

# In Contact

December 2011  
Issue 31



[www.harrowagenda21.org](http://www.harrowagenda21.org)



**Members and friends are invited to the HA21  
Bring and Share New Year Gathering  
at the  
Volunteer Centre  
64 Pinner Road Harrow, HA1 4HZ  
on  
Saturday, 7 January 2012  
from 7 – 10 pm**

***RSVP to Eve Swabe by 4 January 2012  
and say whether you are coming with  
something savoury, sweet or liquid***

**[admin@harrowagenda21.org](mailto:admin@harrowagenda21.org)  
or 020 8863 1763**

## **Future strategy for HA21**

HA21's reconvened AGM on 7 September considered HA21's financial position as no grant was received for 2011-2012, decided against charging a subscription to members, and asked the Executive Committee to find an alternative strategy.

The Executive met on 9 November, identified HA21's Education Group as the cutting edge of HA21's activities and agreed to submit an application for a grant for 2012-3 to fund HA21's Education work.

The grant application form is more searching than we have experienced in previous years, but thanks to inspired and dedicated work from Marilyn, Mick C, Eve and Pam (and some anxious moments) we completed it and submitted it by the deadline of 28 November.

## **Fund-raising**

In previous years HA21 identified a fund-raising strategy, but has done little to take this forward. We have reviewed this strategy, consider it still appropriate, and are seeking a volunteer to take the next step.

Ealing CVS are running a free course for Harrow organisations on 31 January 2012 - <http://ealingcvs.org.uk/documents/tide%20winter%20programme.pdf>

Is any member interested in attending this course and taking this important activity forward?

## Sustainable Development - Dangerous Imprecision in the National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework has a presumption in favour of sustainable development, and uses the Brundtland definition "development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs". This concept is useful for the use of natural and mineral resources, which can be grown again or reclaimed at the end of their lives.

The converse is an "unsustainable" situation, when "natural capital" is used up faster than it can be replenished.

In the case of planning, land used for development cannot be replenished, so the Brundtland definition is not helpful.

There is an uneven balance of power in planning disputes. Developers have deep pockets and are able to exploit the legal process, but a neighbourhood and communities do not have the same resources. Any development can be given features such as good insulation, micro-generation, heat pumps, use of recycled or sustainable materials etc., which will enable the development to make the claim it is "sustainable", and trump any reasoned objections about the location where it is to be built.

The letters columns of most newspapers show that readers are not clear what constitutes "sustainable development", and bodies such as the National Trust, English Heritage, RSPB, and the Woodland Trust share this concern. It was very striking that when speakers at a Gov-Today conference on Sustainable Communities were asked to define "sustainable" they unanimously considered it a weasel word they preferred not to use.

This imprecision is certain to be resolved in court cases when developments are in dispute - an outcome that will remove rights from neighbourhoods and citizens. It is imperative that the policy framework should have a clear definition, acceptable to all parties in the discussion to avoid this.

**The National Energy Foundation** is running on behalf of Sustainable Ventures an E-Car Club pilot project.

The aim of the project is to test the feasibility of implementing an electric car share scheme within selected communities across the UK. Initially six to eight communities will be selected to be surveyed. These will then be narrowed down to three to take part in the trial in the first half of 2012.

More information about how this will work can be found at <http://www.nef.org.uk/e-carclub/>, where there is an online survey form.

## "Recycling is our way of life"

In the December 2011 edition of *Harrow People*, the McKeon family were featured. Beverley and her son Daniel are long-standing members of our



© Harrow People

Waste & Recycling group and it is good that they were given the opportunity to put the message across about waste.

## Waste & Recycling Group activities

The Waste & Recycling Group hosted an Open Meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup>, when Esther Fisher of Waste Watch gave us rather shocking information about the food we all waste in our homes, and Nish Dattani of Energy My Way explained Solar PV and feed-in-tariffs for homes and businesses in Harrow.

