

The Woodsider

MARCH 2009

Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

PUBLIC HEALTH WARNING

Warning - this Woodsider contains words.

I feel it is important to ensure that everyone is very careful about how they read this Woodsider, because it does contain **words** which could be dangerous to the brain, eyesight and, if used incorrectly, various other parts of the body!!

Phew! That's got that off my chest! I've been told that one cannot be too careful these days! The "Politically Correct Brigade" is everywhere and we could be sued at the drop of a hat if a word was to be misread in any way. Did you see the milk carton label that warned the consumer that the carton contained milk? Has this country gone mad?

Um, possibly yes. I saw a definition for political correctness the other day "Political correctness is a doctrine, fostered by a delusional, illogical minority, and rabidly promoted by an unscrupulous mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a doggie poo by the clean end."

I digress. Thanks to everyone who attended the Carol Singing – I think we nearly reached 90 people. Excellent. One of our younger residents has written a brief report on the reverse side of this Newsletter. I would like to thank Blakes for providing the electricity, the committee who helped tremendously and, of course, Colette who majestically led the singing and Hidé who accompanied wonderfully on the guitar. Are they the new Peters and Lee, we ask ourselves? Our older residents might recall Peters and Lee. I have spoken to my mate Simon Cowell and a record deal is being considered!

In the meantime, 2009 is well under way and the country seems to be in much depression. It is times like this when we should all pull together and help each other.

So, first of all our congratulations should go to our Councillor Brian Coleman who has been elected to the dizzy heights of First Citizen of Barnet. He is due to become the 45th Mayor of Barnet in mid-May. This should immediately lift everyone's depression!!

Secondly, our congratulations go to local resident Tyler Rix who, at the age of 16, has signed a big money deal with Universal Music to produce a classic album blowing away on his saxophone. Could he be the next Charlie Parker or John Coltrane? We look forward to seeing Tyler down at the Carol Singing later this year to accompany our very own Peters and Lee. Now that would be some trio?

Thirdly, our congratulations should go to Barnet Council, who after a lingering, apprehensive and fitful wait of four months have finally turned on the new street lights in many of our local roads.

Fourthly, our thanks to all of those selfish motorists who, during the winter, parked on the grass verges, turning them into mud patches, carving out huge gouges and ruining them during the wet weather.

Fifthly, well done to everyone who voted in the "Help a London Park" election. Dollis Hill Greenwalk has been successful in securing a £400,000 grant necessary to improve the riverside walk which extends for 10 miles from Moat Mount Nature Reserve in Mill Hill to the northern fringes of Hampstead Heath. It links areas of public open space along the valley of Dollis Brook, a tributary of the Brent, that rises near Arkley. It passes through Barnet Gate Wood (an ice age forest remnant), Totteridge Fields, the parks and paths of Woodside Park and under Mill Hill viaduct and provides many habitats for plants and other wildlife. It is well worth a walk on a lazy, hazy summer Sunday afternoon. Ahh!! Those heady days!!

Enjoy Spring and see you around!!

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

Barnet Council recently met to set its Budget and Council Tax for the forthcoming year after much deliberation and significant further savings in Council expenditure across the Board, the final Council Tax rise (which includes a freeze in the GLA precept) is 2.1 %. An Inquiry into what happened as regards Barnet Council's investments in Icelandic Banks has found that a Senior Council Officer consistently lied to elected Councillors and he has resigned with immediate effect. Negotiations are ongoing on the recovery of Barnet's (and 120 other Councils) deposits. The Council is close to signing a lease with the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust over the Darlands nature reserve which will preserve the area as a public nature reserve for decades to come. Boris Johnson has awarded the Dollis Valley Green Walk £400,000 towards improvements (after a London wide telephone vote) and your Totteridge Councillors will ensure that the Woodside Park stretch of the Dollis Brook receives appropriate improvement.

