

# Mill Hill Park Residents' Association Newsletter

Autumn 2015



## Introduction by the Chair

Welcome to the second issue of the MHPRA newsletter. We have a lot of new and exciting developments to report on, following a busy summer. There was plenty of opportunity for socialising too, with a private tour of the London Transport Museum Depot, the AGM (attended by our new MP Rupa Huq, Councillor Josh Blacker, the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team and Council representatives), a 'Picnic in the Park' and various open garden events and drinks parties .

In this issue we provide an overview of next steps on traffic, parking and pavement issues, an update on recent achievements and work in progress on issues that matter to you. There is a range of social events taking place before Christmas.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting and informative. In any case, please send your feedback to [millhillparkra@gmail.com](mailto:millhillparkra@gmail.com). You can find up-to-date MHPRA information on Twitter [@millhillpark](https://twitter.com/millhillpark) and on our regularly updated website at [millhillparkacton.org](http://millhillparkacton.org).

Tatiana Collins

## Recent MHPRA Achievements

### Illegal oak felling will be prosecuted

The enforcement case for the unlawful felling of the 300 year-old oak on 79 Gunnersbury Lane has now gone to court, with the Council pursuing the owner for unlimited damages. In addition to the fine, the owner will be required to come up with a landscaping plan for the site. We will also be requesting a comprehensive tree planting plan, both on Gunnersbury Lane and in Heathfield Nature Garden opposite the site. Judith Bone spearheaded the campaign for the enforcement from the felling of the oak in August 2014 until recently, and it is great to see her relentless efforts are now paying off.

### New playground at Heathfield Nature Garden

Brand new playground equipment has finally been installed, bringing more families into the park. Over the past three years MHPRA has worked with the Council to secure a budget of £26,000, contribute to the design and ensure that the budget was spent for the benefit of our local park. Feedback from families has been fantastic. We look forward to Stage 2 of the pond improvement work in the park, which will focus on making the pond less forbidding. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Tatiana Collins ([millhillparkra@gmail.com](mailto:millhillparkra@gmail.com)), who has been involved in improving the park since 2011.

### Tesco petrol station refused a 24 hour licence

Tesco's on the Uxbridge Road, opposite Twyford Avenue, put forward an application for a 24 hour licence for the sale of alcohol. We had serious concerns this would result in an increase in crime, anti-social behaviour, noise and litter. Ann Brennan represented MHPRA, together with Churchfield Community Association (CCA) and the police. Fortunately the application was eventually withdrawn.

The full list of our achievements can be viewed on our website [here](#).



## Update on parking, traffic and pavements issues

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Thank you to many of you who took time to complete our survey on parking, traffic and pavement issues in the Mill Hill Park area. We had a record number of responses, so clearly this is an important topic for us all. In the view of stretched resources and the many improvements required, the committee plans to take forward a focused action plan with the following priorities:

- 1. Consultation on traffic flows and speed for Avenue Road and Mill Hill Road. We have requested a re-count of traffic to determine any additional impact caused by the closure of the Uxbridge Road entrance to Hillcrest Road.**
- 2. Improvements to pavements on Mill Hill Road.**
- 3. Replacement and widening of pavements on the east side of Gunnersbury Lane between Bollo Lane and Mill Hill Road.**

While there is also an urgent requirement to further review parking space shortages on Avenue Road, the committee recommends postponing this matter until next year. If you would like to take on and lead this initiative with some support from committee members, please get in touch.

A consultation on a 20mph speed limit trial proposed for Acton next year has been launched. It closes on 18 December 2015. This will give people concerned about speed the opportunity to put their views to the Council. You can find further details about the trial and consultation [here](#).

## Local issues we are working on

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- Since the Council stopped sending notification letters for local planning applications, the committee has taken on the task of monitoring all South Acton applications on a weekly basis. We will continue to send out alerts about applications with a potentially negative impact on the area.
- Further on planning matters, we are extremely disappointed by the Planning Committee's decision to permit the demolition of the Chatsworth pub to make way for a 4-storey block of flats and a bar. Ann Brennan and Councillor Blacker represented Acton's residents in a bid to save the pub. Thank you to both for their efforts.
- Finally, we are awaiting the Council's decision on a planning application for 79 Gunnersbury Lane. Because of a potentially detrimental impact on the area, we have asked that the decision be taken by the Planning Committee rather than by the planning officer.

## Dates for your diary

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**28 October:** The Safer Neighbourhood Team will be hosting an outdoor event to help residents with their queries and concerns. The meeting will be held on [Neville Close](#) from 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

**31 October:** It's Trick or Treat Time! Don't forget to put out a pumpkin or something spooky to let children know which houses are giving out treats!

**9 November: Pub Quiz Night** - the first joint social event to be held by MHPRA and CCA will be at the George & Dragon pub on Acton High Street. This will be a chance for members to meet or catch up with the wider Acton community. Teams can be arranged (6 per team). £2 per person participation fee; first prize: a £50 bar tab. Hope to see you at the George & Dragon on 9 November at 7.45pm.

