



NURA NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2020

Delivery Arrangements

Will our Road Representatives please note that we have decided again – as the COVID 19 situation is worsening – to employ a commercial firm to deliver the Newsletter. Please bear with us! We hope to be able to return to Road Representative deliveries when some form of ‘normality’ returns.

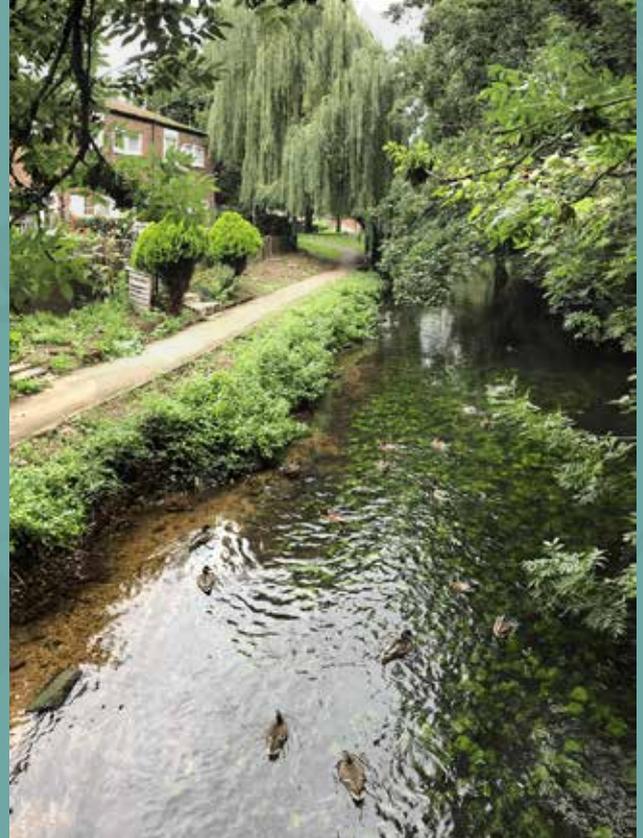
Guild Living Proposals Wickes / Halfords Site

We have met Guild Living representatives on three occasions and had several exchanges of correspondence/information. This note is an update on the progress so far, pending the receipt of the Planning Application. Guild have taken on board some of our concerns by:

- Reducing the height of one 8 storey block to 7.
- Producing a report for us to check whether, by excavation, it is possible to start the build from the level of Harefield Road.
- Stepping back the top floors of the two tallest blocks to reduce visual impact
- Producing a design which reflects the transition between the Town Centre and the North Uxbridge residential area.

Our two main concerns are the height of the tower blocks and that a large proportion of occupants could be ‘out of Borough’. Guild are planning measures aimed to attract Hillingdon residents, but this may not prevent increased pressure on the Borough’s health and day care services. This impact could be mitigated to some extent by the later-life provision being made by Guild Living within the complex and the benefit to residents of easy access to the Town Centre and its shopping and other facilities.

Taking a view on this proposal involves a ‘trade-off’ between benefits and disbenefits. The Planning Application is to be submitted before the end of September. When we have considered it, we will request further discussions with Guild. In the light of that, we will e-mail all residents on our mailing list with our assessment of the Development Proposal before it goes to the Planning Committee. If you wish to see this, **PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE ON OUR MAILING LIST.**



Frays River behind Braybourne Close

ePetitions

In the current situation it is not possible to collect signatures to a paper Petition on any matter residents wish to raise with the Council. Instead, it is necessary to use the ePetition procedure:

- The organiser should go to www.hillingdon.gov.uk/planning.
- Create an ePetitions account (this is different from your Hillingdon Council Services account).
- NURA will be happy to assist in drawing up the wording/'header' of the Petition.
- Supporters should search ePetitions and sign the Petition.

Hillingdon Hospital Re-Build

NURA has been in conversation with the Officers responsible for the planning and management of this scheme. Paul Johnson has met them and reports as follows:-

'The Design Team should be fully in post by mid- September. Pre-planning discussions will then take place. The aim is to submit a Planning Application by April 2021. As to the services provided now at the Hospital, the assurance is that they will all continue to be provided during the build. I made the point that there will be a degree of scepticism about this. However, we are impressed by what/whom we have seen so far. Also, I said that pre-COVID car parking had always been a big problem for residents: they must not skimp on car parking.'