Our next meeting was scheduled for November 30<sup>th</sup>, a day of (in)action, when meeting rooms at the Civic Centre were closed. We could not find a convenient alternative date, and had to cancel the meeting. Our next meeting is fixed for Wednesday January 25<sup>th</sup> 2102 at 7 p.m. at the Civic Centre. We plan to arrange our later 2012 meetings at that meeting. Our usual pattern is to meet on the last Wednesday of alternate months – if this is not convenient and there is a better alternative – please let us know beforehand.

Apologies for not being able to alert you to the events in the European Week for Waste Reduction from November 19<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup>, but we received very short notice of these. We hope some of you were able to attend Richard Fox's visit to the Love Food Hate Waste event at Tesco's and the cookery demonstration in St. George's, or entered the leftovers recipe competition.

Congratulations to Sarah Dickinson of West London Waste on her recent wedding and welcome to her new life as [sarahellis@westlondonwaste.gov.uk](mailto:sarahellis@westlondonwaste.gov.uk), and congratulations to Stuart Foster on his promotion to CEO of RECOUP (ReCycling of Used Plastics). We met Sarah at food waste events at the Civic Centre and Under One Sky, and Stuart spoke on recycling plastics at our July AGM.

## Piracy *Mick Oliver writes*

Previous issues of *In Contact* have reported over-fishing off African coasts by European fishing fleets, and questioned whether this abuse has prompted Somali fishermen who had lost their livelihood to turn to piracy.

The Daily Telegraph on 2 December reported an action by the Royal Navy and Marines 350 miles off Somalia, which rescued a Spanish fishing boat from Somali pirates.

Spanish fishermen, who have over-fished European waters and are restricted there, are now fishing in a remote ocean, and are facing a challenge from those with a much more realistic claim to the fish being caught.

Does Europe have a legitimate claim on all the world's resources? Who are the pirates in this situation?

200 years ago the Royal Navy began 50 years of hard work and expense to suppress the trans-Atlantic slave trade. (William Wilberforce's parliamentary triumph was only the start of the process.) 200 years on and a sad contrast - the Royal Navy is **supporting** a different abuse of Africa.

## Green Fingers *Mick Campbell writes*

Roxeth allotments have acquired a vibrant new tenant for one plot in the shape of Weldon Park Infants' School.

An enthusiastic teacher team led by Jane Walsh have begun to lick the plot into shape. The children have come to the plot with the enthusiasm one would expect from lively 5 and 6 year olds. We hope that the seeds they have sown will bear fruit, not just next year, but also by encouraging a lifelong love of plants and gardening.

It was gratifying to see the parents' turnout at the plot on Saturday, 1 October 2011. A good omen for their future involvement.

HA21 are delighted to have received the very generous donation of £88.38 from the school. Thank you to Weldon Park Infants' School. We at HA21 hope to be able to continue our support for the allotment project and any future environmental projects the school may have in mind.

**Marion Garner-Patel,  
Planning Group Chair's  
Report of Visit to the Out-  
line Planning Application  
for the Kodak Site**

I have just returned from looking at the plans for the Kodak site. I was shocked and horrified. All those meetings and opinions we gave seem to have been totally ignored. When I asked why the whole of the sports ground of Kodak was being built upon, I was told now you will get access, when before it was private. This is similar to the argument to build on St. George's Field: a once well used field was shut off and unused, therefore it is better used by being built upon. Just because some green space is private, is not a reason for building on it. Green space does not have to justify itself, does it? There is an unused farm's field over there, let's build on it! People see it, green is restful to the eye; it is needed psychologically for our well being. This is proven. Grass absorbs CO2 and releases oxygen. Organised sport can be played on it. The paragraph about sustainability is a load of codswallop. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> most crowded country, but do we have to build on every blade of grass? This was a well used playing field, just as St. George's field once was. We have obesity and diabetes in the community, mostly due to lack of exercise, so let's build on sports fields! There will be 985 homes. That will be about 3,000 people. Where nearby can they play sport? Headstone Park will not be sufficient.

