



Little Ealing News

Spring 2012

*The Newsletter of
Ealing Fields Residents' Association*

Contacting EFRA

Your Street Rep: _____

Email: contact@efra.org.uk Website: www.efra.org.uk/contact Phone: Roger Jarman (Vice-chair) 020 8567 9874

Changing Times

Reductions in Council and Government expenditure mean that it is more important than ever for local residents to have a voice to represent their interests and concerns.

Changes to the planning system could make it easier for developers to obtain approval for unwelcome developments.

It is vital for residents to identify how we want our area to change for the better and how local accountability can be strengthened.

As your residents' association we need to ensure that we are representing your views.

So please contact us using the above contact details if you have any concerns or suggestions.

We would also be grateful for your feedback on the articles in this newsletter - which summarise some of EFRA's recent initiatives.

The New Log Cabin Children's Centre

The new Children's Centre, situated immediately to the south of Northfields Underground Station is now open.

The building provides premises for Northfields Library, the scouts, the World of Children Nursery, the Log Cabin charity for children and young people with additional needs, Tippitoees and a growing list of Children's Centre activities such as free stay-and-play sessions and baby clinics.

It is already being well used by local families with young children and the Log Cabin is running its regular after-school and Saturday clubs and holiday play schemes. It is also planned soon to re-start lettings for children's parties.

At the back of the building an exciting new playground is being constructed for the Log Cabin, and in front of it the old Bramley Road Open Space is being redesigned to provide an attractive and inviting outdoor area for Centre users and local residents to enjoy.

EFRA responded to the consultation about the plans for this area and, along with the Log Cabin, fought to retain the railings along the Northfield Avenue side. We are pleased to report that the Council agreed to this change of plan and attractive matching railings have also now been installed along the Bramley Road side, together with a side entrance with steps.

We are hoping that the Council will agree to rename the area as Bramley Gardens to reflect its new look.

DON'T MISS THE EFRA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Thursday 31st May at 7.30pm at the NEW LOG CABIN
(behind Northfields Library)**

Find out what's happening about the local issues that affect you. Air your views and concerns.

PLANNING MATTERS

Planning Policies

We are in the midst of major changes to the national and local planning policies which will be used to “judge” planning applications.

The national policies have been replaced by a summary document. This means that even greater reliance will be placed on Ealing’s local planning policies.

EFRA participated in last winter’s public examination of Ealing’s local planning strategy, where we were successful in obtaining the addition of a policy to protect the residential nature of the neighbourhoods to the south of the Uxbridge Road.

The next stage will be the consultation on Ealing’s detailed planning policies which will be used to decide planning applications for the next fifteen years.

Key Applications

EFRA comments on the larger local planning applications where these could adversely affect surrounding residents.

These include the following applications.

Cranmer Avenue Snooker Hall

A fresh application was submitted to redevelop the site.

This time the proposal was to combine two storeys of residential accommodation above an unspecified ground floor commercial use.

We objected to the overbearing nature of the three floor development along the pavement edge, especially as all the other buildings in the road are set back behind front gardens or off-street parking.

We also objected to the proposal to introduce a commercial use on the ground floor with its resulting vehicle movements and pressures on parking.

Sainsbury’s Flats

We were concerned about the overlooking that could have resulted from the side windows of the proposed development and pressed the Council to implement the privacy provisions in its planning policies.

We also raised concerns over the developer’s decision not to provide any parking spaces for these new residents.

Julien Road

We are pleased that the owners of the small industrial site have chosen to construct three pairs of semi-detached houses, which will be in keeping with the housing in this residential road.

We do have some concerns at the loss of some on-street parking spaces and the additional parking pressures which could be generated by the residents of the new houses.

Reynard Mills

For the second time we have been successful in opposing the massive tower blocks and over-development of the former BBC archive site off Windmill Road.

The proposal was for 275 homes with 975 residents.

The number of on-site parking spaces was inadequate, which would have meant that many of the new residents and all their visitors would have parked in the surrounding streets.

There would also have been a massive increase in peak hour rat-running due to the congestion in Windmill Road.

EMERGENCY ACCESS

Following a **five year campaign** by EFRA we are pleased to announce that emergency vehicles can now access Blondin and Niagara Avenues.

These cul-de-sac roads were built with narrow carriageways,

which meant that Fire Engines and Ambulances couldn’t get past the parked cars and the stop and shop bays.

The worst incident was when a house was badly damaged by fire because the fire engines couldn’t get down the road

and had to wait for extra hoses.

After lengthy discussions with the Council, and a grant from Ward Forum funds, cars are now allowed to park with two wheels overlapping the wide pavements.

TRANSPORT ISSUES

Street Safety

EFRA has continued to press for safety improvements at key road crossings and junctions.

We are particularly concerned for the safety of children and less agile adults, and have focused our efforts on the following schemes.

Northfields Tube Station Crossing

We have asked the Council to rethink their proposals so that:

- The width of the crossing is widened, so that more pedestrians can cross the road during peak periods,
- The width of the road surface at the crossing is narrowed, so that less agile pedestrians are able to complete their crossing in the time available.

While welcoming more cycle racks at the station, we are opposed to them blocking the footpath across the front of the station and inconveniencing library users and families on their way to and from the primary schools in Little Ealing Lane.

We have concerns about the proposal to remove the

kerbside railings which discourage pedestrians from crossing the road diagonally to the north bound bus stop when they leave the station. Similar railings were reinstalled after the recent pavement improvements outside South Ealing Station.

