

HIGHBURY COMMUNITY NEWS

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Recycling - what of the present and the future?

By LINDA HALL-BRUNTON with GILL SHEPHERD

Last November, China stopped taking the UK's hard plastic (the sort garden furniture is made from) and so did our own local waste facility off the Holloway Road, as a result. It made me realise I knew almost nothing about recycling in the UK, and I decided to interview Linda Hall-Brunton. Lin has worked on recycled waste management for ten local authorities in London and with some of the large waste companies which manage waste for those authorities.

Lin explained that kerbside recycling in London really only kicked off 20 years ago, when first paper, and then also glass and cans began to be collected and recycled. In Haringey, for instance, old milk floats were converted to collect dry recycling. Funding came from DEFRA and the Council, and the work was led by Finsbury Park Community Trust and Recycling Works. Volunteers and staff sorted the waste themselves. They began with only fifteen staff but numbers rapidly rose to 50 and then 100.

Gradually some Councils took recycled waste-management fully in-house, while others passed their services to large waste companies with the facilities for processing a wider range of waste.

The ambition for municipal waste is that it should be reused, recycled, then repurposed or used to generate energy: as little as possible going to



Photo: Hannah Loizos

landfill. Local authorities outside London often separate waste further at household level for better quality recycling, but there is less room to do that in London with so many households living in flats and high-rise buildings, so the sorting is done in the material treatment centres. Here magnets grab metals, plastics are blown out of the mix, and at the end differing vibrations sort out glass bits and paper fines, for instance. But if too much non-recyclable waste is mixed in, in a given load, the whole load currently has to go to energy or landfill. Recycling gives extended but not infinite new life to the products concerned. Paper can be recycled about eight times, glass has an extended recycled life and so does the metal in tins. Some plastic can be recycled and reused, and all can be burned safely for energy. But too much is still going to landfill.

The next step will be what happens after Brexit, when the EU Waste

Framework with its levers and goals of 'Polluter Pays, Environmental Protection, Producer Responsibility' will become hot topics. One fear is that new devolved laws could be delayed, badly drafted and different from current legislation. England continues to learn from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland in waste management ideas.

Scotland has approved deposit/return schemes for some glass, tins and plastic items. The original item will have a 5-30p deposit built into the price, returned when the item is returned to source. In Lin's view, this kind of scheme is brilliant and could transform recycling, increase participation and create innovative jobs. However, much will depend on the type of government we get in the future. This government has made a bonfire of 'red-tape' (regulation) in the fields of Planning, Local Government and the Environment and may not have the will to see through deposit/return schemes.

A pity if so, because they could completely change the landscape, reducing the amount of waste that local councils are responsible for, enforcing the 'polluter pays' principle and encouraging positive closed loop systems. Plastics which cannot be recycled easily would become the responsibility of their producers, and would rapidly cease to be made, while businesses would become the points for good quality profitable recycling. Anything is possible in our recycled, repurposed futures.

Highbury Community News is printed by www.absoluteprint.com, printing for Islington and beyond since 1996

Update on Sainsbury's latest bid to open another store on the Blackstock Road

By SARAH POTTER

The Highbury Community Association joined the campaign against Sainsbury's latest planning application to the Council to open a store on the site of the Old Police Station on the Blackstock Road. We submitted an objection to Sainsbury's application, and gathered signatures locally for the petition against it. The Council's planning officers rejected it on 8th August, using delegated powers.

They did so on the grounds that the proposed parking of delivery lorries in a bay intruding on the pavement would cause congestion and obstruction of the highway and footway and the detriment of local amenity. They also rejected the application because it involved the loss of 2 trees and tree pits, with an unacceptable impact on the character and amenity of the surrounding area. Sainsbury's can appeal to the planning inspector against this rejection.

Marks & Spencer to close Holloway Road store in 2019

By GILL SHEPHERD

The Holloway Road branch of Marks and Spencer will be closed during the first quarter of 2019, as part of the chain's rationalisation of premises. It will be a serious loss to the area, both for its good quality food and

for its reliable supply of clothing such as school uniform items, attractive baby clothes and adult basics. It has also been a convenient location for the 'click and collect' service, giving access to a wider choice of items on the M&S website. The nearest branch will now be that in Chapel Market.



The **Highbury Community Association (HCA)** represents local residents and businesses living and working in Highbury, Lower Holloway and Finsbury Park.

