



# The Woodsider

JUNE 2018

[www.woodside-park.com](http://www.woodside-park.com)



## Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

Woodside Park has been awash with colour this Spring. I was trying to think of an expression to describe this. We have Glorious Goodwood so the thought of Wonderful Woodside Park springs to mind! April and May have provided us with excellent weather this year and haven't we all enjoyed the daffodils, tulips, cherry blossom, camellias and lilac with roses to follow shortly. Whatever you may think about royalty, Harry and Meghan's wedding lightened the gloom so let's forget about Brexit and England's footballers, tennis players and cricketers and look forward to a bright and joyous summer, starting with the "Picnic in the Park" – see below for details.

The Council turned a brighter blue at the elections held in May and the Conservatives now have a majority of thirteen. The Council is again to be led by our local Councillor Richard Cornelius. Councillor Caroline Stock has been appointed as Deputy Mayor. We extend our congratulations to them both and hope that the new Council will be able to stifle some of the anti-outer suburbia planning, police and traffic policies presently being promulgated by the irrational Mayor of London and the even more unhinged Government.

The constant attacks by the Mayor and the Government on the Borough of Barnet and London generally with regards to massively increased housing programmes, building on green belt, pollution, traffic control (which causes more pollution), total disregard for infrastructure, destroying our local police force and various other ludicrous ideas and policies will eventually, irrevocably, reduce our quality of life and way of living.

Having said all that, there is a real problem in London with property not being "affordable" for younger people. Here, in Woodside Park, houses have now reached the one million pound mark and goodness knows how the average family can afford this. Unfortunately, only by splitting houses into two or three flats will the area become close to being "affordable".

Even then, the flats will need to sell for £600,000 upwards.

As outlined in the Council's so-called Characterisation Study which was produced some five years ago, the suburb is designed as single houses for families and we do not have the infrastructure to manage the extra homes and additional masses the creation of flats would bring. We are already not coping with the additional homes at Millbrook Park which has been 80% built with barely no infrastructure in place.

Maybe it is NIMBYISM but the Association will strongly resist splitting any of the houses in Woodside Park into flats. I hope we have your support for this.

As usual, builders have been causing havoc in the area with early morning deliveries, lorries backing up and "beeping" at some unearthly hour of the morning as they reverse, huge trucks trundling over the roads and causing the roads to break up, parking on and churning up the grass verges and general noise, disturbance and nuisance. The builders don't care. They don't live in the area. It is down to YOU as the home owner to keep your builders in check and make sure they respect the quiet enjoyment of your neighbours and the community as a whole. Is this too much to ask?

I do hope that we shall see you at the Picnic in the Park to be held in Riverside Park (near the playground down by Dollis Brook) on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018 starting 1.30pm and continuing through the afternoon. Bring your own food and drink. Coffee and tea will be provided free of charge. Bring a cake and enter the Bake-Off competition and there will be a quiz with questions about Woodside Park which everyone is invited to enter. Meet your friends and neighbours. It should be a lot of fun

So, see you at the Picnic in the Park for fun, sun and frolics.

*Robert Shutler*

## Picnic in the Park – Everyone welcome

Sat 7 July 2018, 1.30pm onwards

Riverside Park (by Dollis Brook)

-- Great fun -- bring your own food & drinks --

There is a Bake-off competition so bring your cake to enter and a quiz prize draw

Tea and coffee will be available.



## Planning Applications

Current planning applications can now be found on our website [www.woodside-park.com](http://www.woodside-park.com).

For the first time ever in Woodside Park, the Council has issued a Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of an extremely dilapidated property at 46 Cissbury Ring South. The house has been left empty for some time and is a blight on the neighbourhood. We fully support the Council taking over the property. It is not right that properties should be allowed to become so dilapidated that they become a blight in the area. It is also unreasonable in this day and age to leave a property unoccupied for such a long time, especially when there is such a shortage of homes around.

There is another property at 86 Linkside which has been empty for nine years and, as you might imagine, is also becoming very dilapidated. The owner had better be careful otherwise they will find that this property has been compulsorily purchased as well (or worst still –squatters).

## Transport for London (Tfl)

Do you know what the income for Tfl was last year to March 2018 – more than £6.5 billion!! You would think that, with this sort of income, Tfl might be able to make a profit but, alas, we leave the running of these things to a bunch of amateurs with questionable political motives and they manage to lose money (more than £1 billion). It is of course just tax money (ie your money and my money) so it doesn't matter – does it? The same logic applies to the railways generally who have made a right bosh of the new timetables and, of course, the NHS who, unfortunately, manage to spend money like it is going out of fashion. Why does this happen? There are three reasons, firstly, the businesses are just too big, secondly there is not the skill and expertise out there to run these businesses, thirdly there is just too much political interference that takes place.

## Facebook

We now have a Facebook page up & running to help residents share news and views from around the area. It is an ideal way to let people know about upcoming events or seek recommendations for trades and services.

You just need a Facebook account to use it but it is easy to set up an account at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) if you don't already have one. Once in Facebook, just search for "Woodside Park Garden Suburb Residents' Association" and request to join. It is a closed private group, so only other members can see the posts made.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Woodside Park Facebook Community!!

## Other News

Barnet is supposed to provide 35000 extra homes over the next 15 years. The Borough presently produces some 1500 new homes a year. Many of these new homes will end up at Brent Cross/Cricklewood but a large number are proposed at the Medical Research Unit which is presently being demolished on The Ridgeway in Mill Hill, Copthall (which we thought was supposed to be Green Belt) and North London Business Park. The Mayor of London has pledged to deliver 116,000- affordable homes across London by 2022.

So, they have decided to build the third runway at Heathrow. This should mean that our skies will be less crowded because the planes circling London will not need to do so. However, all of this third runway stuff could be stopped by simply making Heathrow a 24 hour airport. People living in the area would soon move away, the properties could be bought by the Airports Authority and eventually the third runway could be built! Brilliant!



printed for the Association without charge by MDC

Edited on behalf of the committee by Robert Shutler of 5 Saddlescombe Way N12 7LS Telephone no: 020 8445 4050 email: [robert@mdclondon.com](mailto:robert@mdclondon.com)