



JUNE 2012 EDITION

Hyde Park Estate Association newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

Phone box campaign latest

Nick Johnson has been working with Jack Gordon - our Committee Member and Chairman of the Safer Neighbourhood Ward Panel - Stephen Mason, Vicar of St John's, and our Ward Councillors, Heather Acton and Antonia Cox - to tackle the horrible problem of prostitute cards in the payphone boxes - in Sussex Gardens, Praed Street and Edgware Road.

Good progress on vice cards

This week the national manager for BT, Mark Johnson, met with us to offer help, and has agreed to look at removing some of the worst offending boxes (they are used less and less now that everyone has a mobile), and will be undertaking more regular and frequent cleaning. But this will not be enough.

More action needed

Nick will be meeting with Stephen Greenhalgh - Boris's new Deputy Mayor for Policing - to get his help in putting pressure on OfCom to block mobile telephone numbers used by prostitutes on the phone box cards, and will also be meeting Cllr Ed Argar - the Council's Deputy Leader - to see what else the Council can do under its

planning powers. This is a big campaign for the HPEA.

Chairman working with police to tackle street vice

Nick was able to join the Safer Neighbourhood's Team - PC Sam Hasan - to observe a two night time exercises to catch 'kerb crawlers' and arrest and caution prostitutes soliciting on street corner on the Estate. Sadly the problem of active street vice is coming back to our neighbourhood, and causing a great deal of unpleasant crime in the area. The Safer Neighbourhood Team under the leadership of Sgt Ken Taylor has responded fully and immediately and has organised special patrols to continue this good work.

This is a difficult and complicated task, and takes the Police team many extra hours to do the job we need. Our Police Team has now agreed to work with us to do these patrols at least twice a month. It will help to reduce the problems, but active reporting by Members is needed to make sure that the best information is available to Ken and his colleagues. **Ring 101 and report any incidents you see.**



Hyde Park: concerts and events

Councillor Antonia Cox reports on a recent meeting with the Royal Parks, in which they explained their future plans. Given all the events in the Park now and over the coming weeks, this will be of interest!

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Travel during the Olympics

The Games are nearly upon us! We have prepared a short list of pointers regarding road closures and changes locally. Please consult TfL for definitive information

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Travel during the Olympics

Here are a few local pointers for our area. For more detail, please consult the usual TfL and Getaheadofthegames websites. The ORN is the Olympic Road network – see below for more information.

- 20-24 July, on the ORN, junctions will be simplified, some turns banned, and pedestrian crossings removed
- 25 July – the full ORN, including Games Lanes, comes into place from 6am to midnight
- 21-27 July – rolling road closures while the torch is being carried through London
- 26 July – this will be a big day locally, when the torch relay comes to Hyde Park, and there is a big concert
- 27 July – Opening Ceremony day – there is a big Hyde Park event; expect it to be very busy in the evening as crowds disperse from the Park as the Games Family return to Park Lane after the Opening Ceremony
- 28 and 29 July – cycle road races – roads will be closed from 3-4am until early

afternoon

The ORN includes Marble Arch road junction, Park Lane, the south end of Great Cumberland Place and part of Seymour Street, as well as Baker Street and Gloucester Place.

In general, Bayswater Road and Edgware Road are not in the ORN, apart from on road events days, or if the ORN can't be used ("AORN", Alternative ORN). Bayswater Road is affected on 28-29 July and 4 and 7 August; Edgware Road on 28-29 July, 4,5 and 7 August, and 11-12 August.



Don't forget that North Carriage Drive and West Carriage Drive will be completely closed.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Detailed information is available at <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/> and <http://www.getaheadofthegames.com/>

PLEASE CHECK YOUR JOURNEY IN ADVANCE

Pub evening: communications

by Sarah Clifford



The Victoria Pub in Strathearn Place

Our pub evening on June 13 focused on the HPEA's communications with members, how we can improve it, and how we can encourage 2-way communication with feedback from members.

As expected, we had a lively discussion! I kept a note of all the points raised, and we'll be updating you over the coming months with progress on these issues. Here is a summary:

- Copies of the newsletter, as well as information on membership, to go up on the noticeboard on Connaught Street.
- HPEA to explore the possibility of copies of the newsletter being printed for distribution in the blocks, as well as

posted up in libraries, local businesses and so on.