Membership is free. Members receive bi-monthly newsletters like this one. New members will receive the newsletter by email (unless you don't have email). To join or talk to us about anything Highbury-related, visit our website, or email hcanews@hotmail.com. The HCA can also be contacted on Facebook and Twitter.

The opinions expressed in Highbury Community News are not necessarily those of the HCA.

Please let us know if you move, so we can keep our membership list up to date.



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A request for help from Liz at Freightliners Farm

By LIZ McALLISTER, Freightliners Farm

I'm writing in the hope you may be able to help us out again with hosting Estate Agent Boards from Fine and Country. The last round in the spring helped us to raise funds for the farm through their sponsorship and to publicise our spring fundraiser and community events. We're hoping to do the same again this autumn with an Autumn/ Halloween Activities Day over half term.

Once again boards will be up for four weeks and Fine and Country will produce them and provide the farm with a donation in sponsorship. They are also putting a display up in their window We need to get at least 20 boards in the N1, N5, N7 and N4 postcodes so all offers to host a board very welcome and needed.

If you can help again and/ or know others who would take part please drop me an email (liz@freightlinersfarm.org.uk) and I will pass on to Nicola Baird who has volunteered to co-ordinate and liaise with the estate agents. Many thanks for your continuing support.



Go digital! - receive HCA news by email first; and help us to reduce costs



By GILL SHEPHERD

When Highbury Community Association first started, few people had access to the internet and the newsletter was entirely delivered in paper copy. The situation is completely different twenty years later and we are trying to phase out paper deliveries to save both the considerable expense of printing hard copy, and the time spent delivering them.

If you are a hard copy recipient, we would be very grateful if you would send us an email, asking us to send the newsletter to you electronically in future. You will find that the plus-side to receiving the electronic version is that every issue is in full colour and you will receive it before the printed copy.

Please send a brief email with your Name, Address, and Email to hcanews@hotmail.com or to the membership secretary, Roger Wright (roger_wright@attglobal.net).

THE Highbury BARN

A gastro pub & restaurant with a theatre kitchen & fully stocked bar, serving a variety of traditional & new world beers, as well as fine wines.
Weekday a la carte menu - Monday to Saturday lunch & dinner, Sunday roasts from 12:00 pm, with breakfast brunch served at weekends from 10:00 am.
All year round match day barbecues for home games on our terrace

Christmas bookings now being taken

Christmas Menu - Two courses £26.00 Three courses £32.00
Christmas Day - Food bookings from 12pm to 2:30pm, restaurant open until 5:00pm - Five course set menu - Adults £75.00 - Children £35.00

New Year's Eve - No Ticket Event. See in the New Year with your friends - no frills, just great food, drink, live music, some Jools Holland and Big Ben on our big screen at midnight!

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Conserving our swifts in Islington

By GILL SHEPHERD and MICHAEL PRIAULX, Islington Swifts Group

The very sound of late spring and summer is the screaming cry of the swifts as they circle in fives and sixes high in the sky above our gardens and parks on their return from Africa. Swifts are medium-sized birds and are superb fliers. They mate on the wing, and catch all their food and amass all their nesting materials on the wing. They even sleep on the wing, flying to very great heights - much higher than birds of prey - and sleeping as they slowly spiral down again during the night. In flight against the sky swifts look black with long, scythe-like wings and a short, forked tail. They cannot perch and can hardly walk, and need nesting sites they can fly straight into and drop from into immediate flight again.

Swifts have been seen each year over Highbury for many years, and mainly nest at Islington Council's post-war art deco-style block Aubert Court in Avenell Road. Swifts are faithful to their nest-sites and return to them year-after-year, pairing for life, after completing a 10,000 mile round trip to Africa each winter. They are unobtrusive and quiet residents.

Islington Council has recently committed to installing 'swift bricks' on every suitable new council development across the borough to help protect these endangered birds. Swifts are found in many parts of Islington, nesting in tiny



Photo: Islington Swifts Group



Photo: Islington Life

Michael Priaulx with a 'swift-brick'

gaps in the structure of buildings. But their numbers had fallen by about 50 per cent over the past 20 years, largely due to renovation and conversions destroying their nesting sites without replacement. Most new buildings are completely unsuitable for them, but from now on any new council development, such as new council homes, made of a masonry construction that reaches approximately 5 metres or higher, will include homes for these remarkable birds. The council will also be updating planning conditions specifically to require swift-bricks, and in the upcoming review of the Local Plan the installation of swift-bricks will be made a requirement, not just on Council developments, but on all appropriate developments.

