

Muswell Hill & Fortis Green Association

(Founded 1948)

NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2011

Our peace shattered

Disorder reaches Muswell Hill with local shops attacked

VIOLENT EVENTS in neighbouring areas spilled over into Muswell Hill on 8 and 9 August when two shops suffered damage. A climate of fear was reported amongst other unaffected shopkeepers although a heavy police presence ensured that the problems did not escalate.

Panoptica, the opticians, was left with a bill for approximately £9000 after windows were smashed and thieves escaped with a haul of designer frames. Windows at Carphone Warehouse were broken the following day but an arrest was swiftly made.

Reassuring

Our Chairman, John Hajdu, summed up local reaction when he said, 'These disturbances have taken us all aback. Nobody could have foreseen them and it is deeply shocking to see how the attacks against shops have spread as far as Muswell Hill. It is almost unimaginable that this should be happening here'. However, he draws attention to the work of the Safer Neighbourhood Teams saying, 'It is reassuring to note that our local police teams were so effective in dispelling any further trouble in this area'.

Investigations

Our new Sergeant for Muswell Hill, Julie Flemming, has this to say to our members: 'Police officers and Police Community Support officers from the Muswell Hill, Fortis Green and Alexandra Safer Neighbourhood teams have been committed to patrols in Muswell Hill across the three wards following rioting in Tottenham and elsewhere in London. Officers altered shift times and worked extended hours to provide reassurance to the community. Additional officers from response teams in the



One of the local shops attacked – it was not our elegant local architecture that caught the eye of these visitors.

borough have also patrolled streets in Muswell Hill, particularly the Broadway.

'We have assisted our CID colleagues with a number of enquiries as part of the ongoing investigation into criminal activity linked to the riots both within Haringey and elsewhere in London. The results of some of these enquiries have already been publicised and efforts to detect and prosecute offenders continue. We would like to thank members of the community for their support throughout recent weeks.'

Those of our members wishing to help their neighbours in Tottenham who have lost homes or businesses are asked to send cheques made payable to 'Mayor's Special Fund – Tottenham Fund' to PO Box 55235, London, N22 9DF. Alternatively, you can transfer funds directly using sort code 60-24-23 and account number 90724828.

👉 Our next events 👈

Guest speaker: Gail Engert

Wednesday 19 October 2011, 8pm

Gail will talk about her life and experiences in Muswell Hill, why she became a councillor and her work with organisations like ours. See page 2 for more.

Indian cookery talk and demonstration

Wednesday 16 November 2011, 8pm

Local Indian food expert, Zahda Saeed, will show us what makes India's cuisine so special and internationally renowned. Food tasting will follow.

Venue: The Garden Room, North Bank, 28 Pages Lane, N10 1PP

North Bank is easy to reach by foot from most parts of the area but there are parking spaces available for those who need them. The 234 bus passes the door and there are stops nearby on Colney Hatch Lane for the 134 and 43 buses and on Alexandra Park Road for the 102 and 299 buses.

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Working for a cleaner, greener, safer environment



Saima's Membership Column

Dear members,

Is it really September? I've been waiting for the summer to begin but the first signs of autumn are appearing already!

The troubling events of the last month, starting in nearby Tottenham and spreading throughout the country, were of course alarming and a real cause for concern. However, they did serve to highlight a significant fact – our communities are actually more united than I had believed and are able to withstand such unprecedented social problems. In effect, through mutual cooperation we are a force to be reckoned with!

New members

Our latest members are **Cyril and Vivienne Davies** of Grand Avenue, **Monica and Geoff Dobson** of Lansdowne Road, **Sally Fox** of Woodland Rise and **Steve and Nuala Poulacheris** of Thirlestone Avenue. Our warmest welcome goes to all of you – thank you for supporting our Association.

Member of the month

Several nominations came through for member of the month for this Newsletter issue. They will all get their turn but I've chosen Alex Mitchell of Springfield Avenue because he also appears, with photograph, on page 5. Alex is a long-standing member and has lived in the area for 30 years. He is almost 90, has a lively social life with a wide circle of friends and contacts and continues to enjoy playing his drums. His support of our Association is unflagging. Thank you Alex and we wish you many happy returns on your forthcoming birthday.

Do keep on sending in your nominations for member of the month. I promise to give each one an airing.