The public exhibition of the Mill Hill Inglis Barracks plans has taken place and, as far as I am concerned, the plans are a long way off being acceptable to me.

I have been elected by the Council to serve as Mayor of the London Borough of Barnet for the Civic Year 2009/10 taking office on May 19th with my Mother as Mayoress and I look forward to continuing to support the Community in Woodside Park in that capacity.

Planning Applications over the last couple of months

3 Walmington Fold	Single-storey side extension, new front porch
103 Walmington Fold	Raised timber decking to rear garden
20 Saddlescombe Way	Single-storey side and rear extensions
17 Wolstonbury	Rear conservatory
10 Steynings Way	1 st Floor side extension and pitched roof
127 Chanctonbury Way	Single-storey building in rear garden

Tyler Rix

Our teenage saxophonist sensation from Chanctonbury Way has signed up a deal with Universal Records and his first album called "Aspect" with the choir Spiritus and the London Telefilmic Orchestra was released in February this year. The album contains a blend of serene and tranquil pieces which fit neatly beside a more light and energetic repertoire, with highlights which include arrangements of Gabriel's Oboe and Pachelbel's Canon alongside music by Brian Eno, who was a leading light in Roxy Music and subsequently played with David Bowie and produced albums for Talking Heads and Coldplay. So, Tyler is in good company. The album has been featured on Classic FM and if anyone would like to order a copy of the album, the Rix family can be contacted on 020 8445 0099. We wish Tyler every success for the future.

Christmas Carol Singing – a report from Diana Grant-Davie

On Saturday 20th December 2008, over 80 residents of Woodside Park and their friends and relatives gathered at Sussex Ring for the annual carol singing. People came from as far away as Utah, USA and Yorkshire for the event. Colette Landucci beautifully led the festive carol singing and was accompanied on the guitar by the talented Hidé. After singing traditional Christmas carols, the children softly sung 'Away in a Manger' and were rewarded with sweets and chocolates! The singing ended in a cheerful chorus of 'We Wish you a Merry Christmas' and everyone stayed for refreshments, coffee and hot Ribena which were served along with Elizabeth Kendle's delicious mince pies. Despite the cold weather, the music and refreshments were enjoyed by all. Now, if only we could get that Christmas tree to grow.....

Mill Hill Barracks

The Council's Area Action Plan has been approved by the Government Inspector with a few minor tweaks. It would seem that a planning application will be made shortly by the developers.

We are concerned about the amount of traffic generated by the development and have asked what, if anything, will be done about the traffic jams at the mini-roundabout at Lullington Garth. Apparently, this has not been considered.

Crime Report

14 th Dec 2008	Cissbury Ring South	Theft from car
10 th Jan 2009	Linkside	Theft from car
20 th Jan 2009	Walmington Fold	Burglary

Please be aware that there are a number of dubious builders, driveway layers and landscape gardeners around the area who are preying on elderly and vulnerable victims. These are often nasty and violent people so do not approach them. If you do see these people operating in the area, call 999.

KEEP ALERT!!

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The Woodsider

JUNE 2009

Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

We, who comprise the committee of the Woodside Park Garden Suburb Residents Association, are very sorry but we have NOT misappropriated the funds available by using them to maintain our gardens and our moats, repairing our houses, purchasing horse manure, cushions, sink plugs and loo seats, etc. We apologise profusely for this omission and appreciate that we should have been completely frank and straightforward. We now realise that morality and honesty, which should lie at the very root of our society, has deteriorated to such an extent that we cannot trust many of our MPs to have any principles or scruples whatsoever.

Um? Are you really surprised by any of this?

And so we have an election at the beginning of June, not only for the Member of the European Parliament (what do they do - except spend all of our hard-earned money?) but also a by-election for a new Councillor to replace Caroline Clapper (née Margo) who has resigned her Barnet Councillorship to take up a more salubrious (how can this be?) role in the nether regions of Hertfordshire. We would thank her for her efforts during her short time as one of our three Councillors and wish her well for the future.