Michael Priaulx from Islington Swifts Group explained that the council is recognising the particular concern about the rapid decline of swifts, an urban bird still found in good numbers of many parts of Islington, but in danger of being lost as their traditional nesting-sites disappear.

The Council's decision came after a suggestion from Highbury East councillor, Osh Gantly, who was keen to see number of swifts in Islington grow after being endangered for so many years. "Swifts bring us all great pleasure and I am so happy we can make that happen for more people in Islington."

For more information about swifts, visit [Islington Swifts Group](#)

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Photo: Robin Hull

Protecting trees in Highbury

By DIANE BURRIDGE

Members of the Highbury Community Association Committee regularly survey the state of trees in the area and report those pits where trees have died and not been replaced (recent example pictured centre). The Council has advised the Association that trees will only be replaced but that there are not the funds to plant up new pits.

An interest in quantifying the many roles that trees play in protecting the environment is increasing. Recent innovations have included:

iTree, a software tool developed by David Nowak of Treeconomics in 2006, prices the environmental services that trees provide, for example: the pollution they remove, the carbon they store, the run-off prevented from going into the sewage system and the energy saved when trees cool buildings. Species of trees are ranked for particular areas.



Photo: Diane Burridge

The **i-Tree Eco Assessment Project** in 2015, followed this work, and found that Greater London has 14% tree coverage - 57% in private ownership and 43% in public ownership. Tree density is 53 trees per hectare; this is lower

than densities recorded for other towns and cities in the UK, which have an average of 58 trees per hectare (two and half acres). Trees with a diameter at breast height of less than 15cm constitute 35% of the population (42% for Inner London and 34% in Outer London).

Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees (CAVAT) toolkit, developed by Chris Neilan, measures a tree's worth as an amenity. He multiplies the cross-section area of a tree's trunk by a unit price (£15.88). This price relates to what the tree currently costs to buy, and is augmented by the tree's species, visibility to the public, size and condition of the leaf canopy and life expectancy.

Planting more trees: The Council's Policy for Trees states: 'We will protect, promote, care for and improve Islington's Urban Forest by managing trees for the long term benefit of the Community'. In Islington, in 2009, (the latest figures publicly available) there were 10,600 street trees, 15,300 trees in parks and 12,000 on housing estates - the borough then had more street trees per square kilometre than any other London borough. Some small compensation for Islington having the 2nd least amount of open space, and the highest density of population, in the UK.

Regionally, the London Tree Partnership, working with the Greater London Authority, aims to protect the capital's trees and encourage individual Londoners, businesses and organisations to plant more, planning to increase tree cover in London to 22% by 2050.

And much research has shown that for a sense of well-being, let alone for environmental reasons, our street trees play a fundamental role.

If you would like to report trees that need replacing, please contact: the Greenspace Team, Islington Public Realm, PO Box 2025, Pershore WR10 9BU; Tel. 020 7527 2000; Fax: 020 7527 4557. Alternatively, contact Islington Council to log an inquiry - 020 7527 2000. (<https://www.islington.gov.uk/sports-parks-and-trees/trees/report-an-issue-with-a-tree>)

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Highbury residents angry as Islington Council withdraws objections to Wireless concert

By THE HCA and THE FRIENDS OF FINSBURY PARK

In a surprise last minute change of position, Islington Council have withdrawn their objections to Wireless concerts taking place in Finsbury Park. This about-turn took place ahead of a licence review Haringey Council were forced to undertake by the Friends of Finsbury Park. Islington claim they have 'secured' reassurances from Haringey and the event promoters to improve conditions next year. Islington had originally submitted a representation highlighting significant concerns about noise, insufficient management of anti-social behaviour and crime, parking, traffic, street cleaning capacity and safe egress, but withdrew these objections before the licence

review meeting had even taken place. The HCA has expressed our disappointment that the Council has decided to support the concerts over concerns raised by residents.

We are asking Haringey Council to revoke the Premises Licence issued to Live Nation (Music) UK Ltd for Wireless Festival in Finsbury Park, on the grounds of the prevention of a) crime and disorder and b) public nuisance.

As this is such an important issue, many local people sent in representations to voice concerns. It is essential the Licensing Sub-Committee can see that the community does care about this issue.

Wireless Festival is too big for Finsbury Park. It is a massive multi-million pound music event. It is almost impossible to comprehend its vast scale and the impact it has on Finsbury Park and residents of Haringey, Islington and Hackney Council. The major concerns raised by Friends of Finsbury Park are those of noise, anti-social behaviour and crime.

