

# GREENHILL MANOR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

## NEWSLETTER – Summer 2016

<b>C o n t e n t s</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>Regeneration – the Future of Harrow</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>A Theatre for Harrow</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>East lane Theatre</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Walk in Centres and Urgent Care Centres</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Litter</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Old Bonnersfield Lane (Belmont Trail Link)</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Your Councillors and MP</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Your Current Committee</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Association Boundaries</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Useful Telephone Numbers</b>	<b>12</b>

Cllr.Keith Ferry, one of our three Greenhill Councillors and also a Cabinet member, Chair of the Planning Committee and Deputy Chair of the Council, came to talk to the Annual General Meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> May.

The following is a brief account

### **Regeneration:**

planning for the future shape and growth of Harrow.

After consulting the residents it was decided to restrict development to the central area and maintain the Green Belt and open spaces. Development is being concentrated on the town centres of Harrow and Wealdstone and the main road between them.

### **Future developments**

Greenhill Way car park, the remaining council property in central Harrow, could be used for a mixture of shops, leisure [maybe a bowling

alley], and possibly small residential units. Some car parking is still needed there.

Harrow Leisure Centre is an aging building on a large site, including the old Driving Centre. It could be demolished, rebuilt and the rest of the site developed. It would be necessary to find out what leisure facilities are needed – there are now a number of gyms in Harrow.

The present Civic Centre is outdated, inefficient and a waste of space but redeveloping the large site will allow for nearly 900 new homes including affordable housing, retail and a new school. The move to the Peel Road car park will include further development in Wealdstone, probably involving Premier House and the library. Developments at ColArt, the old Windsor and Newton factory in Wealdstone, will include studios for artists, which will also raise money.

### **Good News**

Retailers want to come to Harrow. There is a waiting list for space in St. Anne's and St. George's Centres, which have a 3.9% vacancy rate. Footfall counts by an outside body since August 2015 rate Harrow higher than Watford and Uxbridge and increasing. There is not a big enough space for a large store like John Lewis.

### **Less Good news**

By 2020 the council will receive no money from central government so expenditure will need to be met by the council tax and the business rate plus income generated by commercialisation and property development. In the past money from central government was much more than that raised from local taxes.

Residents now come back in the rush hour and go to their homes. If they are attracted in to the town centre, the shops will open later and restaurants will open as well as the present fast food outlets.

The council's role is to have an overall balanced vision of the growth needed to keep the area prosperous and the residents happy. Leisure facilities are needed, especially for 14-24 year olds. Whatever the vision government regulations and developers' need for profit are important considerations.

## Free School, junction Station Road/Elmgrove Road

The council had no say in the siting of the school in the old Wickes HQ despite the impact on traffic. Permitted Development means that rules made by the government have to be followed. Blocks of offices like those in Lyon Road do not have to include affordable housing and, although the structure and layout may not be entirely suitable for residential, the council has no power over this. Similarly commercial developers buy a site and put up large blocks of flats. The old Kodak site will have a school and a doctor's surgery but in some cases the council's influence is limited.

Your association will continue to monitor developments and offer views as far as possible.

### A THEATRE FOR HARROW?



Councillor Ferry's talk to the Association at the AGM was very interesting. He spoke of major changes to Harrow's central area and mentioned housing, offices – oh, and perhaps a bowling alley! There was no mention of provision for residents outside of work and home. I believe that Harrow centre would benefit greatly by the provision of a theatre. There have been many proposals for a Harrow Theatre over the years. Plans were drawn up for a theatre where the St. George's Centre is now. There was advanced planning for the Gayton Road library site or car park to have a theatre and finally, under the 'Building Schools for the Future' plans there was an intention to incorporate a theatre into a modernised Harrow High School on Gayton Road. 'But,' older residents will say 'Harrow once had a theatre – the Coliseum.' Well, yes and no. Harrow once had a commercial theatre which commenced life as a cinema and closed many years ago.

There are two main types of theatre 'commercial' and 'community'. Commercial theatres are used by travelling shows of one kind or another. London has many of these. Community theatres are integrated into the towns where they are built and provide all-year-round entertainment and accommodation for the many local groups including drama, music, dance, film and talks. Generally, a group of actors are employed for part of the year and, under the direction of a resident Artistic Director, put on a series of plays which appeal to the local public and visitors. In addition, there is outreach work in the

community – in schools there is assistance in drama by visiting actors who help to encourage youngsters to develop personal skills. In the theatre itself there are classes on every aspect of theatre – acting, singing, scenery design, play direction and production.

