



# The Woodsider

MARCH 2007

## Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

It seems like an age ago, but the carol singing just before Christmas was fantastically well attended and our special thanks go to Colette Landucci who led us in the singing and to Hidé who accompanied us on his guitar. The weather kept dry and more people than ever before, including many children, turned up ... people from all denominations. It is so heartening and joyous to see that, no matter what religion, culture or nationality, people in Woodside Park can still all join in for a good old-fashioned sing-song. Long may it continue.

I should thank Nick Gardner for his help together with my fellow committee members, the International Supermarket and the Dry Cleaners in Sussex Ring for their support. We should make sure that we reciprocate this assistance.

It is about this time of year that the Council Tax bill arrives on the doorstep. This year, I expect that most of you will receive bills in excess of £2,000.00. Watta-lotta-money!! Especially so, because it is paid out of income that has already been taxed. It's a double whammy!! Whilst the Council, to their credit, has attempted to keep any rise within inflation figures, Ken Livingstone and the GLA have raised rates above these figures. Haven't we been here before?

Do you know? I ask people if they voted for Mr Livingstone and just about everyone says that they didn't. Well ... who did vote for him, then?

Have you noticed how all of the Government's various departments seem to have little mottos these days? The slogan culture – Blair's legacy.

The Inland Revenue talks about "*Tax doesn't have to be taxing*" but tax certainly is taxing and extremely so. The Environmental Department has a slogan "*Creating a better place*". Oh yes! Especially at Inglis Barracks – are they kidding? How can you create a better place if you do not give a flying fig about infrastructure, over-population, water supplies, traffic and congestion, etc.? The Home Office's slogan is "*Safe, Just and Tolerant*" ... to the point where all prisoners are allowed out to roam freely around our so-called better places!! I haven't checked it out but presumably the Foreign Office's slogan must be "*Unsafe, Unjust and Intolerant*".

And so .... the Government Audit Commission's motto is "*Minimising Bureaucracy, Maximising Impact on Public Services*". Guess what? The Audit Commission, in their infinite wisdom, has awarded Barnet Council "Beacon Status" (which is the very top award) in three categories, namely, Improving Urban Green Spaces (the Council did plant a fir tree for us in Sussex Ring – the fact that it hasn't grown is not their fault – is it?); Community Cohesion (what on earth is this? – answers on a postcard please?) and, wait for it, Libraries (can you believe it?). The loss of libraries and the library services in Barnet has been cataclysmic. I'm aghast.

Barnet Council received two stars (out of three) for "Value for Money". To give you some idea about what this means, two stars were also awarded in this category to Islington, Haringey and Hackney.

I've run out of space – keep smiling.

Robert Shutler

This edition of *The Woodsider* is being delivered to all residents in the Woodside Park Garden Suburb. *The Woodsider* is produced by the Residents Association. Around 90% of the residents in the area belong to the Residents Association.

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.

WPGSRA  
Join up!  
Only £2

## Council News – a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

Following pressure from your Councillors, the potholes in Southover have been temporarily filled. We continue to insist that the Council properly resurfaces the road. Recent speed cameras operated in Totteridge Lane by the London Safety Camera partnership and without the permission of Barnet Council have apparently been catching 100 motorists an hour!

Your Councillors have received a request for yellow lines in Singleton Scarp and would be interested to hear the views of residents before taking any action.

A keen watching brief is being kept on the planning brief for the Inglis Barracks site, now being worked on by Council officers. This is due to come before Councillors later this year. Likewise, we are closely watching the future of the Medical Research site on The Ridgeway. The Government has plans to empty the building and sell the site.

The Royal opening of the rebuilt Frith Manor School is eagerly anticipated, as is the re-opening of Partingdale Lane - now pencilled in for September despite the ongoing difficult and expensive objections from the usual suspects.

