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Autumn 2018

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Summer edition 2018

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Chairman's Report

An Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) was held on the 17th April in Wimbledon Park Hall to consider a resolution to authorise the committee to apply to the Charity Commission (CC) to register the Association as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This was approved by the members and residents present and subsequently the application was submitted to the CC.

On the 25th June we received a letter from the CC advising us that our application had been refused. Basically they asserted that they considered the objects, as set out, 'did not declare a purpose that is currently recognised in law as charitable.'

'A charitable purpose is one which falls within the range of descriptions of charitable purposes set out in the Charities Act 2011 and which is for the public benefit.' The letter contains a lengthy explanation of how they have arrived at the decision. We are not convinced that their determination is correct and we will be submitting a request for a review in accordance with the provisions allowed.

Lecture after the EGM

We were very grateful to Nigel Israel for providing a most interesting short lecture entitled 'A social history of diamonds – three thousand years in thirty minutes'.

This was extremely well received by those present and allowed us to demonstrate our recently-installed audio visual equipment.

AGM on the 23rd October

Notice of the next AGM is on page 31. Please make a note of the date and we look forward to seeing as many residents as possible. This is not only a time for catching up on what's going on in Wimbledon Park but also a chance to meet your committee members and other residents and socialise. As usual we will be providing some tasty nibbles from Arthur's Café and wine and soft drinks.

Stephen Hammond, our Member of Parliament, will be joining us as guest speaker – as always, subject to parliamentary business.

Front Garden Awards

The results for this year can be found on pages 14,16,18 & 20. Our grateful thanks to Jill Farmer and all the judges who spent many hours roving the streets of Wimbledon Park drawing up a short list and eventually choosing the winners. Congratulations to all the winners of the various categories and also to those responsible for the 'highly commended' gardens. Thank you to Jill especially for her excellent report and to Pam Healy for her excellent pictures. We look forward to meeting the winners at the AGM and presenting them with their prizes.

Focus on Pollution

You will notice that, in this edition, there is a strong focus on pollution.

Pollution comes in many different forms but air quality seems to be the one that concerns and affects most people in their daily lives. You will see from the article on page 22 that WPRA has been conducting its own monitoring tests in conjunction with Friends of the Earth. A number of the readings are very high and way in excess of the EU recommended levels. We will be keeping a watchful eye on any relevant planning applications or activity on existing sites which might negatively affect an already bad situation. A site of recent concern (in addition to the concrete batching plant already mentioned in previous editions) is the Reston Waste site in Weir Road (see pages 24 and 25). We are grateful for the proactive stance adopted by our new Councillor, Ed Gretton, in this regard.

Also a very comprehensive article on 'Air Quality' can be found on pages 34,38,40,& 41, by Alan Maries, a local resident.

5G

I suspect that not many residents are familiar with 5G and its implications. The article on pages 26 and 28 gives some background on what is going on and why we should have serious concerns about its introduction. There is no question that commercial interests supplying 5G and the government which make a great deal of money by selling licences tend to gloss over the possible health and side effects of this technology. Clearly a lot of research has been conducted by scientists and a great deal is being discussed about the implications of how everything will be eventually connected. The power to collect personal and other data will be immense. Only time will tell whether this is a good thing and what effect it might have on current and future generations.

Wellington Works

The article on pages 42 and 43 has been contributed by three local residents who, together with others, have spent a great deal of their time fighting a planning application to develop an area at the back of Durnsford recreation ground. It was pretty clear from the start that the application had some severe weaknesses. Despite this the Council let it go ahead. Ultimately, due in no small part to the pressure applied by the local residents, the application was rejected by the Council planners. The applicants then appealed the decision and this was eventually turned down by the Planning Inspectorate. It is an interesting example of what can be achieved by determined residents and at the same time reveals some of the obvious weaknesses of the planning system.

Update from Stephen Hammond MP

I am, once again, grateful for the opportunity to contribute to the Wimbledon Park Residents' Association newsletter. I hope you and your family had a fantastic summer break.

Brexit continues to dominate national politics, and I am continuing to fulfil my promise at the last election to oppose a 'Hard Brexit'. I do not want to take up too much space here discussing Brexit, but you can find the latest updates from me on my website here: <https://www.stephenhammond.net/campaigns/european-union> - and, as ever, I am always happy for you to get in touch about this or any other issue. You can email me on stephen.hammond.mp@parliament.uk



Changes to your bin collections

Despite opposition from local residents, the Labour-run Council is determined to reduce your bin collections and enforce the use of large, expensive wheelie bins. However, Conservative councillors and I are campaigning to continue the existing arrangement for weekly rubbish collections, without the compulsory imposition of wheelie bins.

From October, the Council will make use of a multi-bin system, including two large wheelie bins along with your recycling box and a food waste bin. The wheelie bins and recycling box will no longer be collected weekly. This means you will effectively become the Council's storage unit as you will have to keep waste on your property for 2 weeks regardless of the hygiene risk or whether you have the space.

These arrangements do not affect those living in larger, purpose-built blocks of flats with communal bins.

You will have received a letter from the Council, claiming the new collection method will save money. The figures used are incomplete. These costings do not include the cost of the contract procurement, the capital cost of 120,000 new wheelie bins, plus their replacements or the cost of a new fleet of larger lorries.

You can support our campaign to retain the weekly bin collection by signing our petition here: <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/support-our-campaign-tocontinue-weeklyrubbish>

Wimbledon Police Station Update

I welcome last month's High Court judgement on the closure of Wimbledon Police Station as it continues to highlight this important issue, and I thank all those involved for their efforts. I remain concerned as this ruling will not keep the police station open, and therefore urge residents to support our ongoing campaign which would instruct Merton Council to buy Wimbledon Police Station and lease it back to the police.

