



September 2017

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
7.30 pm, Thursday 26th October 2017
at Christchurch, Redford Way, Uxbridge

Our Speaker at the first part of the meeting will be from Hillingdon Healthwatch. After this we shall have a break for refreshments and then conduct the formal business of the AGM – the election of Officers and the Committee and receipt of financial and other reports.



About Hillingdon Healthwatch

Hillingdon Healthwatch is the independent consumer champion for health and social care, serving local residents and service users.

It seeks to listen to local people – patients, carers and service users – and then tell service providers your experiences of care and hold them to account.

Some people are unaware of the care and support that is 'out there'. Healthwatch aims to reach out to them and to ensure that local people play a part in bringing about the improvement of services.

All residents are welcome to the AGM. We strongly believe that North Uxbridge is a community. Our aim in organising these Meetings is to deal with a topic relevant to our community and to provide you with the opportunity of meeting fellow residents over a cup of tea or coffee.....

Please come!

Police Consultation Report

I attended a very full Council Chamber meeting on 13 September to hear proposals from the Mayor (MOPAC) and the Borough Police Commander intended to make big financial savings.

The Mayor plans to have only one 24/7 continuously manned police station front desk in each London Borough. In Hillingdon he proposes to locate this at Hayes End and to close and sell off Uxbridge Police Station. The Police say they can reduce the need for the public to visit a police station by the use of technology, e.g. a crime can be reported on their website. Telephone contact is also possible (except that you can't get through.....).

I asked two questions. First, could the consultation period be extended for two weeks so as to end on 20 October? This will be considered. Secondly, what was the justification for choosing Hayes End as opposed to Uxbridge? The answer was simply cost, i.e. to obtain a big capital receipt.

Speaker after speaker pointed out that Hayes End has poor public transport access from the rest of the Borough (It doesn't even serve Hayes town very well) – whereas Uxbridge ticks all the boxes (public and private transport access, Borough Offices and Magistrates Courts, two major education institutions, very busy both day and night, etc.). It became apparent that everyone in the room thought the proposal to close Uxbridge was a ludicrous idea (probably the Police Officers present and maybe even the Mayor's Officer).

So there is everything to play for – which is where you come in. The Mayor will be swayed by sound arguments and wide-ranging public support to keep the Uxbridge Police Station open. There is no point in making savings which destroy the service and public confidence in it.

OVER TO YOU: Please write to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, or send e-mail: enquiries@mopac.london.gov.uk

Paul Johnson



Auto Show

The Uxbridge Auto Show, run by the Uxbridge Auto Club, went particularly well this year and is now the largest community event in North Uxbridge. The weather was kind to the 5000 or so paying visitors and around £30,000 was raised for charity.

HS2 – Hillingdon Bears the Brunt

Despite the protestations, locally and nationally, the die is now cast and contractors appointed!

Local infrastructure works have now started with the re-routeing of a trunk gas main under the Chiltern railway as a preliminary for a new Harvil Road bridge and forming new rail sidings in a Cophall Cutting.

This work is starting in March 2019 and will require all material in and out by HGVs, joining the A40 at a traffic lighted Swakeleys roundabout. The projected maximum of 550 lorry movements per working day (8am – 6pm) will last for 2 years in 2019-2020, dropping back to about 100 per day for the rest of the contract when the Chiltern railway will hopefully 'take the strain' by removing the future tunnel spoil extracted from the West Ruislip Portal entrance.

Still to be resolved by the Contractors (but subject to HS2 specific environmental standards) are the various matters such as whether the concrete tunnel wall segments are to be made in a Harvil Road factory or brought in by road or rail from elsewhere.

We know how North-South movement in the Borough is going to be significantly worsened by HS2 works but the traffic congestion and pollution will be horrific for Ickenham residents.

We can only trust in the dialogue between HS2, the Contractors and Hillingdon Borough that the worst of the possible scenarios may be minimised.

Front Gardens

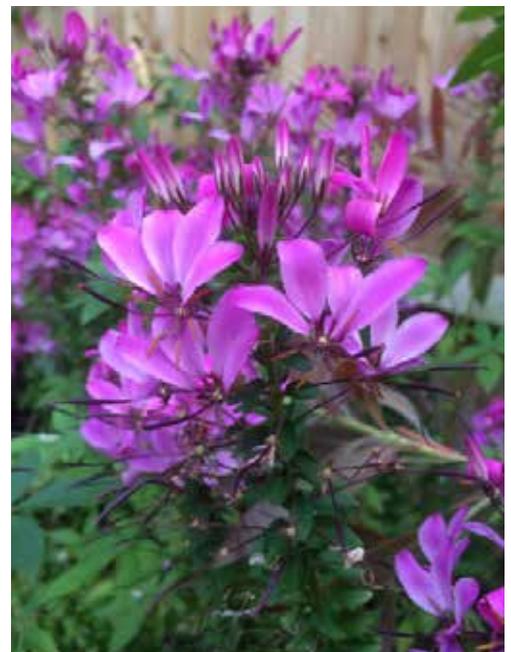


Front gardens in North Uxbridge have looked a treat this year. In the Spring, we have seen Camellia, Magnolia, yellow Laburnum and bright blue Ceanothus changing to Summer flowerings – Roses, Passion Flowers, Jasmine and exotic plants like giant flowering Yucca.

Here is an idea for next year. Maybe roads could organise their own garden Open

Days. If you think that is a good idea, please chat to your NURA Road Representative.

On the downside, sometimes the appearance of a road can be spoilt where the frontages are either bare, or not cared for, or used for unsightly storage or activities. If you have any concerns, please let us know.



Neighbourhood Community Masterplan Hillingdon Circus Sites

In response to the real concern that the “big brother” Planning process is too remote from the individuals’ needs and wishes for their area, the concept of a Neighbourhood Development Plan has been advanced under The Localism Act 2011

We have joined with other local Residents Associations who have set up a Neighbourhood Forum.

The intention is to produce a master plan for the areas locally referred to as the ‘Tesco/ Master Brewer and Morrisons/Ikea’ sites. In addition the adjoining station car park and the Freezeland Way/ Long Lane traffic junction will be part of this Forum’s considerations.

The aim is to ensure that the sites are not developed piecemeal, but that community facilities and areas of public amenity are ‘built-in’ to any planning permission. A first draft of the master plan has a strong bias to producing flats rising up to 6 storeys by the A40 underpass but with an hotel, conference centre and community facility. The eventual plan has to be adopted both by a local referendum and the Council as part of its Local Plan.

Wildlife

Yes, the foxes have been getting even bolder, but what about hedgehogs? There has been a recent siting in a garden in South Uxbridge. If you see any near you, please tell Ann Rix at HNHS.

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