

The Woodsider

JANUARY 2010

Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

Happy New Year to everyone!!

Thank you to those who have contributed to the Association's coffers with donations to help with our enquiries and research about the proposed development at Inglis Barracks. It is much appreciated.

I should also like to thank everyone who attended the Carol Singing. It was very cold that day and we all had to wrap up warm but, nevertheless, some seventy people turned up. My special thanks to Colette who led the singing, to Brian who played the organ and to young James who played the recorder. Without any rehearsal they played tightly (and, quite often, magnificently in tune) – well done!! I must also thank Blakes for providing the electricity and water and the Association's committee and aides, without whose help these events could not take place.

Barnet Council provides us with countless services, many of which we do not physically perceive nor, indeed, understand – especially when buried in bureaucratic confidentiality. What we did recently observe was snow, lots of it, great big fluffy dollops of it - all over our roads and pavements. What we didn't see was road and pavement gritting, clearing away the snow from the side roads and walkways, services for which we pay huge amounts of Council tax, services which are supposed to be provided by the Council but for reasons (not fully explained) were not. And so, people get injured on the pavements and vehicles get damaged on the roads.

How can the Council run out of salt and grit?
In a time of crisis, the Council failed us.

Of course, this was a good excuse not to collect our rubbish. Mine was not collected for three weeks and in some areas of our suburb, no collections were made for four weeks. Bins were left on the pavements in the vain hope that the refuse collectors might turn up - but they did not.

And our Council failed us again.

Perhaps these issues are not so serious (unless you have been injured or hurt in the snow), but the Council has gravely failed us regarding the huge amount of housing that is being thrust upon us in the borough - which has not exactly been opposed by those we voted into power.

It seems we have no choice. No political party has offered to resist this absurd growth in housing which is based on historically unreliable census figures and incorrect data.

Barnet is being forced by the Government and the GLA to accept some 25000 to 35000 new homes in the Borough before 2016 (these figures vary depending upon whom you talk to). We were initially under the impression that Boris might help to reduce these figures to a more manageable level - but the opposite seems to be true. He has now condoned the principle of an additional 49000 sq ft of commercial space (for 500 jobs??) and 2660 homes proposed at Mill Hill East. Furthermore, he has placed unwieldy financial demands upon the developers who will simply ask for more intense development to pay for it.

The Inglis Barracks development has been enshrined in the unilaterally approved Mill Hill East Area Action Plan and the developers have now put together an outline planning application for the site.

You should have received a letter from the Council regarding a public meeting to be held to discuss the matter further. If you are interested in the effect these proposals will have on our community you should please make the effort to attend. The more people who attend, the more it will be realised by the power-that-be that this is a matter to be taken seriously – especially with elections looming.

There is more overleaf explaining the broad principles of the proposals. Please see below for details of the meeting. See you there!

Robert Shutler



INGLIS BARRACKS PUBLIC FORUM

TUESDAY 2nd FEBRUARY at 7.00pm

with presentation at 7.30pm
at Frith Manor Primary School
Frith Lane, N12 7BN

INGLIS BARRACKS MIS-DEVELOPMENT

The developers have made an outline planning application for a comprehensive redevelopment of some two-thirds of the Inglis Barracks site. An outline planning application is not a full planning application. This means that only certain elements of the development are being dealt with at this juncture. This outline application is requesting permission in respect of "access to the site" with all other matters of layout, scale, appearance and landscaping reserved. These matters will be dealt with at a later date when a full planning submission is made. The full planning submission will be loosely based on the outline planning permission and it is quite possible that the full planning permission will amend previous consents as the scheme is more fully designed and as more financial burdens are placed on the developers by the various public bodies. A series of parameter plans accompany the application showing indicative land use, scale, landscaping, site levels strategy and character areas.

Herein lies the problem. Everything (except the redevelopment of the Officer's mess into ten flats) is indicative - which means it is simply showing what "might or could be". What "might or could be" at this stage often "isn't" at the full design stage, which makes commenting in a meaningful way at this juncture very difficult. This is a subterfuge used by the big developers to lull us all into a false sense of security. We saw this happen with the Annington Homes section of the site and we have ended up with the unsightly, disjointed mass which is now rising on the Frith Lane/Partingdale Lane corner and beyond.

