



The Woodsider

MARCH 2017
www.woodside-park.com

Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

Two months of the New year have already passed and it seems a little late to wish everyone in Woodside Park a “happy New Year” but I am going to anyway – so Happy New Year to everyone. We wish you everything that you wish for yourself.

This could be a very interesting year in political terms what with Brexit and Trump and everything else that is going on, but we, in Woodside Park, just carry on regardless and that is probably the best way to be.

The rain stayed away for our carol singing event, held just before Christmas last year. The singing was led by Colette (big thank-you!) and accompaniment by a couple of musicians from St Barnabas Church (another big thank-you!). Consequently the attendance was in the region of 150 people including 50 children and we were also blessed with the attendance of Theresa Villiers (our local MP) and Richard and Alison Cornelius (our Councillors). Colin the magician treated us to some fire juggling. Coffee and drinks were provided by Vero Caffé, with their compliments, and we are extremely grateful to Vero Caffé for providing the drinks and people to serve the drinks. Thank you very much and I hope everyone who reads this will support the café during this coming year.

The children sung “Silent Night” and “Jingle Bells” with great gusto and were rewarded with sweets. There was some scotch whiskey for the adults and all-in-all it was a joyous afternoon. Thanks to everyone who helped and to everyone who attended to make it a memorable occasion, made all the more memorable because the occasion was attended by people from all denominations and religions. We, in Woodside Park, could show the world a thing or two about living in peace and harmony.

There is a video of the carol singing event on our website.

Next event for your calendar is the Woodsider Party, 6th September, starting 8pm at Old Finchleians Clubhouse..

There have been a spate of burglaries around the area recently and it seems that some intruders have been using wheelie bins to climb over fences and gates. It is best to try and remove the bins immediately they have been emptied.

Compared with other residents’ associations, we object to very few planning applications but, when we do, there is a good reason for doing so. The overlarge new house proposals for Poynings Way were refused by the Council and, subsequently, by the Appeals Inspector. This was gross overdevelopment of the site with a basement. A subsequent application for this site has also been withdrawn and we await the revised proposals with interest.

Basements are something which we frown upon and generally we will resist them. I have seen the effect of basements in other boroughs. Woodside Park suburb sits in an old orchard with a heavy clay sub-soil which expands and contracts dependent upon the climate. Basements ruin the hydrology of the soil and severely affect water-flow in the ground. Developers produce all sorts of reports to say that this does not happen - but it does - and by the time anyone finds out the truth, it is too late. Some adjacent gardens end up as mud patches whilst others receive no water at all. I have seen adjoining houses become structurally defective and full of cracks due to basement excavation. Thankfully, the proposed development in Argyle Road for numerous houses with basements was also refused by the Council but we are awaiting the outcome of this from the Appeals Inspector.

A committee member may well knock on your door in the next few months to collect £2 for the subscription to be a member of the Residents’ Association. I do hope you re-join. An envelope may be put through your door for the collection. Around 90% of residents are members and this high membership does help if we need to apply a little pressure on the Council for any reason. We welcome the daffodils and tree blossom. Enjoy Spring!!

Robert Shutler



The Woodsider is produced by the Residents’ Association. Around 90% of the residents in the area belong to the Residents’ Association. This edition of The Woodsider is being delivered to them.

If you are one of the 10% who have recently arrived in the area or for some reason did not join last year, subscriptions are due to be renewed shortly. The cost is £2.00 per annum and if you would like to join this year, please contact the editor, details overleaf. We look forward to welcoming you.

Riverside Walk

The new trim trail has been completed and we are hopeful that all residents will use this to keep themselves fit and trim for the forthcoming summer! Our thanks go to Tesco’s who sponsored the construction of the trim trail. The residue of cost was made up from the coffers of the Residents’ Association. At the time of writing the zip wire had been moved to a new position but has not been finally repaired so it cannot be used. This is being carried out by the Council and we are hopeful that repairs will take place in the next few weeks. The new multi-sports court has been constructed and this is proving very popular with the younger generation. The Council has also promised to repair the pathway which extends along Dollis Brook. It has partially been washed away and fallen into the brook and we are advised that these works will take place in the Spring. Which Spring is anybody’s guess! Unfortunately, it is proposed that the new path will be constructed for both cyclists and pedestrians, which is a crazy idea so, if you are a pedestrian, please be careful out there!

