



The Bush Telegraph

The quarterly newsletter of The Bushwood Area Residents Association

From the Chair

One of the first acts of the newly elected Council has been to abolish many committees amidst much howls of disbelief. The *Conservation Area Advisory Committee*, CAAC for short, was one such casualty amongst many.

It was set up to protect listed buildings, unspoilt groups of buildings and Conservation Areas. The Government recommends that this committee exist, as it serves a vital role in drawing attention to conservation issues by bringing together councillors, voluntary groups, residents' associations and architects.

Not worthy

The Environment Committee condemned one section of Bushwood as not worthy of an Area of Special Character even though the committee made up of specialists felt it appropriate for approval. CAAC even visited the site to make absolutely sure of the merits of the proposal.

The issue of conservation and preservation of the uniqueness of this road is now uncertain. These small committees were put into place to ensure that decisions

are made in the best interests of the area and to safeguard the community against decisions made along political lines.

Wilful neglect

This wilful neglect of detail has repeatedly over the last 20 years corroded Leytonstone to nothing. Sustainable regeneration requires looking at the problem as a whole. It should embrace issues such as wealth creation, wealth attraction and making this leafy suburb of London attractive to families again!



CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

BARA owns a fine Father Christmas suit, available for hire to members. £5 per day and £5 deposit. ☎ 530 3569 to reserve it for your party!

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single people – £1.00

Households – £2.00

AREA OF SPECIAL CHARACTER CONDEMNED!

FOR THE last three years BARA has been battling to have 60-78 Bushwood designated an Area of Special Character (ASC).

The Council's Environment Committee last month decided to overrule their own former *Conservation Area Advisory Committee's* recommendation – although BARA's chairman Parvez Hussain went down still fighting for it.

Adoption of this proposal would not only have enhanced the local area but also encouraged conservation.

In November 1997 BARA's proposal was overwhelmingly approved by the *Conservation Area Advisory Committee (CAAC)*. It also had the support of many local residents, our then councillors, the *Civic Society* and other bodies which represent our community.

Opposed

But in early 1998, we learnt from one of our ward councillors that some officers and councillors were opposed to the plan. This was in spite of the CAAC's recommendation for adoption, and the opposition also seemed contrary to the Council's Unitary Development Plan (UDP) policy. For the UDP states that "Where appropriate, the Council will designate Areas of Special Character" – and certainly after two visits to the area the Council's own CAAC had felt that it was appropriate!

The vote against the Bushwood ASC was led by Cllr C Loakes. During the debate he mentioned that he was not keen on the preservation of these areas and he would rather not see public funds spent on them. The Labour group voted unanimously against the ASC and refused to be swayed by very intelligently-argued points from both opposition parties. The debate went on for more than half-an-hour and our ASC proposal was defeated 7-5.

'Money is a rogue issue'

Parvez Hussain commented: "Adoption of the ASC would hardly have been a drain on the Council's Historic Buildings Grant budget, as only the frontages of a few houses were involved. As Cllr R F Sullivan observed, 'Money is a rogue issue; it does not mean money will be spent.' It would have assisted in keeping the houses in the tradition of the original design. Cllr R Evans remarked: 'The ASC would reward excellence and recognise people who look after their property.' Besides this, the ASC would have complemented the existing Conservation Area to the north and would have added to the overall regeneration of our area with the redevelopment of the John Drinkwater Tower housing site."

He added: "There are not that many ASCs in Waltham Forest and this would have been the first one in 10 years if our proposal had been adopted."

WRITE ON!

THE COLUMN FOR BARA MEMBERS

Do you have news or views that you'd like to share with other BARA members? Please contact Marlon at 35 Michael Road with items for publication.

◆Members' personal advertisements are inserted free of charge in this column – lineage only (as below).

FREE to a good cause – large packet of used UK postage stamps. Collecting stamps for charity? ☎ 556 6623.

FREE to a good home – quantity of broken paving-stones, half-bricks, etc, suitable for hardcore. ☎ 556 6623.