The proposed development will apparently comprise a total of 2174 dwellings, a primary school for 500 children, GP surgery, 1100 sq m (11,840 sq ft) of commercial uses (shops, etc.), 3470 sq m (37,351 sq ft) of business employment uses, a district energy centre and associated open space. To the above you need to add the 360 Annington dwellings (being built at present), the existing and retained 72 Notting Housing Trust dwellings (off Bittacy Hill) and the existing and retained 49 Bittacy Court dwellings (south of the railway bridge in Frith Lane) and the existing warehouses and commercial space by the railway.

All of this could generate an extra 10500 people to the area, 3169 car parking spaces and therefore 3169 cars, 2,000 or so cyclists, goodness knows how many extra rush hour traffic movements, traffic jams, bedlam and general dysfunction. The attitude seems to be "build the development first and sort out the problems afterwards".

The scheme is very complicated and there are some 1300 pages of documentation to wade through, much of which is incomprehensible or based on figures plucked from somewhere or the other which, unless you are an expert, is impossible for the individual to countermand. For example, there are hundreds of pages of traffic generation formulae which are based on some specific examples elsewhere. For every example used by the developer, it is quite possible to find examples which counteract the statements upon which all of these calculations are made. As residents in the area, we do not believe these people when they tell us that very little extra traffic will be generated - when there are some 10500 extra people using the area. What total hogwash!! This is the problem. Patently the developers would not care about us and the mayhem this is going to cause, the Government certainly doesn't care about us, Boris doesn't care and neither do the Council.

If you know anything about traffic management and generation, please contact us because we could really use your help.

This will affect you and you should, if possible, attend the public meeting and making your feelings felt. You can check out the application on the Council's website and you might also wish to make your feelings known to our local Councillors and our MP. Lastly, you should write formally to the Council to express your views in accordance with the letter you will have received from the Council. Always put the Council reference on your letter in this respect.

Planning Applications over the last couple of months

14 Wolstonbury	Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension
6 Sussex Ring	Hip to gable roof extension, rear dormer
18 Linkside	Single storey side and rear extension
4 Steynings Way	Single storey rear conservatory
94 Cissbury Ring South	Side and rear dormer, roof alterations
71 Chanctonbury Way	Two storey side extension, single storey rear extension and roof alterations

Crime Report

There have been TEN burglaries in the area and additional reported sightings over Christmas and the New Year. This is quite possibly being carried out by one person. Linkside has been particularly hit by four of the burglaries and they have restarted the neighbourhood watch with the local police. If you wish to start a neighbourhood watch, please contact us initially and we will help you to set this up.

Keep alert!!



The Woodsider

ELECTION SPECIAL !!

APRIL 2010

Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

It has been a long, cold and rather nasty winter made worse by the massive costs that are being heaped upon us by the energy companies (these seem to have shot up dramatically) and nor helped by the stiff increases in petrol and fuel generally, the dipping of the £ against other currencies and the consequential increase in all imported products including food.

And now we have an election to contend with – and I am bored by the inanity of it all, already. I don't know about you, but I am sick to death of being patronised by these people who patently have no idea what we commoners have to put up with. We are promised that everything will change for the better. Will it? Do you believe them? What do you think?

Maybe I am just getting too old and grumpy? My wife calls me grumpy and my children call me old (and, come to think of it, they call me grumpy as well). But I just think that I am cynical and truthful. We have all seen these people muddying their hands with expenses and lobbying, fawning to the multinational companies and being condescending to us minions, providing us with meaningless consultations with sycophantic toadying to our wishes about the NHS and then doing the opposite, filling our land with more and more high density housing and watering down the very backbone of the country.

All I shall say about the elections is that we all should vote. How you vote is up to you.

The winter is over and spring is here. Hurrah!! It has been wonderful to see the daffodils, the trees blossoming, the magnolias, forsythias and everything else all arriving at the same time. It's a bit like the buses. None turn up for hours and then three come along at the same time.

Now that election time is here, it is surprising how quiet everything has become on the local political front.

Can you hear the silence?

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.

Nothing further is promulgated about the Mill Hill barracks site, about the NHS curtailing A&E, the polyclinics and the Finchley Memorial site. The Brent Cross development has gone into meltdown and reverted back to the government (election ploy?) but you can bet your bottom dollar that this will all resurrect itself (without much change) immediately after the election. The same applies to most other issues. Nothing much will change at local levels mainly because most of what happens of any major significance is decided at the moment by central government. There are lots of ideas at local level (most of which I do not usually agree with) but none of these ever seem to come to fruition. I gain the distinct impression that local politics is run by the civil servants and central government.