Our application for a licence review

We have filed a noise report and witness statements in support of our application. Our noise expert has identified that the noise condition attached to the Premises Licence is not fit for purpose, is ineffective and does not control low frequency bass noise.



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The revised National Planning Policy Framework and how it conflicts with the London Plan

By DIANE BURRIDGE

The London Forum of Amenity and Civic Societies, of which the Highbury Community Association is a member, has responded to the Government’s draft revised National Policy Planning Framework (NPPF) on behalf of its 100 member societies. Of main concern are proposals which directly conflict with the draft new London Plan, as noted below.

Housing targets and penalties

The NPPF proposes a standard methodology for assessing housing need across the country at the level of the individual local authority. The Greater London Authority already produces housing need figures which relate to each borough’s capacity to accommodate such growth. Islington Council is currently complying with the targets set.

The Government intends to penalise local authorities if they consistently deliver less than their target of completed new homes, by increasing the target by up to 20%. This will cause problems in the future when additional sites could be difficult to find. In Islington, notably the most densely-populated borough in the UK with 13,870 people per square kilometre, greatly increasing the number of new homes could be challenging.

Definition of affordable housing

The Government’s definition of affordable housing is housing which is below 80% of market price or rent. The draft London Plan states that 47% of all new homes in London need to be for low-cost rent - similar to rent charged for social housing - a much lower figure.

Employment Sites

Between 2010 and 2017, available industrial floor space in Greater London fell by 60% (Colliers International), and now the draft new London Plan seeks to allow developments which combine both employment uses and

housing. Islington Council has used Article 4 Directions to protect local shopping areas, including sections along Blackstock Road. These Directions ensure that planning permission is still needed for any change of use from office and retail to housing. The Highbury Community Association has been involved in supporting such measures. The draft revised NPPF states that the use of these Article 4 Directions: “should be limited to where this is necessary to protect local amenity or the wellbeing of the area” and should not be used “unless there is clear justification for doing so.” This could make it difficult to protect local shops.

Car parking

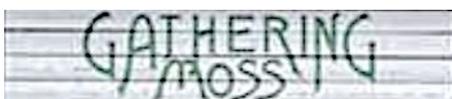
The revised NPPF discourages maximum car parking standards for both residential and non-residential developments. This would be in direct conflict with parking policies in London, where maximum parking standards have existed since the 1970s.

High rise support

Proposals to encourage “upward extensions where the development would be consistent with the prevailing height and form of the neighbouring properties and the overall street scene, is well designed and can maintain safe access and egress for occupiers” are in the revised NPPF. The Government is proposing further consultation on extending Permitted Development Rights to enable upward development where these provide new homes. This would mean that developers could increase the height of buildings without needing to obtain planning permission.

The London Forum has sent in submissions to the Government with the aim that the draft revised London Plan will be found sound by the Secretary of State, and not have to change to incorporate these conflicting National Planning Policy Framework proposals. See:

www.londonforum.org.uk/responses.php



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HCA News | Issue 107 | October 2018
© HCA 2018 | Editor: Gill Shepherd | Published by the HCA

Gillespie Park wins Gold in 'London in Bloom' 2018 awards



Photo: Gill Shepherd



Photo: Gill Shepherd

By SALLY OLDFIELD, Nature Conservation Manager, Greenspace, Islington Council

Gillespie Park was awarded Gold in the Conservation Category in London in Bloom this year. The park gained Islington's only Gold in the competition, and the borough overall gained a Silver Gilt.

The judges' comments included the facts that they met a number of staff and volunteers on the site who all showed enthusiasm and dedication. They were impressed by the range of

natural habitats in the park and the fact that they are managed by volunteers - for example the meadows are all scythed by hand. They really liked the bee hives which are part of a project by The Garden Classroom which introduces local children to how honey is produced. They commented on the fact that the park is locked at night to deter anti-social behaviour, and that there are good pathways all through the site making it very accessible. Other things that impressed the judges were the Sunday café and the Gillespie

Wild Gardeners, a community group growing vegetables and herbs.

The park team are very pleased and many thanks are owed to the volunteers who do so much of the work to make the park look beautiful.

Help us keep our membership list up to date. Let us know if you have moved, and let us know if you would rather receive the newsletter by email

Please contact us at hcanews@hotmail.com