

NORTHWOOD RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Extracts from the minutes of Meeting 12 November 2024, 8pm in the Family Room,
Methodist Church, Oaklands Gate

Present: Sue Mansfield, Trevor Sherling, Peter Lansdown, Hoda Lacey, Paul Barker, Jan Harding, Valerie Mellor, Ros Plume, Vikram Chudasama, Miles Gillman, Andrew Egan, Brian Geminder, Neha Tanna

1 Apologies for Absence: Tony Ellis, Vijay Kotecha, John King, Rajen Shah

2. Minutes of 8 October Meeting
were approved

3. Matters Arising:

The Remembrance Day service was a good service, well attended. The streaming to local buildings worked well. RP to send feedback to the organisers.

RP

Correspondence

4. From RP:

- Email from local school asking about wreath for Remembrance Sunday. Passed to Philip Austin.
- Email from freelance reporter working for Northwood News asking for details of the charity event at The Three Wishes on 9th December. Referred her to pub's FaceBook page in order to contact them directly.
- Resident asked about local WhatsApp groups for reporting missing keys. Suggested he join Nextdoor.
- Email from resident looking for voluntary work during school hours. Referred her to the detailed list of charities on our website, in particular MHA Communities.
- Email via PB from resident suggesting we run a Christmas Window Display competition. Past experience was discussed and it was decided not to have one this year.

5. Former Police Station

TS went to the meeting about possible use of the building as a library and said most people there accepted his explanation of why Hillingdon could not buy it for this use.

6. TfL Development

No further information.

7. Pop-up events

19 December, Carols at Costa. Ann Lynes has said the Methodists and Holy Trinity will take part. MG will check with Jennifer at The Three Wishes as to the timing of their choir performance on the same evening. We can possibly help with publicity. MG to apply for the licence and put posters up. An alert to be sent at the last moment when we are sure it can go ahead.

The Christmas tree will be in place and lit by 22 November.

MG

8. Milk & More Offer

PB received this message from one of the RSs and asked for it to go on the November agenda.

My daughter is trying to get people to join milk and more to reduce plastics. To order milk and some dry foods in reusable glass bottles and tubes. Is this something we can add to the newsletters in future? When she wrote to them on behalf of the school they offered all new customers 30% off until April. Images attached. Maybe you can get a similar offer? Would you like for my daughter to approach them again. Tana aged 7 Frithwood primary School



PB to reply to the mother, suggesting the child writes a piece for the newsletter about using glass bottles. Milk & More to be included in January business offers if they become members and wish to do so.

PB
BG

9. Autumn Newsletter

The cover was particularly commended by all. A good publication.

10. AGM 2025

From RP:

Date confirmed as Thursday 24th April 2025 at Northwood Methodist Church. 7.30pm for 8pm start.

Possible speakers: It was decided to ask Brian Greenan in 2025, and another possibility for 2026 mentioned, to be followed up by SM

SM
MG

11. Subcommittee Reports

11a Woods and Open Spaces

Bulbs are to be planted in station beds, by the tree by the traffic lights and in the space by the Green Lane car park, assuming approval to be sought by Cllr Henry Higgins. £50 contribution from NRA approved.

11b Traffic and Highways

Still awaiting a reply from LBH about a crossing at the Rickmansworth Road / Green Lane junction.

11c Communications.

From RP

Website.

- Posted on website since last report:
 - Remembrance Sunday Service
 - New Business member offers discount
 - Remembrance Service live streaming
 - Business member updates for BG
 - Various local events

There is a new picture of St Helen's girls on the web site.

MG will install a cover over the Waitrose notice board to prevent unauthorised leaflets there. A space to be reserved for 1 or 2 businesses who are members to advertise. BG to manage content.