Members' topic

While you will find details of the Muswell Hill Festival on page 3, I want to add that there will be a batch of membership forms at our stall. Please come along and sign up if you are not already a member and if you are, take a few forms to hand out to encourage your friends and neighbours to join.

In the July issue of the Newsletter, I invited your ideas on possible alternatives for the Pinkham Way development. Here, in short, are the top three:

- ① A shopping mall – to extend the current shopping retail park and develop a new mall;
- ② A combined primary and secondary school;
- ③ A joint Haringey-Barnet council office site to help reduce their running costs.

Please keep your comments and feedback coming in.

My details

You can get in touch with me by post: MHFGA, PO Box 56960, London N10 9BA or email: saimawilliams@live.co.uk

Feel free to post in the Association Facebook group at: www.facebook.com/?ref=home#!group.php?gid+56250985945

Bulletin board

OUR WEBSITE continues to go from strength to strength with an increasingly high number of hits. Particularly popular in the last few months has been information regarding the proposed industrial plant in Pinkham Way. Environmental matters and recycling continue to generate much interest as well and it is interesting to contemplate a link.

MEETINGS ORGANISER Carola Zentner is stepping down from her Association role. She has been responsible for arranging some of the most interesting and well-attended meetings we have had of late and it is with regret we must bid her farewell. Many thanks are due to Carola for her excellent efforts on our behalf, especially as she has some form, having once been Newsletter Editor as well!

The search is now on for a new volunteer to help our Chairman, John Hajdu, arrange future meetings. If you would like some more information, do get in touch. John's details are on the back page.

NEXT YEAR'S Association June walk is to focus on Fortis Green. The recent Muswell Hill history walk proved so popular that, in response to much demand, we have invited David Firth and Keith Fawkes of the Hornsey Historical Society to work their magic once again for us, taking in the next part of our area.

OUR OCTOBER MEETING, with guest speaker Gail Engert, promises to provide a fascinating insight into the local experiences of one of our councillors. As well as telling us about her work in partnership with residents and local groups like ours, she will explain some of her aspirations for the future of our area. She writes, 'I am extremely proud to have represented Muswell Hill for the last seven and half years and love the area in which I have lived with my family for over 23 years. It is an honour to be asked to come and talk to your Association and I look forward to answering any questions that your members may have'.

Muswell Hill shopfronts get the Tanya treatment



Tanya displays the MHFGA photo album

SELF-CONFESSED friendly local busybody, Tanya Shamlian, is carefully monitoring local shopfronts to ensure that they comply with planning and conservation regulations and guidelines. As well as updating our shopfronts photo album (shortly to go on display again at the Muswell Hill Festival

– see page 3) with more photographs, Tanya calls in at new shops during refurbishment to discuss the guidelines and offer advice where appropriate. She also leaves with them a special notice, introducing our Association and outlining the main points on 'shop fronts, signage and security' to be found in Haringey's Supplementary Planning Guidance. Included in these are notes on the historic context of shopping parades and centres in Haringey and shop front design.

Alexandra Palace

news and views



OUR REPRESENTATIVE, Denis Heathcote, gives us his update on the most recent news to emerge from Alexandra Palace and Park.

There have been three important developments since the last joint meeting of the Statutory and Consultative Committees on May 31 (reported in the July issue).

The first and potentially most significant is the recent announcement of the appointment of Duncan Wilson as Chief Executive. His excellent record at the Greenwich Foundation for the Old Royal Naval College since 2002, and before that at Somerset House, speaks for itself. He will take up the post

in the autumn and head the regeneration effort already under way. This is a most encouraging step forward.

The next development concerns the two joint meetings of the two Committees that were reviewed by a small working group on 19 July. It was agreed to recommend to both Committees and the Board that the joint meetings be continued but structured as consecutive formal meetings in sequence with a common agenda for both parts. Councillor Trustee members of the Consultative Committee (CC) should attend and take part as before while Statutory Advisory Committee (SAC) members attend the first part of the meeting as participating but non-voting observers. CC members would attend the second

part of the joint meeting, that is, the formal SAC meeting, as non-participating observers.

The chair of the SAC would be elected by its membership, as now, but the Chair of the joint meeting would be chosen by the members as a whole.

Parliamentary procedures

I should say that these seemingly complex arrangements are needed to reflect a desire to carry on working together in an inclusive way and to recognise the need for the formal reporting back to the Board of Trustees by a statutory body, the SAC, and an informal Haringey consultative group, the CC.