## Planning Applications over the last couple of months

10 Pyecombe Corner	Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension.
46 Walmington Fold	Single storey side and rear extensions, roof extension, hip to gable end, front and rear dormers and window in gable end (why not buy a bigger house?)
48 Chanctonbury Way	Two storey side and rear extensions
82 Lullington Garth	Two storey side extension and roof extension/loft conversion

## Dollis Brook

You may have wandered along the parkland known as Riverside Walk to the east of Woodside Park and wondered about the stream that runs alongside. It has recently been cleared of rubbish and debris and actually appears rather picturesque at present.

The stream is called Dollis Brook which rises on Moat Mount Open Space in Mill Hill. It flows under *Hendon Wood Lane* in a pipe and then travels eastwards through open space forming the northern boundary of Totteridge. For about 1.5 miles, the brook runs alongside the *Dollis Valley Greenwalk*, (part of the London Outer Orbital Path) and then turns southwards to form the eastern boundary of Totteridge. It flows under *Totteridge Lane* near Totteridge & Whetstone tube station, and continues south through **Woodside Park** along our boundary at **Riverside Walk** where it merges with the **Folly Brook** which rises from the Darlands Nature Reserve. Dollis Brook passes under the Northern Line at Dollis Road and flows through built-up land. It tunnels under the *Great North Way* (A1) and thereafter runs adjacent to the North Circular Road, where it meets up with Mutton Brook and becomes the River Brent which eventually flows to the Thames.

Much of Dollis Brook from Totteridge through to the North Circular is to be shortly dug up for the new Fortis Green Water Main. We are advised, that whilst there will be some disruption, the Environmental Agency have consented to the works after "extensive discussions in order to secure the maximum enhancement possible for the Dollis Brook as a result of the project". Mmmmm.

## Green Belt or "Brown" Belt? A view from our MP – Theresa Villiers

After a year or so in my position as Shadow Chief Secretary to the Treasury, I have had a number of opportunities to challenge Gordon Brown on the floor of the House of Commons over issues of critical importance to the British economy and to the prosperity of families across the UK. However, as we all know, these days the Chancellor's sphere of influence extends far beyond solely economic matters (despite the fact he isn't yet Prime Minister!). One example of such interference, which will be of great concern to residents of Woodside Park, is his recent attack on Green Belt protection. Proposals contained in the Barker Report, which was personally commissioned and supported by the Chancellor, are very worrying indeed. The report recommends the strengthening of the role of the regional planning bodies and calls for these bodies to "review our Green Belt boundaries as part of their Regional Spatial Strategy." This is bad news for the Green Belt which plays such an important part in giving Barnet its unique and special character.

It is also further proof that this Chancellor is much more 'Brown' than green. He may now have decided to follow David Cameron's lead in talking about green issues but his policies as contained in the Barker Report will actively damage our environment. It is interesting to note that while the Chancellor likes to call the shots on a range of policy areas such as housing and planning, he still refuses to answer letters about the Barker Review. These get bounced on to the hapless Ruth Kelly to deal with. Worryingly, the Barker Report also means

yet more pressure from the government to give Ken Livingstone new powers over housing and planning and impose unsustainable over-development on Barnet. Only last week, during the Third Reading debate on this bill in the House of Commons, I protested about the transfer of powers away from local communities to the Mayor which this Bill involves. The Bill looks set to give Ken Livingstone much greater powers over larger developments such as Inglis Barracks.

I would like to see local communities have greater power over planning decisions not less. They are the people best equipped to protect our precious suburbs. We all know how over-development can significantly undermine the quality of life in suburban areas such as ours. Insensitive planning decisions damage communities and ensure that they are no longer pleasant places in which people want to live. I see this all the time at first hand. Every week, my postbag is full of letters and emails from constituents worried about examples of overdevelopment. Time and again, I have intervened to oppose inappropriate planning applications, particularly where developers want to pull down family homes and build high rise flats.

