



cameron-group.co.uk