Many of us asked for the Zoom Centre to be retained for the youth of the community with a sports field. We were brushed off with the remark, "It needs refurbishing. It's getting old and needs a lot of work done on it." We were told that we will have more green space in the new walk from the station to Headstone Manor and there will be less brown field site as some will be recovered. So that means we can build on a green field! The school appears to be built on a very small site with no playing field and a miniscule playground. The houses have tiny back yards, it will be irony to call them gardens. All in all, it is a "lets pack in as many homes as we can into this space and make loads of money!" There is a pharmacy and other facilities at the Quadrant, half the retail section. All we asked for at the meetings was a little general shop. Use the space for a decent leisure centre, not the miniscule one that was hard to find in the plans. The Health Centre is far away from most of the residents. Put it nearer to people. There is the Caryl Thomas Clinic there already, nearby on the opposite side of the road. We do not need two on top of each other. The green walkway through is good, but we who attended got the idea that the other side of the road towards the Headstone Manor was not going to be built over to this degree.

We hope that Harrow Development Committee give careful thought to this gross over-development and demand changes. Harrow has many empty shops, it does not need more. Children need space to play and teenagers need a place to meet and play games. We all read in the papers why the young rioted. Many reasons are given, one of them is lack of jobs and opportunities. The space given over to industry, on land that was once used by the main employer in Harrow, is pathetically small. There are more houses than workshops. We beg that the Council makes Land Securities go back to the drawing board and provide more industrial units, less retail space, more space for sport and youth activities, with fewer homes, with more garden to fit in with the surrounding area. Otherwise, it will be a great opportunity lost for the coming generation, where homes and work can be near to each other. Many of us who attended the meetings will feel let down. We suggested a central square as a focal point and even suggested calling it Eastman Square. The map given to us was pathetic and hard to read. Land Securities have demonstrated that the consultation was an empty PR exercise. It's 'dosh' that counts. Pile people high and make loads of cash, never mind the riots years ahead!

If you would like to be a member of the Planning Group, contact:  
[mariongarnerptel@gmail.com](mailto:mariongarnerptel@gmail.com)

## Climate Change Talks

The UN talks in Durban, South Africa on climate change have closed with an agreement that the chair said had “saved tomorrow, today”.

Chris Huhne, the UK Energy and Climate Change Secretary, said “What we have done today [10 December] is a great success for European diplomacy. We have managed to put this on the map and take the major emitters – the US, India and China to a road map that will secure an overarching deal.”

The new deal means that for the first time every country in the world is committed to cutting carbon – although the legal wording remains vague. Talks on a new legal deal covering all countries will begin next year and end by 2015, although the treaty will not come into force until 2020.

The BBC website has an interesting climate change glossary <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-11833685>

## SOME TREE DISEASES

*Notes taken by John Hollindale at a recent Birkbeck College Lecture*

**Acute Oak Decline** - This can be detected by bleeding lesions on the trunk of the oak. As the identification of this disease has yet to be found, the government body, Forestry Research, have asked to be notified of any outbreaks in Harrow and elsewhere.

**The Oak Processionary Moth** – Apparently the larva are as big a health hazard as those of the Brown-tail Moth; the hairs will cause skin rashes and for anyone with breathing problems a danger if ingested. Last year there were 220 reported instances of this moth in Ealing and 11 in Brent. I think Patrick Predergast, Harrow Council’s Arboricultural Operations Manager, should be notified of any outbreaks in Harrow; also Forestry Research at Alice Holt Forest. This moth has been seen on other species of tree as well; defoliating all in its path.



**Sudden Oak Death** - Could be caused by one of several species of phytophthora algae. This mainly causes dieback in mature trees as can be seen on Pinner Park Farm.

