



# NURA NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2022

## The Annual General Meeting

will be held at Christ Church Uxbridge 7-9 p.m. on Tuesday 11 October. **All Residents Welcome!** The Meeting will be informal – come and go as you please. Refreshments will be served at 8 p.m. – a chance to chat!

On everyone's minds is the **COST OF LIVING**. A quote from Charles Dickens comes to mind – '**It was the best of times, it was the worst of times....It was the Spring of hope, it was the Winter of despair.....**' Each one of us has a different perspective on this, depending on our circumstances. In NURA, our aim is to show how communities can help each other, protect our services and local environment and flag up some things to be glad about. Please support the Hillingdon Food Bank – Visit their website.

At our last Meeting we looked forward to the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations and then focussed on Green Issues, including the Colne Valley Park 'on our doorstep'. This Meeting will focus on some more local amenities -

## Love Uxbridge and The Hillingdon Sports and Leisure Centre

**Mike Crane**, BID Manager, Uxbridge, will speak to us about his plans for making the Uxbridge Town Centre an attractive place to visit, shop and socialise and for forthcoming events. The BID have recently received the backing of local businesses to operate a further five years of **LOVE UXBRIDGE!**



We have also invited a Speaker from **BETTER LEISURE**, who operate the HSLC, to speak about facilities and opportunities there – specially relevant after the successes of the Lionesses and in the Commonwealth and European Games.

## Councillor Ian Edwards, Leader of Hillingdon

**Council**, is also coming to our Meeting. He wants to meet Residents Associations. We are very pleased that he will be coming to meet us and take questions from Residents.



*Uxbridge Town Centre*

## Uxbridge North Ward Police Panel

The Panel has faced difficulties in getting attendance of Police Officers to the scheduled Meetings – being called away for urgent operational matters. The Chairman (Nick Johnson) has held discussions with the responsible Officer and it is hoped this can now be resolved. Topics discussed at the last Meeting included -

- Future of Uxbridge, Hayes and Ruislip Police Stations. It was agreed that Nick Johnson and Paul Johnson should seek to meet the Leader of Hillingdon Council and then with the West Area Police Commander (see item below on Borough Policing).
- That Nick Johnson should meet Boris Johnson at his Constituency Surgery to get his further support.
- Change to Ward boundaries. Now that Uxbridge is a single Ward, the two Panels serving North and South Uxbridge need to be replaced by a single Uxbridge Panel. The inaugural Meeting of the new Panel is to be held on 7 September 2022. A Report of the Meeting will be made to the AGM.
- OWL Messaging Service. You are strongly recommended to sign up for this excellent service provided by the Met. It gives immediate alerts of criminal activity and other concerns. Public response has enabled offenders to be arrested and stolen vehicles traced.

## Borough Policing

After informal discussions, this is our understanding of Hillingdon Council's current position. The Borough's offer of financial support/lease-back of the Uxbridge Police Station premises is no longer on the table. The Borough will not support the 'extra-over' finance for a limited front desk facility at Uxbridge. The Police Commander must decide the priorities from his own budget. The Borough will, however, support NURA/Residents Campaign to get such a facility, e.g. 11.00am 3.00pm Monday to Saturday.

The Borough's top priority is the effective policing of the whole Borough, particularly the achieving of a fast response from the centrally situated Uxbridge base. NURA wholeheartedly agrees. NURA and LBH are concerned about the extensive journeys across London to reach custody facilities and the waste of police hours of our Officers taking offenders there. This is draining resources from local policing. As the Mayor seems intent on refurbishing the Hayes End Police Station site, a beneficial use would be a purpose-built custody facility there to serve West London. A viable facility now needs some 50 staff, including Nurses and specialist facilities. It is not feasible to adapt the Uxbridge premises for this.

NURA is now planning to meet with the Borough Commander and to secure the further support of our local MP.

## Hillingdon Hospital Redevelopment

NURA has commented on the Planning Application – 'This is a comprehensive and impressive Application. The proposal new to us is the routing of 'buses through the site. This is welcomed, provided certain junction improvements can be made. As regards the non-hospital part of the hybrid Application, concerns were raised about the extent of potential land being released for disposal. The Committee noted that some of the land is being reserved for future health needs, but that a large proportion of this area is proposed for potentially 327 units housing development. It was felt that a greater area of land should be reserved for future hospital needs, critically for staff accommodation'.