WANTED for local boys' school. Educational videos – eg science, nature, sport, health, English, etc, and classic film videos (classification up to '16' only). Norlington School would be most grateful for your gift. Also fiction/non-fiction books for boys 11-16 years would be much appreciated. Please ☎ Hilda: 530 3376 to arrange pick-up. Many thanks!

BARA has three *Talking Tesco Christmas 98* audio-tapes to give away - first come, first served! The tapes are issued free, four times a year. This latest tape contains "Inspirational ideas for a very special Christmas". If you're interested in receiving future Tesco promotional audio-tapes, please ☎ 556 6623 and we'll order more next time.

Committee members wanted

THE committee is very hard-pressed. We urgently need more members, and would value your active participation.

More hands get more done. If there are no helpers then BARA will, regretfully, have to do less than at present.

◆Please ☎ Parvez: 532 9847 if you'd like to help.

JOHN DRINKWATER TOWER DIARY

THE housing scheme has been approved by the Council's Planning Implementation Committee, even though BARA and groups such as Forum 2000 were not happy with the lack of parking space and the absence of the promised impressive building to mark the "Gateway to Leytonstone".

DEMO One vacated the site in October and it will remain empty until *Circle 33* starts building work early next year. It seems that there is no on-site security guard, so BARA has asked the Council to keep an eye on it in case travellers and others decide to take up residence. If you see this happening, please contact your nearest committee member (list on page four).



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TREES FOR BUSHWOOD?

NO, it's not a case of "coals to Newcastle" – this is a London-wide project to improve areas by planting trees in the streets.

The organisers of the charity *Trees for London* aim to plant 20,000 trees in conjunction with local associations. BARA has been invited to join in and we need to formulate a planting plan.

We intend to ask the Council to contribute towards the cost of any replacement trees in our area, and we hope to be able to get our local schools involved. The charity wants local groups to take ownership of the new trees, in case of vandalism.

Some of our street trees have died and could be replaced if residents wish it. If you are interested in a replacement tree for your street, ☎ Parvez: 532 9847.

DO WE OWE YOU MONEY?

OWING to an oversight, a small number of September copies of *The Bush Telegraph* were distributed showing incorrect subscription rates. We have now refunded all the overpayments that we know about. However, if you usually subscribe as a *single person* and you think you have overpaid (by paying £2 - the household fee - instead of the correct fee of £1 for single people), please ☎ 530 3569 so that we can check our membership records.

Flowers and shrubs, fruit and veg ...

BARA's Plant & Garden Sale in the *Red Lion* pub's garden on 16 May was a resounding success, raising over £300 for BARA and other good causes.

We're now planning another garden sale for May 1999.

Interested? ☎ Jo: 530 3569 (ansaphone if no one available) – and get those seedlings going for the 1999 Plant & Garden Sale!

SPOTLIGHT ON BROWNING ROAD

AN INFORMATIVE and interesting pamphlet on Leytonstone's own "village", the Browning Road Conservation Area, is available free from the *First Stop Shop* at the Library. It traces the history and development of this delightful corner of our area, including the *North Star* pub. Well worth a read!

BUSHWOOD AREA CAR CARE

FED UP with layers of dead leaves on your car? Want a garage? Waltham Forest Council has several garages to let in Michael Road and Harvey Road.

Tenancy Services Officer John Bagnall says: "The Council intends to sell off some of its garages to private developers, but the garages in Michael and Harvey Roads are not included in these plans at present."

He adds: "These are prestige garages in safe areas, renting at about £10 each per week."

For details of how to get your car under cover, contact John Bagnall: ☎ 527 5544 ext 4003.



FORUM 2000 SNUBBED TWICE IN COUNCIL CONSULTATIONS

LEYTONSTONE Forum 2000 was set up in October 1997 and its members are representatives of our local businesses and community groups. BARA's representative is committee member Robert Gay.

The Forum's major function has been to act as the Council's "sounding-board" in planning the development of Leytonstone town centre. However, twice recently the Council has appeared to be ignoring the Forum's existence.

◆The Forum was not consulted about a proposal to install commemorative murals in the tube subway.