Some good news. Megha Dhavale, an illustrious committee member of the Woodside Park Garden Suburb Residents Association is the proud mother of new baby girl called Amiya. Many congratulations to the family – all of whom are doing well!

Some not quite so good news. It is with some regret, that we have decided not to hold the Forum this year. This is the meeting where we would closely quiz and question our local representatives until they can be quizzed and questioned no more. Our three Councillors, our MP Theresa Villiers, the police and various organisations have always honoured our invitation to the Forum, but this year the dates are proving a bit of an obstacle and so we have decided to postpone the event until next year.

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It is a shame, because we would have liked to have introduced our new Councillor and we might have had some rather pertinent and tricky questions for one or two of the career politicians. By the time next year comes, there will have been more local elections and, who knows who might be in power then? As some of you will hopefully recall, we normally hold the AGM at the same time as the Forum. This is now going to be held just before the autumn Woodsider Party which this year will take place on Wednesday 23rd September 2009 at the Old Finchleians Clubhouse in Southover - so please put this date in your diary. The AGM includes a report from the Treasurer so it can be seen that our accounts are in order!

It is worth mentioning that the Arts Depot in North Finchley recently won an award for best neighbourhood theatre in London and you will find fantastic high quality live theatre, music, comedy, dance and art - as well as some of the best coffee in London in their café - all for the local community of North London. I went there recently and it really is worth a visit. I know the building is ugly and hardly inviting but once inside, it is really very comfortable.

Your committee considered whether we should place "you have parked carelessly" stickers on vehicle windscreens, where they have been parked carelessly, illegally or selfishly. There was some debate about this because I am sure that none of us Woodsiders would park on the grass verges, park on corners, block views and generally park in such a manner as to not give tuppence for other road users, cyclists, pedestrians, dog walkers and so on. We Woodsiders are not like that – are we? We could, of course, just call in the traffic wardens to police this with more severity but this is not something that we feel we should need or want to do. All we want is people to park properly and with courtesy and treat the environment with respect. Any comments from Woodsiders would be appreciated.

May summer bless you with joy!

Robert Shutler

WPGSRA
Join up!
Only £2

Council News – NOT a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

Due to the forthcoming elections, Councillor Coleman has been prevented from making a report as this may be seen as providing unfair political bias.

Planning Applications over the last couple of months

17 Wolstonbury	Rear conservatory
10 Steynings Way	1 st Floor side extension, change flat roof to pitched roof
115 Chanctonbury Way	Single-storey side and rear extension, change garage into habitable room

Our local beauty spot (contribution from Nick Gardner)

You knew that Barnet has lots of attractive open spaces, but did you know that one of the most beautiful is (almost) on our doorstep? Its nearby residents have persuaded the Council not to signpost it, so not many people know it's there. It is the Darlands Lake and Nature Reserve, which lies deep in the Totteridge valley – fed by the same Folly Brook that flows behind Chanctonbury Way. It can be reached by walking across the fields beyond the Woodside Park Club and past Ravensdale School, but it is easier to find it by looking for a white five-barred gate just beyond the Orange Tree pub on Totteridge Lane. Alongside it is a kissing-gate leading to a public footpath. Go down a long tree-lined path and around the lake, and you will see all sorts of wild flowers and wild fowl. In the Spring there are masses of daffodils, bluebells and the rare snakes-head fritillaries, but it is a delight at all times of the year.

Enjoy!

Totteridge Annual Summer Fair and Flower Show

The local 11th Finchley Scout Group and 7th North Finchley Rainbows and Brownies are holding their Annual Summer Fair in conjunction with the Totteridge Horticultural Society on:-

Saturday 4th July 2009

at Totteridge Green starting at 12.30 pm through to 4.30pm.

Come along and enjoy the fun of many attractions and stalls at the Summer Fair plus the pleasures of a traditional flower show. There will be a dog show, bouncy slides, assault course, coconut shy, face painting, beer tent, barbeque, lunches, teas, tombolas, floral art, bric-a-brac and there is also plenty of parking.