**November-December:** Look out for an invitation to the next members' drinks party.



### Spotlight: What do you know about ward forums?

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Our ward is South Acton and ward forums are held four times a year. They are attended by our three local councillors, Yvonne Johnson, Mik Sabiers and Josh Blacker. Kofi Nyamah attends as a neighbourhood and ward co-ordinator. There is usually a report by our Police Neighbourhood Sergeant and by a member of the Park Rangers team. From time to time someone from the Council's Environment team or the Highways department also attends and provides an update on current projects.

These meetings are, as their name suggests, a forum for the public to air their views on local issues which are either of concern to themselves or to a particular interest group. Problems, issues and solutions are discussed in an informal and friendly atmosphere and everyone has a chance to speak. They provide an ideal opportunity to engage with and contribute to the neighbourhood and to participate in democracy at grass roots level. If you care about the local environment and want to see South Acton develop as a thriving and pleasant area, then this is your opportunity to engage with the people who make things happen at a local level. The ward has a small annual budget of £35,000, which the Councillors allocate at their discretion to projects proposed by individuals and local organisations, providing they have the forum's support. The Leader of the Council makes the final decision on the spend.

Mill Hill Park is not as strongly represented as other areas. Please come and support the issues we raise for the benefit of our community. The next ward forum will be held on 2 March 2016 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at the Armenian Centre at 105a Mill Hill Road.

### Photography Competition: The Four Seasons of Mill Hill Park

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We want to create a memorable collection of photos of our area. We launched a photography competition at the AGM in July. Here are the details of the competition categories and information on how to enter:

**Two age groups:** Adult and Young Person (17 or under).

**Two categories for each age group:** **1. The Four Seasons of Mill Hill Park:** capture our local conservation area through a series of photos over one year. You can enter two to four photos for this category but each photo must be of different season. **2. Open Category:** Any imaginative photos showing the Mill Hill Park area. We welcome photos that include people. Up to two photos can be entered for this category.

**Prizes:** Vouchers for a wine shop or dinner at a local restaurant for adults and vouchers for Amazon or iTunes for young people.

**Sending your photos:** Send your photo(s), which must be at least 1MB in size, along with a brief description, your name, address, telephone number, category, the date and location of the photo to [millhillparkra@gmail.com](mailto:millhillparkra@gmail.com). Photos can be taken with any digital camera, including a phone camera.

**Closing date:** Entries must be received by Wednesday, 15 June 2016.

**Announcement of winners:** The winners will be announced and their photos showcased at the 2016 AGM. The winning photos will be posted on the MHPRA website and used in MHPRA publications.

See [here](#) for the terms and conditions (go to page 3 of the document).



## Public Order on Crown Street and Woodlands Park

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Ealing Council has started a project to improve public order on Crown Street and in Woodlands Park, working with a number of stakeholders. The ultimate aim is to eliminate anti-social behaviour activity in the Crown Street and Woodlands Park area. (Sadly, the need for greater action has been reinforced by the news of a fatal stabbing in Crown Street on 16 October.)

### What will happen next?

- 1. Enforcement:** The Council has put this issue on the priority list with a dedicated team to gather and investigate all evidence to help obtain the Public Space Protection Order.
- 2. More surveillance:** Several measures will be introduced at Woodlands Park to improve safety and visibility with regular visits by Park Guard (an external company working for the Council to improve the safety of parks). The Safer Neighbourhood Police regularly monitor the area and will continue to do so.
- 3. Retail offer diversity:** In addition, the Head of the Council's Regeneration department and the South Acton Councillors will be working with the Notting Hill Housing Group to influence a change in the tenancy of some of the shops and businesses once the current leases expire in 12 months' time.

MHPRA is supporting these efforts with a formal representation. In addition, we are continuing to raise concerns about the inadequate cleaning of Crown Street and Woodlands Park.

### How can you help?

Report, report, report! Please report all illegal and suspicious activity no matter how small or commonplace it may seem. The **volume** of reports will help the project team to build their case.

**All general suspicious activity:** please call the Police on 101

[Fixmystreet.com](http://Fixmystreet.com) site covers fly tipping, graffiti, street cleaning and road and pavements problems.

[Fly tipping \(dumped rubbish\)](#)

[Noise Incidents](#) or by phone to 020 8825 8111.

**Food safety:** Email [foodsafety@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:foodsafety@ealing.gov.uk)

**Trading standards:** Email [tradingstandards@ealing.gov.uk](mailto:tradingstandards@ealing.gov.uk)

If you are unable or do not know where to report an issue, please email [millhillparkra@gmail.com](mailto:millhillparkra@gmail.com) and we will try to direct you to the right place. Please note that the committee does not have the bandwidth to report issues on your behalf. It may take time for the changes to take place, so please be patient!

## Other Local News

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### Private company now working with Ealing Council on environmental crime crackdown

You can now report issues such as fly-tipping, littering and dog fouling on line. Officers started patrols on Wednesday, 23 September. Residents can report issues at [www.ealing.gov.uk/reportit](http://www.ealing.gov.uk/reportit).

### The impact of paving over front gardens

Acton got a mention on Radio 4: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b01n1qys>

Please go to 3m 25s, when a road in Acton is mentioned, where most of the gardens have been hard surfaced. Click [here](#) for a survey of the extent of the problem in the Borough of Ealing.

### Artwork on the South Acton Estate

You may have seen a huge mural by Stik on Charles Hocking House in the South Acton. The Guardian published [a profile](#) of Stik recently.