◆The Forum was not even told of a proposal, which has since been adopted by the Council, to turn part of the land earmarked for the new Church Lane public car park into a children's playground.

The Forum may or may not have agreed with these proposals. But – as it represents so many *local* residents – it would have been nice at least to have been asked!

HIGH ROAD ONE-WAY SYSTEM GETS GREEN LIGHT

Only northbound drivers to stay on the straight and narrow

THE long-awaited decision on traffic-flow in Leytonstone town centre took another step nearer fruition last month. The Council's Environment Committee has confirmed that, subject to consultation, traffic will follow the route now used by the 257 buses.

Preliminary approval has been given to the proposal that the High Road would become one-way northbound between Church Lane and Gainsborough Road. Final approval will be sought in March 1999.

Under this plan, southbound traffic from the Green Man would turn *right* at McDonald's into Gainsborough Road, *left* into Lemna Road to Kirkdale Road, then *left* again into Church Lane. The Lemna-Kirkdale-Church Lane route would be one-way only.

However, drivers would still be able to turn either left or right on coming out of Church Lane into the High Road.

BARA was in favour of this traffic-flow system as the

best of three options proposed – although we did lodge an objection to it on grounds of timing (see inset box).

Some councillors questioned whether the traffic-flow was the "wrong way round". However, the High Road's police and fire-brigade may prefer this direction. When travelling towards the Green Man on call-outs, they must be able to take the most direct route.

The decision to make Kirkdale Road/Church Lane one-way has now received final approval. Lay-bys will be provided in Kirkdale Road and Church Lane, and work on the new Church Lane car-park will start soon. However, traffic-calming work cannot begin in the High Road until the Link Road opens – due in late 1999.

Murals to mark centenary

At the same meeting of the Environment Committee a proposal was made for murals in the tube subway, to commemorate one

of Leytonstone's most famous sons, Sir Alfred Hitchcock. His centenary falls in August 1999. BARA questioned this proposal on the grounds that the murals might not be in keeping with the rest of the refurbishments planned for the subway.

On the social side

YOUR committee wants to organise some social events for spring and summer – ideas proposed include a quiz, a bring-and-buy and a boot sale. If you'd like to suggest a leisure activity, please ☎ Jo on 530 3569.

System is fine but timing is off

BARA lodged an objection to the one-way proposal – not to the system itself, but to its timing. We wanted the work to start *after* the Link Road had been opened.

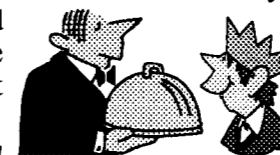
The reason was that shoppers from south Leytonstone will be confronted with the congestion caused by tailbacks from the Green Man roadworks. Faced with a slow, frustrating crawl up to Gainsborough Road to get to the car parks at Pioneer and Church Lane, many people could decide that Stratford Centre may be further away but it's a lot easier to reach! Result? More shops closing in the High Road through lack of customers. However, the Council preferred to forge ahead – they say that the Capital Challenge programme's funding for the road alterations depends on work starting before April 1999.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE LONELY!

HOME alone at Christmas? The volunteers of *CARE Leyton* invite you to join other merrymakers at their free lunch at the 'Leyton Christmas Inn' on Christmas Day.

The venue is the United Reformed Church hall in Grange Park Road, Leyton, and transport can be provided if necessary.

CARE Leyton told *Bush Telegraph*: "This is the fourth year we've organised a Christmas Dinner, and everyone is most welcome. A small donation would be gratefully accepted, but this is entirely optional." If you would like to join in the fun, contact *CARE Leyton* as soon as possible and by 17 December at the latest. ☎ 558 7553 for further details.

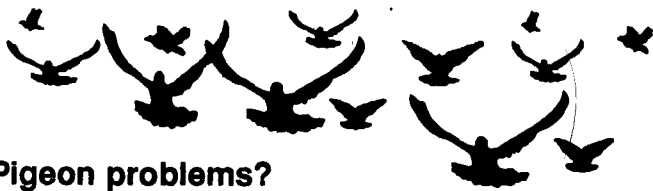


Hair by Teresa

Teresa (formerly of Church Lane) welcomes all old and new customers to her small friendly salon at

26a Browning Road, Leytonstone E11 3AR
– next door to North Star pub – Tel: 530 2188





Pigeon problems?