Phytophthora ramorum also affects the common rhododendron ponticum which in some respects can’t be a bad thing, as this plant has rampaged through vast swathes of the countryside and no other ground flora can compete with it.

Other diseases include **Oak Mildew**; imported into these islands from the USA in the early 1900s and very common in Harrow. There is also **Holly Blight** first reported in the 1980’s but spreading rapidly in the last 10 years. Noticeable in late winter when leaves and small stems turn black and fall off.

The Horse Chestnut is being attacked by at least two separate organisms. First a **leaf-mining moth** which turns the leaves blotchy; not thought to be a threat as the Horse Chestnut leaves come early in the year so the tree can gain enough energy by photosynthesis before the adult moth emerges. Then there is the **Bleeding Canker** which, if severe, can kill the tree.

Finally there are the **bark beetles**. The **Great Spruce Bark Beetle** is being controlled successfully by another introduced beetle predator. However there is the **Eight-toothed Bark Beetle** which is destroying conifer forests on the near continent. To prevent this beetle entering the British Isles, all imported timber has to be debarked and no bark products can be brought into these isles. There is no effective treatment for this one.

## Report of meeting held at the Civic Centre 29 November 2011

*Marion Garner-Patel writes*

When is a view a view? On the news there was a report on how UNESCO is concerned about some of London's views. I only wish that they had included Harrow on the Hill with Tower Bridge and The Tower of London. Perhaps it might make our planners think, as well as our Inspectors of Bristol. Views are important and we are desecrating the views of London too fast and foolishly for short term gain of office and flats.

On 5 December I attended a meeting of U3A on Sustainability, the meeting was about population. There were two speakers from "Population Matters", Patron, David Attenborough. Eager to save the countryside, we are concentrating people within London, a London that was considered too big in 1948 at 8 million and so the new towns were built. Hemel Hempstead, Stevenage, Bracknell, Crawley and so on. Now they are increasing London up to 10 million and to save countryside they are ruining London and its Boroughs.

A view has to have these criteria:-

- 1 The area must include a listed building or buildings.
2. It must be protected for public use and hence be accessible.
3. The view must be over a particular building or buildings or London itself.
4. It must meet the expectation of the viewer and be there to see at work or at play.

It goes on, about meeting National and London criteria, as well as London and be a place where many want to go. Harrow on the Hill has many views of it, but sadly, to please the Inspectorate we have to list the places from whence the public can view it so that we can protect that view. If this sounds "Alice in Wonderland" you are right!

The view must be panoramic and dynamic.

We went on to list places and many were rejected. We complained about the loss of view from Harrow View and Salisbury Road. But if visible from a car or bus transiently – it does NOT count. We were shown slides of views and they did not count if the trees were floating on top of a building. The best views shown were from Old Redding and the gates of Cunningham Park. I beg anyone who has any good views in mind to write in to Stephen Kelly, Divisional Director of Planning at [stephen.kelly@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:stephen.kelly@harrow.gov.uk), who is trying to protect them from the Inspectorate's arbitrary decisions on when a view is not a view.

After the talk from "Population Matters", it causes me to beg you all to think on it hard and tell all to have 2.1 children only, as we have only one planet, it is all very serious. Water, deforestation, climate change, too many mouths to feed: it can only end in disaster. It was suggested that parents are encouraged to think of their smaller family's increased opportunities as one way persuade them to limit families.

Sadly, many politicians fail to address such a sensitive issue, as there are religious issues involved. One person suggested that child allowance be halted after the fourth child, another said after the third.

Land Securities have shown their plans for the Kodak site at Wealdstone and Harrow stations and at Headstone Manor and Wealdstone Centre. (*see report*)

The new views will be incorporated in the new London development Framework which is replacing the old UDP at the end of the year.

The Core Strategy and Area Action Plan will be discussed in January. Development management will be ready in April for consideration.