The High Court's legal judgement does not require the consultation to be re-run; there can simply be a decision on whether there is a need to postpone the closure, pending any evaluation of the new technology behind the scenes.

The Mayor of London is unlikely to change his mind and admit he was wrong to close the police station as a result of this ruling. We hope the local community will use this result to come together and push for Merton Council to reverse their refusal to buy the Police station and lease it back to the police, which seems to us the best way to ensure the station actually stays open.

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Wimbledon Park Policing – Safer Neighbourhood Team

Safer Neighbourhood Policing Teams (SNTs) were set up by the Metropolitan Police in 2004. Wimbledon Park has its own SNT led by Officer Paul Roberts and supported by PCSO Lisa Matthews. The SNT meets regularly with the ward panel for Wimbledon Park, comprising of a number of local residents and volunteers, as well as our local elected Councillors.

The ward panel meetings provide the forum for residents to feed back to the Police regarding any local community crime and safety issues that residents would like to be prioritised.

The Wimbledon Park Safer Neighbourhood Panel generally meets every few months at the police base in Wimbledon Park in the White Pavilion – the One O'clock Club. Please contact one of our local Councillors should any residents wish to raise issues with our local Police team, or be interested in attending the next Ward Panel meeting.

The last meeting was held on 21 June, and we discussed the following issues with our local Policing Team.

Wimbledon Police Station is still scheduled to close, after the Mayor of London's decision to move Wimbledon's police base to Mitcham. This has naturally caused a great deal of concern to Wimbledon's residents, and the local Councillors put forward a motion to Merton Council to save the Wimbledon Police Station by buying it from the Mayor and leasing it back at a subsidised rent to the Police. The Council rejected the Councillors' proposal, but the campaign to keep Wimbledon Police Station open continues.

Residents continue to raise concerns regarding fly tipping, littering, unswept streets and overflowing rubbish bins as being commonplace across both ward and Borough. The Council is paying millions of pounds every year to Veolia to address these issues, but the Councillors reported that the Council is not managing the contract properly, leading to the problems we are now seeing in our ward.

Other issues relating to local crime were discussed: these included thefts from the local Sainsbury's and Coop stores, as well as the theft of delivered parcels left on residents' doorsteps. A number of burglaries occurred in the ward during June, and night time bike thefts from front garden sheds and also thefts from

parked vehicles remain an issue. Residents are asked to be vigilant and call 999 immediately if they see suspicious activity and believe a crime is in progress.

The local Councillors have organised a number of Community Speedwatch events, with the local Transport Police kindly attending with speed guns, to sanction drivers exceeding the 20mph speed limits in our residential streets. These have been a great success, with recent speed watches at Wellington Road and Revelstoke Road; future events are planned for Home Park Road, Alverstone Avenue, Ashen Grove and Durnsford Road. Please contact your local Councillors



(details on the Merton Council website) if you would like to arrange a Speedwatch session on your own road.

As ever, we are all enormously grateful for the hard work and professional dedication our local Police Officers give to our Community. We all want our Community to be kept clean and safe at all times.

Cllr Ed Gretton – Chair

Safer Neighbourhood Team: Wimbledon Park Ward Panel

19 Braemar Avenue; edward.gretton@merton.gov.uk

WIMBLEDON PARK LAKE – A PARTIAL RECOVERY (August 2018)

After the gloomy news of the state of Wimbledon Park Lake in the first half of 2018, comes news of a partial recovery, due entirely to the regenerative powers of nature rather than to any formal intervention of man.

After the long, cold, wet spring came the very high temperatures of May, June and July. Observers would have noted the excessive growth in a filamentous weed known as “small pondweed” (*Potamogeton berchtoldii*).



Weedy Lake June 2018

This occupied much of the Lake surface in both the western and southern arms and could be seen packed up against the dam adjacent to the public park. What was not apparent at the time was that this weed, and the hot temperatures, provided an excellent environment for the spawning of carp. Literally thousands of baby carp, both of the common carp and the mirror carp varieties, made their appearance. A picture of the catch of an angler made in July shows just what fish emerged. (Note that the large brown fish is a common bream, and that all these fish were safely returned to the water.)

The weed did not meet the needs of all Lake users, however, and the sailing club ended up using a cutter that was dragged behind a power-boat for a number of sessions to clear some channels for their yachts to sail in. Whether it was the

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diligence of their weed-cutting or whether the continued high temperatures simply caused the small pondweed to eventually disintegrate is not clear, but the small pondweed has largely gone. The Lake water has now turned a distinct green colour, unlike its usual clear state, and the young fish still seem to be doing well. Indeed, the success of the new fish has resulted in herons and great crested grebe to return, although there still is no sign of kingfishers.

An angler's catch at the end of July 2018



As far as the London Borough of Merton and their Wimbledon Park Lake Project is concerned, this seems to have stalled and no new information has appeared on their website over the past few months. Part of the agenda of this Project was to identify the issues associated with dredging the Lake, seemingly for the benefit of the sailing club, but the sheer size of the costs involved (a figure of £3.5 million was quoted in one Summary) and the potential complications in handling tens of thousands of cubic metres of silt seems to have pushed this objective onto the back burner. The need to assess and repair any part of the dam for flood protection purposes, as specified by the Environment Agency in 2016, is still ongoing and we await with interest any developments on this front. Meantime, we hope that nature can continue to weave its magical regenerative spell and drive the Lake towards an ecological recovery.