MG
BG

11d	Police	<p>The Speed Operation did not use volunteers to preserve confidentiality. Would have been helpful to know when and where to be able to take photos. MG will put a warning notice on the notice boards saying 'Speed Checks being done in this area'. HL to find out if speeders were fined or just warned. AE reported seeing police on our streets.</p>	MG HL
11e	Business Membership	<p>The new fruit, veg and vapes shop has shut down. Also see Correspondence.</p>	
11f	Health	<p>No further comments. NH was thanked for her comprehensive and relevant report.</p>	
11g	Planning	<p>No further comments.</p>	
11h	Environment	<p>See report.</p>	AE
11i	Finance	<p>Dene Road block has paid. It was agreed that any subscriptions received after January 1 are to be taken as payment for the current year</p>	JH RP
11j	Chief Road Steward	<p>Some RSs are having problems using the link to their tailored member lists with payments. More instructions to be added to the link. Some communications problems with some ARSs.</p>	RS
11k	Membership	<p>JH will pay the mmjo bill with her own credit card and claim repayment.</p>	JH
12.	AOB	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.RPP noted that only one person, VM, had gone to the Friends of Northwood recreation ground, to help in tidying it up. 2.VM noted that litter picking still needs to be done, particularly around the pedestrian railway bridge. 3.VM invited the committee to her place for the next meeting and to enjoy refreshments afterwards as our Christmas social. 	

The meeting ended at 9.35 pm

Next meeting: Tuesday 10 December 2024, in the family room at Oaklands Gate, then to VM at 3 Moor Park Rd, HA6 2DL

Appendix: REPORTS

a) Woods and Open Spaces

Woods and Open Spaces

Good but slightly frustrating news from the woods. Even though we offered to pay to have the paths improved by the entrance to the woods, they have gone ahead and done it without telling us. They seem to be sand based, so we will see how long they last.

We will have to spend our money on something else. Maybe improved fencing to keep the rogue motorbikes out.



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Miles Gillman

b) Traffic and Highways

No report this month

Peter Lansdown

traffichighways@northwoodresidents.co.uk

Communications

a) Website.

b) Posted on website since last report:

- a. Remembrance Sunday Service
- b. New Business member offers discount
- c. Remembrance Service live streaming
- d. Business member updates for BG
- e. Various local events

Website Activity

No report this month

c) Police

This was a quiet month. Quarterly meetings start again in December.

Speed Operation:

This was carried out on 23 October at the following points:

Dene Road, Northwood HA6 2AE (j/w Green Lane)
Rickmansworth Road, Northwood HA6 2RD (j/w Murray Road)
Watford Road, Northwood HA6 3NT (j/w Wild Oaks Close)
Ducks Hill Road, Northwood HA6 2SR (j/w Fringewood Close)

There were very few vehicles caught speeding during the 4hrs our SNT were deployed on the operation. In total there were 21 vehicles that were driving over the speed limit and of those vehicles only 4 were travelling faster than 40mph and were all under 50mph.

My own opinion is that speeders will usually do so at night. The Postman on Rickmansworth Road may have been an unfortunate exception.

As it is a live investigation, we will not get any more information.

OWL:

The impact of the loss of OWL has yet to be fully investigated. You can help by ensuring you sign up to the National NWH system as outlined in our last Newsletter. This matters, so please do so.

HL

d) Business Membership

If you read my report in the Business section of the latest NewsLetter you will know that some of our Green Lane businesses were hit with instant fines from the Council for having A-Boards on the pavement outside their premises.

Having reported this to Tony he took it up with Cllr Higgins who said he would take it to the Council Leader. Having had no feedback I emailed Cllr Higgins last week but had no reply.

Fortuitously I bumped into him whilst we were both shopping in Waitrose on Friday and I took the opportunity of discussing the matter. He confirmed my email was received, that the matter was still with the Leader for a decision and Cllr Higgins did agree with me that only cautions should have been issued. So "watch this space"

Richard at *Lamertons* told me the scaffolding was now coming down in that part of the parade, and should be totally down within 2 weeks. TFL are only 2 months behind schedule!

I popped into *Bubbles* to deliver the NewsLetter and asked whether the rumour was correct that they were closing down. So far, they have not made a final decision but trade is slow.

Delivering the NewsLetter also gave me the opportunity of signing up *Unique Nails* in Green Lane and the Singh cousins, the new owners of the *Station Kiosk*.