The government is pursuing a top-down, regionally driven approach which totally ignores the wishes of our local communities. Of course we need new homes but they must be the right homes in the right places – development which is sensitive to the concerns of the local communities and the character of the surrounding neighbourhood. Any development must also be supported by sufficient expansion in the capacity of local infrastructure to support a population increase.





# The Woodsider

MAY 2007

## Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

Summer is nearly with us and members of the Committee will be calling around to collect subscriptions to the Resident's Association. Just £2 per year is an absolute bargain!! The Committee members will be identified. They consist of people who give their time for free and who are interested in contributing to local matters with the general aim of trying to ensure that our leafy suburb retains its reputation as a safe and lovely place to live. We do our best to keep pressure on the Council to maintain the grass verges, the trees and the parks. We also want to retain the green belt, the local brooks and rivulets and the environment generally. We try not to live in the past and we understand that change has to take place. We ask people who extend their houses to consider their neighbours and take into account the whole ambience of the suburb when designing their extensions.

We have our AGM and Forum on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2007 which is being held this year at Frith Manor School starting at 7.30pm. The AGM is a very short affair and the Forum usually lasts for about ninety minutes. You will be able to meet the Committee at the AGM.

This year our MP, Theresa Villiers, our three local Barnet Councillors, our GLA representative, the community police and others have all accepted invitations to attend the Forum and you will have opportunities to ask questions and hopefully receive some sensible answers. It's a bit like Question Time on TV except that I have to try and be Richard Dimbleby and, regrettably, I only characterize him in size (not in talent)!!

We are reliably informed that the microphone system will work this year. We do hope that we will see you at the AGM/Forum so please put this date in your diary. There are many issues to discuss including crime, yellow lines, the encroachment of parking zones and meters, the environment, local hospitals, Inglis Barracks, Partingdale Lane, rubbish collection, etc.

George Loveday and Kiyo Suzuki have both departed from the committee. Kiyo has had to return urgently to his homeland. We thank both George and Kiyo for their hard work during their time on the committee and wish them well for the future. George and his wife Cathy produced a wonderful buffet for our cheese and wine party last year. Kiyo has been our representative for the many Japanese residents in the area and we would like another Japanese person to take his place. Would you like to do this? If so, please contact me on the details overleaf.

I have received comments that the last issue of the Woodsider was perhaps a little too political. Politicians, by their nature, tend to be political (an extraordinarily profound statement - don't you think?) and whilst we do not want the Woodsider to be an election platform for any one person, we do think that our representatives should be given the opportunity to speak directly to our Residents Association members. We try not to be political and we often hope that common sense (rather than politics) will eventually prevail. If a particular politician (elected or otherwise) supports our views and works for our advantage we will support them, no matter which political party they represent.

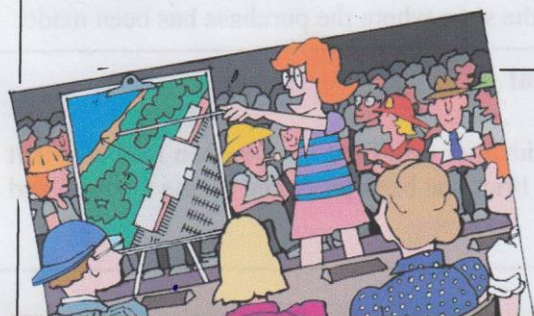
See you at the AGM/Forum.

Robert Shutler

*Following the AGM (which usually lasts for about 15 minutes), residents of Woodside Park have their chance to address any issues that they have to their appropriate representative.*

*Do you have questions for your MP? - for the police? - for the GLA? - for your Council? Take this opportunity to ask these questions, meet the people who represent you including your committee and also meet your neighbours.*

**DON'T MISS YOUR CHANCE - BE THERE ON 20<sup>TH</sup> JUNE!**



**WPGSRA – AGM & FORUM**

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2007  
at 7.30pm at Frith Manor School**

## Council News – a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

The Civic Year in Barnet draws to a close on May 15<sup>th</sup> when Councillor Maureen Braun will become the new Mayor of Barnet and Totteridge Ward (and Woodside Park) Councillor Richard Cornelius will be installed as Deputy Mayor of the Borough.