Tony Borkowski
Chairman of the Wimbledon Park Angling Club



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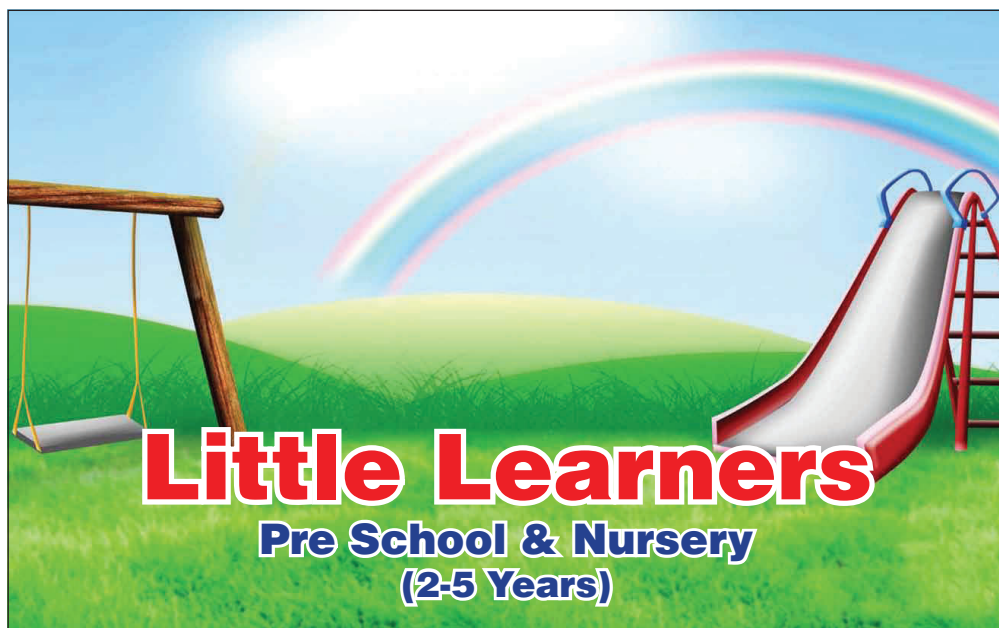
Front Garden Awards **2018**



We are pleased to announce our annual Awards for attractive Front Gardens in Wimbledon Park. A team of local residents looked at the eligible* gardens visible from the street to nominate their favourites. From these, a panel of four judges arrived at the following decisions.

**Overall winner of the John Uden Cup and
Best Summer Interest Garden:
95 Revelstoke Road**





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It was a delight to happen upon this cheerful little garden, which used the limited dappled sunlight to good advantage. It was in contrast to most gardens in the street, in which few others coped with the challenging north-facing aspect.

Planted inside the low front wall was an informal hedge of blue-and-white lace-cap hydrangeas in full bloom, while a row of tall fuschias bounded the front path to the right. Easily visible behind the hydrangeas was a mixed planting of perennials and annuals, including spirea, lavender, fuschia, alchemilla mollis, daisies and ferns. The gradation of heights provided an attractive view from both the house and the street. Window boxes were filled with geraniums, whilst matching containers under the bay window were planted with a mix of small conifers, petunias, lobelias and geraniums.

**Best All-year Interest Garden:
67 Normanton Avenue**



The immediate impression given by this garden was of calming formality, created by the dominance of green foliage and limited splashes of colour. The black-and-white tiled path to the front door was bounded on the right by an overhanging cherry tree and a mix of shrubs, climbers and perennials in a narrow border. These included clematis, climbing roses, hydrangea, pyracantha and euonymus. On the opposite boundary was a clipped hedge, while the low hedge at the front added to the sense of enclosure.



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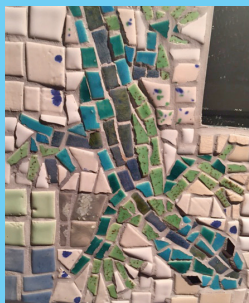
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To the left of the path was a central array of clipped box topiary, set in a mulch of grey slate. The borders of this area were planted with lime green heucheras, interspersed with variegated foliage plants and verbena bonariensis, with its clusters of tiny purple flowers on tall stems. Bronze-leaved heucheras provided accent planting in the slate cover. Immediately to the left of the front porch was a tall red rose to match the front door. Planters on the window sills and at the porch entrance contained summer bedding and hostas. The finishing touch was a wall-mounted pair of miniature hostas in the porch.

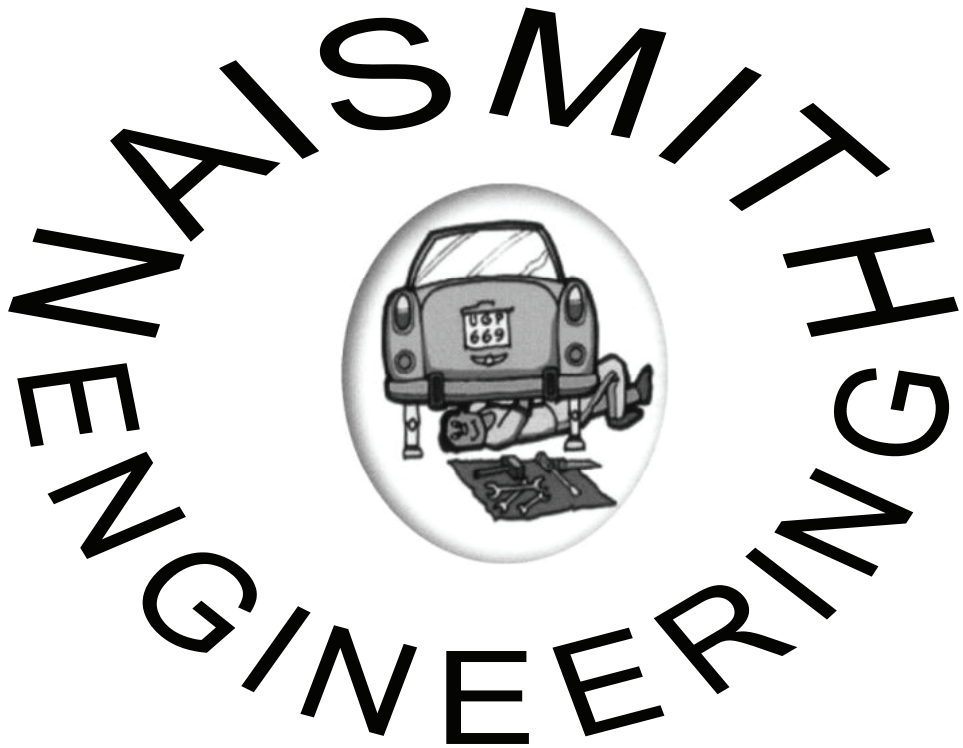
Best Container Garden:

5 Strathmore Road



An eye-catching array of well-filled containers was displayed on the window sill, along the narrow stretch of paving fronting the house, and hanging from the boundary railings. Architectural metal frames supported two varieties of clematis, whilst other pots were planted with a rose, lavender, pieris, fuschia, sea holly, hosta, geraniums, lobelias, petunia, jacobs ladder and sedum. A pot on the balcony was filled with brightly-coloured petunias. Tucked in a recess of the bay window were two water butts. Inside the enclosed porch a selection of mini succulents, impatiens, scented geraniums and colourful petunias were displayed on a set of shelves and a table.

The overall effect was colourful, well-balanced and uncluttered.



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**Best Environmentally Sustainable Garden:
11 Lucien Road**



A rich mix of planting filled this informal garden, providing colour and interest, as well as food and cover for a variety of wildlife. The flowering plants offered nectar and seeds for insects and birds, whilst the underlying ground cover afforded refuge for invertebrates and assisted water retention.

Standing tall were cardoons, evening primroses, red hot pokers, mullein and fennel, whilst a trellis supported a pyracantha against the house wall. The middle level of planting was filled with roses, hydrangeas, spirea, japanese quince, crocosmia, michaelmas daisies, wall flowers and others. Prostrate plants included a miniature pine, heathers and silvery 'lambs ears'.

Highly commended gardens:

St Luke's Church, Ryfold Road

The Patio, 397 Durnsford Road

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AIR POLLUTION IN WIMBLEDON PARK WARD

You may recall that last year we installed air pollution monitors supplied by Friends of the Earth (FoE) around the Wimbledon Park Ward. We decided to carry out this exercise again this year over 4 weeks in May and June. These monitors measure the amount of nitrogen dioxide in the air and provide a snapshot of the pollution present at that time. Nitrogen dioxide is a toxic gas which inflames the lining of the lungs. The legal annual limit is 40 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$), but there are no safe levels of exposure to air pollution. It is estimated that air pollution causes 40,000 early deaths per year and stunts the development of children's lungs. Air pollution also comes in different forms; nitrogen dioxide is one, alongside particulate matter and ozone – all with negative health impacts.

Our pollution monitoring results show a mixture of medium and high levels of pollution; not surprisingly, the area around the Plough Lane / Haydons Road junction exceeds the EU legal mean annual limit for nitrogen dioxide. It is also quite alarming that the pelican crossing on Durnsford Road, which is used by children on their way to school, showed a reading more than double that of last year. Our results are a snapshot and are not directly comparable to annual data, as over a year the weather varies considerably and levels of pollution with it, so the annual mean results could look very different. At the time of the monitoring we were experiencing very hot weather and had had no rain which may account for the very high readings in some areas. Plus the number of large diesel lorries using the Durnsford Road is on the increase and when they are idling at traffic lights they are pumping out exhaust fumes.

The results from the diffusion tubes required calibration and adjusting alongside government figures. This is called bias adjustment. FoE have spoken to experts in monitoring and have adjusted our results for accuracy, using a bias correction factor for the type of diffusion tubes used. This involved multiplying our results by 0.9.

adjusted results in $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (micrograms per cubic metre)

Location	Results	Adjusted Results
Kohat Road	26.28	23.39
Haydons Road on the bridge	57.81	51.45
Cromwell Road/ Haydons Road junction	57.04	50.76
Plough Lane/Haydons Road junction	67.11	59.73
Wellington Road outside primary school	21.34	18.99
Durnsford Road/ Endeavour Way junction	34.35	30.57
Arthur Road outside tube station	43.29	38.53
Durnsford Road/ Havana Rd by pelican crossing	63.87	56.84



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Problems with the Reston Waste site

Many residents have expressed concern at the apparent impact the Reston Waste site on the Weir Road industrial estate is having on the local community. Heavy layers of dust from the site have been seen on the adjacent Wandle Trail, and cars parked directly outside the site seem to suffer from a thick coating of dust.

Residents' complaints have been coming in for a long time, and I was asked to forward the complaints on to the site's Regulator, the Environment Agency.

Apparently concerned at the residents' complaints, a team of inspectors from the Environment Agency visited the site in June. We await news from the EA as to what improvements will be implemented in order to achieve full compliance with the site's operating permit. This may include the use of water sprinklers as well as ensuring any processing of waste is restricted to taking place within the site's enclosed buildings. Concerns have also been raised that the netting surrounding the site has also been allowed to fall into disrepair, and the enclosed unit's main roller door appears to be permanently open, causing dust to escape into the local air.

Clearly, what we have seen in the adjacent section of the Wandle Trail, with leaves and plant-life suffering under a layer of white construction and demolition dust, cannot be allowed to continue and residents will continue to observe the site and ensure that no dust is released across the site's perimeter.