Meanwhile discussions have been initiated with the Charity Commission about the nature, degree and procedures needed to bring about a merged body which would retain the statutory right of the SAC to offer advice to the Board. This may well be a protracted affair, requiring Parliamentary procedures.

Sensitive character

On 3 August, Haringey accepted the recommendation of its own officers and refused listed planning consent for new advertising signs around the Palace and Park, which were the subject of a planning application by the Alexandra Palace Trading Company.

Reasons were that the 'proposed development lies in an area of sensitive and special character worthy of retention within the Alexandra Park and Palace Conservation Area. The proposal, if approved, would seriously detract from the important character to the detriment of the vicinity contrary to Policies UD3...of the Haringey Unitary Development Plan and guidance set out in SPG6B advertisements'.

Listed planning consent

These are precisely the reasons for the objections made in July by our member Colin Marr in his capacity as chairman of the Alexandra Palace and Park Conservation Area Advisory Committee. As long ago as 5 April, these proposals had been brought before the Joint Committee meeting, as Phase 2 of the new signage proposals. Colin had pointed out the possible objections and the need for listed planning consent at that meeting, so it was somewhat surprising that a planning application was subsequently made without modification.

Prizes await at the MH Festival

THE EAGERLY ANTICIPATED annual Muswell Hill Festival and Donkey Derby, to be held on 11 September at Cherry Tree Wood in East Finchley, will feature an Association stall with added attractions.

Among them will be the MHFGA quiz, open to all. First prize is a £15 book token, while second prize is a Cheese Shop voucher for £10. The third prize, perhaps best of all, is a year's free membership of our Association, available to members and non-members alike.

The quiz, as last year, will focus on entrants' knowledge of Muswell Hill, both past and present. No doubt those in possession of a copy of our Association local history book will be off to a flying start!

Our stall will also boast the popular

Association photograph album chronicling the changes over the years in Muswell Hill and Fortis Green shopfronts. (See page 2 for more information about the album.)

Our thanks goes to the dedicated volunteers who have come forward to help with the stall. They will not only dispense information about our area and Association but help to recruit new members. Your support is needed as well! Be sure to visit our stall and direct your family, friends and neighbours there as well.



One of the entrances to Cherry Tree Wood

Have your say at Area Forum

IF YOU ARE CONCERNED about the impact of Stop & Shop parking charges in Muswell Hill, the future of St Luke's former hospital site or how Haringey proposes to use our money, the next Area Forum, to be held on 15 September at Fortismere School in Tetherdown, will give you an opportunity to be heard and to influence areas of priority. The event will be held at 6.30pm in the Main Hall, part of the South Wing.

Prior to the meeting, a 'Report a Problem' surgery will be held starting at 6.00pm. Officers from the Council's Frontline services and the police Safer Neighbourhood Team will be available to discuss any matters in their areas.

For more information about the Area Forum and Committee visit www.Haringey.gov.uk/areacommittees

We get more say in planning policy

Local people, alongside their borough councils, can now produce plans for their own neighbourhoods which reflect the needs and priorities of their communities. John Crompton, our Conservation Officer, tells us more about this important development and adds his comments.

This Government initiative, The National Planning Policy Framework, reduces 1000 pages of planning legislation down to 52 pages and allows us, in conjunction with Haringey Council, to produce our own 'distinctive local and neighbourhood plans'. In support of the document a Government minister has stated, 'We must have sustainable growth to provide the jobs and homes we need but this will not be at the expense of the environment. Development will be expected to be sustainable and well designed'. Indeed, there is specific mention of the need for good design in the document.

Sustainability

The consultation period started at the end of July ends on 17 October and we will be looking to see how the proposal might affect things like the control of development in conservation areas vis à vis the recurring theme that there will be a strong presumption in favour of sustainable development.

The mention of distinctive local plans is a good thing as are the increased powers to communities over local decisions like housing and

planning. Like much of the localism agenda, however, it remains to be seen how all this will pan out in practice.

One aspect which I intend to include in our comments is to sell the idea of something which is already an integral part of life in Muswell Hill - namely people living in the town centre either literally 'above the shop' or in purpose built blocks of flats.