Do support the local scout and brownie group who do a wonderful job helping the youth of today grow into the adults of tomorrow

Civic Network (contribution from Estelle M. Phillips)

The Civic Network is a meeting, arranged by the London Borough of Barnet, and held about twice a year. Approximately 100 representatives of local Residents Associations, Trade and Charity groups, and a variety of different interest groups attend. I usually represent Woodside Park. Each Network meeting is focussed on a different topic. The last one was held on 21st April and was to do with Communication

A speaker informed the meeting about ways in which the Council was moving from consultation to conversation. The council is developing new ways of engaging in dialogue with residents and improving communication with groups, primarily through new technology including Twitter, Facebook and the like.

You could try <http://twitter.com/barnetcouncil>. It seems there are lots of local groups making contact with each other. The council monitors these exchanges and sometimes takes the initiative to make contact either through the computer, by phone or to arrange a meeting. In these ways they have helped to connect people with each other and with the public services. They have been active in bridging gaps between those who understand technology and those who are making complaints or wanting to know more about what help may be available to them.

Crime Report

The police are rather too busy not catching MPs to be reporting on crime in the neighbourhood – so there is no report. However, please be careful not to let strangers into your property. There are apparently a few of them about.

Keep alert!!





The Woodsider

SEPTEMBER 2009

Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

Summer was a bit of a washout but we have the winter to look forward to!

We are holding the autumn Woodsider Party which will take place on Wednesday 23rd September 2009 at the Old Finchleians Clubhouse in Southover - so please put this date in your diary. It starts at 8pm with the AGM which lasts about ten minutes and this year we have a special guest, Johnny Lawrence, who will entertain and serenade us. The cost will be £4 per head and this includes food, drink and entertainment – now that is what I call real value for money and it really is a good evening out. Hope to see you there!

Some people have been a bit unkind about the contents of my front page calling it “self-indulgent” (that was one of the kinder phrases) so I am going to curtail it for this quarter. It is, of course, very self-indulgent and I hope informative and occasionally amusing, but it seems to upset some people, presumably those who park on grass verges, build huge ugly extensions, cause a general nuisance and are totally inconsiderate towards their neighbours.

Our new Councillor Alison Cornelius introduces herself to you on this page. Our congratulations go to Alison who won the seat by a very large margin.

During the last three months, one of the committee members has had to leave. Inder Chug was a valued committee member for nearly three years. He worked tirelessly for the residents of Woodside Park. We thank him very much for his hard work and wish him well for the future. This leaves a couple of vacancies on the committee and if anyone would like to join please contact me or make yourself known at the Woodsider Party. You will be most welcome.

If you would like to pay the £2 subscription and have not yet done so, please feel free to put the money in an envelope together with your name and address and post it through my door. See reverse of this newsletter for my address.

Robert Shutler

Dispatch from Councillor Alison Cornelius

I was delighted to be elected as a Councillor for Totteridge Ward at the by-election on 4th June and should like to express my thanks to all those who voted for me. Having grown up in the Buckinghamshire countryside, I moved to Totteridge nearly thirty years ago just after I got married. One of the main reasons I love living in this area is the wonderful open spaces, park and green belt. I particularly enjoy walking up to the Long Pond, strolling around Darlands Lake and cycling along the path by Dollis Brook. When I was canvassing back in the Spring, I was amazed by the number of people I met who cited the open spaces as the most important reason why they had lived here so long. When our daughter was little, I used to spend many happy afternoons with her at Swan Lane Park, although unfortunately the cafe did not exist then! Your Councillors have been asking for some new play equipment to improve the park and have just been told that it should be installed by the Spring.