- Publicise the coffee mornings more generally, via the website and general mailing list
- Continue to explore the possibility of alternative accessible venues
- Encourage new members to join by (for example) asking local estate agents to distribute information, each member recruiting one additional member
- Offer some discounts to members from local businesses
- Enable members to recommend local businesses or congratulate them on a job well done.

Thanks to all for attending and contributing.

LOCAL IMPROVEMENTS



Re-paving Connaught Street/Porchester Place

Update from Councillor Antonia Cox:

I have put in an application for repaving of the area round the recently planted tree at the north eastern corner of the junction of Porchester Place and Connaught Street to be considered as part of the council's 2013-14 highways and lighting plans. There's no guarantee of success, but the Cabinet member with responsibility in this area has been supportive.

The pavement at this corner is heavily stained following continued dumping of commercial waste, even though it was deep cleansed-three times last summer. Previously there was a Big Black Bin at the corner so the habit of dumping has persisted. Our street warden has warned local businesses not to use the corner and served a Waste Transfer Notice on one of them, but something more is needed. He has also been checking up on the regularity of evening business waste collections in Connaught Street, using the vehicles' GPS records(!).

The staining is clearly visible to those enjoying a coffee outside Marcus and Cocomaya, and to those using the Barclays Cycle hire stand opposite. We have received several letters of complaint from residents and businesses. As long as local businesses behave responsibly, and don't start the problem all over again, I think repaving of this small area would be well worthwhile.

OLYMPIC FAST FACTS

Over 50% of the UK's road-lining resource will be working in London the weekend of 21-22 July

Friday 3 August is expected to be the busiest day for transport during the Olympics, with 600,000 spectators attending events from 8:30am to midnight

Breaching Games Lanes restrictions could result in a £130 fine

For these and other fascinating facts, check out this link:

<http://www.tfl.gov.uk/assets/downloads/2012-games-hotspots.pdf>



Sergeant Ken Taylor of the Hyde Park Ward Safer Neighbourhoods Team

Police and crime update

by Sgt Ken Taylor, Safer Neighbourhoods Team Sergeant

Our ward had four burglaries this month. Whilst this figure is low compared to other areas please remain vigilant. Squatters did access one property on the ward this month but have since moved on. Please check the Met Police website for up to date crime prevention advice.

Beware of fraudsters

Fraud offences are a regular feature of the crime statistics in our ward and this month is no exception. One scam that has been increasing is e-mail from a friend that informs you that they have been a victim of crime, have no money and need help. When you respond by e-mail a further message is sent with details of how to send cash. Please treat any such e-mails with caution.

Local crime news

Following the arrest of four suspects, the instances of bogus Police officers in plain clothes targeting tourists have stopped. There are indications that more than one group is involved so please be vigilant.

On the 5th July at the time of the Jubilee fly past, a cash in transit delivery was attacked outside Tesco on Edgware Road. Two suspects made off with the cash box. The flying squad are investigating.

On the vice issue, six men were arrested for kerb crawling last week following an operation. Three girls arrested and twelve cautioned for street prostitution on other days this month.

Beggars in our area

Enforcement activity is on going with the persistent beggars with two concentrated

days of action this month and more dates planned.

Editorial note: members are reminded please, do NOT give ANY money to beggars.

With the holy month of Ramadan starting in July we are planning for 'EID el FITR' in August. Policing will be similar to the past two years to ensure a happy and crime free event for all.

Technology you can use

If you have a smart phone there is a useful new app called 'FACEWATCH'. There are over 100 images of people we would like to speak to concerning incidents in our area. You can get it free at your app store. There is also a short overview of this initiative on this link:

<http://facewatch.co.uk/cms/>

General information

Our ward priorities remain as **theft, begging and Vice issues**.

We have a surgery every Wednesday between 11am and 11:45am at Waitrose, 168 Edgware Road.

Both Paddington Green and Marylebone police stations have front counters that are open 24/7.

Hyde Park: concerts and events

by Councillor Antonia Cox

With Rev Stephen Mason and a number of other representatives of residents' associations around Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens, I went to the parks management's presentation on their plans for concerts in future.