A reorganisation of the Planning and Environment Committee which deals with major strategic applications (such as Inglis Barracks) takes place in May which reduces the size of the Committee from 21 Councillors to 10 (and means I must retire from the Committee) although there is no change to the membership of the local Area Planning Committees which deal with the vast majority of applications. Councillor Cornelius will continue to serve representing Totteridge. The endless consultation process on Inglis Barracks drags on and a paper is expected before the Council's Cabinet this summer. As a Cabinet Member I shall be taking a close interest in the matter!

The Area Forums are being reorganised on a Parliamentary Constituency basis. Woodside Park will come under the Chipping Barnet Area Forum. The idea is to make these Forums more effective and focused and less of the same people turning up to discuss the same matters, month after month.

Partingdale Lane re-opening has cleared all its stages in the Council and appears to be on target for September. We wait to see if anyone attempts a judicial review in the High Court.

## Planning Applications over the last couple of months

103 Walmington Fold	Single storey rear extension.
46 Walmington Fold	Single storey side and rear extensions, roof extension, hip to gable end, front and rear dormers and window in gable end (amendments to a previous application)
128 Chanctonbury Way	Single storey rear extension.
11 Saddlescombe Way	Single storey rear extension.

## Mill Hill East/Inglis Barracks Development

A further consultation/exhibition by the Council took place at the end of April. The Council have asked for views regarding internal infrastructure, green spaces, links between Frith Lane and Bittacy Hill and how the site can be brought together. You can comment on line at [www.barnet.gov.uk/planning-consultations](http://www.barnet.gov.uk/planning-consultations) or email on [millhilleast@barnet.gov.uk](mailto:millhilleast@barnet.gov.uk). The Residents' Association would like to see a low density, architecturally well designed scheme which will integrate with the surrounding area, assist in easing local congestion and provide additional local community facilities without overloading the existing utilities, etc.

## Singleton Scarp

There was a tremendous response from our last Woodsider regarding the proposed yellow lines in Singleton Scarp. A petition comprising a large majority of the people living in Singleton Scarp was produced to show that yellow lines in the road were not supported. This has been sent to Councillor Coleman. Double yellow lines have popped up elsewhere in the area but not in Singleton Scarp.

## Car Thefts

There have been some car thefts recently in the area. The thieves are mainly after satellite navigation systems. If you purchase such a system it seems prudent not to give your address to the shop where the purchase has been made.

## Finchley Memorial Hospital

Proposals have been put forward to rebuild the Hospital and provide residential dwellings on the open land adjacent to the hospital in the form of financial enabling works. A draft planning brief has been produced by the Council and this can be found on their web site.

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printed for the Association  
without charge by Real Estates







# The Woodsider

September 2007

## Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

The roads around Woodside Park seemed to have been closed down for ages. Road engineers have been fiddling around with traffic islands and kerbstones down at Partingdale Lane and a grand opening is looking possible – some time in October, I believe.

Big burly builders have also been carrying out earth movement, foundation and drainage works in Inglis Barracks, which has resulted in the disappearance of bushes and trees and the arrival of large trucks and vehicles, something we will have to grow accustomed to over the next five years. It seems that they have started building the properties on the Annington Homes part of the site.

This year's Forum in June provided a lively debate about the health service and various matters pertaining to Woodside Park. Health issues are addressed by my committee colleague, Estelle Phillips, on the reverse of this Newsletter. At the Forum, people had the opportunity to speak to our MP, the Councillors and the local police and they ably answered our questions, deflecting those which were a little more tricky.

Some subscriptions have yet to be collected and we will be visiting you during September. We are still short of committee members and if you would like to take part in the community, please do let us know.