We also have several residential roads leading directly off the shopping area. This seems to me a very good example of sustainable development in that residents can walk to the shops, restaurants and entertainment facilities and in some cases also take up employment opportunities in them.

Car pools

The advantages are even more pronounced when schools, libraries, medical facilities, places of worship and major employment generators are within walking distance. I accept that we may be particularly lucky in having parks, open spaces and allotments within easy walking distance too.

Town centres tend to have good public transport links, reducing the need for car journeys or even car ownership. One can envisage a scenario where facilities like car pools and the free or subsidised use of municipal bicycles could be common.

Whilst it was once the norm for shops to have residential quarters above, this use has largely lapsed with the result that many town centres have no resident population at all and are too often marred by late-night rowdiness from those who do not live there.

I will suggest that there be a mapping exercise to identify how many units can be brought into residential use and that to get the thing off the ground

there may then need to be incentives to the freeholders to provide units of sufficiently high quality for people to enjoy living there and to feel established. The offer of incentives to have things like solar panels and charging points for electric vehicles may additionally be worthwhile.

Civic pride

The advantages I see in bringing back more residents to town centres are partly to do with promoting commerce, sustainability and a low-carbon future. The boost for local shops should reduce the arguments in favour of the building of any more out of town shopping centres and it should also reduce pressure to build more housing on green sites.

But there are other non-tangible benefits: for example, I feel that people living in the town centre would have a greater sense of civic pride compared to a situation in which somebody was living in an anonymous new development which had been tacked on to the outskirts of town.

Your views

I have come up with the advantages of this type of living but it would be interesting to hear from members who have first-hand experience of living in the centre of Muswell Hill (or anywhere else, for that matter) about any downsides. For example, how much of a nuisance is noise and smells from restaurants? I look forward to hearing your views.

Send your comments directly to John (his details are on the back page) or to the Newsletter for publication.

The full National Planning Policy Framework documents can be found on the website of the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Cavity wall insulation sets John up for winter



KEEN TO AVOID winter chills and soaring bills, our Chairman, John Hajdu, has taken advice from our sister group, Muswell Hill Sustainability, and plumped for cavity wall insulation. As part of a drive to be more environmentally friendly he has additionally installed a more efficient condensing boiler with a proper thermostat, put up new blinds which cut out draughts and is using several draught excluders.

Visit www.mhsgroup.org to find more on such measures.

Our planting project soldiers on

OUR COLNEY HATCH bed planting community project is progressing at a steady pace. Additional plants were added in July after Haringey's Parks Department kindly provided half a dozen new specimens. Once again there have been some thefts. Maintenance has not been too daunting due to the wet summer months.

Now that Making the Difference is back, we hope to give the beds a boost and are applying for funding for yet more plants. The successful bid will be notified shortly after 26 September. In the meantime, the area is looking much improved and certainly more 'cared for' than previously.

Ongoing turbulence besets giant industrial plant

Our Pinkham Way industrial plant representative, Tim Hunt, gives us an update on this controversial matter and offers his views on a way forward.

The joint application for a waste processing plant near Pinkham Way and the Barnet Council depot for its fleet of 114 refuse vehicles was received by Haringey at the end of May. At the same time the North London Waste Plan was circulated. The Plan is the overarching document which justifies the selection of Pinkham Wood as a suitable site for one of Britain's largest waste plants. The Plan has been published 'for representations to be made prior to submitting it to government later this year'.

Heard at last

The first question on protesters' minds has been: how can the application to build the plant precede the approval of the plan itself? The number and detail of the objections to the plan demonstrating its many unsound features have made their impact. The voice of the objectors will at least be heard before action is taken on the application. This is demonstrated by two changes of plan by the authorities.

First, there will be an Examination in Public in February 2012 to air objections to the plan, this giving much more time than anticipated for objections to be heard and discussed.

Cross examination

Second, we are told by Marc Dorfman of Haringey Planning Department that he is putting the waste plant application 'on hold' and will not proceed to the expected public consultation and referral to Haringey's Planning Committee. Details of the 'on hold' application will nevertheless will be put in the public domain and 'be available to view'.

What has caused this volte face? Dorfman says, 'We will wait for and concentrate on the Examination in Public into the North London Waste Plan in February 2012 with all parties including objectors being able to present and submit evidence and cross examine each other under the scrutiny of an Independent Inspector. His/her concluding report is likely to be published in April 2012.'