As a Councillor, as well as being involved with local ward issues, you are also given a number of committees to sit on - some of course more interesting than others! One of the ones I have been appointed to is Health Overview and Scrutiny. At recent meetings, such topics as Swine Flu and the changes to the Maternity Services at Chase Farm Hospital and their impact on Barnet General have been discussed and at the next one we will be debating the results of the Stroke and Trauma Consultation. Another of my committees is Licensing. Apart from looking at new applications or extensions to existing ones, we are also currently reviewing the Borough's 'Gambling Statement of Principles'.

A taxed and insured damaged silver grey Honda Civic car reg. no. K879 JDU has been lying outside 14 Chancetonbury Way for some considerable time now. It apparently belongs to a local resident. Would it please be possible for the owner of this vehicle to move it, repair it or scrap it?



FOUR DAYS IN BARNET GENERAL HOSPITAL An inconvenience experienced by Estelle M. Phillips (in convalescence)

Walking a Labrador, on a bright sunny Saturday afternoon in July, I was uprooted and floored, when, in a nano-second, she spotted and started chasing a cat. Prostrate on the ground, I rescued my mobile. In great pain, I managed to call an ambulance which whisked me off to Barnet General Hospital. After seeing a doctor and having an X-ray, my arm was put in plaster, I was given mega-doses of painkillers and an appointment for the fracture clinic on Monday morning.

Monday could not have arrived soon enough and I was seen by an orthopaedic surgeon who informed me that I needed surgery. I felt scared. The last time I was an in-patient was 35 years ago. I had a bad night at home with my memories ... the pre-med that made my mouth dry for at least an hour before surgery; counting backwards from ten and struggling to save myself from suffocation as an anaesthetic mask was put over my face just a little too soon and waking up with a bucket beside my bed into which I could vomit during recovery. Missing the bucket was not an option!!

I soon discovered that things have radically changed. It was necessary for Barnet General to liaise with the Royal Free about a pre-existing condition and I was told to return the next day. In those 24 hours, the Royal Free advised the surgical team at Barnet about specific concerns; obtained items which might be required for emergency use in the operating theatre and even telephoned me at home to let me know what arrangements had been made. I was very impressed and pleasantly surprised by the co-ordination between the two hospitals in two different boroughs and two separate Primary Care Trusts..

I was admitted into Barnet on Tuesday and operated on the next day. I was in theatre for 75 minutes having a metal plate and wire inserted into what was left of my wrist. I was then in recovery for several hours being given more mega-loads of drugs to keep me relatively pain-free and on an even keel, even though I began to remember things that never happened!

I stayed in hospital for a further 36 hours. During that time I cannot fault either Barnet General Hospital or the NHS. My treatment, food, room, etc. were all excellent.

One week later I had my post-operative check-up and it was all good news. The skin is healing well. I have soluble stitches so there are no worries about having them removed. The surgery was described as 'beautiful' and the metal plate and pin are doing whatever they are supposed to be doing with my bones. As a result I have been put into a glove instead of a lighter plaster which means I can remove it to shower and perform light wrist exercises which, hopefully, will remove the need for physio when I return for further assessment in a month's time.

All this is way beyond what I had been told to expect. Well done and thank you to the NHS. But.....whoever said that a dog is good for your health?

Planning Applications over the last couple of months

1 & 3 Walmington Fold	New front porches to both properties
98 Walmington Fold	Single storey rear extension
36 Singleton Scarp	Single storey rear extension
7 Offham Slope	Single storey rear extension
11 Pyecombe Corner	Side and rear extension and hipped roof extension
32 Lullington Garth	Demolish and rebuild garage
6 Linkside	Single storey rear extension and new garage
84 Cissbury Ring South	Single storey rear extension and new front porch

Crime Report

Very little crime has occurred in the area of Woodside Park over the past few months, except for what are loosely described as “notifiable offences” which covers broader issues such as domestic disputes, noisy youths and disputes between neighbours. We are rather fortunate to suffer the lowest crime rate in the Borough of Barnet. In the twelve months up to June 2009, the Borough registered 26,179 reported offences including, one homicide, 53 rapes, 2,689 residential burglaries, 5,013 violence against persons and 4,184 motor vehicle crimes. Barnet police closed down nine cannabis factories just recently.

