



# The Woodsider

DECEMBER 2019  
[www.woodside-park.com](http://www.woodside-park.com)

## Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

It's been a strange year what with all the shenanigans about Brexit and very little else. So there will now be an election in mid-December which may or may not solve any of the country's difficulties but whatever else happens you should make sure that you cast a vote.

2020 does not promise to be much better but we can prepare ourselves for the upcoming year by attending the annual carol singing which will be held on Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2019 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 refreshments provided by Vero Caffé, a dash of whiskey for the adults and sweets for the children (all completely free of charge). Last year the rain and snow kept away and it was an outstanding occasion, enjoyed by all denominations, children and adults alike.

Most of the houses in Woodside Park have gardens – I say “most” because some eco-unfriendly people have completely paved over their gardens which rather defeats the object of having a garden in the first place. Accordingly, most of the houses in Woodside Park also have green bins. Initially, garden waste was collected weekly, presently it is fortnightly and now, the Council has announced that no garden waste will be collected in the winter months at all.

Furthermore, the Council is now proposing to charge everyone £80 per annum for collecting garden waste. If there are twenty collections a year this equates to £4 per collection which would seem to represent reasonably good value for money. However, because the cost of collecting waste is included in the Council Tax charges, it has essentially been seen as being “free” and consequently many people have objected to this extra charge.

My concern is that this is just the tip of the iceberg and that the charge will be raised year on year. It seems inevitable that a charge will be made for collecting all household waste. And, of course, our Council Tax will also keep rising and the Council will find other ways of raising revenue by charging us for matters which are presently included in the Council Tax.

I regret to have to report that there are still quite a few burglaries and, in particular, car thefts taking place around the suburb at the moment. The police seem incapable of solving these crimes even when they are given irrefutable evidence such as film from various cameras around the area and on door bells. They seem more interested in quelling Extinction Rebellion, pointing speed-guns at motorists who are just a few miles per hour over the speed limit and standing around at football matches to stop the odd hooligan and suchlike. It is a sorry state that we now live in.

It will not be too long before an aggressive sort of anarchy appears -followed, of course, by Big Brother. Facial recognition cameras are already being used in a number of places (for our own good of course) but this is a dangerous precedent and is a controlling mechanism for the powers-that-be. It only needs some sort of dictator to take hold and we will be very close to George Orwell's 1984. Please be vigilant out there and be careful.

After that, we need some good news. Barnet Council has announced that they have caught a fly tipper close by in Totteridge and they have prosecuted this man and crushed his vehicle. More of this please.

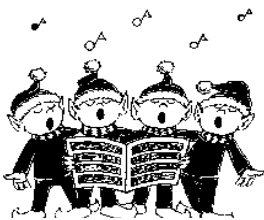
May I, along with my committee, take this opportunity of wishing everyone in Woodside Park a happy, healthy and brilliant 2020.

I hope to see you all in Sussex Ring at the carol singing on 21<sup>st</sup> December. Please show your support and be there.

*Robert Shutler*

## CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER at 4.30pm  
at Sussex Ring  
CHILDREN ESPECIALLY WELCOME  
Free Refreshments



## Planning Matters

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

The Council is still deliberating about the eighty-six flats proposed at Woodside Park Underground Station which are contained within two five storey blocks with no parking and very little amenity space. This is a scheme backed by the Mayor and TfL (Transport for London). The mayor has written a letter to local MPs and stated:-

*“I am committed to providing the thousands of new homes including the high levels of affordable housing, that London desperately needs. I am committed to reducing the dominance and reliance on the use of private vehicles, reducing congestion and cleaning up London’s filthy air. TfL’s significant land holdings, including its station car parks offer a huge opportunity to deliver on both these important aims.”*

All very laudable - except that the affordable housing will NOT be affordable - unless you are earning £90,000 per annum (according to the application), cars are NOT going to be reduced by not providing parking (they will just move a bit further away), the proposed flats are tiny shoe-boxes and NOT suitable for long term human habitation and the initial figures upon which the mayor bases all of his calculations are misleading, out of date and factually incorrect.

The Mayor seems to think that all of the above gives him the excuse to destroy existing neighbourhoods, provide affordable homes that are not affordable, to terminate communities (once these giant buildings are constructed, there is no going back) and upset the eco-balance in areas where these monstrous blocks are to be built (including Finchley Central, Woodside Park and High Barnet and many other areas in London).

Thank goodness there is an election for a new London Mayor next year.

## Highways in Barnet

Meeting traffic congestions, balancing the needs of road users and pedestrians and a perception that public transport is overcrowded (it is!), unreliable (not so much these days) and expensive (yes it most certainly is) is a problem that the Highways Department of Barnet tries to address, “tries” being the operative word. Unlike adjoining boroughs, Barnet Council has managed to keep car speeds to a sensible level by providing parking to both sides of the road, installing posts, central reservations and other non-hump obstacles, which naturally calm the rate at which a car can travel. Consequently Barnet has turned out to be greener, with less road deaths (excluding trunk roads owned by TfL) and less broken car suspension systems.

Did you know that Barnet residents make over a million trips EVERY DAY of which 50% are by road, 11% by bus, 1% by cycle (you lazy people!!) and 38% by foot or rail. BUT – have you noticed these humps springing up here and there in the middle of our roads? These are very unfair to small cars. It’s all very well for you Range Rover and SUV people but these humps destroy the little, much greener car and that includes the new electric car.

Barnet Council’s Highways Department has always had a mind of its own - believing that it has the health and safety of the general public at heart. It is the epitome of the “nanny state” and it is not easy to argue against the “better than thou” bureaucratic proponents of health and safety. We see it everywhere. It invades everything we do. Yet, despite all of this, the number of people attending Accident and Emergency increased annually by 25% over the past five years. Obviously, health and safety is working really well.

We should start with leaves rom trees. It was autumn after all and leaves naturally fall from our many trees which embellish our lovely piece of suburbia. The Council has decided not to clear them up. Leaves cause the pavements to become slippery and people slip and fall. Leaves on the road cause cars to slide which result in accidents. Whatever happened to health and safety? We could clear the leaves up ourselves outside our homes, of course, but the Council has decided not to collect any green waste until March, 2020.

Not sure about the joined-up thinking but very little of it seems to take place at Barnet Council.



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