



BARN HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION©

NEWSLETTER

(ESTABLISHED 1988)
FEBRUARY 2011

Dear Residents,

Once again we are into another year, how time flies!

We would like to alert you to the following. As from 1st January 2011, Brent Council has taken over responsibility from the Police for enforcing a number of minor moving-traffic contraventions e.g. involving yellow box junctions, banned turns, proscribed routes etc. This will be enforced by fixed cameras and two mobile CCTV cars. These Smart cars, fitted with cameras, are operating in and around the Barn Hill area.

Residents have reported to us that their cars have been towed away because they had been parked near a drop-down kerb. Please make sure this does not happen to you.

The Council are going to increase car parking charges all around the Borough from March. The locations that will affect us are at Grand Parade and Preston Road.

HOME ISSUES

I would like to remind any resident who is planning to alter or extend their property that you can contact the Brent North Planning Team who will be happy to offer advice. If you live in the Conservation Area part of Barn Hill, there are specific Council guidelines which are set out in the Barn Hill Conservation Area Design Guide. We have a few copies of this Guide and you can either e-mail the Secretary for a copy on: secretary@bhra.co.uk or phone 07503 664973 and leave a message. The reason I have mentioned all this is because the Council have recently had to issue two Enforcement Notices to demolish extensions which were not built in accordance with planning permission.

LIBRARY CLOSURES

Brent Council are currently consulting residents, as they wish to close 6 of the existing 12 libraries in the Borough.

The one nearest to us that is earmarked for closure is Preston Library (Carlton Avenue East). You may not realize that when the Town Hall moves to the Civic Centre beside the Stadium in a few years, the nearest library to us will be Preston Library—if it is still open. **Therefore, it is important to us all, especially for our children, to fight to keep this one open.** Please have your say by filling in the online questionnaire at www.brent.gov.uk/consultation. There are also paper copies of the questionnaire available in the library. **We have until 4th March to object—please do so.**

John Woods Chairman

STOP PRESS:

A resident has asked us to warn fellow residents about two men who, he believes, are going around the Hill looking for opportunities to burgle. They seemed surprised when he opened the door, and said they were looking for a friend but did not appear to even know the name of the road they were in! Please do not open your door if you are alone in the house without checking the identity of the caller. If, however, this does happen to you, please alert the Safer Neighbourhood Police Team on 07920 233755.

Unfortunately, burglaries appear to be on the increase, if you see anyone you think looks suspicious, call 999.

BHRA Phone: 07503 664973



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Phone: 07503 664973

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PROPOSED VODAPHONE MAST—WEST HILL

Many residents objected to the planning application for this mast. The Council rejected the application but Vodaphone have now appealed to the Planning Inspectorate at Bristol. Again, many residents have written to Bristol opposing the plan and we are awaiting the Inspector's decision.

Congratulations to Mr Philippou of 1 Barn Hill, who recently won a "Brent in Bloom" prize from Brent Council for best kept front garden. We're sure many of you have appreciated his work over the years.

CAT SITTERS: We know a local couple who are very reliable cat sitters while owners are away. If you are interested, please contact the BHRA Secretary.

Barnhill Ward Councillors

We would like to welcome the 3 new Councillors to Barnhill Ward. Cllr Shafique Choudhary has taken on responsibility for Chalkhill & Barn Hill, and has been very helpful already with several issues, see below. We would like to wish our former Councillors well, and thank them for their interest in previous years. Cllr Jim O'Sullivan in particular, served the local community for many years as Councillor and latterly as Mayor of Brent.

Snow

After the snow early last year, we asked Irfan Malik, Brent Council Officer, to survey the Hill to see how dangerous it was for the Council not to grit our roads, particularly West Hill. Thankfully, he agreed, and arranged for the gritting schedule to be altered. We are still working on your behalf to try to have all the side roads included.

"Slow" Sign on West Hill

We would like to thank Cllr Choudhary for his assistance in arranging for this sign to be installed for downhill traffic. We are working on getting a sign for the other side of the roundabout for uphill traffic.

Street Cleaning

The sweepers were not carrying out their normal cleaning after Christmas. I am pleased to report that a major cleansing operation was arranged and hopefully the Veolia supervisor will monitor it more closely in the future.

Flytipping

If you notice anyone flytipping on the Hill, please do not approach them but make a note of their vehicle registration number and pass it on to the Barnhill Safer Neighbourhood Police on 07920 233755.

Burglaries:

Sergeant Gor of Barnhill Safer Neighbourhood Police is concerned that residents are failing to lock their back doors and windows when they leave their houses. He is also concerned that wheelee bins are left in positions that allow intruders to gain easy access to back gardens, from where they can readily break into properties unobserved.

Building Works : It is imperative, in order to avoid disputes, that you arrange for a Party Wall Agreement to be in place before any work commences on or near your property boundary. We have leaflets that give helpful advice if you need it. Contact the Secretary if you need one.