



The Woodsider

AUGUST 2017

www.woodside-park.com

Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

Since our last Newsletter there have been some horrible events in the UK and in London and Manchester. At times, I do wonder whether there is any common sense and decency left in the world.

The towering inferno at Grenfell Tower was a shock to the system. How a building could just go up in flames in this day and age I do not know. We have modern technology and materials. We have more regulation than virtually any other country in the world and still these events occur. No doubt, heads will roll but this will not bring back the souls who perished that night. Fires are a blessed rarity in Woodside Park.

Theresa Villiers was returned with a comparatively slim majority in the recent general election. I must admit to being a bit surprised by the narrowness of this result which now makes Chipping Barnet a marginal constituency. Theresa Villiers has always been an excellent constituency MP. But I suppose people were voting for the Conservative policies (or lack of them) and not the individual. Or maybe they just got their "Therasas" confused!

The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, has promulgated a consultation about a strategy for London's traffic over the next three or four decades. He has invited people's opinions about what is being proposed. I have never read such a one-sided emotive load of mumbo-jumbo in all my life. You are asked questions like, "do you want there to be no deaths on London's roads by 2040?" What sort of damn fool question is that? Of course we don't want to see people killed on London's roads. The mayor's answer to that is to get rid of London's roads altogether. Daft! Maybe, we can all be cyclists and mow down pedestrians instead (like they do in Holland).

These consultations are so one-sided that they are meaningless. What we really need is a mayor and his cronies who are close to the thoughts of the average Londoner, not stuck away in some ivory tower. They would not therefore need to carry out these hopelessly expensive and ridiculous consultations - which they then seem to totally ignore.

And, as if that is not bad enough, the whole process delays the advancement of the proposal for years. This was all part of David Cameron's "big society" and influence from the LibDems. Make a proposal, do a consultation, ignore the consultation and do nothing (unless big business is involved and you are HS2).

Talking of consultations, Barnet Council invited me to a consultation about how to improve North Finchley shopping centre. I suggested they get rid of the bus station and replace it with a big shop. The bus station rarely has more than one bus in it and is sited in the most difficult and dangerous place for pedestrians and was really a fallback form the good old days of the trolleybus. I also suggested they stick another level of parking over the Lodge Lane car park and make all parking free of charge. All of this went down like a lead balloon as you might imagine. What's the point of consultations if they just ignore what are quite good and radical ideas (in my humble opinion!) I expect we will end up with a load of cycle lanes which, truthfully, will not help the prosperity of North Finchley shopping centre one iota.

There is a warning overleaf about people who knock on your door offering to do work which you probably don't need. Please do not fall for these offers. Nine times out of ten they are not genuine. If you do receive these offers, please contact me or a committee member first.

I do hope that we shall see you at the Woodsider Party on Wednesday 6th September 2017. We are being blessed this year by the presence of all our representatives including Theresa Villiers and the three Councillors. It is your chance to meet these people and express your good wishes! Of course, the Committee and I would love to meet you as well. We have again invited the table magician who was such a success last year. It costs just £6.00 for food and drink and free entertainment. I doubt that you will find a greater bargain than this. Full details can be found below. Anyway, see you at the Woodsider Party for fun and frolics.

Robert Shutler



WOODSIDER PARTY/AGM WEDNESDAY 6th SEPTEMBER 2017

at OLD FINCHLEIANS CLUBHOUSE, SOUTHOVER
Starting 8.00pm Entry £6.00 to include food and wine
Table magic and background music

Please do come along and meet your neighbours, your MP, the Councillors and your Committee

Planning Applications over the last couple of months

45 Lullington Garth	Roof extension, hip to gable end, Juliette balcony, loft conversion
24 Chanctonbury Way	Roof extension, hip to gable end, Juliette balcony, loft conversion
105 Chanctonbury Way	Erection of rear outbuilding
155/157 Chanctonbury Way	One and two storey side and rear extensions, new front porch, new roof accommodation
20 Cissbury Ring South	Roof extension, hip to gable end
28 Cissbury Ring South	Roof extension, hip to gable end, rooflights, loft conversion
69 Cissbury Ring South	Submission of details of conditions 4 (Obscure glazing)
88 Cissbury Ring South	Single storey rear extension
43 Cissbury Ring North	Roof extension, hip to gable end, Juliette balcony, rooflights, loft conversion
14 Saddlescombe Way	Single storey rear extension
1 Sussex Ring	Change shop opening hours and extraction
26 Walmington Fold	Roof extension, hip to gable end, rooflights, loft conversion
125 Walmington Fold	First floor wrap around side extension with habitable loft space

8 Poynings Way

A second planning application was submitted to construct two houses on the above site and this was rejected by the Council. We do not support over-development in the area. This is a leafy and fairly open-spaced suburban area and over-development is not welcome, neither is splitting houses into two or more flats. Such proposals will always be resisted by the Residents' Association.

Other Bits and Pieces

There have been a spate of burglaries again in the area and some of these have been quite violent. Front doors have been openly smashed down and the burglars (two very tall and big men apparently) have brazenly entered the property whether people are in there or not. Call the local police on 07920 233746 if you see or hear anything suspicious.

Riverside Walk Children's Playground is now officially open along with the various additional apparatus and the kids have been having a good time. Many people helped to bring this to fruition and we should like to thank everyone involved for their time and effort in making this new playground possible.

There are still people knocking on our doors, trying to persuade us that the roof is in poor condition, that tiles need replacing, the chimney stack needs repointing or that the drive needs re-paving. These people are nearly always conmen. Older people are particularly vulnerable to this type of front door bullying. It has to stop and if you come across this, call the local police on 07920 233746. Just recently, we know of two people in the neighbourhood who have been conned in this manner. Please help to stop this.

Leaving your bins on the street for long periods after collections shows scant regard for your neighbours. The bins are not the prettiest sight for everyone to see so if you could return your bins to their rightful position on your property (preferably concealed) this would be helpful. Thanks.

Parking huge SUVs on street corners is also selfish. Other drivers cannot see around these vehicles when coming out of side turnings and they have to edge out into the main street basically hoping and praying that no-one is speeding along which, unfortunately, they often do. If you must drive these monsters, please try and park with a little thought for others.

For those in wheelchairs, dance classes are being run from 18th September to 18th December this year by the Wheelchair Dance Sport Association. Please contact henry@wdsauk.co.uk for information.

If you are community spirited and fancy being a Committee member or delivering Newsletters, please call us - see below for details or contact us through the web site www.woodside-park.com



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