

ELLENBROOK UPDATE

The Newsletter of the Ellenbrook Area Residents Association

August 2016

AGM The EARA AGM was held on 26 May at the Comet Hotel and the agenda included reports from the Chair and the Treasurer, agreement of a new constitution and election of the committee. The committee members will serve for two years and be responsible for driving EARA forward, working on membership, keeping members informed, preparing newsletters and submissions, organising campaigns and events etc.

The committee members are Cathie Edwards; Ian Ellis-Hall; Mike Hartung; Karen Hollands; John Jackson; Sarah Lodge; Sue Meehan; Sally Nissen, Jan Oldam and Narendra Patel.

Sally is now Chair and Cathie is Vice-Chair. We'll tell you more about them all in the next letter.

Changed Constituency As you probably know, the Local Government Boundary Commission recommendations were implemented in May so the Ellenbrook area is now part of the Hatfield Villages ward. Following the local council elections our representatives are:

- Councillor Duncan Bell – Conservative
- Councillor Howard Morgan – Conservative
- Councillor Lynne Sparks – Conservative

If you wish to raise or discuss an issue with them, you can do so at the monthly surgery.

Next surgeries are on 13th August and 10th September 10:00am – 10:45am at Howe Dell Community Hall, The Runway, Hatfield

Full contact details can be found on the council website:

<http://www.welhat.gov.uk/councillorsdetails>

✉ Do we have your email address?

We will continue to send out email updates, particularly when the new Local Plan consultation opens. If you haven't received this newsletter by email but would like future email updates, please send your details and email address to

membership@ellenbrookresidents.co.uk

We'll add you to the mailing list - don't worry we don't share your details with anyone else.

About Us We are a group of local residents who aim to keep residents in our area informed of developments and help to make our area's voice heard. We have no political affiliation.

Message from Doug Tibbles - outgoing EARA Chair:

It has been my pleasure to be the EARA Chair since 1999. However, things move on and one's life changes which is why I did not stand for re-election to the new committee at the AGM. However, I will still be around to help and advise for the foreseeable future.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all committee members and street representatives both old and new for their help in running EARA up to now as in my view it has always been a team effort.

I would also like to thank you, the residents, for your continuing support over the years.

Many thanks

Doug

Social media The EARA website has now been launched and is well worth a look as a source of information about news, events and the history of the Ellenbrook area.

<http://www.ellenbrookresidents.co.uk/>

If anyone wants to contribute to the website, particularly if you have old photographs we can use or stories we can tell please contact us at

info@ellenbrookresidents.co.uk

We also now have a **facebook page** where you can keep up to date between newsletters and comment on issues and events as they happen. Like our page to get the latest news feeds:

<https://www.facebook.com/EllenbrookResidents-1291396090889720/>

And don't forget the local **Streetlife** sites for Ellenbrook and Smallford which are a source of local information and contacts on the internet:

<https://www.streetlife.com/>

Contact us on info@ellenbrookresidents.co.uk

Welwyn Hatfield Local Plan The revised Local Plan has now been approved for final consultation and sets out the framework for new housing and employment sites in the borough. The good news for the Ellenbrook area is that the sites we have fought against for the last five years (known as Hat 3, 4 and 5) do not feature as recommended sites, and Hat 2 (Ellenbrook Fields) is also excluded. Some campaigners against the proposed Symondshyde Village are trying to put forward Ellenbrook Fields as an alternative, so we still need to watch that one. We will let you know when the Plan is published later this month.

This last round of consultations will run from 30 August to 24 October 2016, and the Plan should then go in Spring/Summer 2017 for "Public Examination". An independent planning inspector will decide whether the Plan meets relevant legislation and whether it is 'sound'.

Gravel extraction We are in regular contact with the various Councils, politicians (including Grant Shapps) and Smallford Residents Association regarding this application. The latest news is that the application will not be considered until September at the earliest. We have been assured we will be kept fully informed of changes to the application and will update you when there is any more news.

Nast Hyde Halt Many of you will know about local man Mike Izzard's tireless efforts over the past 18 months to renovate the Nast Hyde Halt platform on the Alban Way. This was the site of the former St Albans Branch Line railway which ran the six-and-a-half miles between St Albans Abbey and Hatfield stations.

In October 2015 a good crowd attended the Nast Hyde Halt Fun Day to commemorate 150 years since the railway first opened.

In May this year Mike's hard work was officially recognised when he was awarded one of four Civic Awards. The Environmental Award was won by Mike for his efforts to transform part of the Alban Way and the former Nast Hyde Halt station. Mike received an engraved crystal trophy, a certificate and a cheque for £250. The award winners' names and achievements have been entered into the Civic Awards roll of honour book.



Hatfield 2030 Between autumn 2015 and spring 2016 the Hatfield 2030+ team consulted local residents and stakeholders to determine the community's aspirations for Hatfield.

The findings have been used to shape a community vision of Hatfield as **"a well-connected, distinctive and multi centred town with a renewed 'New Town' pioneering and entrepreneurial spirit. A town that re-balances economic growth and world class education assets with new and rejuvenated housing, excellent community, culture, retail and leisure facilities and a series of connected urban centres"**.