NURA has been assured that both these issues are being addressed. The Hospital will send out its first Re-Development Newsletter soon following the recent Public Consultation. You can sign up for this on www.thh.nhs.uk/redevelopment

Central Uxbridge Surgery Re-location

The Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (CNWL) own the present Central Uxbridge Surgery site in George Street. CNWL have taken the head lease of Beaufort House in Cricket Field Road, Uxbridge, which is a five- storey building (see picture). At present there is a mix of business occupiers in this large property, but CNWL also currently provide some health services here. As the various business users vacate, the Primary Services will relocate here into refitted and refurbished accommodation. The earliest this could happen is March 2022. When all the occupiers of the present Central Uxbridge Surgery have been re-located, CNWL will sell the George Street site.



Lockdown

At the time of writing, restrictions are being tightened. For the latest advice from the Government and the Council, go to www.hillingdon.gov.uk/coronavirus

An expression one hears these days is ‘stir crazy.....!’ If you have the means of supporting yourself and your family during any level of lockdown, then life is tolerable. It is a different story for those who don’t. All we can do is keep an eye out for our neighbours and make sure that the Hillingdon Food Bank is constantly replenished. As we are in this for the long haul, it is important to stay positive, e.g. to value the social and economic benefits of home working. Also, do you know more people in your street than you did this time last year? If so, that will be a lasting benefit: one day we can build on that.

HS2

The next work which will affect us is the ‘straightening’ of Harvil Road. Instead of the road ‘wiggling’ onto the narrow railway bridge, it will go straight on over a new bridge over the Chiltern Railway, over the tunnel portal and then descend on embankment. This embankment will be **7 metres** above the existing road level. For train buffs, when the first HST flies out of the tunnel onto the Colne Valley Viaduct (many years from now.....) it will be a fine sight. Until then, for the rest of us, it will be disruption and inconvenience. Our representatives on the HS2 Liaison Group will do their best to see this is kept to a minimum.

Master Brewer

The Mayor has approved plans for a large housing development on this site at Hillingdon Circus: over 500 units, with many tower blocks – one of 11 storeys. Before the Decision Notice was issued, the Secretary of State for Housing Communities and Local Government issued a Holding Notice. This will enable him to decide whether to ‘call in’ the Application and appoint an Inspector to prepare a report for his decision. Our MP, Boris Johnson, has supported the residents on this during the year, together with David Simmonds – MP for Ruislip/Northwood. We three Residents Associations have combined to make the case against this over-development. We have now written to the Secretary of State asking him to call in the Application.

White Paper

The Government is consulting by White Paper on a politically radical proposal to speed up the current planning system. The primary objective is to build more homes and to achieve this by speeding up the local planning process. Instead, land would be classified into three zones, with planning permission awarded automatically if proposals meet certain criteria – broadly covering design and the provision of infrastructure. The zones are GROWTH/RENEWAL/PROTECTED. Local people would then have a much-reduced chance to comment on planning proposals. If the Application met the criteria for the relevant ‘zone’, it would receive automatic approval. NURA’s central aim is to empower the local community and give it a voice. The White Paper proposals would strip that away – all in the name of building more homes! In common with almost all Councils and representational bodies, we shall indicate our total opposition.

Naturewatch by Ann Rix

Hillingdon is looking green again after the wettest August since I began recording in 1993. We had 5 inches of rain half an inch more than the previous high in 2004.

In July we put our moth trap in the garden. Moths are attracted by the light and settle below it on egg boxes. We were delighted to find an Elephant Hawkmoth. Their larvae feed on Rosebay Willow Herb and Fuchsia in gardens. Several Jersey Tiger moths arrived too. These were restricted to Dorset and the south coast but are spreading rapidly northwards. These are large beautiful moths with striped upper wings and bright orange under wings. They just stay overnight!



Green Woodpeckers have been seen on our lawns – pecking for ants!

Records of Stag beetles are collected by London Wildlife Trust every year. Please let me know if you have seen any this year.

NURA Admin

As our Autumn AGM has been postponed, the Committee has confirmed the existing Officers in post until an AGM can be held. We have been pleased to receive offers to serve as Road Representatives. However, we still have vacancies in:

- Park Road
- Montague Road
- Hyde House and Fulmer House (126-128 Park Road)
- Laurel Court, Morris Avenue & Thomas Drive area
- Itea Court, Adina Court and Maple Court
- Hyacinth and Cowslip
- Northway, Brookside and Honeycroft

Reminder

If you would like immediate updates, please let us have your e-mail address. We will only use this for NURA Newsletters/updates on current issues.

NURA Officers

Chairman	Subscription Secretary	Secretary	Treasurer
Paul Johnson	Sheelagh Butler	Mandeep Jandu	Sushma Chouhan-Kleber

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This Newsletter is published by NURA, designed by [Rob Shepherd](#) and sponsored by [Cameron Estate Agents](#), Uxbridge.



Sunflowers over 3 metres high in a Belmont Road front garden

Cameron