Also signed up as a new business member is *Priya Pilates*. As hers is a new business she has asked whether she can put something on our notice boards. I explained to her that up to now we have only permitted "Not for Profit" companies but as she stated in an email: I should like to discuss this with the Committee and hopefully get a positive ruling which would illustrate yet another reason to join the NRA Business section.

Committee members may be aware, we have 3 boards. 2 are protected but there is an unprotected board as you enter Waitrose from the car park. I noticed on Friday that the board had business leaflets attached to it and they were not even from Business members. They will be getting a call from me this week to sign up!

We could always make a small charge for use of the Boards and encourage any member who uses it to also advertise in our NewsLetter

I should also like to discuss a letter from a resident complimenting *Northwood Gifts & Cards* for their lovely window display and suggesting that we run a competition for the best dressed Christmas window with a suitable prize

In the spirit of the festive season I received an email from our local *Toastmaster John Ashmele* who offered to dress up in his Town Crier uniform for the NRA Christmas Lights Switch-on ringing his hand bell and making announcements. Ros responded thanking him but pointing out the Lights Switch-on was a Northwood Hills event and gave him their chairman's details

e) Health

Mount Vernon Hospital Services Review:

An update was published on 9th May and is now on the NRA website: [Link](#).

There is a plan to go ahead with a public consultation, this financial year, to review moving the cancer services to Watford General Hospital. The documents are still being prepared and further information will be made available here: <https://mvccreview.nhs.uk>

This is still ongoing with no new further updates as of yet.

Hillingdon Hospital Update:

1. New phonenumber launched: Call 4 concern – Martha's rule

A new phonenumber is being launched by the Trust for all patients, as well as their families and friends, to further highlight when someone's condition in hospital might be getting worse.

Call 4 Concern, the confidential phonenumber - 01923 844448 - will be open to those who are worried about their own condition as an inpatient, or that of a relative or friend admitted to hospital.

The patient safety service, which will be available for adults, children and neonates, is amongst a suite of measures in place for patients admitted to receive care in our facilities.

It is particularly useful for those patients (and their relatives) whose condition may be getting worse but feel their concerns are not being heard or acted upon by clinical staff.

2. The Trust has landed a £126,000 government grant to help us make our two hospitals 'better by design' for our patients.

The funding - usually given to the private sector - is part of the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships scheme of Innovate UK, which for more than 50 years has been helping businesses collaborate with academia to promote innovation.

Blood Tests within THH Trust:

Phlebotomy (taking blood)

Routine tests ordered by a GP

They no longer offer a service for blood tests requested by a GP (the only exception is for urgent or specialised tests that have to be processed on the same day).

If a doctor from Hillingdon or Mount Vernon hospitals has asked a patient to have a blood test before their next appointment, they must book an appointment at one hospital or the other. The booking link is [here](#)

This does not apply to patients sent directly from an outpatient clinic on the same day, or those requiring specialised tests that need to be processed on the same day. These patients will be seen without the need to book.

Only urgent glucose tolerance tests can be booked, and by telephone only.

Call Mount Vernon Hospital on 01923 844732 or 01923 826111, or Hillingdon Hospital on 01895 238282

Children aged 10-16 can be seen at Hillingdon Hospital only.

For children under 10, please contact Rainbow Ward via the Hillingdon Hospital switchboard on 01895 238282.

Annual Plan 2024 – 25:

THH have developed a visual summary ([Plan Strategy one page.pdf \[pdf\] 20MB](#)) which brings together the strategy, the vision, the values, the important role of each of our sites and their priorities for this year in one place.

The full strategy and plan can also be found here:

[Strategy](#)

[Annual Plan](#)

North West London Acute Provider Collaborative:

The [North West London Acute Provider Collaborative](#) includes:

1. Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
2. The Hillingdon Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
3. Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
4. London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust.

Together, they manage 12 hospitals, employ 33,000 staff and serve a diverse population of 2.2 million people.

