

# GREENHILL MANOR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

www.gmra.org.uk

## ***NEWSLETTER: Spring 2024***

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## **To all residents of the neighbourhood**

### ***COME AND JOIN US***

Your local Residents' Association is a way for us to have a voice with the council and the police about anything that is bothering all of us and to develop a feeling of belonging and taking pride in the neighbourhood. There is a representative for each road, the newsletter comes out 3 times a year and both are ways to have your say and find out what is going on in locally. The membership subscription is minimal and pays for the newsletters [this one is free], the website [www.gmra.org.uk](http://www.gmra.org.uk) and hire of the hall for the Annual General Meeting, which is an opportunity to meet your neighbours. There is a litter picking group aiming to take a pride in our area [Volunteers welcome].

## **Annual General Meeting**

It is on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at Victoria Hall, Sheepcote Road at 8pm. Louise Baxter, Manager of the Business Improvement District, will be talking about **running the town centre**. Her work involves, together with the police and the council, dealing with town centre crime and anti-social behaviour, including moving on persistent beggars and deterring shoplifters. She organises events such as reindeer visiting before Christmas and street markets. Her overall aim is to make the area feel safer for businesses and more welcoming for the public.

## **Chairperson's Report**

The GMRA [Greenhill Manor Residents Association] was first formed in 1989 and it is still going strong. It is a non-political, non-religious association run by your neighbours for the benefit of all residents in Greenhill Manor irrespective of whether they are home-owners or tenants.

I am proud to say that I joined some 6 years ago as I found the newsletters during that time very useful and informative. I would also add that the membership reflects diversity. I joined it also because the GMRA was representing the concerns of the residents in the following ways:

- ❖ taking up any issues with the Council on behalf of the residents - a good example was the closure of Francis Road by the LTN
- ❖ putting forward a view on issues such as any new developments which may impact on our residents
- ❖ forming a litter-picking team [headed by Godfrey O'Callaghan] as well as alerting the council of fly-tipping and I am impressed with the speed at which the council responds.

The new year (2024) has come by and we will soon be marking the Easter festivities and school holidays. I have now held the post for 6 years and our AGM is on the 15th May at Victoria Hall at 8pm. Please take note of day and time and I am looking forward to welcoming new and old residents.

During the winter months, we held our committee meetings on Zoom and we are looking forward to face-to-face meetings in the warmer weather. During my trips in helping to collect subscriptions and distribute leaflets, I was pleased to have chats with the residents. It was a very pleasant experience and we had feedback on the concerns with drug addicts, noisy anti-social behaviour, speeding cars and vans and fly-tipping. We have channelled these concerns to the council and police. I would therefore urge you to contact the council and police if such incidents arise. It is not a waste of time as the police have in the past acted on information on drug suppliers and drug users.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our secretary, Helen Shorter for always being meticulous in her minutes and newsletters. My thanks go to Noor Mohamed for maintaining and updating the website and helping with newsletters. My thanks also go to Eddie Griffiths for taking care of our finances. My thanks to Godfrey for his litter reports and litter clearing as well as all street reps for their role during the year.

*Hemuna Pather-Carr*

## Funny Litter



When the editor asked for some amusing words about litter-picking – apparently, I had written one before (I'm pleased she found it amusing) – I was immediately lost for words. Nothing is amusing about litter is it – or could there be? I mean, after all it's only how one looks at it. There is so much of it that perhaps it is missing the point to get annoyed about something remembered from our upbringing in which we

were reminded one way or another of not dropping sweetie papers. Clearly, there are armies of human beings out there that never had that beaten into them. So, one day, I set forth to be amused – and I must state at this point I am not easily amused.

I began to look at the chaotic arrangements of scattered bottles and crisp packs left after a street drink session and thought about the state of incapacity they may have been experiencing – blind drunk sprung to mind – and once I got to that mental image, I did chuckle. Can you imagine? It rather reminds me of a greeting card that featured Turnstones – a busy seaside bird with a snowy white breast, mottled brown back and orange legs and feet – and the caption read “They didn't stop until every Turn was Stoned” I was litter-picking one day and I came across a group all taking drugs on the street -talk about happy. Them that is, not me. I had come across them before and they knew I cleared up litter. They had scattered some wrappers around them. I let out a deep sigh but then, surprise, surprise, they began to pick up their litter and brought it to my bag. Wow! I still told them to clear off.