In addition, a good theatre provides a venue all day. Income is improved by a café/restaurant, an art gallery encourages local artists and a book stall can provide plays and biographies of playwrights.

Where such theatres have been built in recent times: Bolton, Lancaster, Keswick, Manchester and others, they have all found that the theatre became central to the life of the town.

Harrow has many drama, musical and dance groups. The only provision for them is an old school hall at Harrow Arts Centre which is not very central. Transport is not very good to Hatch End and (in my opinion) the investment by the Council into the old Harrow Arts Centre is misguided. A theatre in Central Harrow would bring life and energy into Harrow, which is dull and lifeless in the evenings.

For a more comprehensive exposition of the need for a Harrow Theatre send an email to me at [peterhamill@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:peterhamill@tiscali.co.uk) and I will forward a 10 page document to you. I have already sent a copy to Councillor Ferry (no response) and to the team of architects who are planning the new Harrow (no response). I look forward to hearing from you.

***While we are waiting for a Harrow Theatre, the following recommendation has been made:-***

### **East Lane Theatre**

Vale Farm, Watford Rd, Sudbury HA0 3HG

Booking: 07762 622215

East Lane Theatre Club is unique among amateur drama groups in the local area in that we occupy our own 75-seat theatre. Our proud claim is that we are “Wembley’s Only Live Theatre”.

The Club obviously has historical connections with East Lane, Wembley, but our theatre is now in a different location, a short walk from Sudbury town centre.

We are currently celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> season in our theatre building. Our club’s history goes back a lot farther than 25 years, however. Its roots were in ‘East Lane Dramatic Society’ which formed in October 1936, only changing its name to ‘East Lane Theatre Club’ when we moved into our theatre. So October 2016 will actually be our group’s 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary! We plan to celebrate it appropriately.



We normally stage four productions each year, generally a mix of comedy and drama. In 2016, as it happens, we will be limiting ourselves to three shows. In March we staged 'Whipping It Up' by Steve Thompson, a satirical comedy about party politics. Our second production, which has just finished, was 'Rope' by Patrick Hamilton, a dark story about murder (which you may know from the film by Alfred Hitchcock). Our third production of the year will be 'The Winslow Boy' by Terence Rattigan, which will go on stage in late November.

If you would like to know more about East Lane Theatre Club, you can find a lot of information on our website, [www.eastlanetheatre.co.uk](http://www.eastlanetheatre.co.uk).

A good way to keep tabs on our upcoming productions is to join our patrons' email list. We send out flyers about each production to notify our patrons when tickets have gone on sale. If you would like to join our email list, just let us know by dropping an email to: [eastlanetheatre@gmail.com](mailto:eastlanetheatre@gmail.com).

Finally, if you are coming to our theatre, some directions may be helpful:

- (i) Turn off Watford Road into the access road to Vale Farm Sports Centre;
- (ii) Just after you pass the 'Fantasy Island Play Centre', turn right into the large car park;
- (iii) There is an open sports field adjacent to the car park, with a footpath along one side; walk down the footpath about 100 yards to the theatre.

Perhaps I should mention that our theatre is behind a security fence and looks rather like a shed from outside, but don't be fooled! Inside you will think you are in the West End.



## Walk-in centres and UCCs

Walk-in centres and urgent care centres (UCCs) are an alternative to accident and emergency (A&E) departments.

They are centres that treat minor illnesses and injuries and you do not need an appointment. Just walk in and you will be seen by an experienced nurse or a GP.

The following walk-in centres are located in Harrow:

### [Alexandra Avenue Health and Social Care Centre](#)

Rayners Lane

275 Alexandra Avenue

HA2 9DX

Opening times: 8am-8pm, seven days a week

Telephone: 020 8966 6300

### [The Pinn Medical Centre](#)

Pinner

37 Love Lane

HA5 3EE

Opening times: 8am-8pm, seven days a week

Telephone: 020 8866 5766

The following urgent care centre is located nearby to Harrow:

### [Northwick Park Hospital Urgent Care Centre](#)

Watford Road

Harrow

HA1 3UJ

Opening times: 24 hours a day, seven days a week

Tel: 020 8864 3232

What conditions do they treat?

Minor illnesses and injuries that require urgent treatment including:

minor illnesses	ear and throat infections
cuts and grazes	minor skin infections /rashes
minor scalds and burns	minor eye conditions /infections
strains and sprains	stomach pains
bites and stings	suspected fractures
minor broken bones	minor head injuries

On arrival you will be assessed and treated in order of the priority of your condition.