You can comment on the Council’s proposals on https://barnet.geovey.org/app/barnet/geovey_commercial/

Hopefully, by the time summer arrives, everything will be ready and you will be able to enjoy many hours of fun in the park.

Planning Applications over the last couple of months

125 Walmington Fold	First floor side and rear extensions
45 Lullington Garth	Roof extension, hip to gable end, Juliette balcony, loft conversion
52 Lullington Garth	Roof extension, hip to gable end, single storey rear extension 3.4m deep
72 Lullington Garth	One and two storey side and rear extensions, new front porch
12 Cissbury Ring North	Roof extension, hip to gable end, single storey rear extension
20 Cissbury Ring North	Single storey side and rear extensions
88 Cissbury Ring South	Single storey rear extension, 4m deep
9 Folkington Corner	Single storey rear extension
23 Folkington Corner	Convert garage into habitable room
38 Linkside	Single storey rear extension
19 Singleton Scarp	One and two storey side and rear extensions, loft conversion
155/157 Chanctonbury Way	One and two storey side and rear extensions, new front porch, new roof accommodation

Green Belt

Woodside Park borders Green Belt land so we have an interest in this. Encroachment onto Green Belt land continues apace and Barnet Council have now given planning permission for Hasmorean Secondary school to extend their premises and bring the whole secondary school together as one building. This is located on land off Page Street which is still part of the so-called Green Belt and this is the area which also contains Holders Hill cemetery, Hendon Golf Course, Cophall, Saracens and the playing fields. This area should have deregistered as Green Belt some time ago (in fact when Barnet FC wanted to stay in the borough). But instead, it is eaten away, bit by bit. The area could have been properly planned with the most optimum use of the land but we now look onto a hotchpotch of differing developments with little cohesion. There is immense pressure on the Government and the councils to deregulate green belt land and Hertsmere Council are doing exactly that but they have planned it out in a careful and thoughtful manner. It is time Barnet Council did the same thing instead of letting everyone wonder where the next housing estate is going to be built and how much green belt land is going to be lost. Probably this is not a vote winner and hence the indecision.

Mrs Valerie Cohen

Unfortunately we have to report on the recent death of Mrs. Valerie Cohen of Walmington Fold. Valerie was the winner of our Best Garden competition in 2014. In The Woodsider of December that year we noted that hers was the best overall garden. She was commended for her magnificent creation which was admired by all and sundry. We have learned that this achievement meant a great deal to her - to have had her hard work publicly recognised - and was mentioned in the eulogy given by her husband. She was immensely proud to have been awarded the prize by our Committee and we are glad to know that our efforts on behalf of the community can make such an impression on our residents. We send our condolences and good wishes for the future to her family.



printed for the Association without charge by MDC

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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 2015. 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



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

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



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The Woodsider

DECEMBER 2017
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Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

Another year has flown by and here we are, nearly at Christmas again and, of course, the annual carol singing which will be held on Saturday, 16th December 2017 at Sussex Ring, kick-off 4.30pm.

We will again be joined by a couple of members of the St Barnabas choir with drum and guitar and the event would not be complete without the fire torch juggling, refreshments, a dash of whiskey and sweets for the children (all completely free of charge). Last year was an outstanding occasion, enjoyed by all denominations, children and adults alike. It will indeed provide a welcome relief from the diet of Brexit, sexual conduct allegations, paradise papers, shopping and other such stuff which has been swirling around this year!!

The Woodsider Party in September was extremely entertaining. There was delicious food, quite a lot of drink, Colin the entertainer, a little music and much bonhomie. I hope that all of you who attended enjoyed the event. My particular thanks go to the WPRA Committee (and my wife, Trish), who helped with organising and producing the food. Appreciation should also go to John Bowra at the Old Finchleians who ran the bar. Our MP, Theresa Villiers, and one of our three local Councillors made an appearance and joined in the fun.

Our local shops supported the raffle. Many thanks to you all. It is important that we continue to support the local shops. The Sussex Ring hub is now the centre of our community and Vero Café has now been granted permission to become a hot food restaurant. We just have to sort out the parking difficulties which increased use of the Sussex Ring hub is causing. Double yellow lines will be installed around the Sussex Ring to stop selfish people parking immediately on Sussex Ring which prevents buses and lorries from passing through.

There has also been talk of installing double yellow lines up both sides of all cul-de-sacs in Woodside Park but we, along with our Councillors, will be fighting this, should the matter become official.