'With the results of that Examination I will restart work on the 'on hold' planning application. If Pinkham is supported by the Inspector I will check if the scheme needs more details (from what the inspector said and from NLWA) and then begin the consultation process and assessment...If Pinkham is not supported by the Inspector I will ask NLWA if they want to continue with the application.'

New campaign

So what does this mean? It means more time and opportunity for objections to be made. These could lead to revisions to the plan which might include a rethink on the siting of the waste plant as well as revised calculations on recycling targets and the amount of waste to be processed over the life of the plan. But no-one, least of all in the Pinkham Way Alliance, is banking on this as the outcome. The objections will still go on, and a new campaign strategy will be ready for the autumn.

Tim's advice

Pinkham Way Alliance will continue with news of actions and events as the situation unfolds. I would like MHFGA subscribers to feel they are getting all the information they need. This is available on www.pinkhamwayalliance.org

I would also recommend to anyone who may not already be aware of it to subscribe to the Pinkham Way e-newsletter, either by registering on the website or by contacting pinkhamwayalliance@gmail.com This is your best way of keeping up to date. Currently I recommend a reading of the PWA summary and full objection to the North London Waste Plan which can be found on the website.

MH Odeon celebrates its 75th anniversary

THE GRAND OCCASION of our Odeon's diamond anniversary is to be marked with a special charity screening of the first film to be shown at the cinema in 1936.

'Things to Come' by HG Wells will be screened on 9 September at 1pm. Tickets will cost £1.50. The film, starring Raymond Massey and Ralph Richardson and with a cast of 20,000, will be preceded by the original trailers and advertisements seen by the first Muswell Hill Odeon audience.

One third of the proceeds of each ticket sold by the Muswell Hill Odeon, a corporate member of our Association, will be distributed equally between The Variety Club and the NSPCC.

It is not necessary to book in advance but if you wish to you can by visiting www.odeon.co.uk or by phoning 0871 2244 007. Alternatively, call in at the cinema to get your tickets early.

Dangerous steps dismay members



LONG-STANDING MEMBERS, Alex and Thelma Mitchell are finding, to their cost, that Haringey's repair programme for the steep flight of steps opposite their Springfield Avenue home is taking some time to materialise. Six months after their first complaint to the Council that the crumbling steps are too dangerous for them to use, they still have to make detours around them to reach bus stops and the Muswell Hill shops.

Alex (pictured) says, 'It's a very big inconvenience. All they've done is put up barriers and signs but the locks are a joke. Within two hours they were smashed open and people were going through'.

Our Association has been monitoring the situation and we have assurances from Haringey that the repairs will take place.

Chairman, John Hajdu, has recently discovered that the funds needed for the repairs are now secured. However, within the next week, structural engineers are to investigate the walls on both sides as they think the problem lies deep within them.

Once this has been done and they have agreed as to the action needed, a contractor to do the job will be engaged after a process of offer and acceptance. Unfortunately, all this means that the repairs needed cannot begin before December.

The death of our village

The correspondent (*May Letters*) who mourned the passing of the Broadway flower stall is, sadly, years not months out of time.

The flower stall was removed around the time Marks and Spencer opened (M&S sells flowers – connection?). It is still sadly missed since one could buy individual stems rather than bunches and thus make up a large mixed display.

The estate agents persist in calling Muswell Hill a village. That flower stall was one of the last remnants of that village. We now seem to have representatives of large chains, finance houses and coffee shop after coffee shop. Desirable – maybe – but hardly what one finds in a village.

BJ Cairns

Victoria Road

Noisy choppers spread misery

It is now 12.40am and a police helicopter has been circling above our area for at least 45 minutes, no doubt keeping many residents awake, especially as many will have windows wide open on what is the hottest night of the year. If they are attempting to catch terrorists, gangsters, armed robbers or burglars (we were burgled last October!) I would be delighted.

Is there any way we can find out the reason for their causing such disruption to so many residents' lives, for example, through the Freedom of Information Act, or Association contacts?

members' letters

I would hate to think it is something relatively minor that the police get over-excited about such as an RTA or a student growing two marijuana plants in his back garden!

Tony Wells

Leaside Avenue

(Editor's note: John Hajdu, our Chairman, reports concern on this matter from a number of members. After investigating, he has discovered that there are several reasons that the helicopter disturbance may have taken place at this time. If police surveillance was taking place, no further details will be forthcoming because of the confidential nature of these operations.