In weather terms, it has been a strange old summer but Woodside Park is looking lush and green except where the front drives have been paved over and the grass verges destroyed by parked vehicles, builder's rubble and general debris.

Finally, I hope to see as many of you as possible, including our many new residents, at our **Woodsider's party**, details of which you will find below. Our local Councillors will be attending and it provides a good opportunity to seriously quiz them and then relax and meet your neighbours!

Robert Shutler

**WOODSIDER'S PARTY**  
**TUESDAY 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2007**

at **OLD FINCHLEIANS CLUBHOUSE, SOUTHOVER**  
Starting 8.00pm Entry £3.00 to include food and wine

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

## Crime Reports

The police are now putting together crime reports for our area and we are now more easily able to learn about what is actually happening, rather than just be given a list of figures which, frankly, were fairly meaningless. We think this is a huge step forward and hope that you agree.

We therefore publish this information below. If you have experienced a crime which is not shown below, would you please let us know. The list below covers May, June and July this year.

### Residential burglaries

18<sup>th</sup> June, Lullington Garth

12<sup>th</sup> July, Lullington Garth

### Non-Residential burglaries

29<sup>th</sup> June, Chanctonbury Way

### Theft from a motor vehicle

3<sup>rd</sup> May, Cissbury Ring

12<sup>th</sup> May, Saddlescombe Way

15<sup>th</sup> June, Folkingham Corner

### Criminal damage to a motor vehicle

4<sup>th</sup> May, Cissbury Ring

14<sup>th</sup> June, Lullington Garth

Our local police sergeant, Glenn O'Dea, is moving on to pastures new. We thank him for his sterling efforts and wish him well for the future.

## Frith Manor School Wind Turbine

In their wisdom, the Council granted permission for a fifteen metre high wind turbine on the site of the school, despite the location being green belt land. We requested a condition regarding noise levels but this was rejected by the Council. The energy used to manufacture and erect the wind turbine will take twenty years to recuperate.



## Council News – a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

The issue that has dominated many residents' minds in Woodside Park, the future of the Inglis Barracks site, is making progress within the Council. Let us get one thing straight - the Mayor of London's London Plan, which has statutory force and which Totteridge Councillors have opposed, sees 2,000 homes on this site and whereas I personally would like to see far less than this, the current Mayor of London will not agree plans (and he has the legal power to direct refusal) that do not include a figure somewhere around this number.

Barnet Council's draft Development framework for the whole site (including the Council depot land) went to the Council Cabinet on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> August at a meeting in public at Hendon Town Hall. Once Cabinet has agreed this draft framework, it will go out for further public consultation before getting the final approval. The Mayor of London must also agree.

The draft framework, in which many people have been involved (including the Woodside Park Garden Suburb Residents Association) comprises the creation of at least three parks, no building on the small greenbelt parcel of land (except perhaps a new Scout hut at the bottom of Frith Lane), two through roads across the site (in addition to a re-opened Partingdale Lane), a health centre, a possible Secondary or Primary school (probably the latter), a preserved Officers' Mess building, a Recycling and possible combined "green" heat and power plant at the far south of the site together with office, retail and business premises near the tube station which will create 500 replacement jobs. The significant number of people who currently work for the Army on the site, about 400 local residents at peak times, will of course lose their jobs when the Army moves out in September.

Housing will be denser towards the South of the site with the least dense abutting the greenbelt on Partingdale Lane.

There are extensive Highways improvements proposed. However, your Councillors believe that widening Frith Lane should be considered. The opening of Sanders Lane as a through route on the Mill Hill side is being considered. The Council is also seeking guarantees from London Underground Ltd on the future of the Mill Hill East branch and indeed service and station improvements.

Your Councillors have concerns over plans for some "Landmark" buildings on the site, although a guarantee is being given that these will be no more than six or seven stories high and will be "built into" the undulating landscape. A further guarantee is that the Council will seek the highest standards of design for buildings, although as the Secretary of State overruled the Council on the current development on the Frith Lane side, I am not hopeful.