*Copied from NHS Harrow Clinical Commissioning Group website*

# LITTER



*Rubbish Dumped next to the bin – Foxes rummage through the Bags and this creates a breeding ground for rodents and other pests.*

Do you know why some people dump bags of household rubbish in the streets? Everyone in Harrow and the adjoining borough of Brent has their rubbish collected by the Council at least once a fortnight, so why does it happen?

Maybe newcomers, confused by the system, do not understand what rubbish goes in which bin, and that the lid of the bin must be closed. Overflowing bins and those with the wrong rubbish (for example plastic bags in the recycling bin) will not be emptied. Please, can we help our neighbours if we see they are struggling?



Blue bins are for recycling items only, bottles, clean paper, newspapers, magazines, catalogues, phone books, plastic bottles and containers - a full list can be obtained from the Civic Centre. The Green bin is for any items not recyclable. Despite the message on our blue bins that the Brown bin [garden rubbish] is emptied on the same day as the Green one, this only happens if you have paid a separate fee. Leaflets explaining the system can be obtained from the Civic Centre

As this Newsletter is being sent to everyone one in our catchment area, we are taking the opportunity to reissue part of a leaflet aiming to help newcomers to our streets. We do hope that this will be of assistance to all of us.



## Old Bonnersfield Lane



Photo from Francis Road 1

The remains of the old Lane run from the end of Francis Road by the nursery round in a curve and come out part way up Manor Road. It is been renovated and planted up.

The path winds towards Manor Road.

There are birds that can be seen in the bushes and trees on either side of the path on many days. There will soon be an illustrated board [part funded by GMRA] to help identify the wildlife along the Lane including a rare Violet Jewel Wasp.



## Your Greenhill councillors to deal with local matters

Susan Anderson - EMAIL [sue.anderson@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:sue.anderson@harrow.gov.uk)

Mobile number: 07875094900

Keith Ferry - EMAIL [keith.ferry@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:keith.ferry@harrow.gov.uk)

Mobile number: 07922227147

Ghazanfar.Ali – EMAIL [Ghazanfar.Ali@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:Ghazanfar.Ali@harrow.gov.uk)

Mobile Number: 07840 514852

## Your member of Parliament

Gareth Thomas lives locally, went to school in Harrow and has been Harrow West MP since 1997.

The constituency office is 132 Blenheim Road, West Harrow, HA2 7AA

Tel: 020 8861 6300. Surgeries are usually held on Fridays on a weekly basis.

[gareth.thomas@harrowlabour.org](mailto:gareth.thomas@harrowlabour.org)

His Parliamentary address is  
House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Tel: 020 7219 4243