On Saturday 2nd March a community Litter pick took place in the area. It was a soggy day and turnout was low. It was nice to meet some residents while we were picking. Pictured are: Marian Humphries (right) from Harrow Litter Pickers, Hemuna Pather-Carr (centre) and Godfrey O'Callaghan (left) who cleared several bags of bottles and cans - many deep inside bushes - and reported 3 fly-tips.

***More volunteers are needed. Equipment is provided.***

***If you can help, please contact Godfrey on 07712341677***

## New CCTV cameras catch fly-tippers

In the council's fight against fly-tippers, 15 new CCTV cameras are being installed in the borough's top hotspots. 10 have already been installed in the borough. It means where there is evidence, fixed penalty notices of £400 will be issued to offenders. Where the council requires further information, stills will be used to as

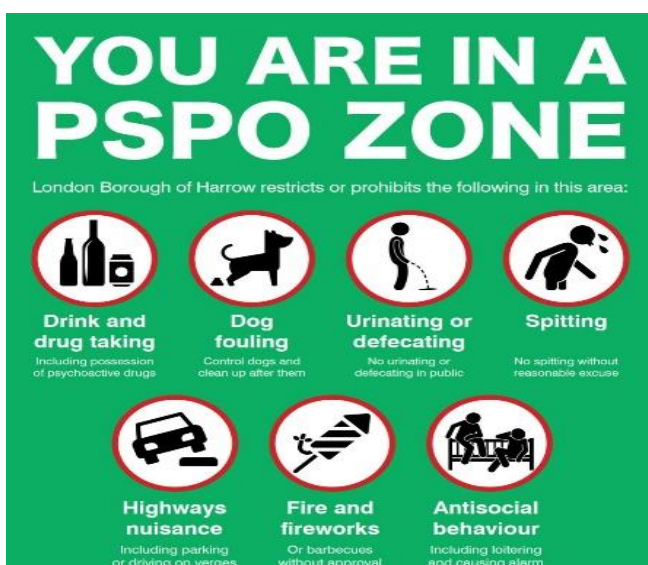


part of a witness appeal campaign.

Cameras will be deployed based on police and council data on ASB and fly-tip hotspots. Other sources of intelligence will also be considered, including reports from residents and neighbourhood watch groups. You can submit your request for CCTV deployment.

They'll stay in these areas for as long as necessary to address the issue and will be deployed to new locations once instances reduce. Footage will be reviewed at the council's brand-new CCTV control room when a fly-tip occurs.

## Public Spaces Protection Order [PSPO]



From 1 March new offences such as use of fireworks in streets; loitering and causing distress; walking more than 4 dogs without a permit will be added to the borough-wide PSPO. Existing orders such as spitting, littering, street drinking, smoking in play areas, failing to pick up dog mess and driving over footpaths will still be enforced. For any further information check the council's website:

<https://www.harrow.gov.uk/news/article/11288/restoring-pride->

## **Developments**

The council recently announced that more than 1,200 new homes are set to transform Harrow. Three sites in Harrow will be redeveloped as part of the



scheme, including the former Civic Centre and abandoned driving school, which will also provide a new park and business opportunities.

Harrow Council's Cabinet approved the development of council-owned land at a recent meeting (January 24 2024). A joint venture

alongside property developers Wates, the project aims to deliver affordable homes, alongside green and public spaces.

The council's old headquarters, the Civic Centre on Station Road, and the old driving school, which has been empty for more than 20 years, are two of the sites chosen for redevelopment. Once complete, 1,249 new homes will be delivered across both sites.

The former Civic Centre location, to be named Poets Corner, will comprise 1,100 homes – 15 per cent of which are earmarked as affordable – and be spread out across three development phases. The first phase will deliver 532 'build to rent' properties, six per cent of which will be affordable. When complete, Poets Corner will also have a large public square, a new park, and 14,000 square feet of commercial space.

The old driving school, to be named Byron Quarter, will provide 149 new homes – 27 per cent of which are affordable. Following discussions with residents, the low-rise housing will see its height reduced and the number of family-sized homes will be increased by 61.

The third site is the second phase of the redevelopment of Grange Farm, Harrow's largest social housing estate; 89 homes were built last year as part of 'Phase 1'. The new proposals are set to come before the planning committee within the next 12 months. All three projects will go out for public consultation later this year.

## **MyHarrow Talk**

MyHarrow Talk is the London Borough of Harrow's consultation and engagement hub. This is a space for residents and local businesses to have your say and take the opportunity to feedback, share your ideas, and influence the services we provide.