A video of the site's recent operations can be seen on the very useful Haydons Road North website:

<https://haydonsroadnorthcommunity.wordpress.com/2018/07/19/reston-dust-pollutes-wandle-trail-video/>

Those keeping an eye on Merton Council's planning applications have also complained that the trees and bike racks promised in the site's planning application are not in place, and our Councillors are taking this up with the Council's planning enforcement unit.

As for any industrial site, the services they deliver may well be of benefit to the local community, but it is crucial that the site's operators respect the conditions in their permits, and that the regulators make sure that the provisions are being properly observed.

Cllr Ed Gretton



What you didn't know about 5G

Whilst The UK government and Sadiq Khan hail the roll-out of 5G as the 'necessary' next step and describe this new technology in glowing terms, let's look at the true consequences for our health from electromagnetic pollution, a subject covered so rarely by the media. But the chickens are now coming home to roost and more articles are appearing lately as evidence of harm mounts:

You can read all the latest alarming articles listed on <http://www.bemri.org/news.html>; amongst them "As more countries ban iPads and mobile phones from the classroom, could wifi be giving our children cancer?" pointing to the UK government's negligent attitude to public health.

Also listed on bemri.org is the Scientists' Appeal, signed by 242 EMF Scientists from 41 nations, calling on the UN and the WHO for protection from Non-ionizing Electromagnetic Field Exposure; yet again there is silence from 'Public Health England'.

It is clear that since we have been swamped by electromagnetic pollution which directly impacts on our DNA, we have seen a massive rise in cancers (particularly in children), autoimmune diseases and Alzheimer's and now life expectancy is said to have stalled.

Adding to this already deadly mix is the coming electro-smog on steroids: 5G - designed to power the Internet of Things (including smart meters!!), eventually to be controlled by AI, something London's Mayor Sadiq Khan is looking forward to seeing for all of London, as stated in his latest report. Unfortunately Sadiq Khan is not listening to scientific evidence and whilst being concerned about air pollution, he seems to be ignorant of the health effects from electro-smog.

The short but concise video **5G a Real Terror** can be watched on <http://bemri.org/news.html> and is a real eye opener as it clearly displays the reason for the roll-out. According to Tom Wheeler, Chair of FCC and proud initiator of the end of 'net neutrality', it is "to make BILLIONS" clearly stating that there is 'no time to waste' in waiting for standards. Making Billions is the overriding goal. This chilling statement, which completely rejects any need for proper trials regarding safety should alarm us all!

As 5G has already been rolled out in some US cities, reports of health effects have already come in and legal action is looming as people are waking up to the dangers. The insurance industry is opting out as they have already classed electromagnetic pollution as an 'Emerging Threat'.

Here are a few new links to the 'latest' worldwide developments which clearly demonstrate the risk all authorities take when implementing 5G:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i3jspe02egA> 1st 5G roll-out in CA is causing



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<https://betweenrockandhardplace.wordpress.com/2018/07/30/something-potentially-big-is-brewing-down-under-for-the-5g-a-class-action-lawsuit/>

Ofcom have declared 5G licences at 26 GHz will be available for test and innovation and 66-71 GHz is reserved for licence exempt use and will auction the 700 GHz band in 2019.

They've begun the procedure of auctioning the 2.3 and 3.4 GHz band for services in 2019. Wi-Fi at 5.8 GHz is now available (your microwave oven used to operate at 2.45 GHz!) The 5G cell towers [or bases] are likely to be mounted on street lamp posts and maybe lower inside shopping centres much the same way 2/3/4G operate now. The 5G antennas communicate with forthcoming 5G handsets.

The 5G antennas required are likely to be as small as 3mm by 3mm and will have to be placed every 100m inside street lights and street furniture, so every street is likely to have many more transmitters, thereby increasing electromagnetic radiation without residents' knowledge. THIS IS ON TOP OF THE ALREADY EXISTING HIGH ELECTROMAGNETIC POLLUTION LEVELS.

To my knowledge there has been no prior testing of this new technology for health effects and I urge you all to contact your MP, asking him to request information from Public Health England if any trials regarding health effects from 5G have taken place, where these tests were carried out and who paid for the research.

I also suggest to everyone concerned about this to make the same request to Merton Council's Chief Executive as Merton has already entered into contract with Arqiva according to this link:

<https://5g.co.uk/news/arqiva-16-000-london-lampposts-5g-ready-cells/4236/>

Regarding smart meter installation, another subject I warned about in an earlier article, now even the industry has voiced opposition to the government's drive. Apart from the health consequences mostly ignored, the fires resulting from these installations as reported on BBC's Watchdog and different energy providers not recognising all smart meters, the actual saving has been reported to be vastly overestimated, thereby rendering the whole roll-out a big waste of money. But by now I hope that people understand what the smart meters were really designed to do: to connect to 5G/AI eventually, thereby making every consumer and the whole system vulnerable to hackers and/or terror attacks. Many security 'experts' have warned about this already. More info at www.stopsmartmeters.org.uk

Ingrid Pastl-Dickenson BRCP EMR

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THE CHAMPIONSHIPS – SW19

Undoubtedly SW19 is known worldwide primarily for its association with the grounds of the All England Lawn Tennis Club and the Championships that are held yearly in their grounds.

Those of us that are lucky to live nearby enjoy every summer for a fortnight an almost carnival like atmosphere with visitors and players from all over the world taking over the surrounding area to the Club from Southfields to Wimbledon Park, from Wimbledon Town Centre to Wimbledon Village, and of course Wimbledon Park itself.

It is a fortnight when the attention of all media is focused on Wimbledon from first thing in the morning when the weather forecast begins with SW19 and continues during the day until late in the evening when more often these days' games can be played indoors until dark.