Whereas many of us, including your Totteridge Councillors, would like to see this site developed with exclusively family houses (an extension of Woodside Park Garden Suburb) in effect, this is not an option that the Mayor of London would entertain with his targets for so-called "affordable housing". The Council's task is very much to alleviate the pressures from the Mayor whilst ensuring as much infrastructure as possible is created for this site. Remember - the vast majority of the land belongs to private developers.

## Planning Applications over the last couple of months

20 Wolstonbury	Single storey side extension, loft conversion and rear dormer
23 Wolstonbury	Single storey rear extension
1 Linkside	Single storey rear extension
107 Cissbury Ring South	Single storey rear extension
71 Chanctonbury Way	Single storey rear extension
119 Chanctonbury Way	Roof extension, hip to gable end and rear dormer
147 Chanctonbury Way	Single storey rear extension and detached garage at rear

## HEALTH IN BARNET

By Estelle M. Phillips

Your Residents' Association is a member of the Forum of Residents' Associations in Barnet (FORAB) and I represent Woodside Park on this well respected body. I recently attended a meeting of the Barnet NHS Primary Care Trust (PCT) to discuss 'Better Health in Barnet' at which there was considerable criticism of information presented. For example, the first of the PCT's four key objectives is to Improve Health. I would have thought that that was its *raison d'être* and the key objectives should be concerned with how to make that happen. Instead, other key objectives were to move services closer to home and to promote independence and support for patients which, to me, sound like euphemisms for getting rid of hospitals and forcing everything back into the community and onto the shoulders of the much overworked GP. But I could be wrong.....

Speakers said that they would take comments 'on board' and refer back to us. I am doubtful that much will happen as a result. It seemed to me that this was a consultation exercise where everything had already been decided. However, as a result of attending this meeting and also, because of recent developments concerning Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals, FORAB took a decision to set up a group to monitor what is happening in the Borough and I am now involved with the newly formed Health sub-committee.

You will probably be aware that a consultation document has been sent to some people. Not only has its distribution been erratic but it is also a poorly constructed document which gives very little choice, other than closure of Chase Farm A&E Dept. Supporters of this suggestion believe that the idea is that A&E would be for serious accidents only and that the "Walk-In" centres, like Finchley Memorial, would be for minor accidents and ailments.

This questionnaire, which has to be returned by the 19<sup>th</sup> October, does not allow for alternatives which might be preferable. At least one other Residents' Association in FORAB has suggested to its members that they use the reply paid envelope to send in their preferences on a clean sheet of A4. The official document can be returned in the same envelope with a line drawn through it, so that the powers-that-be cannot report a low rate of response with people not bothering to return their forms. An alternative solution would be to return the questionnaire with 'Neither is acceptable' written across it in large letters. If you have not received the questionnaire it might be a good idea to send a clean sheet of A4 to this effect so that the investigators cannot quote apathy/contentment as a reason for progressing their unacceptable alternatives. The address to which questionnaires must be returned is: Centre of Health Management, Tanaka Business School, Imperial College, London SW7 2AZ. If you write Licence Number RRKA-HAYT-LBBR on it you will not have to pay postage.

At its inaugural meeting and after considerable discussion the Health sub-committee, made up of representatives from Totteridge, Mill Hill, and Whetstone as well as Woodside Park, agreed that public transport to and from the two main hospitals needs to be provided as well as more parking space especially at Barnet. However, the main matter concerning our local hospitals is to rid them of the superbugs that make people frightened of going into hospital. Almost immediately we had come to this decision Barnet and Chase Farm were castigated by the Government Inspectors for being the worst hospitals in the land for MRSA! It seems that our ideas are on the right track but where this will get us I have no idea. Nevertheless, I have to believe that it is better than doing and saying nothing.