Take the Mill Hill barracks site. It was decided by the GLA that Mill Hill should be an area of high density housing and this was backed by central government. The Council had little say about this although I still believe that they could have delayed everything a lot longer. But this has been going on for about ten years now so I do not know how much longer it could all have been delayed. Anyway, the Council had to choose about having some input or none at all and, wisely, I suppose, they decided to have some input which, at least, allows us to have some say. However, the atrocious architecture presently being thrust upon us is the result of a central government inspector's decision.

Apparently, even because there was hardly any road gritting when the snow arrived and there are, even now, still potholes in the road, this is a direct result of central government interference in expenditure.

I am hopeful that whoever is returned to power in central government will defray some real power back to the local levels. In the last thirteen years or so, government has become far too centralised.

Happy voting!!! Have a good Spring and see you around!!

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

14 Wolstonbury	Single storey and two storey side extension, single storey rear extension, demolition of garage
33 Linkside	Single storey rear extension. New front porch
71 Chanctonbury Way	Two-storey and single storey side and rear extension, rear dormer and loft conversion

Woodside Park Garden Suburb in 1934 (contribution from Nick Gardner)

In 1934, the nucleus of what is now the Woodside Park Garden Suburb was a compact and mainly self-sufficient community. There were no buses and very few cars and the residents shopped mainly at a cluster of shops at the junction of Lullington Garth and Walmington Fold. Those included a grocer, a butcher, a baker, a greengrocer, a tobacconist/newsagent, a chemist/optician, a hairdresser, an off-license, an ironmonger, and the "Little Shop" which sold wool and haberdashery. The suburb then comprised roads in a semicircle to the west of the shops. Cissbury Ring was open fields, and Walmington Fold did not extend further south than number 48. The new Finchley golf course adjoined the suburb to the south. Fields to the west were used for grazing by the Express Dairy. It was possible to walk north across the fields to *The Orange Tree*. Frith Lane was just a track and the only road access to the suburb was from Nether Street down Argyle Road into Lullington Garth.. Access to the park was through a locked gate to which all residents had keys – now there's an idea.

Finchley Golf Club

Special Offer for Woodsiders

Finchley Golf Club is our local golf club, located off Frith Lane. Designed by five-times Open winner James Braid, this 18-hole, 6,356 yard, par 72 picturesque parkland course is regarded as one of the finest challenges in North London. The club is also blessed with a beautiful Victorian Club House with fantastic banqueting facilities and meeting rooms with dedicated bar areas.

Book a round of golf at Finchley Golf Club during the months of May and June and you will get it at half price which means £17.50 on weekdays and £25 at weekends,

To take advantage of this offer, please telephone Mark Polkinghorne at Finchley Golf Club on 07889 410028 and tell him you are a "Woodsider"!!

Mark's a Woodsider too, so you can chat about what a great place Woodside Park is (and other things!)

??? Questions to ask the political candidates ???

When will the pot holes be repaired?
When will all of the hospitals in North London be without A&E departments?
When will all of the hospitals in North London be closed down?
When will Barnet be so full up that we won't be able to move at all?
When will refuse collection become fortnightly?
When will wardens for the elderly be killed off altogether?
When will Barnet start paying the proper weekly rate to Care Homes to look after the elderly or (alternatively) reduce the paperwork which has caused such a huge increase in administration costs for the care homes?
When will politicians recognise that Mill Hill Barracks redevelopment and Brent Cross redevelopment are just too big?
Will politicians support the east/west London light rail route?
When will there be controlled parking zones across the whole of Barnet?
When will snoopers be looking in our dustbins?
Is a career Politician a suitable person to represent the people?
When will more than ten senior Council workers receive a salary of £200,000 and more per annum?
When will Woodside Park be turned into a traffic free zone with zero tolerance for cars, lorries and suchlike but special dispensation for cyclists?

Answers for the above are either "soon" or "never".
However, one answer is "yes". Can you guess which one this might be?!!

Crime Report – Election News!!

Incredibly, the police have reduced crime to virtually nothing. They will therefore be sacked. Land will be sold to multinational, politically correct property developers with a proven record in crass development. The police IT system, computer records, vehicles, horses and dogs will be sold on ebay - thus saving the taxpayer huge sums of money, all of which will help to pay the interest on the UK debt mountain. Due to health and safety reasons, however, together with lack of time and manpower, there is no crime report from the police either now or in the future. Crime Reports are dead.