Crime is just around the corner and we should not be complacent. There have been a number of cases of rogues knocking on doors and preying on the vulnerable and the elderly. As good neighbours we should keep an eye on these people. Do not get involved but do call the police if anyone suspicious and without proper identification arrives at your door.

Keep alert!!

WOODSIDER PARTY/AGM WEDNESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER 2009

at OLD FINCHLEIANS CLUBHOUSE, SOUTHOVER
Starting 8.00pm Entry £4.00 to include food and wine
Entertainment from Johnny Lawrence

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

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The Woodsider

DECEMBER 2009

Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

Another year draws to a close. How time flies? But at least the weather seems warmer!!

The Woodsider Party held in September was a grand occasion reviving memories of the old get-togethers in the local village hall (which I was told about by my parents!!). We enjoyed a record attendance at the Old Finchleians Clubhouse and Geoff behind the bar was his usual cheery self, ensuring that those who wanted to be plied with drinks departed suitably inebriated.

We were blessed by the presence of Theresa Villiers (our local MP) and all three of our Councillors - all on expenses-free trips!! And we raised quite a substantial sum of money for the Mayor's Charity Appeal this year. We were ably and loudly entertained by Johnny Lawrence who added a certain something to the occasion. I am not quite sure what that something was – maybe deafness!! Anyway, thank you to everyone who helped, especially my fellow committee members, my wife, the Ellen Meade farm shop in Totteridge Lane and Mr Patel of Walmington Fold, all of whom provided the food. Thank you also to the shops in Sussex Ring who generously donated prizes for the raffle including Blakes dry cleaning, David Oliver dress shop, Leah's Beauty Salon, Cut4U hairdressers, International Supermarket and Indulgence hair and beauty.

The Annington/Countryside development at Mill Hill Inglis Barracks is looming still larger and, if you didn't know already, you can probably now understand why we objected so strongly to the architectural merit of the scheme now being constructed. I believe that the term for the architecture is "contemporary" but the construction is rather cheap and nasty and in ten or twenty years time when the elevations have deteriorated, we will wonder why the Council allowed such development.

There is a certain irony to all of this. I have discovered that Inglis Barracks was named after Lieutenant-Colonel

William Inglis of the 57th Infantry Regiment who died in 1811. Long before Bruce Willis was conceived, he coined the phrase "Die Hard" which was the last order to be given to troops before an attack. Did the Council not die in a whimper?

But are we going to allow this to continue? Well, we should try and fight our corner. Many of you will have received a letter from the Council advising about the new planning application which has been made by the so-called Inglis Consortium - which is St Modwyn's in another guise. This is an "outline" planning application, so it does not deal in such matters as scale, layout, appearance and landscaping all of which have been reserved for a future application. This application deals with the nitty-gritty of the site, for example - how many houses, how much commercial space, how much retail, how much park, etc. The application runs into some thousand or more pages of waffle and gobbledegook, much of which is incomprehensible to any sane person. Please see overleaf for more details.

The cameras were rolling in Chanctonbury Way in August when filming took place for an advertisement for Aviva. Some impressive driving and specifically parking entertained the residents and Aviva were kind enough to contribute to our funds as well.

I would like to thank Megha Dhavale for her work on the committee over the past couple of years or so. Family commitments have forced her to step down and she is replaced by Shashi Kundi whom we welcome. But we still need two more members. If you have a little time and you care about your community, please join us. See reverse for details about how to contact me in this respect.

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

To everybody, season's greeting and we wish you the best year ever in 2010.