Fax: 020 7219 1154

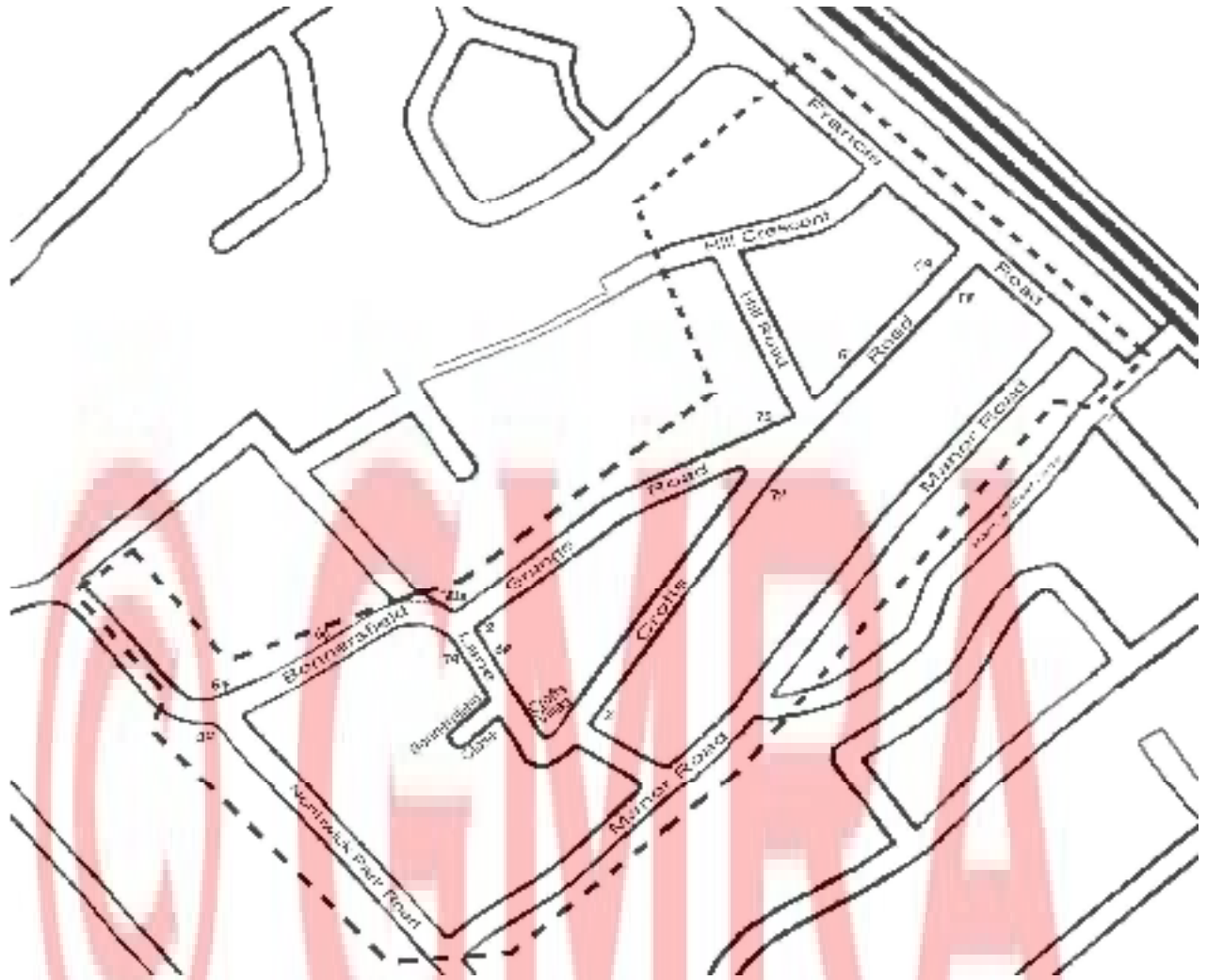
[thomasgr@parliament.uk](mailto:thomasgr@parliament.uk)

## Your current committee

Chairman	Margaret Bristow, 118 Crofts Road
Vice Chairman	<b><i>Position vacant</i></b>
Secretary	Helen Shorter, 55 Grange Road
Treasurer	Eddie Griffiths, 11 Northwick Park Road
Planning Adviser	<b><i>Position vacant</i></b>
<b>Road Representatives</b>	
Bonnorsfield Lane, Close & Croft Villas	Noor Mohamed, 71 Bonnorsfield Lane
Crofts Road	Margaret Bristow, 118 Crofts Road
Francis Road	Bijal Vekaria, 35 Francis Road
Grange Road	Helen Shorter, 55 Grange Road
Hill Crescent and Road	Myrna Albertsen, 27 Hill Crescent
Manor Road	Mike Moran, 43 Manor Road
Northwick Park Road	Sylvia Farooqi } Northwick Gwen Batham } Park Road

**A Vice Chairman is needed.** Please think about it or if there is anyone else you could suggest. There are six committee meetings a year, which usually only last from 7.30pm to 8.30 or so. It is an opportunity to see how the committee works and, if the Chairperson is absent, to run the meeting. A Planning Adviser is also needed.

## About the Association



The Association is a non-political, non-religious organisation run by your neighbours for the benefit of all residents in Greenhill Manor [see map], whether they are home-owners or tenants.

## Useful Telephone Numbers

All <b>MAJOR</b> emergencies: Fire, Police or Ambulance	999
Harrow Council	
Civic Centre	(020) 8901 2600
Abandoned Cars	(020) 8424 1548
Removal of bulky items	(020) 8424 1770
<b>Metropolitan Police – Urgent</b>	<b>999</b>
Metropolitan Police - Harrow Police Station and request Harrow Police Station	(020) 8423 1212
Anti-Terrorist Hot Line	0800 789 321
Crimestoppers (confidential)	0800 555 111
Greenhill Safer Neighbourhood Unit Or MOBILE	(020) 8721 2780 0782 565 7975
To report an electricity power cut	0800 783 8838
National Gas Emergency Service	0800 111 999
Water leak (Affinity Water)	0800 376 5325
Telephone Preference Service - to stop unwanted calls	0845 070 0707
Mail Preference Service	(020) 7291 3310
Harrow Energy Efficiency Advice helpline and Energy Saving Guidance	0800 838 650
Brent and Harrow Trading Standards Service Shoppers rights	(020) 8937 5555