We suggest that pavement edge cycle racks are unlikely to provide an effective de facto safety barrier and will probably result in the parked cycles becoming dislodged when pedestrians attempt to squeeze past them.

Weymouth Avenue Junctions

The recent expansions of Little Ealing and Mount Carmel primary schools mean that an increasing number of young children are walking along Weymouth Avenue on their way to and from school.

A number of commuter rat-runs cut across Weymouth Avenue.

We had pressed the Council to install a speed table at the Weymouth Avenue junction with Bramley and Airedale Roads, by St David's Surgery. Similar safety measures have been installed near Fielding Primary School.

Unfortunately the Council's view is that it will be too expensive to install a speed table at this junction, because of the height of the road surface.

While this is unfortunate, we are pleased to learn that the Council will be making some safety improvements including building out the kerbs at the corners and installing bollards to protect children standing at the pavement edge.

Lammas Park Crossing

We are pleased that the EFRA representations back in January 2010 to improve the Lammas Park zebra crossing have been implemented.

At the time we suggested that this key crossing for park users, both young and old, should be made as safe as possible.

We are also pleased that our request to retain safety railings outside the park entrance has been implemented. We were concerned that preoccupied children could have run out into the road in pursuit of a ball.

Heathrow – Night Flights

EFRA is opposed to night flights and also to the excessive noise which can occur when planes are taking off in still air towards the east.

We welcome the break-through ban on night flights at

Frankfurt Airport. A similar ban at Heathrow would ensure local residents stand the chance of a good night's rest.

We are worried by the attempts by some airlines to obtain an increase in night flights at Heathrow

The Government will be consulting in the summer on changes to the night flight arrangements at Heathrow.

We will alert you to the consultation details as soon as we know more.

New Mains Electricity Cable

From talking to surveyors in the road, we understand that an electricity company is surveying possible routes for a replacement east-west mains supply cable.

Apparently TfL won't allow them to disrupt the A4 and possible alternative routes are along Bramley and Airedale Roads and/or Little Ealing Lane.

The cable would then continue into Blondin Park, where some sub-soil samples have been taken.

We are trying to find out more and will pass on what we discover.

Pavements & Drains

A number of members have raised concerns over flooded pavements and road gutters following the recent heavy rain.

We are preparing a master list of these problems so that we can raise them with the Council.

We would be grateful if you could email details of any problems you've spotted to:

contact@efra.org.uk

Northfields Library

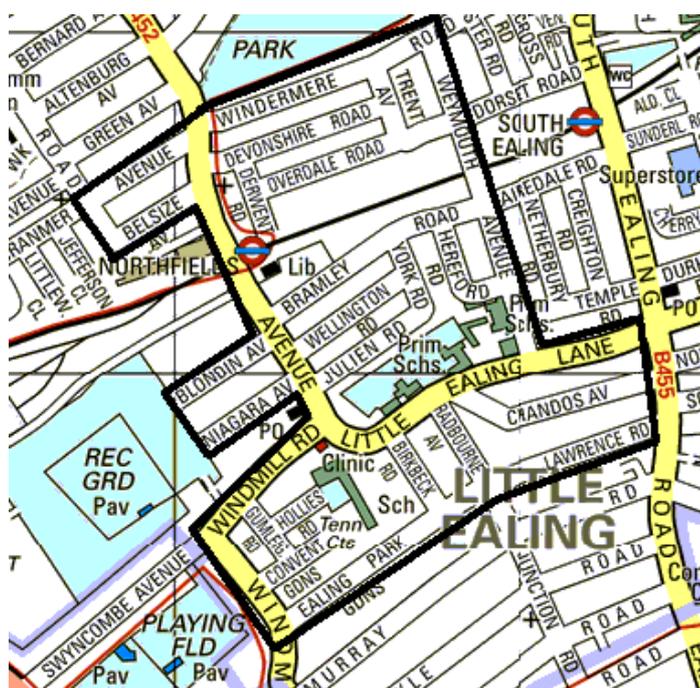
Following the successful campaign to save Northfields Library we are maintaining a close watch for future developments.

As other councils continue to close their branch libraries, there is the real risk that Ealing Council may have another go.

We hope that the promised "User Group" will be set up for our Library.

We'd also encourage everyone to make the maximum use of the Library, as that's the best way to guarantee its future.

EFRA Membership Area



Membership Matters

As this newsletter is being delivered to the 2,000 residences in the EFRA area, we'd like to explain to new residents something about EFRA and why you may want to join.

Why do members matter?

At an individual level you can alert us to concerns you have in your neighbourhood and help us with campaigns. The more members we have the greater the weight we have in our dealings with other bodies (Council, local businesses, etc.).

What are Street Reps?

Street representatives act as a channel between the committee and members in their street: they deliver the printed newsletters and collect subscriptions. They are copied in on committee correspondence and are most welcome at committee meetings. The role is not onerous and provides an interesting insight into what is going on the area.

Ealing Fields Residents' Association – Membership Application/Renewal

Many thanks to all those who have joined EFRA or renewed their membership in 2011/12. Your support ensures that EFRA represents the views of the local community. The more members we have the stronger our voice in campaigning to keep Little Ealing a safe and pleasant place to live.

To join EFRA or renew your membership please complete and return this form to Carla Andrewes, 24 Blondin Avenue or to your Street Rep. The membership fee is £2.00 for the first member at each address and £1.00 for each further member.

Name

Address

Telephone Email

If paying by cheque please make it out to 'Ealing Fields Residents Association'