



April 2019

SPRING GENERAL MEETING
7 p.m. Friday 26th April 2019
at Hermitage Primary School, Belmont Road, Uxbridge
All Residents Welcome

The Speaker at the first part of our Meeting will be **Boris Johnson MP**.

He will speak to us about his experiences as our local MP and will tell us what he sees as the threats and opportunities we face in North Uxbridge.

There will be a time for questions. After that, we will take a 'coffee break' and then hold an Open Forum including these three issues –

- Policing in North Uxbridge and the Town Centre. We have invited Officers from the Uxbridge Town Centre Police Team to speak to us to –
 - explain how their work is carried out in the absence of a 24/7 front desk at Uxbridge Police Station and
 - advise on measures we can take to protect ourselves and our property (see 'Break-in' below).
- The Wickes/Halfords Planning Application, with some reflections on the recent Planning Committee decision and monitoring for the future.
- HS2 and the Swakeleys Roundabout proposals.



Redevelopment of Wickes / Halfords Site Refused

Last year, a development proposal was submitted to build 267 flats, which included a 12 storey block and only had 9 parking spaces. It eventually reached the Planning Committee on 26 February 2019. NURA has been active in keeping residents informed, by Newsletter, by regular 'Flyers' and by a Presentation and Discussion at our last General Meeting. Residents of North Uxbridge should be justifiably proud of the actions of 6 Petition organisers supported by at least 50 residents in the Council Chamber who spoke on behalf of residents of Lancaster Road, Pages Lane, Princes Mansions, Kent Close, Wilmar Close and other local roads. They emphasised that the scheme would cause increased pressure on local services and worsen the traffic congestion in Harefield Road, let alone the horrendous visual impact on adjoining houses and the Town Centre as a whole. Our local Councillor, Martin Goddard, ensured that the Committee clearly understood the weight of local opposition. It was very pleasing that the scheme was unanimously rejected. The Mayor of London has the power to 'call in' major planning applications and determine them himself. We have just learnt that he will not use the 'call-in' power on this occasion. This is good news. It means that the 15 reasons for refusal stand. This case well illustrates that NURA's voice can be heard in consideration of changes to our local environment and how we can support local people in getting their views across.

HS2 / Swakeleys Roundabout Proposals

We meet regularly with HS2, our sister RAs and LBH Officers. We input into HS2's planning and make suggestions to mitigate the forthcoming disruption. There have been some notable successes, e.g. the use of rail to bring in the concrete tunnel linings, instead of siting concrete factories along Harvil Road, the use of haul roads on construction sites to avoid HGV traffic on local roads and reductions of tens of thousands of HGV movements over the course of the project. So far we have only experienced 'Early Works'. As yet we have not been given final details for the Main Works, which are supposed to start in June this year, but we can still anticipate significant HGV traffic, long-lasting road closures, dumping of spoil and large construction sites for bridges and tunnels. Proposals for the remodelling of Swakeleys Roundabout are on hold because LBH consider the knock-on consequences on other local junctions have not been properly assessed. Boris Johnson MP, our Ward Councillors and a NURA Representative met recently 'on the bridge' to assess the situation.

Belmont Close - Attempted Break-in

In the early evening of 26 February there was an attempted aggravated burglary at a property in Belmont Close. Six men carrying tools attempted to break in by kicking the front door down, knowing that the family were inside. With incredible bravery, the family managed to keep the burglars out and call the Police. The burglars eventually fled and the Police arrived. This is a wake-up call for us all. Do you have stout external doors, with multiple locking points? Come to our Meeting on 26 April – Let us see what further measures we can take to protect ourselves and our neighbours.

News in Brief

- Heathrow Flight Paths - Heathrow are required to publish new flight paths based on the existing runways. The Proposals show areas not subject to overflying before – including Hillingdon. We have responded by saying that flights should not be diverted over densely populated areas like ours and that the proximity of RAF Northolt should be taken into account.

- Ward Boundaries - The Boundaries Commission propose that Uxbridge should become one Ward to include North Uxbridge (approximately the NURA area) and South Uxbridge. If this happens, we will propose to change our NURA southern boundary along the Ring Road, but no further. We would then cover the whole of Uxbridge Town Centre, including Windsor Street (picture).
- Hermitage/Sainsbury's Parking Issues - In co-operation with Hermitage Primary School, NURA are submitting a proposal to Sainsbury's for the construction of a ramp to enable their car park to be used by parents/carers at School times.
- RAF Museum London (Hendon) - If you have enjoyed visiting our Battle of Britain Bunker Exhibition and Visitor Centre, why not visit the re-modelled RAF Museum at Hendon? (picture). It is easier than you think to get there. Take the Met/Jubilee to Kingsbury. It is then a short ride from Kingsbury Circle on the 303 'bus.



'NURA NEEDS YOU!'

The Wickes/Halfords Application demonstrates that NURA can play a vital role in supporting the local community. However, the recent illness of a key Member demonstrates

how 'thin we are on the ground' in terms of our ability to transact business. If you would like to get involved and give NURA your active support, please let us know, using the CONTACT US on our Website. We will tell you how you can help. At the moment, we need Road Representatives for Gravel Hill, Pages Lane, Belmont Road, Park Road, Hyacinth Drive, Cowslip Close, North Way and Brookside. Also, if you would like to help us deliver the Newsletter, please contact us – you don't have to live on the above roads.

Post of Hon. Treasurer - Vacancy

Peter Manley is moving away from the area, having served as NURA Treasurer since 2010. We are immensely grateful for his work. At one time, he was also carrying out the duties of Hon. Secretary. He also was responsible for setting up the NURA online systems. If you feel able to undertake the Treasurer role, please let us know and we will send you a Job Description. The recent setting up of online banking with Metro Bank will assist our financial administration.

NATUREWATCH

Ann Rix writes - Mature trees around Uxbridge Common have withstood the onslaught of Freya and Gareth! However, the winds have pruned the trees leaving dead twigs everywhere, with a bonus of pine cones along West Common Road. The trees around Brearley Close pond have lost larger branches, but all of dead wood. In Winter and until the leaves sprout again, the semi-parasitic Mistletoe shows well with at least 6 sprays in trees around Uxbridge Common. Each year there seem to be more clusters. The white berries are sticky, cling to the beaks of feeding birds – including Mistlethrushes – and are wiped onto bark high in the trees ready to germinate. Last Autumn there was much concern over low rainfall, but as usual the British weather sorted itself to end up an average fall for the whole year. We have had a dry start to 2019, but March is catching up.....



NURA Officers

Chairman

Paul Johnson

Subscription Secretary

Sheelagh Butler

Secretary

Mandeep Jandu

Treasurer

Vacant

e-mail: northuxbridgeresidents@gmail.com

website: northuxbridgeresidents.org

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