People are now parking in Linkside and Walmington Fold when they use West Finchley Underground Station and, whilst this might be a nuisance, I think we should also resist any creeping of the Controlled Parking Zone. There will be consultations made nearer the time by the Council but hopefully it will not come to this.

I regret that, due to lack of people prepared to volunteer to assist with the committee, we have had to cut back on our activities. I suppose this is a sign of the times. We have moved into the digital era but, nevertheless, I am very sad to see this decline in community spirit. This Newsletter will appear twice a year and we have abandoned the Woodsider Party for the foreseeable future. The carol singing will remain. Our website shows all of the current planning applications together with other local news. You will find this more up-to-date than the Newsletter.

A bane of our life is supermarket trollies which seem to appear by the brook but also in our streets. Quite, how they get there is anybody's guess because I can't imagine that people put the whole trolley in their car and then just dump it afterwards. There is now a Smartphone App for supermarket trolley collection and all you have to do is take a picture and the phone will relay the GPS position. The App can be downloaded from Apple iTunes or Google Android Play Store and is organised by Trolleywise who aim to collect the trolley within twenty-four hours of the report.

May I, along with my committee, take this opportunity of wishing everyone in Woodside Park a brilliant and successful 2018. Next year sees the local Council elections in May which could prove to have an interesting outcome that might affect us all in the future.

I hope to see you all at the carol singing on 16th December.

Robert Shutler



CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

SATURDAY 16th DECEMBER at 4.30pm
at Sussex Ring
CHILDREN ESPECIALLY WELCOME
Free Refreshments

Planning Applications

Current planning applications can now be found on our website www.woodside-park.com.

The Association will continue to resist planning applications which propose to divide any house within the suburb into two or more separate residential units. There are one or two houses where this has been done (illegally) but we are now experiencing planning applications to convert houses into two or more flats. The Suburb is characterised by single dwelling houses and the roads are set out within a setting of single dwelling houses. Increased residential units in the area cause a strain on roads, parking, schools and public services. The loss of single dwelling houses to flats is not appropriate.

The Association will also resist basements which cause massive disruption to adjoining neighbours and, if not correctly constructed, can also cause damage to adjoining buildings. Basement submissions without proper and professional hydrology and soil reports will be resisted at all times. This is required to avoid the catastrophes in some other London Boroughs where basements are causing all sorts of difficulties especially with ground water flow.

The Council does not seem to have a recognised planning policy regarding basements. There are quite a few basement cowboy builders out there – please be aware.

North Finchley Shopping Centre

The Council proposes fundamental changes to North Finchley shopping centre and details of these changes can be found on our website www.woodside-park.com. The Council has been out to consultation with the general public but the consultation will finish on 12th December 2017. If you kept up to date with our website you will be able to make some comments. The key proposal is for northbound Ballards Lane traffic to be directed through Kingsway and the High Road would be converted to two-way traffic (whereas it is one-way southbound at the moment). Buildings in the area would stretch upwards for twelve storeys or so and the bus station would become a shop. Some 2000 extra homes would be produced. Anything that improves the shopping experience in North Finchley is to be welcomed. Without cheap and adequate parking though, nothing is going to work.

Other news

Sadly, we have to report that Dr Estelle Phillips has resigned from the Committee. She has spent many years serving our community and we would all like to thank her for her many efforts, thoughts, ideas, suggestions and work on our behalf during this period. Estelle's contributions will be sorely missed.

Playing politics with people's lives is what the present housing scandal is all about. London Mayor, Sadiq Khan, has now decided that Barnet should find another 22,000 homes by 2025. He wants the council to produce 3,124 extra homes per annum. Where are they to go? Green Belt and Metropolitan Open Land? The proposed London Plan prevaricates around these issues. It has been suggested that homes are built over the railway lines, presumably including the underground. 50% of these homes are supposed to be "affordable" but people can't afford them. There is no joined-up thinking from the Mayor or the Government, who are trying to troubleshoot this problem with short-term solutions, none of which are going to work. The Government continues to kow-tow to the large housebuilders (one wonders why?). It is a case of the tail wagging the dog. Neither Sadiq Khan nor the Government will achieve these targets, which are fairly useless if people cannot afford to buy or rent them. Given Brexit and the reverse flow of immigration, we have to ask whether all of these homes are actually necessary.



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