Keep alert!!



printed for the Association without charge by MDC

Edited on behalf of the committee by Robert Shutler of 5 Saddlescombe Way N12 7LS
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The Woodsider

JUNE 2010

Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

I don't see much *Camercllegg* mania in the leafy commune that is the Woodside Park Garden Suburb. The Council, together with the three local MPs, are all decidedly sapphire and there is neither ruby, amber nor emerald in sight. And the gold which was our tax payments seems to have disappeared as well. To me, one powerful party represents extreme danger – politics with no checks and balances.

You may rest assured that your Committee will be doing everything possible to prevent local issues from being ridden roughshod by a right wing agenda in a Council with a four year term ahead. I am sure that the electorate did not give this Council a mandate for extreme politics just because they might find themselves a few shillings short. I hope that I am wrong and that reasonableness prevails.

The Council is talking about outsourcing many of its activities, "Easy Council" and suchlike but I do think they could look closer at home to the bloated staffing levels in the Council and the salaries that some of these people are paid. Even now, there are four jobs being advertised for salaries in excess of £100,000 per annum. And still the potholes have not been fully repaired.

This is why it is important for you to please join the Association. We are also seeking people to join the committee so if you want to participate please contact me (details overleaf).

Overleaf, is also an article by Estelle Phillips, a member of our committee, who stood as an Independent "Residents Association of Barnet" (RAB) candidate in the recent local Council Elections. I should perhaps make it clear that we, as an Association, are non-political. We only support democracy. Personally, I think that she was brave to stand as a candidate in respect of her beliefs and should be applauded for making the effort. I know that all she wanted was to be able to have some influence in how the Council is run. To be a Councillor would seem to be an obvious choice -

but it was not to be. I must admit to being surprised that RAB did not secure more votes.

You may have noticed that the "leaning tree of Sussex Ring" has now been staked and our thanks go to Councillor Richard Cornelius for arranging this. A new tree has also sprung up on the other side of Sussex Ring. At this rate the Ring could soon become a forest.

Despite repeated requests, the police are not assisting us with crime figures and so I thought it might be an idea if we do our own. If any crime occurs in your road, perhaps you would please let me know and we will collate all of this and report it in the Woodsider. I will not mention names or anything like that – just the nature of the crime, the date and the road where it took place.

Finally, I wish you all a happy and hot summer and, if you can afford it, a pleasant holiday.

Please put the date of Wednesday 15th September 2010 in your diary for the annual Woodsider Party and AGM to be held at Old Finchleians Club in Southover. It might be more exciting than the World Cup!

Robert Shutler

TOTTERIDGE FAIR AND TOTTERIDGE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

FLOWER SHOW

SATURDAY 3rd JULY 2010 12.30PM TO 4.30PM
ON TOTTERIDGE GREEN

AN AFTERNOON OF TRADITIONAL STALLS AND GAMES INCLUDING
BOUNCY SLIDE AND ASSAULT COURSE, HOT FOOD, TEAS, CAKES,
CANDY FLOSS, ICE CREAM, FACE PAINTING, COCONUT SHY,
BOOKS, TYOS, PLANTS, BRIC-A-BRAC, WHEEL OF FORTUNE,
SWEET STALL, LITTLE RED TRAIN.
FREE ADMISSION PARKING AVAILABLE

ORGANISED WITH THE HELP OF THE 11th FINCHLEY/3rd
TOTTERIDGE SCOUTS AND THE 7th NORTH FINCHLEY BROWNIES

WPGSRA
Join up!
Only £2

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Council News – a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

The dust from the elections has now settled both nationally and locally. Whilst a Conservative/Lib Dem coalition was required to form a Government, locally the Conservative Party increased its majority on Barnet Council winning 39 seats. Labour won 21 seats and the Liberal Democrats 3. In Totteridge Ward, Councillors Richard and Alison Cornelius and I achieved a substantial increase in our majority and are deeply grateful to all residents who voted for us. We will continue to serve the best interests of Woodside Park for the next four years. Having retired as Mayor of Barnet, I have returned to the Cabinet in charge of the Environment with a particular mission to sort out the state of the roads, (expect some early good news on this) I am also the Conservative Chief Whip. Councillor Richard Cornelius continues to be Cabinet Member for Housing and Regeneration but takes on Planning Policy as well, whilst Councillor Alison Cornelius takes the Chairmanship of the Health Committee. It will not come as a surprise that the Council will have to take some difficult and painful spending decisions in preparation for next year's budget when the Council Tax will again be frozen.