# The Woodsider

DECEMBER 2007

## Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

The rather wet summer turned into a scintillating and colourful autumn and here we are in winter, yet again. Since the last newsletter, we've had Halloween, Guy Fawkes night, Diwali, Ramadan and Rosh Hashana. The year seems to have flown by.

Partingdale Lane has now been re-opened to traffic. I believe that this is a victory for democracy. It seems rare these days that the view of the majority takes precedence over the minority. Perhaps those non-voters who have been so disaffected by our democratic system might feel, under all of the bureaucratic hogwash, that there are tiny seeds of democracy starting to sprout again. Could Partingdale Lane be that catalyst?

Err, somehow, I doubt it!!

Bureaucratic baloney is exactly what we have been experiencing regarding the Mill Hill Barracks Development proposals. We have been to consultations, we have expressed our views, we have advised the Council and anyone else who will listen about our concerns, we have attended meetings, moaned, groaned, whinged and made fluent and coherent and sometimes not so coherent speeches in the face of unyielding opposition.

Has the Council listened to us?

Well, they have produced the Mill Hill East Area Action Plan Preferred Options Report, which is a bit of a mouthful in itself. Our major concern is (and always has been) over-development of the site. At all times in the past, the Council has talked about 2000 homes on the site but it now transpires that the Annington site of 360 homes is excluded from this and the existing 300 homes are probably also to be excluded. In other words, we have a total of 2,660 homes on the site (at least 7,000 extra people). I am not even sure that our Councillors originally understood this.

In my view, the Council has been less than transparent about this. Why the trickery and apparent deceit? This is something which will affect everyone's lives, the environment, the surrounding green belt and the quality of life in the area. Everyone with an iota of common sense and local knowledge recognises that these proposals constitute gross over-development, that the roads cannot cope and that the infrastructure is non-existent. This is a mechanism for future anarchy.

Anyway, it now transpires that all of these consultations, together with the vast sums of money spent on all of this, has been undermined by Mayor Livingstone and the GLA who has a large say in what eventually happens to the site. They now want up to 3,500 new homes and there appears to be little negotiation over this. 3,500 new homes will mean high rise flats and another Graham Park Estate. If you want this, make sure you vote for Mr Livingstone next year.

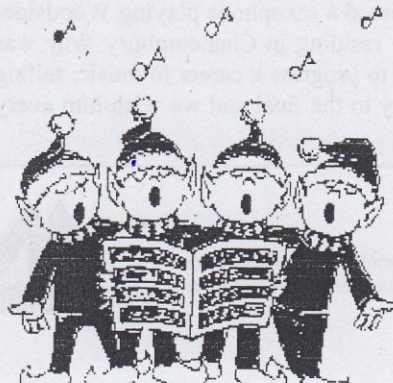
And now to other matters .....

The Woodsider Party was a great success. Once again, the Committee did a great job. In addition, I would like to thank N20 Restaurant in Whetstone for providing the food free of charge which was marvellous. The owner of N20 is a "Woodsider". Please do find time to reciprocate this generosity and dine at his restaurant. The shops in Sussex Ring including Optima Computers, Blakes dry cleaning, David Oliver dress shop, Leah's beauty parlour, International Supermarket, Cut-4-U hairdressers and Indulgence hair and beauty all contributed to the evening. Please do support these local shops which bring much colour and vibrancy to the area. We also raised a substantial amount of money which was donated to North London Hospice.

We have the Annual Carol Singing this year detailed below. This is always a fun occasion for all denominations. This is a grand occasion for children and adults alike.

To everybody, season's greeting and we wish you the best year ever in 2008.

*Robert Shutler*



## CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER at 4.30pm  
at Sussex Ring  
CHILDREN ESPECIALLY WELCOME  
Free Refreshments

## Council News – a report from Councillor Richard Cornelius

It is just eighteen months since I was elected and already it feels like a life time. The Council has a way of demanding more time than anyone could expect to give but it is quite something to be elected as one of your representatives and indeed to be there.

