



The Woodsider

DECEMBER 2020

www.woodside-park.com

Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

In this year of the Brexit transition, 2020 has not proved to be the greatest of years for completely other reasons. I hope you are all keeping safe and well.

The weather has turned much colder and going out for a walk doesn't seem to have the same appeal as it did back in the summer. There has been a lot of muddled thinking by the government and its advisers. I am not sure why the government or the scientists are surprised about the virus mutating. I am not a scientist but even I know that nature has a way of evolving. For mutation – read evolution.

So here we are now in Tier 4, locked down with nowhere to go. I have always been told that scientists, professors and doctors have no common sense at all! There would appear to be some truth in this. You can add the current crop of politicians to that list.

The new streetlights bathe the roads in a bright rather focussed white light. These are LED lights which do not seem to pierce branches and leaves of trees. I am not sure the old orange lights did but I do know that I could see my front door under the orange lights whereas with the new white lights I can see nothing. This is progress I suppose.

But, on the positive side, the lights seem to better illuminate the street at the bottom of Fursby Road where it crosses Dollis Brook. It was very dark previously and some nefarious characters used to hang around there in the dark.

Due to Covid19, Tier 4 and everything else I am sad to report that it was necessary to cancel the carol singing in Sussex Ring this year. For many of us, this heralded the start of Christmas and, for one, have missed the occasion. As more than a hundred people were in attendance for the carol singing last year, the roundabout would not have been large enough to accommodate everyone at 2m social distancing! They would have had to spread out to North Finchley! We probably would have been arrested and fined £10,000. Ridiculous!!

The developers proposing the additional house by Dollis Brook in Argyle Road have had their appeal dismissed which is good news for the ecology of Dollis Brook.

The monstrosity that is to be built at Woodside Park Underground Station has, however, been given approval. We can look forward to eighty-six studio apartments with no parking.

The Mayor of London has decreed he is short of money. I wonder why? So, he is thinking of increasing the congestion charge zone to the North Circular Road, charging people to come into London generally by car and increasing the council tax charge by some £200 per property. I fail to understand why we have to pay for his profligacy and poor organisational qualities. Surely people will not vote for him again next year? I bet they do.

This decade following, is going to be all about the environment and being green. We may not have gas boilers by the end of the decade. Electric boilers are available now but electric power is far dirtier than gas and therefore does not tick the environmental boxes. I don't quite know how this is going to work unless windmills sprout up across the land instead of housing estates.. The technology regarding hydrogen is still in its infancy. By the end of the decade will we all be charging our electric cars at home and how is the grid going to cope?

Beware! Thieves are about nicking catalytic converters from cars mainly for their palladium and rhodium content. The converter can be removed in under three minutes.

May I wish everyone seasonal greeting and a very happy, safe and successful 2021.

Robert Shuttler



Sussex Ring in a bygone time

Planning Matters

Current planning applications in Woodside Park can now be found on our website www.woodside-park.com.

You may have heard that new permitted development planning rights have been introduced by the government in September 2020. This allows homeowners to add two storeys to their house, if the house is presently two storeys. The footprint of the two storeys can be no larger than the First Floor of the property. This could, of course, completely destroy the already disrupted rhythm of Woodside Park's architecture and the "buy-to-let" fraternity would have no hesitation in doing just that. However, the good news is that only properties built after 1st July 1948 and before 8th October 2018 can enjoy these permitted development rights and that excludes just about every property in Woodside Park.

Pavements

The Council seem to have been a bit lax with cleaning leaves from pavements this year. Be very careful, because the leaves become very slippery in the wet weather and if you fall over on the pavement, this can hurt.

Grass verges are a real treat in Woodside Park. The Estate was designed with the grass verges and trees in mind. The trees used to be part of a large orchard which covered the area. Most of the fruit trees are now gone and been replaced with cherry trees, birch and ash. With the advent of home deliveries, lorries and vans park on the verges causing them to become a muddy quagmire and a couple of trees have also been knocked over in the Suburb. If you see these vans parking on the grass verges, can you ask them nicely not to do so. These van drivers are under immense pressure to deliver as many parcels as possible in the shortest space of time and they really don't have time to care about our verges. But we do ...

Finchley Golf Club

During the lockdown, Finchley Golf Club was decent enough to let the public walk around the perimeter of its golf course. This was enjoyed by many people and proved to be good exercise!! The Residents' Association sent a letter to Finchley Golf Club thanking them for their goodwill gesture.

Sussex Ring

It is pleasing to see Sussex Ring as the hub of Woodside Park Garden Suburb. Vero's café served coffees and ice cream during the lockdown. People were sitting al fresco all over the ring at Vero's café and Michael's restaurant across the way. Nisa, the grocer's store, was very busy during lockdown. Other shops were forced to close temporarily. For the sake of the community it is important to support these local shops and the best way we can do this is to visit them as often as possible and buy things!.

Christmas Lights

There seems to be many more fairy lights in the streets at the moment. This is great to see. The lights are all different colours, flashing on and off, surrounding hedges, trees and around houses. One gets a "feel-good" feeling when seeing them and they lift the spirits. Well done to everyone who has made the effort to brighten up these cold December days.



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