The four acute NHS trusts in north west London have set out a shared vision for collaboration and priorities for joint action:

By 2027, this will mean:

- Patients will access care sooner, care will be more personalised and person-centred, with improved and more equitable outcomes, regardless of which trust or hospital they attend.
- Health and care partners will be able to work in a more consistent way with our trusts, with common approaches to communications, engagement and improvement.
- Staff will be able to move across our trusts more easily, be encouraged and supported to compare data and feedback in order to drive improvement, and have stronger cross-organisational networks and ways of working.

The Acute Provider Collaborative's first three-year strategy is published at:

nwl-acute-provider-collaborative.nhs.uk

Most recent Board papers from 16th July can be found here: [Common Papers](#)

The next meeting where all are welcome is on Tuesday 21st January 2025 13:00 – 17.30

Links will be available in due course but can be found [here](#)

Hubs mobility Service for patients:

There is a service which supports patients who might have mobility challenges - and it is now available at Hillingdon Trust.

Patients who might need to visit one of the hospitals regularly and could benefit from alternatives to driving or being driven - but who might need extra help using public transport - might find the Hubs Mobility Service helpful (one for the NRA website maybe).

See links below for leaflets of the new service partnered with the trust:

[Hubs Flyer HA](#)

[HA leaflet new](#)

North West London Integrated Care System:

Local residents and stakeholders are invited to attend North West London Integrated Care Partnership meeting that will take place at **2 – 4pm** on **Wednesday 22nd January 2025**. It will be held virtually on Teams.

You can find the Teams joining link for the meeting, as well as the meeting papers [here](#).

There are items for discussion/approval or to note: including dentistry/oral health; vaccination and immunisation; shared needs assessment and mental health strategy.

West Herts launches five-year plan to transform services and facilities across the region:

This is a five-year plan which aims to transform services, facilities, and care across the region for more than 600,000 people. The Trust's ambitions include:

- Building a new state-of-art hospital at Watford General Hospital
- A new elective care hub at St Albans for planned operations
- Hemel Hempstead will become a focal point for chronic and complex care treatment.

Building work is expected to get underway in 2025 and the government confirmed last year the rebuilding would be fully funded. The strategy document can be found through this link [here](#)

Community Health Initiatives:

Mountwood Surgery: Changes to how to make appointments:

Important changes for Mountwood from Monday 21st October

Urgent Appointments

Call (01923 828488) for urgent appointments between the following times:

- **8am to 11am in the mornings**
- **2pm to 5pm in the afternoons**

Outside these times, they will signpost you to other support, such as your local pharmacy and 111. This is to enable safe working for our staff and patients due to the intense pressure on General Practice. They say they need adequate time to manage patients safely, as advised by the recent BMA guidance. ([News Item on BMA Guidance](#)).

PATCHS

To further manage demand, PATCHS (online form system) will remain open throughout the day. Appointment slots will now be staggered and released at intervals to provide fairer access for all patients. However, please note that the number of slots is still limited based on our capacity.

PATCHS is for NON-URGENT issues only.

PATCHS is NOT for prescription requests or queries.

If one is unable to access PATCHS, please contact Reception on **01923 828488** This extension of access to PATCHS should reduce the frustration expressed by patients who were unable to access at 8am. Contact at MountwoodPPG@gmail.com

Eastbury Surgery and [North Connect PCN](#):

- **In line with GP's nationally there is a call to action for patients to get involved in saving General Practice:**
 - **See the article here and call to action to help make changes [here](#)**
- The North Primary Care Network, inclusive of several local practices, has launched a new website to enhance patient access to health information and services, with a focus on collaborative care and community health initiatives:
 - **There are Hillingdon Health workshops on various conditions that patients can sign up to here (part of the North Primary Care network):**
<https://www.myhealthhillingdon.co.uk/workshop-calendar>
 - **Ageing Well Clubs:**
<https://www.northconnectpcn.nhs.uk/2024/04/04/ageing-well-clubs-in-hillingdon-for-65-years/>
 - **There is a drive to increase awareness of Measles, information can be found [here](#).**

Satisfaction with GP services is declining, there is an ongoing GP survey by Healthwatch Hillingdon where you can provide your feedback. This can be found [here](#).