The council is committed to putting residents first by listening to you and keeping you up to date with how your feedback has helped inform decisions. Why not sign up so we can keep you in the loop and you can get involved in projects you're interested in.

Please note, MyHarrowTalk requires a separate registration to your MyHarrow account.

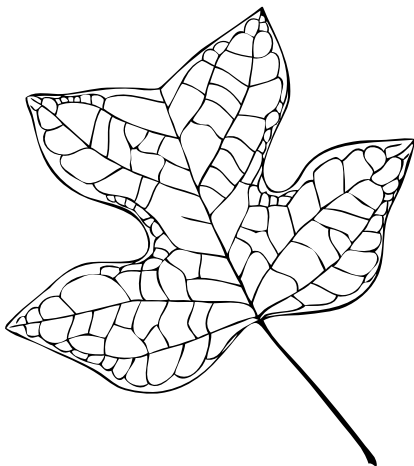
## TREES

There are approximately 21,000 trees along the streets of Harrow and this number rises to over 300,000 when including those in Parks and Open Spaces. The trees of Harrow are predominantly legacies left by Victorian, Edwardian and post-war designers. Harrow is a green borough, and the Council has a considerable stock of around 204,526 trees throughout all its various sites.

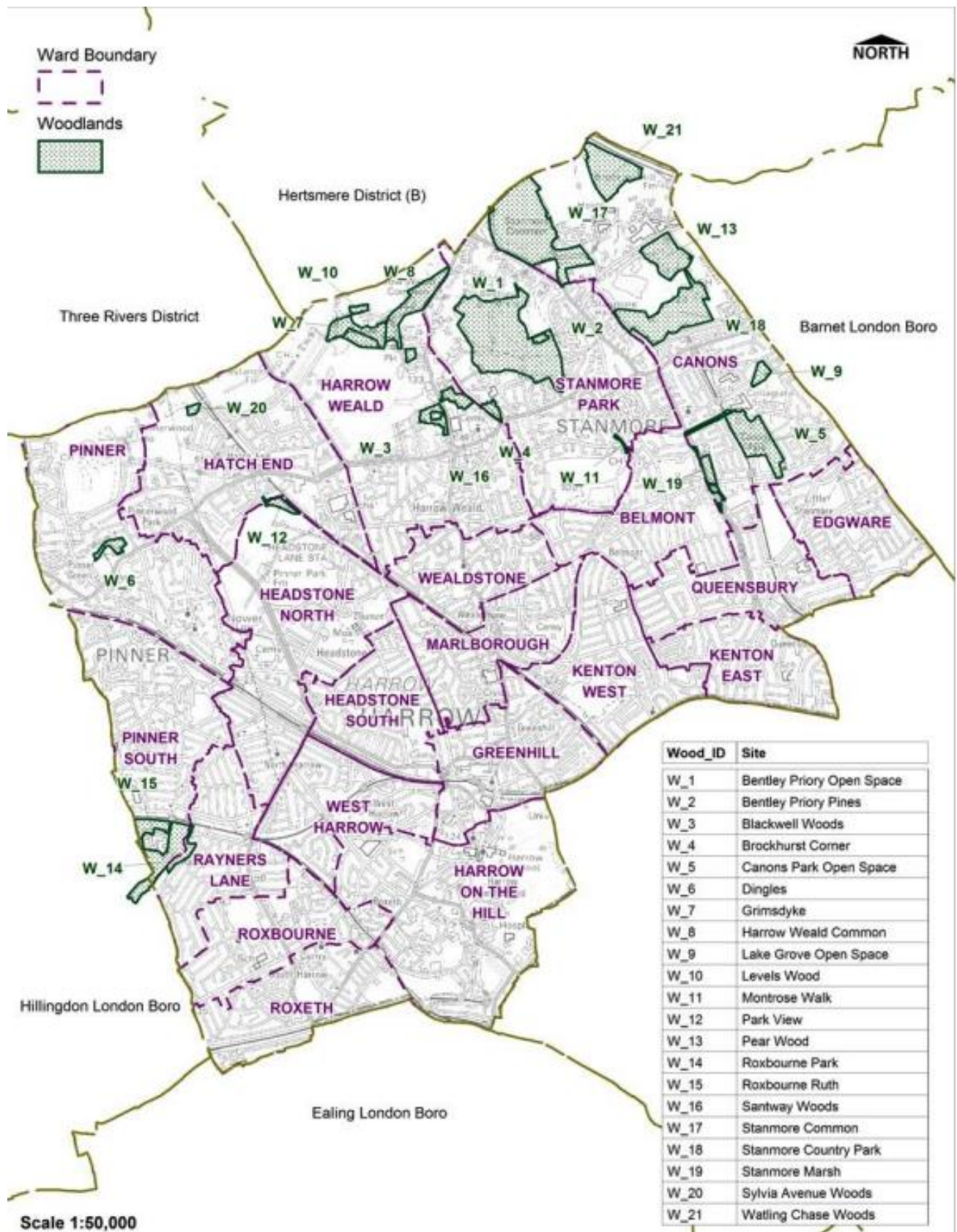
'This year the council have planted a total of 28 trees in Greenhill ward. Of these 24 were planted as part of the Urban Tree Challenge, which is a government grant funding planting of trees in areas of low canopy cover, social deprivation or in close vicinity to healthcare and educational facilities.