**HS2** Our colleagues in Ickenham have provided us with the following information. 'The tunnelling at West Ruislip back towards London is commencing. The spoil from the tunnels will first be distributed on what was the West Ruislip Golf course to form the base for the new 9 hole golf course. Thereafter the spoil will be distributed across the fields between Breakspear Road South and Harvil Road. The contractors are currently removing top soil from the fields. The dumping will take 18 months plus and will be up to 6 metres high. In addition, the contractors are creating a cutting before the new Harvil Road bridge. The spoil is being dumped on a site off New Years Green Lane and will result in two large mounds. The viaduct across the lakes is being constructed with very advanced machinery. The A412 will be closed at weekends on some nights'. HS2 recently gave the Colne Valley Park Team a 'courtesy tour' of the works. Their comment to NURA was 'Whatever you think of the merits of this scheme, the scale of it is simply jaw-dropping'.

## Former Ski Slope

The Uxbridge Rotary Club has a proposal to create a viewing platform on the former Ski Slope. NURA representatives have met with them and an Officer from the Council's Green Spaces Team to agree how to progress it. First, the Council will assemble a team of volunteers to clear the shrubs and undergrowth at the top. We will let you know the planned date for this – so that you can join them if you are able! The Rotary Club will make an application for Chrysalis funding for capital works to create the Viewpoint and carry out some selective felling of the rapid growing, self-seeded trees that have blocked this view – taken in 2020.



## WhatsApp Rescue Service Belmont Close (some 30 houses)



has a WhatsApp group, which is very useful for sending out alerts, 'need to know' information and giving help and support. On a day this Summer one family realised that their cat, Sparkle, had gone missing. An alert was sent out. Neighbours checked their gardens, but she was not found. On the next day there was still no sign of her, but two neighbours thought they could hear 'mewing' coming from somewhere. A further search was mounted and Sparkle was found in a neighbour's garden. She had climbed a tree and could not get down! A rescue party was assembled and a ladder found. The next challenge was to get her to come to the top of the ladder. The solution was to entice her with a piece of tuna. She hadn't eaten for two days. This worked and the picture shows

her 'coming to Mum'. On her return home she ate 3 dinners..!



**River Clearance** Here is a group of volunteers organised by Hillingdon Council, clearing weed from the River Frays behind Harefield Road. NURA Road Rep, Dilip Shah (wearing glasses) is in the foreground.

Dilip is also a member of the GREEN GYM VOLUNTEERS, which meets every Wednesday at the Hillingdon and Sports Leisure Centre. Their work involves planting trees, sowing meadows, establishing wild life ponds, pruning, watering, litter picking, etc. Dilip says 'We thoroughly enjoy what we do. New volunteers are always welcome. Come and join us!'



**Hermitage Primary School Fete** The Fete was held on 25 June. It was well advertised so that those of us without links to the School could also join in the fun. As you can see, it was very well attended on a fine day. There were all the traditional attractions – Tombola, competitions, chocolate fountain, delicious cakes and street food. Barbara Fisher of Bmail fame presented the prizes. It was the biggest event for North Uxbridge for this year. There were many participants/contributors. Well done, staff, parents and PTA!



**NURA Admin** Before the close of our Meeting we shall conduct the formal business of the AGM – Election of Officers, confirmation of Road Reps and receipt of a financial statement. After a gap of over two years, subscriptions were sought this year from Residents. We requested a once-off payment of £5 because our funds had run down during COVID. Although the number of contributors was down, the total received increased. In July, the balance at the Metro Bank was £3,042.

As always, our Road Reps play a vital role. We have vacancies in the following roads - Hillman Close, Towergate, Pages Lane, Harefield Road, Hyacinth and Cowslip, North Way, Brookside, Honeycroft Hill, Laurel Court and Morris Avenue.

If anyone would like to help with delivering the newsletter please let us know.

## NURA Officers

<b>Chairman</b>	<b>Subscription Secretary</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>
Paul Johnson	Sheelagh Butler	Mandeep Jandu	Sushma Chouhan-Kleber

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