It is certainly a fortnight that allows the local economy to flourish, making all the preparation worthwhile and for some perhaps having to put up with a degree of disruption of their yearly Wimbledon quiet routine.

It is more than a month since this year's Championship ended; a very special one in the sense that it celebrated the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the All England Lawn Tennis Club and 50 years of the Championships being played in the so called Open era.

The neighbourhood seems very quiet now. Wimbledon Park is again back to its normal function for the benefit of the local community. The underground stations see the occasional visitors coming through probably to visit the grounds and the Museum at the AELTC.

But do not be deceived by this apparent calm; from the day after the Championships ended the preparation and work for the new year have started with mathematical precision to bring the changes that allow the tournament to continue its relentless success.

It is over 40 years since I first visited the Club and the changes since have been enormous and have happened almost by stealth, both within the Club as well as the manner in which access to the Championships is managed with an ever increasing public attendance. We no longer see the tents with visitors queuing alongside the pavement in Arthur Road, we don't see visitors having to cross the busy Church Road and we see enhanced security for those staying overnight at Wimbledon Park.

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday the 23rd October

Time: 8.00pm

Venue: Wimbledon Park Hall

170 Arthur Road

Agenda

Minutes of last meeting

Matter arising

Treasurer's Report

Chairman's Report

Front Garden Awards

Election of Officers

AOB

Guest Speaker: Stephen Hammond MP

(Subject to Parliamentary business)

Refreshments will be served

But it is indeed within the Club where the changes have involved an architectural challenge where the Centre Court has been carefully altered, allowing for it to be fully covered when necessary while still retaining the main features of the old building. Court No.1 is soon to be covered as well. All the other show courts and general facilities have been re-planned, re-located, renovated or refurbished, always within the limitation of a very tight construction programme within an overall masterplan for the site.



**Centre Court today as
seen from Church Road**



**The Museum and
Court No.1 behind**

The architectural expression of the new buildings has a distinct contemporary approach reflecting the availability of current technology and materials. There is an extensive use of glass, in particular in those buildings in the complex housing activities where external views are encouraged. Green remains the dominant colour bringing a sense of unity to buildings developed over a period of years.



**Court No.1 ready to
take new roof**



**The trusses to the new roof
are already on site**

Visually the Club as a whole has gradually changed over the years but in my opinion it has done so very successfully by retaining its overall historic and contextual character that can only be found in Wimbledon, in SW19.

I'm looking forward to the next year's Championships, are you?

Mario L Avendano, RIBA

An Abundance of Fruit!

We're looking forward to another fruity summer – and we need your **help!**

If you have lots of fruit in your garden and can't use it all, then please get in touch with **Abundance Wimbledon**. We can collect fruit and pass it on to others to make jam, juice or puddings. Some of it will go to local charities providing food for the homeless and elderly e.g. Wimbledon Guild and the Drop-In Centre for the Homeless in Kingston Road.

Abundance Fruit Day is our big annual event and this year is on Saturday 15th September, 11am – 2.30pm at St Mark's Church garden, Wimbledon – so please put it in your diary! Come and get some ultra-fresh juice from the fruit press or buy homemade jam, chutneys and cakes and enjoy the music and games. Entry is FREE.

Last year was a bumper year – we collected and distributed nearly 3 tonnes of fruit. We want to thank everyone who helped us with this mammoth task!

To donate your fruit this year, find out more or if you'd like to help in any way, please contact abundancewimbledon@gmail.com or telephone Juliet 020 8946 2514



www.abundancewimbledon.com

AIR QUALITY

Air quality has certainly been moving rapidly up the environmental agenda this year. It's now a highly topical issue nationally as well as locally, with the government's latest Clean Air Strategy currently out for consultation. And in the Mayor of London's Environment Strategy (published in May this year after an extensive consultation exercise), air quality takes pride of place above other environmental issues. However, the current situation is not looking good: more than 9,000 Londoners are believed to die early every year because of air pollution, the cost to London's economy is estimated at £3.7 Billion, and 20% of London primary schools are situated in areas that breach the legal limit for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) pollution.

But the Mayor aims that by 2050 London should have the best air quality of any major world city, going beyond the legal requirements to protect human health and minimise inequalities. This will be achieved by cleaning up London's transport system and phasing out fossil fuel powered vehicles, introducing a new air quality standard for new building developments, and using the planning system to help ensure that new schools and other sensitive buildings are not located in areas of poor air quality. Best practice from schools' air quality audits will be shared with the rest of London, more real-time information on air pollution will be provided, and powers sought to enforce controls on pollution from construction machinery and other sources.

These London-wide concerns are reflected in our own borough. In 2017 Merton operated two automatic air quality monitoring sites and saw a complete refresh of the diffusion tube monitoring network, which now covers 50 locations around the borough. The latest Annual Air Quality Status Report (published in May this year as a statutory requirement) shows that three quarters of sites tested in Merton in 2017 have levels of NO₂ pollution above the legal limit of 40 mg/m³. In 12 of the 16 sites with continuous data from 2015-2017 the air quality has worsened over this period, with the average NO₂ level increasing from 38 mg/m³ in 2015 to 44 mg/m³ in 2017.

Merton Council has recently published an updated Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) for the period 2018 – 2023. It addresses nine areas of concern and

Continued on page 38

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Haydons Road North update

Many thanks to the WPRA for providing space for an update from the micro-local blogsite www.haydonsroadnorthcommunity.wordpress.com

Since it launched 18 months ago, the site averages more than 2k page views per month. But the blogsite is not about popularity, it is about information. Increasing numbers of local people supply updates to help keep everyone informed about what's going on; from local industry and pollution issues, to road closures and natural history.

Regarding activities on local industrial estates, Cappagh was caught red-handed breaking environmental rules by handling cement dust at its Waterside Way site without a permit. There is a video of this incident on the blogsite.

