



NURA NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2021

Emerging from Covid

Like many organisations, we have used Zoom as the means of transacting our business during Lockdown and other restrictions. The NURA business group, which has oversight of our activities, meets by Zoom. We will continue to update residents of any significant developments, either by Flyer, Newsletter or social media. We keep our Website up to date. We also respond to residents' requests for assistance, e.g. in the preparation of Planning e-Petitions.



Flowery Telephone Boxes in Uxbridge

It has not been possible during the Pandemic to have our usual programme of Committee meetings, an Autumn Residents Meeting at Christ Church, or to ask Road Representatives to deliver Newsletters. We are not proposing to reinstate this programme for the time being. Our thoughts are turning on how we can build on the strong sense of community which has emerged during the lockdown periods. If anyone is planning a community event, please let us know.

Uxbridge Police Station

In 2017 the Mayor of London announced the proposed closure of the Uxbridge Police Station with its 24/7 front desk. Public disbelief and outrage translated into action. Hillingdon Council made a generous offer of financial assistance. NURA organised a Petition to the Mayor, which collected 1,352 signatures. The Mayor's response was to refer to a review of the Police estate: when this was completed, final dispositions would be made. The outcome has not yet been made known. In the meantime, the 24/7 front desk is based at Hayes End.

The tragic death of Sarah Everard has resulted in a significant shift in the attitudes of the Police Service to public safety. It has recently been announced that a new Town Centre Team will be established in Uxbridge, consisting of 1 Inspector, 2 Sergeants and 21 PC's, giving 7 day cover. Various teams are already working in the Uxbridge Police Station premises. Clearly the new Team will be based there too. This removes the main reason for closing the Station in the first place – obtaining a capital receipt!



The most significant step the Mayor could now take to restore public confidence is to announce that the 24/7 front desk will also be based in Uxbridge. NURA will renew its campaign for this, with the support of Hillingdon Council and our Constituency MP, Boris Johnson.

Uxbridge North Ward Police Panel

Greater involvement with local Police Panel

More NURA members now sit on the Panel, which meets once a quarter to liaise with and scrutinise the work of the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team.

NURA Road Rep Nick Johnson has become the new Chairman of the Panel and NURA Secretary Mandeep Jandu is the new Panel secretary. NURA officials Paul Johnson and Bob Parson also serve on the Panel alongside other local residents, our local councillors, the manager of Uxbridge BID and the local officers from the Metropolitan Police.

The Panel is a good way for local residents to raise concerns with the Police and to work together to address problems and assist crime prevention. Any issues that residents want brought to the attention of the Safer Neighbourhood Group can be communicated through NURA using the contact details given in this Newsletter.

One issue that had been reported to the Panel was the concerns by some local residents about the excessive speed of some motorists on the Park Road dual carriageway in Uxbridge. The Police subsequently reacted and staged a highly visible multi-agency operation (Involving some 25 personnel) that saw numerous motorists stopped for speeding and other vehicle related offences. Speed checks on this road are now likely to be a regular occurrence.

Master Brewer Inland Homes are proposing a large housing development on this site at Hillingdon Circus – over 500 units, with many tower blocks, one of 11 storeys. We expected this proposal would be re-considered by the Mayor following a late-on change in the Mayor’s high-rise housing policy (so as to be no higher than 6 storeys outside Uxbridge and Hayes). This did not happen – the Mayor gave Planning Permission. Hillingdon Council have challenged the legality of his action by seeking Judicial Review. The Hearing is due in the High Court in November.

Guild Living NURA welcomed the Guild Living Scheme for ‘later-living’ on the Wickes/Halfords site, which would enable older people to downsize into an attractive setting with a good range of facilities. We did, however, express reservations about the overall size of the Scheme and held several meetings with Guild. We were pleased that one result of these discussions was a reduction of the height of the tallest building from 8 to 7 storeys. The Scheme was approved earlier this year and is now nearing the end of a complicated series of agreements, which will allow it to proceed.

Trees for Streets This is a new National Street Tree Sponsorship Scheme launched by the Charity Trees for Cities. It will be administered in Hillingdon with the support of Hillingdon Council. The Scheme makes it easy for a resident to sponsor (and look after) a tree in their street, or somewhere near. They simply make a request through the online platform – see below. All you need to do is identify an empty tree pit in a street, or a soft/grassy verge for a new tree. Equally you can sponsor a Celebration Tree within a park.

- treesforstreets.org
- sponsor.treesforstreets.org/provider/hillingdon-borough

HS2 Eastbound

The first giant TBM is due to be delivered to the West Ruislip Portal by the end of this year. Both TBMs will be launched in Spring/Summer 2022. Tunnelling will progress at a rate of approx. 15m/day. Anticipated tunnelling completion in 2024. The tunnels will be lined by a ring of six pre-cast concrete segments produced off- site and delivered to West Ruislip by rail. Train deliveries are anticipated to be one per day. This will save truck movements on local roads.

HS2 Westbound

The change in the landscape along Harvil Road is apparent to all. A 'cut and cover' tunnel is being laid here. When the tunnel 'tubes' have been positioned, they will be covered over. The attached schematic gives you an idea of the finished result and the re-alignment of Harvil Road.



Hillingdon Hospital Re-Build

Plans have been displayed showing what the new Hospital might look like. NURA has been pressing for a replacement Hospital for many years. We are very impressed by this Scheme, e.g. careful planning has gone into the improvement of patient flows and access to diagnostic and specialist services. The next stage will be submission of the Planning Application.



Naturewatch by Ann Rix

There are three ponds near Park Road in North Uxbridge - the Common Pond, a pond within the boundaries of Uxbridge college and the Brearley Close Pond.

This pond lies behind the brick wall by the roundabout at the junction of Belmont Road and Park Road. It has access from Brearley Close, off Gatting Way. Residents hold keys to the gate in Park Road. Water levels are very susceptible to rainfall and the pond basin can dry out. The Council work there now but London Wildlife Trust have managed the surrounds for many years with welcome help and interest from one of the residents. The water now is green with duckweed but resident Moorhen and Mallards can usually be seen. Growth of Bullrushes and Yellow Flag Iris is restricted. Willows overhang the water and are felled when they become hazardous. Kingfishers and Herons have been noted and previously I have met Muntjac deer and Foxes in daylight. Common and Great Crested newts shelter there.



With no prolonged drought this Summer trees have kept their leaves. However over two inches of rain and strong winds in recent weeks have caused major falls of conkers with their cases. Fir trees have shed many cones but pine needles have carpeted the paths beneath the trees. Although evergreen, firs do shed leaves throughout the year, but not normally so suddenly. Do let me know of any wildlife sightings. Have you seen a Hedgehog recently?

Message to NURA Road Representatives From Sheelagh, our Subscription Secretary

'We would like to thank you for supporting NURA over the years, in particular delivering the Newsletter to the local community. Your commitment ensures that we can reach out to every home in North Uxbridge and your efforts are much appreciated. During the pandemic, delivery of the Newsletter was outsourced for safety reasons. In 2022 we will be in touch with you again about resuming deliveries. We would like to hear from anyone else who would like to get involved with the delivery of our Newsletter and maintaining contact with our local communities'

This Newsletter is being distributed electronically, not printed.

NURA Officers

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