Early noises from Central Government are encouraging with announcements about ending housing and traveller site targets (although not yet in London), scraping housing density rules and protecting gardens from so called "garden grabbing". On the Health front, all reorganisation proposals suggested by NHS London have been rejected by the new Secretary of State and they have been sent back to the drawing board. Theresa Villiers was appointed Minister of State for Transport with a particular brief for London Transport and Crossrail and in the Dissolution Honours list was appointed a Privy Councillor.

Your local Councillors continue to hold their surgery for residents on the third Saturday morning of the month at Barnet House.

Planning Applications over the last couple of months

45 Walmington Fold	Single storey rear extension to replace conservatory
94 Walmington Fold	Retention of detached garage
8 Pyecombe Corner	Single storey side and rear extensions
25 Wolstonbury	Single storey rear extension and demolition of garage

The Local Elections – on standing as an Independent Candidate

(from the offices of Dr Estelle M. Phillips)

Ten weeks before the May elections, I saw an announcement inviting people who were unhappy with our Council to a meeting. I attended the RAB (Residents Association of Barnet) inaugural meeting and heard several people speaking about their frustration with the current situation. They were saying what I had been thinking. At a follow-up meeting I tentatively entered my name to stand for election in Finchley Church End ward where I had lived for many years prior to moving to Woodside Park.

I had no idea of how to proceed or what I was letting myself in for. I paid my dues to RAB and procured ten signatures in the obligatory black ink from residents in the electoral ward to register. An Agent, introduced by RAB, was appointed to help complete the very bureaucratic forms. Eventually, the Returning Officer informed me that my nomination was accepted. I was now an official candidate for the Council elections. Barnet Council organized a half day training course for first time candidates which was both useful and interesting.

Meanwhile, RAB candidates had to provide an introductory electoral address complete with photograph. This was the most expensive and frustrating part of the whole experience as the initial printing was useless. There was considerable delay before the second printing arrived. My house was bedecked with boxed paper all of which had to be folded and made ready for depositing through letterboxes. I walked miles covering every street in my ward posting the folded flyers into letterboxes, many of which chewed at my fingers and restricted access to less than a centimetre. Low level, back-breaking letterboxes mingled with boxes concealed behind doorknockers and hidden in prickly bushes. Many blocks of flats had no access at all.

I had expected help from RAB volunteers but this did not happen. However I did collect two volunteers of my own as a result of leafleting. They, together with friends, helped me cover most properties on the electoral roll and I even managed to speak to some of the electorate. People were extremely friendly and supportive and I had no bad experiences at all during my weeks of leafleting.

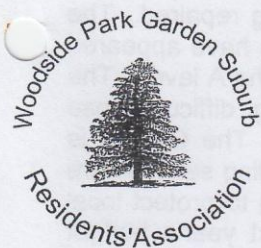
I was at the polling station on election day. Numerous people turned up at the wrong station or with postal votes complaining that only one of the two postal voting forms had arrived. The next day I went to the count and spent several hours watching and interacting with other candidates, some of whom were 'old hands' at the game. Quite a number of forms were incorrectly filled out or spoilt in some way. However, the ruling was that if the voter's intention was clear then the paper was included. Finally, the various wards were called and the relevant candidates went onto the rostrum while the Returning Officer called out the results in alphabetical order. I felt very privileged to be part of this experience and learned a lot about how the system works.

Ten long weeks had elapsed from reading about the RAB meeting to the final results. I feel satisfied that my own results were quite respectable. I received slightly more than the other RAB candidates in my ward and together we beat the Green Party, which has been established for years. We are disappointed that not a single RAB candidate was elected. Next time perhaps.

Edited on behalf of the committee by Robert Shutler of 5 Saddlescombe Way N12 7LS
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The Woodsider

AUGUST 2010

Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

I hope you enjoyed your summer vacation – if you could afford one. If not, at least we've had a hot (tish) summer here in the holiday resort that can be Woodside Park!

I was thinking of writing something long and verbose about the Barnet Councillor's self-awarded gratuitous pay rise but, just as I wrote something, they seem to have backed off (for the time being). They must have known that I was just about to go on the attack!!