Additionally, there have been 4 Harrow Capital funded trees which were planted to replace trees removed due to being dead or hazardous.

The 28 trees have been planted all over Greenhill ward including Havelock Place, High Mead, Hill Crescent, Hill Road and Havelock Place. The council's tree team have specially selected a species for each location. We have chosen species that are suitable for the street environment and the restricted spaces typical around Greenhill. Examples of the species planted include *Amelanchier lamarckii* (Snowy Mespilus), *Pyrus calleryana* 'Chanticleer' (Callery Pear), *Crataegus laevigata* 'Paul's Scarlet' (Midland Hawthorn).



Did you know that next to Golds Gym there are three remaining tulip trees *Liriodendrum tulipefera* [the others were vandalised and different replacements planted] We also have an Indian Bean Tree *Catalpa bignonioides* in our roads – there is one in Harrow Recreation Ground as well. They do not come from India but USA and their long sprays of fruit are not in fact beans.



Street trees provide many benefits including-

- Reduce toxic air mortality
- Insulate and regulate temperature
- Encourage biodiversity

- Improve physical & mental health
- Reduce global warming
- Reduce crime rates
- Flood protection, limiting runoff
- Increase health recovery rates

All of the trees planted are on a three-year maintenance programme with the tree planting contractor which includes watering, weeding, mulching and adjustment of ties. However, during hot weather, it can be difficult to get enough water to the young trees.

Any additional water that residents are able to provide during these times would be much appreciated.

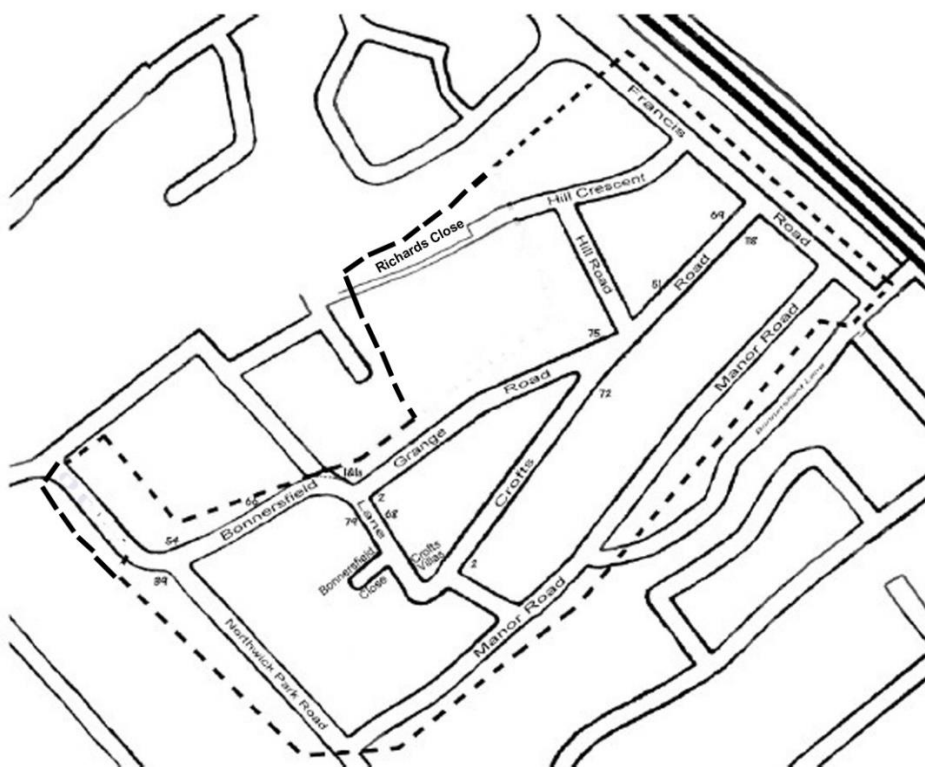
Details on maintenance and how to report issues can be found on the council's website at <https://www.harrow.gov.uk/environment-parks/harrows-trees>

*Jamie Lumley*

*On the website there will be a leaflet Caring for your new street tree.*

## **About the Association**

### **New Boundary 2023**



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 owners of houses, flats or tenants.