Robert Shutler



CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

SATURDAY 19th DECEMBER at 4.30pm
at Sussex Ring
CHILDREN ESPECIALLY WELCOME
Free Refreshments

Council News – a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

Within the last few days, your Totteridge Ward Councillors have received the long awaited and much feared planning application for the Inglis Barracks site. This 1000 page application has now gone out for consultation to residents and local groups and will be decided by the Council's Planning and Environment Committee on a date to be decided after Christmas, although the public consultation closes in mid December. Following a decision of the same Committee to approve the massive Cricklewood/Brent Cross planning application (despite my personal appearance as London Assembly Member to argue for refusal) by eight votes to one with one abstention, I am not optimistic about the outcome. I, personally, along with Councillor Richard Cornelius and Councillor John Hart of Mill Hill Ward, will oppose the application for Inglis Barracks as it stands. Councillor Alison Cornelius, as a member of the Planning and Environment Committee, cannot declare a position in advance of the Committee meeting. I strongly urge residents to read the summary of the application and make their views known.

Consultation has also begun on next year's Council Budget with the level of Council Tax rise likely to be of the order of 1 or 2 per cent. Boris Johnson has frozen the level of precept from the Greater London Authority for the second year running.

As Mayor, I was delighted to attend the Annual Woodsider Park Garden Suburb Residents Association social evening and was most grateful for the substantial proceeds of the raffle which were donated to my Mayor's Appeal for the Larches Trust and Resources for Autism, two local charities supporting people with learning difficulties within our Borough.

Planning Applications over the last couple of months

15 Folkington Corner	Single storey and side extension, conversion of garage into habitable room
11 Wolstonbury	Part single and part two-storey side and rear extensions
14 Wolstonbury	One and two storey side extensions and single storey rear extension

Inglis Barracks Over-Development

You will have received a letter from the Council advising you about an outline planning application which is being made by the Inglis Consortium. You will also have been invited to comment by 17th December 2009. Before you can comment, it is important for you to actually understand what is being applied for which is not made very clear in the Council's letter to you. The application asks for approval for 641 one-bedroomed flats, 966 two-bed residential units, 390 three-bed residential units, 239 four-bed units and 38 five-bed units. This equates to residential space for up to 6763 people. The application does not include the Annington site which comprises 360 residential units for around 1500 people, nor the existing Notting Hill Housing Association site of 72 residential units (275 people) nor the Bittacy Court site of around 100 units (500 people). We were originally advised under the Area Action Plan that the site would cater for 2660 residential units for around 5000 people. This application increases the number of units to 2906 residential units and the population to 9038 people. In addition, the application asks for approval for some 11,840 sq ft of retail space, 37,351 sq ft of office and light industrial floor-space, 5,700 sq ft for a GP Surgery, approx 37,000 sq ft for a primary school and 6,781 sq ft for an Energy Centre (which we believe is not large enough for a nuclear power station!). The retail space will employ about 50 people, the school could employ 50 people, the employment space can employ 1800 people, the surgery 20 people and the energy centre 4 people. There could therefore be around 2000 people employed on the site. There will be around 3000 car parking spaces.

The developer tells us that the additional population of 11000 people might generate some extra 400 car movements during the peak rush hours. What nonsense. There will be gridlock. Is there anyone out there who can help us interpret the Transport Report attached to the Application? We really would appreciate some help. The developer has taken the Council's Area Action Plan and essentially added 10% to the proposed development and 100% to the proposed population. This application only deals with the outline of the site. When the detail is applied for it is quite possible that another 10% will be added.

If you want to object to the application, you should do so on the planning grounds that it does not comply with the approved Mill Hill East Area Action Plan. Put this in the first paragraph of your letter to the Council and then give all of the other reasons you can think of to back this up.

Crime Report

The Metropolitan Police has now decided not to send out any figures regarding local crime. Instead, we receive figures which are fairly meaningless and have no specific reference to our immediate area. It is not possible to even interpret these figures in any way without having the historical set.

We congratulated the police at the time for a really good initiative on their part. Now they have gone backwards.

Keep alert!!