Reston Waste has failed to protect the area surrounding its Weir Road recycling plant from dust pollution. A video of this incident too can be accessed on our blogsite.

We wait to hear how these infringements will be dealt with, but both have been reported to the local and national environmental enforcement bodies.

We learn from Merton Council, that Cappagh is likely to apply for a Part B Permit allowing it to load/unload cement at Unit 12 Waterside Way, its site that borders the Wandle Trail, beside the river and Havelock Road allotments. It is an application that will be opposed by residents, given the sensitivity of this footpath close to the children's playground in Garfield Park which is regularly used by cyclists, runners, dog-walkers and as a traffic-free route to school for the children of Garfield Primary.

Thanks to WPRA for funding air quality monitoring tubes in the North Haydons Road area. Henceforth we will be provided with these tubes on an ongoing basis by the Council's air quality team.

Visit www.haydonsroadnorthcommunity.wordpress.com for ongoing updates about micro-local issues; all submissions welcome. Twitter: @HaydonsNorth



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
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HAYDONS ROAD NORTH COMMUNITY SITE

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CATEGORY: LOVE OUR STREETS


58 POSTS



LOVE OUR STREETS

Save our street trees


July 22, 2018 – 0 Comments



LOVE OUR STREETS, PLANNING

Wimbledon Stadium demolition: video


May 29, 2018 – 1 Comment



LOVE OUR STREETS

Haydons Road fly tipping: action needed


May 21, 2018 – 4 Comments




LOVE OUR STREETS

Street planting

May 19, 2018 – 0 Comments





SEARCH

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Do you live in one of the roads in the north Haydons Road area SW19? Here's your chance to share info and issues relating to our neighbourhood, find out what's going on, help bring improvements and celebrate our somewhat neglected streets. More about us.

TAGS

AFC Wimbledon air quality architecture Ashcombe Road Avondale Road bus boundary changes bridge buildings Canary Caphage Caxton Road CIL commuting Concrete plant Coop crime Cromwell Road Crossrail 2 cycling development education election elections environment fitness flooding flytipping food Gap Road gardens Garfield Park Haydon Park Road Haydons Road health history litter local business London Merton

Haydons Road North Community website

proposes no less than 70 actions - very worthy but probably far too many to follow up effectively. However, the Council has prioritised the following actions:

- Establish and maintain an effective air quality group to implement AQAP measures;
- Encourage the uptake of low emission vehicles and consider the introduction of an emissions-based parking levy;
- Identify the key causes of traffic congestion and determine effective measures for improving traffic flow through critical areas;
- Evaluate the feasibility of introducing 'mini' Ultra-Low Emission Zones in the areas of poorest air quality;
- Provide guidance to developers on the impact of development on air quality;
- Formalise anti-idling enforcement around key locations such as schools, taxi-ranks, and air pollution hotspots;
- Continue to promote awareness of air quality in schools;
- Review Merton's air quality monitoring network to ensure that it effectively identifies areas of poor air quality and provides accurate data.

The Plan contains an air quality map (see <https://drive.google.com/open?id=1tO-MxlPduvN9jidPKvXKh4v38lg&usp=sharing>), regularly updated with data provided from a number of council and voluntary organisations.

In Wimbledon Park, the Residents' Association has been paying for additional air quality tests. Haydons Road North Community Group received another batch of air pollution monitoring tubes in May from Friends of the Earth, which have been installed at the junctions of Haydons Road with Plough Lane, Cromwell Road and Queens Road - all areas where there is frequently stationary traffic as well as high footfall. The results of those 3 tests have recently been received, and are respectively 59, 51 and 50 mg/m³ – well in excess of the legal limit and considerably worse than from previous tests. Merton's Environmental Health Pollution Manager is happy to support investigations of air quality hotspots by community groups.

Also of particular concern to Wimbledon Park residents is the on-going saga concerning the planning application for a Concrete batching plant in Waterside Way on the banks of the River Wandle. This was rejected by Merton Council following



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a long and costly campaign by local residents' groups, exposing the erroneous and misleading data submitted by the developer, who may yet appeal this decision.

It is hoped that the Council is now more aware of air quality issues and the need to take them properly into account in making planning decisions. However, the story is not over yet, as activities such as transferring construction waste on the site frequently cause noise and air pollution, emitting clouds of dust over blackberry bushes on the Wandle trail and over allotments on Havelock Road. The site owners, Cappagh, have also recently been observed transferring cement between silos on the site for which they do not have a permit. Since the transfer of cement is typically at a rate of 1-2 tonnes per minute, hundreds of kilogrammes of cement dust can escape within seconds, as was observed one day last June. (picture)

There is likewise still much concern about the Reston Waste Management business which has grown 100-fold over the last 15 years. Located in Weir Road, close to the Wandle and social housing, this business collects construction waste from across London and SE England. The dust associated with this site and the large diesel trucks going to and from the site have become real problems for residents.

There are transport-related consequences too. Reston lorries have become more numerous in recent years, not just on the main roads but also when using minor residential roads such as Woodside as short cuts. Neither the Council nor the police appear to have the resources or power to stop them.

Traffic speed is yet another air quality issue. There are plans to introduce a 20 mph speed limit along Wimbledon High Street, Church Road and some adjoining roads, and the Wimbledon Society is formulating its response to this.

Clean Air Merton is keen to introduce the 20 mph limit borough-wide, but were told by Merton Council that there were no figures for the cost of implementation. However, the neighbouring borough of Croydon has estimated that to cover the whole borough the cost will be in the region of £1.5 million, equivalent (using Department for Transport figures) to that associated with just 22 accidents. There are also significant indirect financial savings (such as costs to the NHS) that would come with resultant health benefits of more active life styles and with improved air quality if there were fewer people driving in these roads.

