



The Woodsider

APRIL 2021
www.woodside-park.com

Letter from the Chairman – a personal view

I hope you have all kept safe and well. We have been preparing Woodsiders which have appeared on the website. We are hoping to deliver this one by hand.

Since the first lockdown in March 2020, it is a bit of understatement to suggest that it has not been an easy year. Barnet has had its fair share of coronavirus victims but in Woodside Park we have managed to escape the worst with North Finchley and Friern Barnet having the highest mortality rates.

But Spring is in the air! The daffodils are out and the roundabout at the end of Walmington Fold, which only six months ago, resembled open cast mining is now in full bloom and looking magnificent. It doesn't seem as though we will be permitted to go abroad for a holiday this year and so it would seem to be a staycation for most of us. Where to go though? Blackpool? Southend? Redcar (that's me), Skegness? Norfolk? Devon (will be packed)? Actually, I think I'll stay here in Woodside Park, sunbathe on the grassy knolls in Sussex Ring and gulp down coffees from Vero Caffé whilst watching the traffic go by.

As Millbrook Park increases in size (only 30% of the residences which have been promulgated are actually occupied at the moment) so the traffic is starting to increase along Frith Lane and Lullington Garth. The schools are back as well and now we experience these so-called school-mums (and dads) in their huge cars doing three point turns in Lullington Garth or Frith Lane, holding up the traffic for miles around. It is just so selfish, just to save a few minutes.. Couple that with the multitude of potholes, temporary lights and road closures which seem to have occurred over the last six months and driving along Lullington Garth and Frith Lane has become a true obstacle course.

The potholes are mainly caused by the huge lorries which service the construction sites at Millbrook Park.

Some of these are quite deep and dangerous. When Millbrook Park was in the planning stages, we were told quite forcibly by the Council and the Planning Inspectorate and the developer's various experts that this would not happen but, of course, it has and, whilst we knew best, we were totally overruled by those who know better in the various echelons of government. We ought to be able to sue them.

One of the highlights of Christmas for many of us is the carol singing at the Sussex Ring roundabout. This year, Covid19 (and the Government) forced us to cancel the celebration but we intend to make up for it this Christmas coming in 2021!! Please mark your diary for the Saturday before Christmas. 18th December 2021 starting 4.30pm. Celebrations for other religious festivals were also muted. A few fireworks appeared for Diwali and New Years' Eve and that was about it.

The new Council Tax bills have appeared on our doorsteps and the Tax has gone up some 10%. The Council say that it is lower than adjoining boroughs and it is, but that doesn't make it right. To add to our despondency, water/sewage bills have also risen by 10% or more and we still can't get Affinity Water to repair the Riverside Park section of Dollis Brook where the banks are falling in and having been doing so for more than a couple of years. All the officials and people are "working from home" which means that nothing is happening.

Riverside Park has been a godsend for many people during the lockdown. The kids have enjoyed the apparatus and we are hoping there will be some adult gym equipment installed shortly as well. The whole ambience is ruined by the litter which is spilled all over the park. The bins are not large enough but they are emptied every day. Please take your litter home with you and not leave it flying around the park. It is not an enjoyable experience.

Have a great summer – apparently it's going pot be hot!

Robert Shutler

The Woodsider is produced by the Residents' Association. There is no membership fee any more but all money contributions would be most welcome. Please contact a committee member or send to the address overleaf.

For sponsorship deals on the website, please contact the Association via our website or the address overleaf.



Planning Matters

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

The Council has approved the eighty-six studio flats proposed at Woodside Park Underground Station which are contained within two five storey blocks with no parking and very little amenity space. This is a scheme backed by the Mayor and TfL (Transport for London). There have been quite a few changes to the original scheme but the concept of overdevelopment is very much the same as the initial application.

Further developments are proposed at Finchley Central Underground Station and High Barnet but these have gone very quiet for the time being whilst the elections take place.

Green Bin Collections

You can now renew the fortnightly green bin collections for £70 to run through to next March 2022. This appears to be quite an efficient service and we even get a handy reminder by email the day before the collection is due.

Dollis Brook

The Residents' Association has been pressing the Council to carry out repairs to the banks of Dollis Brook but without much success. Whilst the Councillors seem keen, the incumbents who work in the Council do not. It seems to be a case of the tail wagging the dog. In the meantime, friends of Dollis Brook have got together to help clean the brook. They can be found on "Next Door". Please help if you have some spare time.

Crime in the area

There has been quite a lot of crime over the past six months. These crimes tend to be carried out by a very small number of people and catalytic converters seem to be top of a criminal's list. We are told that the perpetrators of these thefts have been caught.

There have also been two or three indecent assaults on young ladies around the Sussex Ring area all perpetrated by one individual. If you have any information about this, please let us know.

We live in a fairly affluent area and therefore there will always be criminals sniffing around, trying to break into houses or stealing cars. Fitting cameras to the house and automatic lights would seem to act as a warning to criminals to stay away. We must all be careful and vigilant out there!

London Mayor Election

This is to be held on 6th May 2021. Don't forget to vote. The Mayor is responsible for roads, road charging, Transport for London, police and fire service amongst other things. All of this affects us in Woodside Park. There is no point in whingeing about the London Mayor if you don't vote.



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