Nevertheless, it is true to say that the role of the Councillor has changed quite dramatically in the past ten years or so and, whereas it used to be a voluntary service to the community, it is now seen as a vocational post. Given the amount of gobbledygook emanating from civil servants in the Government and the Council, being a Councillor is virtually a full-time job. I have to sometimes read these documents myself and they are incredibly long-winded and tedious.

What I did find astounding, however, was how the Barnet Councillors could have so completely misjudged public opinion. Can the increased majority have gone to their heads already? Was the Government not talking about austerity? To then scattergun Councillor Salinger, because she abstained when voting for the salary rise, was unforgivable. Such action is shameful and this dictatorial rule is plainly not acceptable. I think we should be making this very clear to our Councillors.

You will have a chance to question the Councillors and Theresa Villiers, our MP, about this and other matters at the autumn Woodsider Party which will take place on Wednesday 15th September 2010 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. This year, our special guest, Johnny Lawrence, returns to entertain and serenade us in a quieter way. The cost will be £5 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!

You may recall that, in the last Newsletter, I asked residents

to let me know if any crimes were committed in the area that they knew about. The police have decided not to tell us about this and it was my intention to keep you informed via the Newsletter. I have been notified of three burglaries in February (two in Walmington Fold and one in Cissbury Ring South) and nothing since. I am hoping this is true, in which case we are indeed fortunate to live in an area with such a low crime rate.

Your committee does their best to maintain a sense of sobriety in the area. In Woodside Park, we are indeed fortunate. We have trees, we have grass verges, we have gardens, hedges and greenery. We have narrow streets and wide streets and we have houses which mainly have some architectural merit although some people are selfishly trying to undermine our heritage by constructing hideous extensions. We have no restrictions to parking in the street and we are served well by public transport. We have the brook and the park and a children's play area. We can enjoy walks across the fields and adjacent green belt. We have local neighbourhood shopping and local schools. There are of course some people who do their level best to destroy what we have but fortunately these are very few. All in all, we shouldn't complain.

According to the present government, we are now entering a period when we will all have to tighten our spending and perhaps we should reflect on how lucky we are to live in an area like Woodside Park. In monetary terms our standard of living might decrease but we will always have the local environment of Woodside Park to fall back on (I am going to ignore the development at Mill Hill Barracks because this would be the best thing to do).

There's nothing on the television (except "Mongrels" but that's finished now) so we could all go out for a walk, meet our neighbours, say "Hi" and be friendly. Perhaps I am living in cloud-cuckoo land but maybe you can all start by attending the Woodsider Party!!!

See you there!!

Robert Shutler



WOODSIDER PARTY/AGM WEDNESDAY 15th SEPTEMBER 2010

at OLD FINCHLEIANS CLUBHOUSE, SOUTHOVER
Starting 8.00pm Entry £5.00 to include food and wine

Entertainment from Johnny Lawrence

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

Council News – a report from Councillor Richard Cornelius

The work of the Council continues amidst the welter of hostile headlines. The potholes are being repaired. The streets are being swept. Primary Schools are being expanded ready to take the extra children who have appeared and need places in September. Many of our secondary schools have performed remarkably well in the A levels. The planning department continues to refuse wildly inappropriate applications, as well as making difficult those applications which push the policy regulations to the limit. Somehow the homeless are housed. The Council is cajoling the NHS in Barnet to perform better. Council Tax is being collected. The rubbish and recycling services are working well. The Mayor continues to open buildings and fetes. Your local councillors are working to protect local interests and to ensure that the ward gets its full share of resources. Work continues on next year's budget reductions. The Council never stops working.

Planning Applications over the last couple of months

36 Cissbury Ring North	Single storey side and rear extensions
43 Cissbury Ring North	Single storey building to rear of back garden and single storey rear extension.
66 Cissbury Ring North	Addition of pitched roof to existing flat roof
68 Cissbury Ring North	Single storey side and rear extensions
50 Cissbury Ring South	Two-storey side and rear extensions, front extension, new front porch
10 Rodmell Slope	Two-storey side extension and balcony at rear
38 Linkside	Single storey side and rear extensions
74 Chanctonbury Way	Single storey rear extension
33 Walmington Fold	Single storey rear extension. New front porch. Single storey building in rear garden

Woodside Park Garden Suburb in 2010 (contribution from Dr Estelle Phillips)

I am a house. I am in the rather unfortunate position of being the semi-detached house next to the one that is having quite extensive back, side and loft extensions. Furthermore, the house beyond my rear garden is also extending. And so I endure much noise, dust and disturbance with nothing (not even an improved outlook) to show for it at the end. You see, my former owners did extend a couple of rooms into the garden in the 1960's so I don't need more rooms right now. The other two houses may be inconvenienced but at least, after a few months of disorder, they will become the large houses of their dreams. For my part, I have had to undergo the humiliation of being a 'party wall' collaborator. Surveyors, one from my owner and another from the adjoining house, have looked me over from top to bottom, inside and out. I have been measured, photographed and commented upon.