New York notes local artist

Do you know that we have an internationally known local artist turning our unsightly blobs of chewing gum on Muswell Hill Broadway into jewel-like miniatures? Ben Wilson can be seen every now and then lying in all weathers on the pavement absorbed in what he is doing.

I first met him when driving through

Send your letters to the Editor. All contact details are on the back page. Short messages are welcome.

the Broadway. I saw this figure sprawled on the pavement with his feet in the gutter. Thinking he may be drunk or ill and in danger of being run over, I parked on double yellow lines and dashed across the road 'to the rescue'. Calmly he showed me what he was doing and ever since if I see him I stop to admire the work of art and we exchange a word or two.

Now an article in the edition of the New York Times that came with The Observer (26 June 2011) covers his much wider range of artistic work both in this country and abroad,

Monica Myers

Dukes Avenue

A careful approach for Pinkham Way

I just wanted to say how much I agree with the letter from Chris Barker published in the July Newsletter.

I do agree that this matter has been handled badly by the North London Waste Authority and the respective London boroughs, which probably accounts for some of the ire; but Mr Barker's considered approach is much more aligned to the reality of the situation than the blanket rejection which seems to have been adopted by others - which is tantamount to saying no more than that the waste should be taken elsewhere to be a problem to another group of people.

I hope that the recently announced delay for further review of the plans will allow both the production of more careful and reasonable plans and a more careful and more reasonable response.

Helen Egford

Greenham Road

Our noticeboard gets a facelift

THE NOTICEBOARD, sited near the Odeon roundabout, adjacent to Ryman's stationery shop, has been personalised to reflect its new status as an Association community facility. While our worthy volunteers, Jack Whitehead and Bill Jago, also known as the Association graffiti clean-up team, have always maintained and updated the noticeboard, it recently passed firmly into our hands from Haringey, due to its cutbacks.

Jack and Bill have now ensured that the noticeboard not only displays community notices in an attractive and eye-catching way, but is also clearly marked as ours, with contact details and an invitation for new members to join us, along with a description of all the benefits of membership.

You can help by sending in your notices of events and other areas of community interest for display on the noticeboard and also by encouraging your contacts to do the same. Jack and Bill are keen to make it represent the dynamic area in which we live and work.

Advertisements for profit-making businesses or of a political nature are not accepted. New notices should be sent to MHFGA, PO Box 56960, London, N10 9BA.



From left: Jack Whitehead and Bill Jago visit our noticeboard

PLANNING MATTERS – a round-up from Pat Bloomfield

New address

Haringey's Planning Office in Tottenham High Road was damaged in the recent riots and it has moved to River Park House opposite Wood Green underground station. The move seems to have been accomplished with very little disruption to the service and those of us in the west of the borough will find it more easily accessible. The new address is:-

*Planning and Regeneration
Level 6, River Park House
Wood Green
N22 8HQ*

Telephone numbers are unchanged. As before planning applications can be viewed at:

[www.planningservices.haringey.gov.uk/portal/servlets/
ApplicationSearchServlet](http://www.planningservices.haringey.gov.uk/portal/servlets/ApplicationSearchServlet)

New applications

262 Muswell Hill Broadway

No doubt members will have noticed the boarded-up area at the top of Muswell Hill. It is the site of what was one of the oldest buildings in Muswell Hill and pre-dates all the Victorian and Edwardian development of the area. It was demolished while a planning application for partial demolition was under consideration and possibly it was deemed to be dangerous. However, it is regrettable to lose one of the few older buildings. A retrospective application for total demolition and re-building has now been submitted. It is, though, lacking in information and it is not clear if a like-for-like rebuild is intended. The proposed new shop front is not in line with Haringey Council's recommendations for the Conservation Area. I have objected on these grounds in the hope that more information will be provided by the applicant.

(Application ref: HGY/2011/1398)

Eden Primary, 79 Creighton Avenue

Since our last Newsletter in July a formal planning application has been made for the proposed Eden Primary School on the vacant site adjacent to Fortismere School. A public Planning Forum was arranged by the Planning Department and chaired by Paul Smith, Head of Development Management. A presentation was made by the architect Steve Sands of Hunters Architects.