## **Education Update.....**Marilyn Raymond, Education Group Chair

I am delighted we are now getting requests for support from some local schools and we are trying to fulfil these in whatever way we can. We have been able to give tangible support to Welldon Park First School on their new allotment patch which lies on the same allotment as the patch of Mick Campbell, HA21's Vice Chairman. Do any of you have links with an allotment and so be of value to a local school?

Teachers and interested people are invited to join us for the next meeting at Veolia Environment Centre, Bushey in the late spring – Tuesday 13 March at 4pm, to have a 'taster session' of the variety of activities that they offer schools on their visits to the Centre and some ideas that may be used in all Key Stage classrooms.

Please let me know if you would like to attend as Veolia is a protected site. Marilyn Raymond, 020 8954 3329 [marilyn.raymond@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:marilyn.raymond@tiscali.co.uk)

## **As we go to press, we can report:**

### **1. Anmer Lodge, Stanmore**

A 3-day exhibition of developer's proposals for Anmer Lodge in Dennis Lane was held in Stanmore. A disappointing exhibition, with displays in a small font which were either unprofessional or showed contempt for the audience viewing them. The three alternatives shown were for a substantial development, with retail, which will attract traffic into a neighbourhood with poor access, ill-equipped to take it. Harrow Highways department have not had the opportunity to comment on the proposals. Land Securities made a clear presentation of their proposals for the Kodak site - DTZ and Harrow Corporate Estates most definitely failed to follow their example with this exhibition in Stanmore.

### **2. Street lighting**

Harrow are holding a consultation on options to reduce energy use and costs in Harrow's street lighting. Harrow's libraries have survey forms, or they are available on <http://www.harrow.gov.uk/streetlighting>, with a deadline for replies of 31 December.

### **3. Forward Drive**

Proposals to expand recycling and refuse activities at the Civic Amenity Site at Forward Drive, Wealdstone.

## **Waitrose**

Many thanks to Waitrose's South Harrow branch, who included Harrow Agenda 21 in their green token collection during August, and made a donation to Harrow Agenda 21 of £235.

**Congratulations!?!\*** to Harrow Council who have received a Golden Bull award from the Plain English Campaign for their mysterious post of "Personalisation Implementation Team".

## Dates for your 2012 Diary

### Harrow Nature Conservation Forum

Stanmore Common Working Party  
Sunday, 15 January & 18 February  
10.30am—3pm

Contact Simon Braidman 020 8386 2502  
[simonbraidman@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:simonbraidman@hotmail.co.uk) or David  
Bailey 07506 944140

### Greener Harrow

7 March, 10am-12.30pm  
Civic Centre, Harrow

### Eco Build at Excel Centre

20-22 March

### HA21 AGM

20 June at 7pm, Civic Centre, Harrow

## Action Group Meeting Dates for 2012

### Education Group

Tuesday 13 March, 4pm at Veolia  
Environment Centre, Bushey

### Waste & Recycling Group

Wednesday, 25 January 2012, 7pm  
Harrow Civic Centre

## HA21 Welcomes

Deborah Lee as an  
Individual Member

**Wishing you and yours a very Merry  
Christmas and here's to a Happy, Healthy,  
Peaceful and Sustainable 2012**

### Did You Know ?

HA21 members can access the web-  
site [www.harrowagenda21.org](http://www.harrowagenda21.org)  
members' area with a password. If  
you wish to have this, please email  
[admin@harrowagenda21.org](mailto:admin@harrowagenda21.org)

### What Happens to Waste?

Mick Campbell reports that there has  
been a good uptake on borrowing  
our DVD "What Happens to Waste".  
If you have borrowed one, please re-  
turn it to HA21, or if you want to keep  
it, a copy can be purchased for £5.

To borrow/purchase the DVD, please  
contact Mick Campbell on  
[emcampbell@talktalk.net](mailto:emcampbell@talktalk.net)

### Useful HA21 Contacts

**Mick Oliver – Chairman & Waste  
Chair**

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**Marion Garner-Patel – Planning  
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