## **GMRA Membership & Contact**

By Post: Hemuna Pather-Carr, 41 Northwick Park Road,  
Harrow, HA1 4NY

By E-Mail: gmra@gmra.co.uk

Via web page: <http://gmra.org.uk/contact-gmra.html>

## **The GMRA website – your website**

The GMRA website is paid for by you from your subscriptions and is our own community website. Our webmaster Noor Mohamed manages it and updates it. It is a useful tool and you will find things of interest there. It has a contact form for getting in touch with the committee or telling us you would prefer to pay subs direct to the bank. Related material mentioned in newsletter articles might well be found under the “Resources” which can be found under the “Services” tab. You will also find an archive of past newsletters dating back to 2015, security advice, committee member and councillors’ details and information for new residents.

You may have information that you think is useful and would like to submit.

Please take a look and get to know the site: [www.gmra.org.uk](http://www.gmra.org.uk)

Noor needs an **assistant – a volunteer** to get to know the website and help with it if he is not well enough.

## **Your current GMRA committee**

Chairperson	Hemuna Pather Carr, 41 Northwick Park Road
Deputy Chairperson	Deputy Chairperson - Volunteer needed
Secretary	Helen Shorter 55 Grange Road
Treasurer	Eddie Griffiths 11 Northwick Park Road
Webmaster	Noor Mohamed 71 Bonnersfield Lane
<b>Road Representatives</b>	
Bonnersfield Lane, Bonnersfield Close & Croft	Simon Dunkerley 11 Manor Road
Crofts Road	Elvira Miranda 5 Grange Road
Francis Road	Muhib Anish
Grange Road	Helen Shorter, 55 Grange Road
Hill Crescent, Hill Road, Richards Cl.	Sat Bains, satbains108@gmail.com
Manor Road	Godfrey O'Callaghan 14 Lowndes Court
Northwick Park Road	Sylvia Farooqi Northwick Park Road

Please visit the Greenhill Manor Residents Association  
website [www.gmra.org.uk](http://www.gmra.org.uk)

OR  
Search: 'GMRA Harrow'  
in any browser

## **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)

Website: [www.harrowlabour.org](http://www.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)

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## **Your Local councillors**

Cllr.Ghazanfar Ali	<a href="mailto:Ghazanfar.ali@harrow.gov.uk">Ghazanfar.ali@harrow.gov.uk</a>	07940 50944
Cllr.Dan Anderson	<a href="mailto:Dan.anderson@harrow.gov.uk">Dan.anderson@harrow.gov.uk</a>	020 8424 1897
Cllr.Aneka Shah-Levy	<a href="mailto:Aneka.shah-levy@harrow.gov.uk">Aneka.shah-levy@harrow.gov.uk</a>	020 8424 1897

They hold a surgery at Greenhill Library in central Harrow on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month from 10.30-12.

Greenhill Library also has an information point staffed by council workers to help with accessing council information, paying bills etc.

## Useful Telephone numbers

All <b>MAJOR</b> emergencies: Fire, Police or Ambulance	999
Harrow Council switchboard or <a href="http://www.harrow.gov.uk">www.harrow.gov.uk</a> <i>also on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, LinkedIn, Twitter</i>	020 8863 5611
<b>Metropolitan Police – Urgent</b>	<b>999</b>
Police UK website for reporting or information	<a href="http://www.police.uk">www.police.uk</a>
Metropolitan Police, request Harrow Police Station	(020) 8423 1212
To report a crime that has occurred but not urgent	101
Anti-Terrorist Hot Line	0800 789 321
Crime Stoppers (confidential)	0800 555 111
Greenhill Safer Neighbourhood Unit	(020) 872 2780
To report an electricity power cut	0800 783 8838
National Gas Emergency Service	0800 111 999
Water leak (Affinity Water)	0800 376 5325
Blocked Drain (Thames Water)	0800 316 9800
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

Get to know the police website for advice, reporting crimes, local crime reports and much more:

**[www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)**