He explained the limitations of the site which includes an area at the rear, designated as Metropolitan Open Land, which can't be built on and a significant number of mature trees covered by Tree Preservation Orders. Mr Sands explained that these restrictions have meant that there is no room for parking on the site (with the exception of one disabled bay). Some cycle spaces are also provided and a drop-off point within the site adjacent to the main entrance door.

Parking problems

Local residents expressed their serious anxiety both about increased traffic, particularly at the beginning and end of the school day, and about extra parking, already near capacity in the local area. It was felt that many people would travel by car to the school because access by public transport is poor. The proposed use of the school for functions in the evenings and at weekends and during school holidays would cause similar problems and it was felt that time limits should be put on these functions. The Traffic Plan submitted with the application was considered unrealistic. Mr Sands explained that his brief did not include these matters.

The other subjects raised included the need for really adequate provision of planting, screens, and obscure glazing

where necessary, to ensure the privacy of owners of houses in Ringwood Avenue which back onto the site. The architect advised that such measures are included in the design.

I have submitted a comment on the application on behalf of MHFGA, welcoming the primary school places which would be provided and are badly needed in the area but suggesting that parking and traffic implications must be considered as must overlooking and disturbance to nearby properties.

The application is due to go to the Planning sub-committee on 12 September. The school will open this September with 30 pupils accommodated in Fortismere School. Thereafter, the numbers will increase by 30 pupils per year to a maximum of 210. *(Application ref: HGY/2011/1166)*

Planning appeals

85 Woodside Avenue *(see July Newsletter)*

The appeal is still ongoing. The deadline for exchange of documents between the applicant and Haringey's Planning Department was extended to 10 August by the Planning Inspectorate which means, presumably, that a decision cannot be expected for a few weeks.

(Application ref: HGY/2011/0474)

76 St James's Lane *(site at the rear)*

The application for three new houses on the site of existing garages was dismissed on 19 August.

At the time of writing there are no details or Planning Inspector's report on line but I shall chase this up.

(Application ref: HGY/2010/1994)

Other matters

Pinkham Way *(revised programme)*

The application for a waste processing plant on the site has now been put on hold pending submission of further information, expected at the end of September. The application will then be validated and the information put in the public domain, that is, it will be available for viewing. The application will remain on hold pending the outcome of an Examination in Public into the North London Waste Plan in February 2012 with a report likely in April 2012. (See Tim Hunt's report on page 5 for more details.)

St Luke's Hospital *(tree matters)*

As reported in the July Newsletter, a large part of the site in Woodside Avenue is to be sold for re-development. Features of this part of the site are not only the listed buildings but also the landscaping and mature trees. I have been in discussion about the trees with Haringey's Arboricultural Department and I am pleased to say they have now issued an Area Tree Preservation Order covering the relevant part of the site and all the trees, not only mature or specimen trees. This Area TPO is, I am told, rarely used except where the future of the site is uncertain. It will mean that any proposed development will have to include proposals for all the trees on site.

Planning volunteer wanted

If you are interested in planning affairs, do consider stepping forward to help Pat in her work with a view to eventually taking over the role. It is an interesting and rewarding one but Pat has been hoping for some time now to retire!

The job involves liaising with the local Conservation Area Advisory Committee as well as various Council officials, checking planning information and attending six Committee meetings a year with a planning report. Contact Pat for more information. Her details are on the back page.

Other people's events

ALEXANDRA PALACE ORGAN APPEAL: a concert will be given by Carl Jackson, Organist of Her Majesty's Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace. It will take place on THURSDAY 15 SEPTEMBER at 7.30pm in the Great Hall at Alexandra Palace. The doors will open at 7pm. Enter through the Palm Court. Admission is £7, Friends pay £5 and students free. Find more details of this and forthcoming events at www.allypallyorgan.org.uk

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL - HORNSEY AND WOOD GREEN GROUP: the group meets on the third Wednesday of every month at 8.00pm at the Friends Meeting House, Church Crescent, N10 3NE, in the Rainforest Room in the basement (ring the top bell). The next meeting is on WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER. For more details email Jane Bywaters on jane.bywaters2@hotmail.com or call her on 0777 6230182.

FARMERS' MARKET: the Alexandra Park farmers' market takes place EVERY SUNDAY at the Hornsey Gate entrance, from 10am to 3pm. Ring 8302 9010 for more information or see www.weareccfm.com

FORTIS GREEN WARD DROP-IN SURGERIES (Met Police): there are drop-in surgeries on FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER from 10-10.30am in Jenny's Restaurant and on MONDAY 28 NOVEMBER at Muswell Hill Library from 6-6.30pm.