There is so much banging and noise from so many directions. The other day I really thought a whole wall in my bedroom was going to fall down. My garden is not so peaceful any more either. Because two separate houses are involved, both the back and front parts of me have people working high up. Sometimes they throw things down and I'm really worried that something will land in my garden. Luckily, they seem to be pretty accurate with their aim.

Oh yes, I almost forgot the house on the other side of me (the one I share a driveway with) has just been sold and that has never had any work done on it at all - so -----

Shared Drives and Party Walls

Very few houses remain in Woodside Park that have not been extended in some form or the other. As a Residents' Association we do not generally object to extensions, although we do draw the line at two-storey side extensions which cause a "terracing effect" in the street and "pretend sheds" in rear gardens which seem to end up housing the maid, granny or even another family.

With regards to side extensions, neighbours need to check their freehold documents. In the suburb, freehold documents were often drawn up to give the neighbour a right of way in perpetuity over the space between the two houses, even though the land does not belong to the neighbour. This is not a planning issue but it is a legal issue. The freeholds in Woodside Park were set up precisely to prevent the terracing effect which you sometimes see when houses are extended at the side. If you are planning a side extension you should check that you are legally allowed to do this.

If your neighbour is proposing to build a roof extension or a rear extension, the chances are there should be party wall award. Failure to provide such an award can lead to a dispute which can, in turn, affect the value of your property and your neighbour's property.

• **Good neighbours always consult their neighbours before commencing building works.**



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The Woodsider

DECEMBER 2010

Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

The Woodsider Party was a great success and I hope that all of you who attended enjoyed the event. It seems like an age ago now. My particular thanks go to the WPGS Committee (and my wife, Trish), who helped with the organisation and produced much of the food and also to Johnny who provided the music for the evening. Thanks should also go to Geoff at the Old Finchleians who ran the bar and, even with his knobbly knees and ageing frame, managed to last the whole evening without whingeing about how old he feels!!

Despite their busy schedules, our three Councillors and our MP Theresa Villiers turned up for the event and I think we were able to ask some seriously delicate questions about various local issues and salary matters for which complex answers were not acceptable.

And so, here we are, in the middle of the winter of discontent, with strikes, the X-Factor, I'm a Celebrity – Get Me Out of Here, soporific Premiership football and Strictly Come Dancing. Thank goodness for the TV escapism because the political future looks rather bleak. Let's hope that the forthcoming royal wedding next year will brighten us all up provided we don't have too much media hype. Yah-boo to you killjoys!!

The Government talks about cuts but as far as I can see they are cutting "frontline services" and not the numerous backroom bureaucrats who sit in the offices shuffling bits of paper about. Did you know that frontline staff comprise just 2 million out of the 8 million civil servants in this country? Can someone tell me what the other six million civil servants do? Is this not where the cuts should be made? And not in the front line staff.

Very little help seems to be offered to start-up or on-going businesses. What we really need is less bureaucracy, less form-filling, less business taxes and more encouragement to employ people. The country needs rejuvenating and this is not going to happen when there is one civil servant for every person employed in the private sector.

At long last, all of our local pot-holes have been filled – just in time for this winter.

And suddenly, the police have started producing monthly crime reports – see overleaf. We applaud PC Andy Caswell for doing this. There has been some rumour that the local PCSOs are being enjoined with others, as part of the cut-backs. Here we go again, cutting frontline people on the street instead of the faceless overpaid bureaucrats.

The Internet revolution is such that we feel it necessary to produce a website. We did have one a few years back which was quite successful but insufficient people enjoyed the internet in those days. Now nearly everyone has a computer. The site will be at www.woodside-park.com but it is not up and running yet. We would like it to be interactive but this requires quite a bit of work. If anyone would like to help, please let me know. As part of the site, we were thinking of reproducing all of the old Woodsiders and Suburb Echos (for it was called that prior to the Woodsider) dating back to 1937. If anyone has any of the very old ones and would like to lend them to me so that I can copy them, I would be very grateful. I have been looking back at some old Woodsiders and found something from 1959 which might amuse you. See overleaf.

