

SUBURB NEWS



THE HAMPSTEAD GARDEN SUBURB RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSPAPER ■ AUTUMN 01/ISSUE 73

Residents Association Council fights giant lamp post threat

Suburb News, Summer issue, carried details of replacement street lighting gradually being put in throughout the Suburb. At that time it was hoped that Barnet could be persuaded to use only five and six metre lamp posts.

Following negotiations by the RA's Roads and Traffic Committee the Highways Department has agreed to 6m posts in most roads but is still insisting on eight metre (26 feet) lamp posts in some Suburb roads.

The Residents Association objects strongly to these and says they are out of scale and out of place in a conservation area. Barnet is insisting on a high level of lighting on Suburb roads they see as important through traffic routes!

Roads immediately affected are Addison Way, Willifield Way

and part of Hampstead Way. "However," said RA Chairman Richard Wakefield "we need to ensure that we are not faced with yet more battles over giant lamp posts as the rest of the Suburb is relit. This is why the RA Council at its meeting on October 2 approved a public meeting, should negotiations prove unsuccessful, so that residents can make their views known. We want to be sure that Barnet is left in no doubt that the Suburb does not want to be lit like an arterial road and have lamp posts towering over our houses."

Barnet says the alternative is to have more 6m posts but the Suburb would be expected to pay for these. The RA's argument is that if both the aesthetic standards expected in a conservation area and the high levels of light Barnet insist on are to be met then it is the duty of the Borough, not the residents, to meet the cost.

If the need arises the meeting will be at Fellowship House, in Willifield Way. It is hoped that Barnet Councillors will be present as will Mike Freestone, the Chief Highways Officer, who has agreed to attend a public meeting.

Watch out for letters and posters with the date and time of the meeting.

New lights progress through the Suburb

The previous issue of *Suburb News* informed residents of the replacement lighting being introduced throughout the Suburb.

The Residents Association has continued to take an active role in the discussions with Barnet Council. The RA, HGS Trust and English Heritage are particularly concerned that equal consideration should be given to both the effectiveness and the appearance of the proposed lighting columns. All three organisations assert that the height of columns should relate to adjacent buildings and are opposed to replacing the present five metre lighting columns with eight metre columns that will rise above the roofs of the smaller houses and cottages.

The RA are also anxious that a balance be maintained between the benefits of improved illumination and intrusive nature of over illuminating some roads.

There was some optimism that proposals for eight metre columns would be dropped in favour of schemes providing the same illumination by using an

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Cllr John Marshall supports the Family Holiday Association at the annual fete by letting Jessica Collins talk him into taking a lucky dip.

Questions for Trust at annual general meeting

Following, as it did, a fusillade of letters to the *Suburb News* and other local press from residents with complaints about how the Trust manages planning applications everyone was expecting a lively AGM of the New Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust on September 15.

The ordinary business of the meeting was efficiently dispatched by Chairman Steven Licht as he reported on the year and saying how pleased they had been to help with the Proms at St Jude's as they go from strength to strength and had sponsored the Archive Trust Handbook. In welcoming the joint RA/Trust working committee on the Suburb's centenary he warned "it will be here sooner than you think."

Steven Licht went on, "May I say how pleased and grateful we are for the close cooperation we receive from the RA. We share in many ways the same aspirations and I hope and believe we will

continue to work closely together." He congratulated Chris Kellerman on organising the charity walk on Henrietta Barnett Day from the Suburb to Toynbee Hall.

Residents welcome

As part of a user friendly initiative the Trust has installed a large sign on the Finchley Road office door saying 'We are open'

Review of planning procedures & communications

Before taking questions the Chairman gave a lengthy explanation of exactly how the Trust works. He started by saying "Last year there were 227 planning applications plus many 'in principal' enquiries which also need serious consideration. Together there were close to 300 ranging from new houses to garden sheds. I am sure you will readily understand that as a result of many of these applications there are likely to be disappointed residents. It is difficult not to upset either those applicants to whom

we refuse permission or their neighbours who feel they have been detrimentally affected by permissions we have granted. It may therefore come as a surprise to you that over the last three years the number of complaints of this nature can be counted on less than the fingers of one hand. We accept that one complaint is one too many and we must try even harder. I am therefore," he went on, "pleased to report that the Trust Council recently decided to conduct, with the help of the Residents Association, a full review of its planning procedures and communications."

Professor Eilon thanked the chairman and said he "was now better informed but not satisfied." He questioned the fact that the PPC which advises the Trust Council was largely composed of Trust Council members.

Lady Woodfield asked how Trust members would get news

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Could you be an award winner?

Entries are invited for the Residents Association's annual award to householders, their architects or designers, for works on Suburb buildings that, by their design, craftsmanship and use of materials, enhance the built environment.

The Alexander Stuart Grey Award, named after the distinguished Suburb architect, is given for small works of restoration such as replacing inappropriate windows, putting back fireplaces, gates, doors etc as well as for major works such as extensions, loft conversions and garden design.

Works must have been completed by December 31 2001. Judging will take place in the New Year and Awards will be presented at the RA AGM in March.

Please send plans, photographs if available, with your name and address to: The Alexander Stuart Grey Awards, HGSRA, Garden Suburb Gallery, 16 Arcade House, NW11 7TL.

Your opinions please

Residents are asked to help the RA by completing the survey form and telling us what you want the RA's Events Committee to do on page 3.

On page 7 you are asked to help with the Trust's Review of Procedures by sending your views to the chairman of the Trust or of the RA.



Peter and Jan White, take the air on the Terrace before lunch at the House of Lords for the North London Hospice. See p 4.

More fireworks please...



...you said, so once again the Residents Association is hoping you will join in the fun and help us celebrate New Year's Eve with more bangs and sparkling wine on December 31.

All residents are invited for a pre-fireworks reception in St Jude's

Church at 11.15pm, (our thanks to the Vicar and all at St Jude's) followed by a spectacular firework display on Central Square at midnight. All organised by the RA's Events Committee.

There will be a collection to defray the cost of the fireworks.

Home Sweet Home

We at Glentree, who live and work in the Suburb regard it as our home and we would like to believe that all our clients feel at home with our service.

Buying or selling a house needs very careful handling and over the past quarter of a century we have endeavoured to provide the kind of service which is professional, understanding and sensitive to the needs of our clients.

We are an unusual company in that although we are locally based, we procure purchasers from a worldwide international network which may enable us to achieve a fulsome price for you, which we hope fully justifies the value to you of your home.

We have produced a guide to selling and renting your home and also one which refers to the various aspects of the recent listing of 500 properties in the Suburb of architectural merit.

If you would like a copy or just an in principle discussion, we would welcome your call.



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