BARA has been pressing the Council over the last four years to address the problem of pigeons in Barclay Road and elsewhere. The Council has now decided against placing signs in Barclay Road asking people to stop feeding them. To complain about pigeon trouble ☉ CLARENCE, the Council's Highways hotline: 0800 23 23 23 (freephone) or 527 4040, 8am to 6pm weekdays.

Proposed Granleigh Road Clinic closure

UNTIL the location of the Healthworks Project is decided – it is at present based at Granleigh Road – this clinic will remain open. A Redbridge & Waltham Forest Health Authority spokesperson told *Bush Telegraph*: "If the Healthworks Project leaves and the clinic closes, we and the Forest Healthcare Trust will be looking into proposals to move the clinic to a closer locality than Langthorne Hospital. Our priority is to balance the Trust's need to save money with the concerns of local residents."

Pavement cyclists beware!

IF you ride your bike on the pavement, watch out. We hear that the police are thinking of starting a system of on-the-spot fines when they catch you at it!

FAREWELL AND MANY THANKS ...

THE BARA committee said a grateful goodbye to Ada Buckhurst, Merle Lewis and Catherine Brett in September.

Ada, who joined the committee 14 years ago, has been a regular contributor to *The Bush Telegraph*. She has undertaken many projects for BARA, her last one being the proposed Granleigh Road Clinic closure (see update, this page).

Merle has always been a loyal and helpful supporter of BARA's work. She joined the committee at the same time as Ada and in all that time she has seldom missed a committee meeting.

Catherine had the arduous task of Treasurer to BARA and has made an excellent job of revitalising the role for the last 12 months. Unfortunately, pressure of work has now forced her to leave the committee.

We're happy to say that all three are continuing as BARA members.

... and WELCOME BACK ABOARD!

Alf Addison "was volunteered" (his own words!) at the Annual General Meeting in September to serve as BARA's Treasurer. Everyone is delighted that he accepted the post. Many longer-term residents will know that Alf's appointment marks his second appearance on the committee. He and his wife Nora were both active and hard-working committee members until a few years ago.

News around Bushwood

Browning Road: The police arranged to inspect the site following allegations of traffic going the wrong way along the one-way street. They asked for the broken "No Entry" sign to be replaced as a matter of urgency.

3 Bushwood: Application for care home has been refused.

11 Bushwood: Application for conservatory to complement existing care home facility has been approved.

13 Bushwood: Application for extension to the care home has been approved.

14 Bushwood: The number of residents in care has been increased from 16 to 18.

Grove Road: Litter bins have been restored to the paved area following complaints about the standard of cleansing.

Henry Reynolds Gardens: There have been complaints about litter. It is possible that the number of litter bins may be increased and the maintenance schedule reviewed.

1 Lemna Road – Robart House: Application to convert DSS offices into 24 self-contained flats.

Leytonstone tube subway: There have been complaints of people skateboarding and cycling along the subway. One of our councillors has asked the Council to take steps to combat this dangerous practice, such as installing slightly raised flooring when subway refurbishment begins in the near future.

Mornington Road: The Council has erected "NO BALL GAMES" signs at St John's, St Mary's and St Augustine's Courts, following complaints from residents.

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The BARA Committee 1998/99

Alf Addison <i>Treasurer</i>	179 Mornington Road
David Dowsett	74 Mornington Road
Robert Gay	137 Mornington Road
Ruth Greene	30 St. Augustine's Court
Parvez Hussain <i>Chairman</i>	4A Bushwood
Jo Pilc <i>Membership Secretary</i>	57 Leybourne Road
Marion Roper <i>Bush Telegraph Production</i>	35 Michael Road
Dwight Wood <i>Social Secretary</i>	Carlton House, Aylmer Road
<i>Vice-chair</i>	Vacant
	Vacant

If you would like to join BARA then contact your nearest committee member. See front page for subscription rates.