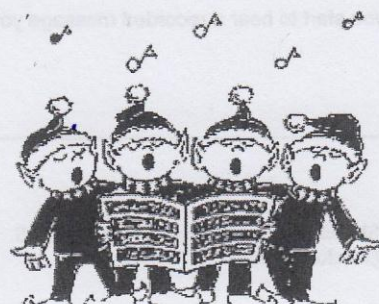
There was a murder the other day in Bittacy Hill, just the other side of Inglis Barracks. A murder is an unusual occurrence in this area. I was surprised that it did not receive more prominence in the local newspapers.

The reconstruction of Finchley Memorial Hospital has started and is going to take place over the next five years.

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 2011 – and I hope it warms up a bit!

Robert Shutler



CHRISTMAS CAROL SINGING

SATURDAY 18th DECEMBER at 4.30pm
at Sussex Ring
CHILDREN ESPECIALLY WELCOME
Free Refreshments

Council News – a report from Councillor Brian Coleman

Detailed work continues on Barnet Council's budget for 2011/12 although the level of grant from the Government will not be known till early December. There are going to be considerable cuts following the comprehensive spending review announced by the Government in October. In order to protect services to the vulnerable and to keep any rise in Council Tax below inflation, there may well be reductions in Arts funding (particularly the unpopular Arts Depot), some reorganisation of Libraries and Museums and a concentration of Children's "Sure Start" centres in areas of the Borough where they are really needed. The parking service currently run "in-house" is to be privatised and the "future shape" programme is budgeted to provide £100 million of savings over the next 10 years.

Following the successful completion of the "Pot hole elimination Programme" Barnet's roads are in good condition to face the winter weather and there is plenty of salt in store at the Mill Hill Depot!

Meanwhile, consultation has been started by the Metropolitan Police Borough Commander on the future organisation of Safer Neighbourhood teams as the Police Authority struggles with a reduction in its budget.

Planning Applications over the last couple of months

85 Cissbury Ring South	Single storey rear extensions, change garage flat roof to pitched roof
20 Lullington Garth	Single storey rear extension
61 Walmington Fold	Single storey rear extension, raised rear decking, new front porch
19 Chanctonbury Way	Single storey rear extension
112 Chanctonbury Way	Single storey side and rear extension, external alterations
148 Chanctonbury Way	Single storey side and rear extensions

Excerpt from "The Woodsider Bulletin" July 1959

At the time of writing, this summer has got off to a very good start. Windows are flung wide, more of the neighbours are seen over the garden fence and, in short, life can be a whole lot brighter through the coming of warm, sunny weather. Alas, it is not all honey and apart from the annual grievances such as noisy radios and belching bonfires, we have had another thrust upon us to spoil our restful Sundays and weekday evenings. It is the noisy car and the even noisier motor bike. Complaints have been pouring in to Committee members during the past month about some of the young men on the estate who, with very old cars or, perhaps, brand new motor bikes, use our roads for testing grounds. This is causing much distress to old folk and also parents and very young babies. We have no wish to spoil the fun of these speed lovers, but do sincerely ask them to spare a thought for others.

Comment from editor: maybe things were not so rosy in the good old days!!

Police Report

In Oct 2010, there was one burglary in Walmington Fold - rear patio door forced and jewellery taken. Whilst there is not too much crime in Woodside Park, there is crime in the surrounding neighbourhoods and this particularly occurs where doors and windows were unlocked. Jewellery and laptops are without doubt the most sought after items. Rear patio doors and windows are the preferred choice of entry for the thief. So, lock your windows and doors when you go out. Don't leave valuables on display. Don't leave laptops on display when you go out. Consider securing valuables, rather than leaving them in wardrobes, bedside tables and jewellery boxes.

The Christmas season is coming and burglars will be out and about. PC Andy Caswell states "As I walked round Totteridge on Sunday night at about 11pm, I noticed windows open, window handles up, cars unlocked and most striking of all was the number of front rooms I could see straight into. Apart from realising how many men were on their own watching 'Match of the Day', I could clearly see phones/laptops and other valuables. Please close your curtains."

If you need help, you can call Totteridge Safer Neighbourhoods on 07920 233 746.

Postal Scam

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number).

DO NOT call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655.



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