Visit www.met.police.uk/teams/haringey/fortisgreen for more information or call 8721 2506 or 07876 038 059. Alternatively, email on fortisgreen.snt@met.police.uk

FRIENDS OF ALEXANDRA PARK: there is a Bat Walk on TUESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER starting at 6.30pm in Alexandra Park. Come and learn about bats, see them and hear them (with a little help from a bat detector). Places will be limited so book through the website when details appear there from 13 SEPTEMBER.

A Tree Walk is taking place on SUNDAY 30 OCTOBER. Join others with an interest in trees to examine and identify a few of the wide range of native and exotic trees in Alexandra Park. Details will be added to the website nearer the time. Visit www.friendsofalexandrapark.org

FRIENDS OF QUEEN'S WOOD: The working group next meets at 10.30am on SUNDAY 25 SEPTEMBER at The Lodge off Muswell Hill Road, to carry out conservation work in the wood. Tools are provided but bring protective gloves.

The Autumn Walk, looking at tree health, is on SUNDAY 9 OCTOBER at 2pm. Ring Lucy Roots on 8883 8875 for more information or visit the Friends' website. The address is www.fqw.org.uk/events/

MUSWELL HILL FRIENDS OF THE EARTH: the group meets at 7.30pm on the second Tuesday of every month at the Friends Meeting House,

Church Crescent, N10 3NE. For more details contact Tim Root on tim@timroot.net or call him on 8340 7764 or 07726 793265.

MUSWELL & HIGHGATE PENSIONERS' ACTION GROUP: Members of the group meet regularly at Hilldene Court, 11 Alexandra Park Road, in the lounge on the first floor. A lift is available. Phone Janet Shapiro on 8883 9571 or email her at janet.rmshapiro@btopenworld.com for more details.

MUSWELL HILL TOY LIBRARY: upstairs in the Library, it is open on MONDAYS 2-3.30pm and THURSDAYS and FRIDAYS 9.30-12 noon.

MUSWELL HILL WARD DROP-IN SURGERIES (Met Police): drop-in surgeries are taking place as follows: FRIDAY 9 SEPTEMBER, 8-8.30pm at Planet Organic; TUESDAY 1 NOVEMBER, 12-12.30pm at Planet Organic and WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER, 7-7.30pm at Starbucks in Muswell Hill Broadway.

Email the team at: MuswellHill.snt@met.police.uk Alternatively, call 8721 2765 or 07760 170127.

The team's web address is www.met.police.uk/teams/haringey/muswellhill

MUSWELL HILL WEA: courses will take place at North Bank from the end of SEPTEMBER in French conversation (improvers and advanced), writing for pleasure and 'American Art from Colonialism to Abstract Expressionism'. All courses are two hours a week for 20 weeks. Further details are in WEA brochures in libraries, a www.wea.org.uk or ring 8883 4873 or 8440 4008.

NORTH BANK: an open afternoon, which links with the London Open House Weekend, is on SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER from 3-6pm. Everybody is welcome. It's a free event where you can enjoy harvest flower arrangements and where tea and cakes are for sale.

Weekly exercise classes for the over 60s take place in the Garden Room on FRIDAYS. The Fitness Plus class is from 10.30-11.15am (if recommended by the instructor) and the General Fitness class is at 11.45-12.30pm. There is a 'meet and chat' slot with refreshments provided at 11.15 - 11.45am. Sessions are £2 and it is possible to pay for five sessions at a time. For more information phone David Restarick on 8365 2466 or email community@mhmc.org.uk

Age Concern Haringey advice and help sessions take place on the last FRIDAY of each month from 10.30am -12.30pm. Call the number above for more details.

North Bank's address is 28 Pages Lane, N10 1PP. Visit www.mhmc.org.uk

NORTH LONDON CHORUS: the next concert is on SATURDAY 19 NOVEMBER at 7.30pm in St James's Church. Music by Durufle, Britten, Tavener and Messiaen will be featured. Tickets can be obtained from Les Aldrich music shop in Fortis Green Road. Alternatively, call Ticketline on 3468 1213. For more information visit www.northlondonchorus.org.uk