I have been put on the local planning committee and have been struck by the extraordinary psyche with which we work. Some house alterations are allowed without any need for permission. The extension can be of the mutant roof type, a box perched on the side of a semi to facilitate stairs. A building in the garden can also be permitted development. Above a certain growth in floor area, the planning process cuts in and the neighbours get a chance to object. Strangely the mutant boxes and other ugly design features are still allowed, even if only on appeal. I wonder why people make their houses so ugly and damage the quality of a neighbourhood by reducing the gaps between buildings and filling up gardens. What is this mad desire for an extra room?

The second field in which I have been active in my new Council role has been healthcare. Woodside Park is a long way from Chase Farm Hospital but the rundown in the Accident and Emergency department does matter. All those patients in Enfield and East Barnet will go somewhere. It may well be Barnet. This will affect us. There has been a sham consultation. No account has been taken of the difficulties in driving or bussing between the locations. There is no guarantee that services can be expanded elsewhere to treat displaced patients. Local health chiefs have been described by Cllr Brian Coleman as drinking in the last chance saloon. Having seen their skill level at our local hospitals one thing is for certain, they are incapable of managing a major change. Barnet, Enfield and Haringey councils have been working together to examine the proposals and together with Hertfordshire County Council have objected vehemently. Perhaps we will be listened to. Hope springs eternal.....

Finally, our congratulations go to our ward Councillor Caroline Margo who very recently gave birth to a baby son. Mother and son are doing well and she tells me that she is looking forward to returning to Council duties in the very near future.

## Planning Applications over the last couple of months

34 Chanctonbury Way	Single storey side extension and single storey rear extension.
38 Chanctonbury Way	Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.
39 Chanctonbury Way	Single storey side and rear extension.
166 Chanctonbury Way	Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, roof extension and loft conversion.

## Mill Hill Barracks

The "Annington Homes" site has started construction work. In a very short time, some of the buildings have been erected. These boxes comprise a mish-mash of modern architecture with few external features other than some timber panelling plonked on brickwork walls, no imagination and little thought about the surrounding environment. Cheap and not cheerful. Most of the trees, shrubs, etc. lining Frith Lane have been removed. We were under the impression that trees were being maintained. Totally hoodwinked and steamrollered – we all have been.

## Partingdale Lane

Partingdale Lane has re-opened to traffic in both directions. It has taken ten years, much sweat, time and money for the initial erroneous decision to be reversed. In the event, there was little fanfare but we all hope that the Lane can now remain open and that people drive carefully along the Lane, observe the speed limit and avoid the obstacles. Our thanks go to everyone who helped with the re-opening of the Lane and to all those who applied continual pressure on the Council.

## Frith Manor School Xmas Fair

Sunday 16 December 2007  
from 12.30 to 3.30pm (entrance free)

all proceeds to go to school Parent Teachers Association who fund school resources for the kids.

**Do please support your local School**

## Crime Report

14 <sup>th</sup> August	Wolstonbury	Domestic assault
19 <sup>th</sup> August	Chanctonbury Way	Theft from motor vehicle
28 <sup>th</sup> August	Chanctonbury Way	House burglary
9 <sup>th</sup> September	Saddlescombe Way	Failed house burglary
14 <sup>th</sup> September	Folkington Corner	House burglary
22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Chanctonbury Way	Car stolen

## Prominent Woodsiders

If you did not see the recent reality TV show "Classical Star" on BBC2, you would have missed a saxophone playing Woodsider strutting his stuff on the box. Ex-Frith Manor educated, 14 year old Tyler Rix presently residing in Chanctonbury Way was selected from thousands to appear in the show. Whilst not quite making top dog, he hopes to progress a career in music, failing which he wants to be a footballer. Our congratulations go to Tyler for making it all the way to the final and we wish him every success for the future.