End of report

g) Planning

NRA / LBH Northwood Ward Planning Report : November 2024

Planning Applications – No Objection / Comment

Validation Date	Address	Application Detail	
30 th September 2024	DOWNSIDE KEWFERRY DRIVE NORTHWOOD	Erection of part single part double storey side and rear extensions following demolition of existing detached garage, conversion of roof space into habitable use to include 1x rear dormer, 2x rear facing roof lights, and 2x front facing dormer windows, and amendments to fenestrations.	
1 st October 2024	49 NICHOLAS WAY NORTHWOOD	Erection of a two storey extension to the side and rear, erection of a single storey extension to the rear, erection of a two storey extension to the front, erection of front porch, extension of front dormer, alteration to fenestrations	
3 rd October 2024	8 GROVE ROAD NORTHWOOD	Erection of a part single part two storey extension to the rear, erection of a first floor extension to the side/front, erection of a front infill extension, conversion of roof space to habitable use to include raising roof ridge, crown roof, 2x front dormers, 2x rear dormers and installation of vehicle cross over.	
16 th October 2024	20A HALLAND WAY NORTHWOOD	To carry out tree surgery, To crown reduce by 2m and crown thin by 10% One Oak (T1 on application) and One Silver Birch (T2 on application) both within Area 3 on TPO 13	
18 th October 2024	19 ELGOOD AVENUE NORTHWOOD	Erection of a part single storey, part two storey side and rear extension, conversion of roof space into habitable accommodation including raising the ridge, roof lights, amendment to fenestration and removal of chimney, following the demolition of existing garage and rear extensions	
22 nd October 2024	31 COPSE WOOD WAY NORTHWOOD	To sever roots to enable the installation of a root barrier to One Oak (T1 on application) within Area 1 on TPO 398	
21 st October 2024	10 MOOR PARK ROAD NORTHWOOD	Erection of single storey side extension and alterations to front elevation including pitched roof over relocated entrance door	
23 rd October 2024	3 NICHOLAS WAY NORTHWOOD	Installation of dropped kerb, drive and access	

Planning Applications – Objections / Comments Made

Validation Date	Address	Application Detail	Comment
18 th October 2024	5 HALLOWELL ROAD NORTHWOOD	Erection of a part two storey wrap around extension to the rear and side, erection of front porch	The new side windows at first-floor level particularly overlooking 3 Hallowell Road should be obscured glazing and unopenable below 1.8m
28 th October 2024	1 Ivy Walk RICKMANSWORTH RD NORTHWOOD	Erection of a single storey rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall of the original house by 4.00 metres, for which the maximum height would be 3.00 metres, and for which the height of the eaves would be 3.00 metres	Given the limited information supplied, more information would have been helpful. However, the depth of the proposed rear extension of 4m is not in accordance with DMHD 1 B) i) for a terraced house.

Planning Appeals :

Planning Appeals : Decisions

126A GREEN LANE NORTHWOOD

The sub-division of No.126A Green Lane into 7 self-contained flats (Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use)

Decision: Approved

Reasons: The applicants have discharged the burden of proof.

Planning Appeals : Submitted

None

Planning Decisions Where Objections / Comments Made:

34, 36, 38 GREEN LANE NORTHWOOD

Partial demolition of ground floor space to the rear of number 38, and amalgamation of number 36/38 to form a larger and more coherent retail unit on the ground floor. Partial demolition of ground floor space to the rear of number 34 to facilitate the erection of a single storey E-Use workshop building. New external staircase to retained upper floor residential units. Shop front to retail to remain as existing.

Decision: Withdrawn

Note: The application was approved at Planning Committee in April 2024 but subject to agreement to a new condition relating to the hours of operation of the workshop, and an amended condition relating to waste management. However, the application has been withdrawn by the applicant.