Vehicle Idling Action is a London-wide behaviour change campaign which is helping to reduce localised air pollution caused by motorists who leave their



Cement dust on the Wandle Path - June 2018

engines running when parked. A trial is about to start of Automatic Number Plate Recognition cameras to stop illegal and inconsiderate parking outside of some of Merton's schools. If this is successful, the Council will look at broadening their use, as the first borough in London to use the technology in this way.

Finally, whilst the air in Merton appears to be getting dirtier, Waltham Forest has reduced the exposure of its citizens to NO₂ and particulates by 90% over 10 years. When it became one of London's 'mini-Holland' boroughs, it introduced a range of clean air initiatives which include: promoting annual car free days; providing free cycle training for all residents, schools and businesses in the borough; implementing a borough wide 20 mph zone; introducing anti-idling operations outside schools; and expanding the air quality monitoring network throughout the borough.

Are these and other initiatives perhaps something that Merton could emulate to pull itself up the air quality league table?

Alan Maries

Planning - will common sense prevail?

Last month the Planning Inspectorate issued its ruling on the appeal by Goldcrest Land for the Council's refusal of their 2017 planning application at 1-3 Wellington Works. The appeal was dismissed for not being compliant with Merton's policies that "... seek to create urban layouts based on the permeable and easily navigable network of streets and spaces that seamlessly link with the surrounding development and ... provide layouts that are safe, secure and take account of crime prevention". The Inspector concluded that "... the proposed development would fail to secure a safe and secure environment for pedestrians, cyclists, motorists and other visitors to and from the appeal site." For now, at least, common sense has prevailed.

A group of residents from Wellington Road and Dawlish Avenue has been arguing that the proposal by Goldcrest Land was unreasonable ever since their initial plans for the site were revealed at the public consultation in the autumn of 2016. Although the issue of access was immediately raised by the local community, it became apparent that the consultation was a box-ticking exercise and there was little intention from the new owners of the site to engage in resolving the main issue affecting their site and the wider area. The PR company running the consultation stated that the access proposals were developed in close consultation with the Merton's highways and transport specialists, but it later became apparent that the planners had the same reservations regarding the access from the outset.

Yet, the process continued in the same vein. The project was embellished with numerous improvements to its original layout. More arrows showing potential future links to the Wandle Trail were put on the plans, pages full of sustainable construction methods were written and layouts of wheelchair accessible residential units were drawn. Leaflets proudly announcing these to the local residents were sent out with no mention that under the reality of the planning system combined with the absence of the applicant's solid track record in seeing their projects through to the end post-planning, all these 'improvements' were easily reversible and, therefore, virtually meaningless. Yet, the most obvious questions regarding access remained unanswered.

Strangely, the most obvious answers to these questions were also ignored by the Council for quite some time. The local community, having had the previous experience of piecemeal applications on the sites surrounding the Wandle and the adjacent railway lines, had come to the conclusion that in order for any redevelopment to succeed, these sites have to be considered jointly as part of a holistic masterplan and in autumn of 2017 more than five hundred local residents, workers and businesses signed a petition to the Council to do just that. Although this idea of a holistic approach was widely acknowledged by the officials at one of

the Planning Application Committee meetings as the most sensible way forward, it was also immediately dismissed by the same officials for having appeared 'too late' to have a real impact! Is this a sensible way of accommodating, by conservative estimates, at least a thousand new residents in the area?

By now the Council has recognised that in the case of the 1-3 Wellington Works site, the issues of access were critical and refused the Goldcrest Land's application before Christmas 2017. Almost immediately another, virtually identical application was submitted by them to the Council, along with an appeal to the Secretary of State for the refusal of the previous one. It still remains to be seen how the Council deals with the current planning application, but at least in the case of the appeal, it is great to see that the Inspector concluded that the local concerns were real and not a manifestation of nimbyism.

Yet, the apparent victory of common sense feels hollow. The almost two-year long process benefited nobody. A successful local business that previously occupied the workshop at 1-3 Wellington Works is no longer there; the Council did not expand on its housing provision; the local residents spent a considerable amount of time, money and effort proving something that should have been obvious. Just to attend the public hearing for the appeal in early July some of them had to take a lot of time off from their busy work and family engagements. This time and effort will not be replaced. On top of that, the nearby large Haslemere Industrial Estate, the permission for redevelopment of which was, with its own degree of controversy, granted a year and a half ago, is lying empty, slowly getting covered in graffiti with no benefit to the local economy. As for Goldcrest Land, whose business is based on raising value of their sites through the planning process, they will, no doubt, be back with a new round of applications and appeals to keep everyone occupied.

This vicious circle of short-termism has to be broken and a more responsible approach, acknowledging both the opportunities and the constraints of being within a 15-minute train journey to the centre of one of the most successful world cities, has to emerge. The current planning system too often lets the developers see only the opportunities, whereas the locals, having little trust in the system, are often inclined to see just the constraints.

Luckily, with the help of a newly elected Councillor Edward Gretton, a new approach is starting to emerge. With his support a Neighbourhood Plan – a formal legal process by which the local residents can play a first-hand role in shaping the local planning framework - is being launched this autumn. More constructive local engagement is encouraged, any help (past, present and future) is much appreciated and nothing but the successful outcome is contemplated!

Maryrose Greenhough, Chris Beech, Andrei Saltykov

W.P.R.A. Committee 2017/2018

Kathy Blackburn	51 Ryfold Road	SW19 8DF
Spike Clarke	30 Home Park Road	SW19 7HN
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Iain Simpson - Chairman & Newsletter Editor	56 Home Park Road	SW19 7HN
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