Quite a vision! The team have set out objectives and project ideas to help unlock the potential of the town and achieve the vision. You can read the details on the Hatfield 2030 website <http://hatfield2030.co.uk/>

Neighbourhood Watch

www.owl.co.uk John Jackson is Area Coordinator for the Hertfordshire Police's St Albans Road West Neighbourhood Watch (NHW) Scheme. This covers the whole Ellenbrook Area. It would be great if we could increase membership of this scheme: if you would like to join, please go to www.owl.co.uk and simply follow the signing up instructions. The site includes links to report non-crime matters such as street lights not working, potholes, fly tipping etc. via a link "fix my street". It also provides a link to send messages to our elected representatives such as councillors and MP, links to local planning applications and trading standards approved local contractors.

Hatfield Town Centre

The regeneration continues, although not on the scale we had hoped for. You will probably have seen the new retail units including Peacocks, Savers and Poundland – there is also an application with the Council suggesting the units next to Peacocks may become a “Poundworld”. The Arcade has a new canopy and the flats above the shops in White Lion Square have undergone a facelift. The Council Housing Office has temporarily relocated to 1A Town Centre before a permanent move to White Lion House later this year.

The market has relocated to High Street.

Hatfield Town Centre has two markets; the General Market and a Farmers' and Craft Market.

- **The General Market** is held on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8am-4pm.
- **The Hatfield Farmers' and Craft Market** is held on the first Saturday of every month (except January) and is open from 8:30am-1pm.

Comet Hotel Redevelopment

Earlier this year, the planning application to remodel the Comet hotel by removing the 1970's extension and adding 370 student rooms in 4 blocks surrounding the hotel was recommended for approval but later turned down by the Planning Management Committee, after consideration by councillors.

As expected Fusion Students who have owned the hotel for nearly three years, have appealed against the Council's refusal of the application. In addition to the appeal, they are preparing revised plans with a reduced number of rooms, amended parking and landscaping, reduction in the height and density of buildings, and an increase in distance from Ashbury Close properties.

They are running an exhibition showing the new proposals at the Comet on Wednesday 17 August from 2pm to 7pm.

🌸 🌸 🌸 Photo Competition 🌸 🌸 🌸

Do you have an eye for a good photograph? Here is a chance to unleash your creativity by sending us your Ellenbrook Area photographs, the best of which will be featured on our website, and one adult and one child entrant will each win a £10 Amazon voucher.

Send your picture, which must be under 10Mb and in .jpg format, to pictures@ellenbrookresidents.co.uk along with a brief description, your name, address, telephone number, the date and location of the photo. Under 14s should also include their age. The rules can be found on the back of the newsletter.

🌸 🌸 🌸 Ellenbrook Fields walks 🌸 🌸 🌸

We would like to thank local resident Tony Bristow who led a nature walk through Ellenbrook Fields on 18 June. We had a good turn out and it was a lovely opportunity to get to know more of our neighbours and to see some of the wildlife in the Park. We saw many birds including Little Grebe, Grey Heron, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Mute Swan, Sparrowhawk, Pheasant, Moorhen, Coot, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Black-headed – in fact, just too many to mention them all! Tony has kindly offered to lead another walk on Saturday 17 September, again leaving at 9.30am from just through the bus gate opposite the end of Ellenbrook Lane. No need to book, just turn up!



🌀 🌀 🌀 *Ellenbrook dates for your diary* 🌀 🌀 🌀

- Exhibition of **Comet Hotel** extension proposals, 2pm to 7pm Wednesday 17 August
- **Local Plan**
 - final consultation period 30 August to 24 October
 - consultation event at Green Lanes School 31 August, 3.30pm to 7.30pm (additional event to confirm)
- **Ellenbrook Fields** Walk, 9.30am, Saturday 17 September
- Closing date for **photograph competition** Monday 19 September

🌀 🌀 🌀 *Let us know* 🌀 🌀 🌀

Do you have news or events for our next newsletter? Please send to news@ellenbrookresidents.co.uk
Sorry we do not accept listings for commercial events at present.

Photo Competition Rules

Photographs must be

- taken in the Ellenbrook Area, to include Nast Hyde and Ellenbrook Country Park, during the year to 19 September 2016
- submitted by 19 September 2016 at 23:59 GMT to pictures@ellenbrookresidents.co.uk
- under 10Mb and in .jpg format
- accompanied by an email setting out
 - a brief description of the photograph
 - the date and location of the photograph
 - your name, address, telephone number
 - if in the under 14 category, your date of birth.

Rules

1. Closing date is 19 September 2016 at 23:59 GMT.
2. The competition is open to residents of the Ellenbrook area only.
3. The Competition has two categories
 - Children under 14 on 19 September 2016
 - Adults aged 14 and over on 19 September 2016
4. Entrants are invited to submit up to three photographs in total
5. Entrants are responsible for ensuring that any entries do not infringe the rights of third parties and for ensuring that, if there are recognisable individuals in the photographs, they have the permission (or the permission of their parents/guardians if children under 16 are featured) for the contribution to be used for the competition and to be used by EARA as set out below.
6. EARA do not accept responsibility for any entries which are lost or corrupted.
7. Entrants will retain copyright in any photographs that they submit to the competition, but grant EARA the right to use all entries in any material (print or electronic) without payment.
8. Winners will be notified by email, the judges' decision is final, and no correspondence will be entered into.
9. EARA reserve the right to cancel this competition or alter any of the rules at any stage, if deemed necessary in their opinion, and if circumstances arise outside of their control.