Enforcement Action By LBH

None

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

4 Rofant Road: I submitted an objection to the Planning Inspectorate supporting the refusal of planning permission for a single storey extension and use as a 6 person HMO.

ACTION POINTS FROM LAST MINUTES:

None

h) Environment

Barbed Wire

A report was received of a resident's injured cat caused by the presence of dangerous barbed wire erected at the end of Cygnet Close, Northwood HA6 where previously there had been gates across an entrance used by Affinity Water (to land allegedly owned by the David Lloyd organisation). Attempts to invite the removal of the barbed wire did not work and the owner of the injured cat emailed me. I suggested contacting Cllr Henry Higgins directly.

Flooding

Following a complaint to the CEO of Thames Water by the NRA, a meeting was set up on 6 November to visit 4 areas known to regularly flood – Rofant Road, the traffic light opposite The Gate, Copse Wood Way by the Gravel Pits, and in Rickmansworth Road between the Hillingdon Borough welcome sign and the Council sign for Northwood (by the apartment blocks near the M.V. Hp main entrance).

Attending were Cllr Henry Higgins, Neil Grant for Thames Water, Trevor Sherling & Andrew Egan for the NRA. There was mutual agreement that all the gully drains identified would receive a special clean by the Council to check that waste water can flow away correctly and this action was later confirmed by Cllr Higgins.

While at the Rofant Road location we were joined by a resident who explained that in heavy rains foul water and waste materials can be present in the swirling water by the property concerned – this matter is to be investigated by Thames Water.

At the conclusion of the meeting, it was agreed that a further meeting should be held which should include the addition of the other Council serving parts of Northwood and the Water Authority districts concerned as water flowing from Eastbury and Frithwood Avenues can enter from the drainage systems within the jurisdiction of Three Rivers Council before joining pipework where Hillingdon Council have jurisdiction over regular drains clearance. During this first visit it was noted that several of the drains appeared to be chocked with leaf & other debris.

Manhole Cover

Opposite St Johns Court in Murray Road a dangerous manhole cover (an ill-fitting cover with a highly raise edge) was reported to the Council. A team came to refit the manhole cover the following morning to put matters right. A fast response by Hillingdon Council – well done.

Residents Can Help

- 1) Outside your house, flat or apartment, where you see leaves covering a roadside drain can you brush off the leaves, please. If you see a blocked drain, use the **Report-It** facility on the Council website so that drain gully can be cleaned. Keep a note of the reference number.
- 2) Where you know of an area prone to persistent flooding or standing water that fails to drain away quickly, can you report that exact location while the flood exists to tel **0800 316 9800** and take a note of the case number please, as repeated logged-in complaints particularly with a case reference number get noted for special attention.

Andrew Egan

j) Chief Road Steward

A total of 1,850 copies of the Autumn #188 Newsletter were ordered from our printer and delivered on time, together with 3,000 envelopes pre-addressed to just NRA for members who still wish to pay subs via Sharmans or Carter Chemists and were delivered to CRS on 21st October.

- almost all have now been collected by ARSs for distribution through their RSs, and by my RSs.

Following on from my report last month, *Kamala Chellapen* has agreed to take over the Chestnut Ave, Lees Ave, Manor Cottages and Watkins Close "patch".

More changes include *Rebecca Ramtej* adding to her patch by taking on Foxfield Close and Brookdene Drive from Sunil Shah.

Sadly, after a serious illness, *Roger Morgan* passed away last month – he had been doing a fantastic job as RS for Gateway Close. His ARS *Josefina Pacey* has kindly agreed to deliver #188 to his patch while we organise a replacement RS.

Mary Winskill felt unable to continue with all her sizeable "patch" as RS – to reduce her load, *John King* has agreed to add to his patch as RS and take over the addresses in Frithwood Avenue she had been servicing.

We will be saying goodbye to RS *Anne Rabbit*, who has sold her house and is relocating to her native Yorkshire, after many years of looking after most of Green Lane and Murray Road. I will be contacting a potential replacement as RS.

So, a very busy last few weeks on NRA business

Paul Barker

NRA CRS & DPO

END OF REPORTS