They admitted that there is so much demand for events in Hyde Park that they could fill it up all year round if they chose. And they do have to raise £19m a year.

I said that most central London residents live in flats without gardens, and rely on the park for fresh air and relaxation. It's a park, not the O2 with grass. And this summer is going to see non-stop events because of the Olympic commitment to free concerts. That will only try residents' patience further.

That said, it is clear that the parks need money to cover basic maintenance. Austerity means their government grant has been cut. The trouble is, the park has actually made very little money from concerts: £1.4m a year, and it has stayed at that level for five years even though the concerts have been a huge success. They actually make more money from Winter Wonderland, which has been so successful it is now the biggest event of its kind in Europe (without inflicting noise on us!)

Fewer concerts in future

The parks' **proposal** is to host fewer concerts but take a bigger cut of the ticket, hospitality, sponsorship and other revenue. They are tendering now for a promoter to contract with them for 2013-17. In brief, they envisage two summer weekends of three concerts (Friday, Saturday and Sunday), probably on the last weekend of June and first weekend of July (to fit into the UK-wide summer live music schedule). Then there would be two Proms in the Park in September as usual, meaning a total of eight events compared to the nine of the usual licence (and the expanded number this summer). They would reserve the right to do a ninth but it would not be in this contract.

Reduced noise levels

They envisage 3 events of 65,000 people and three of 50,000. The decibel limit would be 65db, versus 75 db at present, measured at 1,000m north of the stage and 750 m to the

east. There would be various undertakings on cleansing.

This year's events

I hope to get further details on what are proposals, subject to commercial negotiation. It would be great to get reactions, especially from those who know about the technicalities of noise measurement. I am due to see the chief executive on July 3 and will learn more then. Clearly the success or failure of the noise and cleansing regime for the exceptionally heavy programme this summer will affect people's reactions, and there will be a licensing review. I think it's unrealistic to expect no concerts in future. By taking a cut of ticket sales, park management has an incentive to go for higher numbers and noise levels. However they say they want to protect the Hyde Park brand. I said objections from residents, if suitably publicised, would damage that.

Winter Wonderland

As for Winter Wonderland, they are planning a 5-10% increase in area to give more crowd space, and a later start to building (5 November vs 31 October), closing on 6th January 2013 as opposed to 3 Jan this year. I said lorries stayed on North Carriage Drive much longer than seemed necessary and the events head agreed to try to remove these as soon as their role in building is over. The chairman of the Friends of Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens pointed out that some drivers have slept in lorries, which is not allowed by parks regulations, and that closing North Carriage Drive causes Bayswater Road traffic jams.

If you have a complaint

Update: I have already raised the complaints about this weekend's concerts (6 and 7 July) with the chief executive of the council. He said that the level of complaints is already higher than it was by the end of last summer's concert season and that a meeting has been set within a week or so to address this with the Royal Parks.

The precise number of complaints is a very important indicator for the council so it is vital that people upset by noise contact the environmental department on **0207 641 2000**, during the concert or after. A Noise officer should call them back within 45

minutes. The concerts, unlike some parties and other noise problems, can't be closed down at once but the complaints are logged and used in monitoring whether the licence conditions have been breached.

You can also write to Noise Team 24 hour operations at Westminster City Hall PO Box 240 SW1E 6QP or email noisesteam2@westminster.gov.uk. People could also write to the stakeholder relations executive of the Royal Parks Marcus Coatsworth, asking him to pass on their concerns to the chief executive. MCoatsworth@royalparks.gsi.gov.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



HPEA Annual General Meeting

Date for the diary - We will be holding our AGM on **Tuesday 16 October**. Members will be receiving invitations nearer the date, but there are a couple of things to let you know in advance:

- We will be requesting RSVPs so that we can manage the catering
- We will also be asking for questions to be submitted in advance, so that we can manage the time available, and allow committee members to do any preparation needed



Open House weekend

Date for the diary – 22 and 23 September will be London's Open House weekend. For further information check

<http://www.londonopenhouse.org/>

For more information on the HPEA, see our website www.hpea.org.uk, or contact thehpea@yahoo.co.uk