



UPDATE ON HEATH EXTENSION PLAYGROUND

After the fantastic support of local residents for the campaign led by 11-year-old Olivia White and her 'Wildwooders' to refurbish the playground on the Heath Extension, enough money has been raised and we are delighted to be able to announce that the City of London

Corporation has finalised plans for the playground and the works are set to begin in September. Renewed equipment designed to appeal to a wider age group will be installed, with Olivia and other young residents involved in the design.

Many thanks to everyone who has so generously supported this exciting project which will create a wonderful playground for our children and grandchildren.

Colin Gregory, RA Representative on the Hampstead Heath Consultative Committee

Garden Suburb engagement on parking

EMMA HOWARD, CHAIR HGS RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

On 13 October 2021, LB Barnet opened their engagement on Garden Suburb Parking with emails and a paper brochure sent to residents inviting us to participate in a survey on local parking controls. The aims of the survey were pretty ambitious, seeking opinions from households on the existing CPZ in the south side of the Suburb and how it should be extended – should it for instance cover the entire geographic area and, if so, for what hours? Residents were also asked to comment on needs for street charging points for electric vehicles, as well as on particular issues that they wished to identify.

As Chair of the Residents Association and previous member of the RA's long-standing Road & Traffic committee, I welcomed this initiative. We probably receive more concerns raised to us relating to traffic and parking matters than anything else. It was clear from the online survey comments that the Officer leading the review did not have an easy task ahead, and not everyone would be happy with the outcome, whatever that might be.

The survey closed on 10 November with the promise of a 'Decision Report' in December 2021 and 'Update and Next Steps' in 'Early 2022.' Garden Suburb Ward Councillors met with the officer in early 2022 and apparently requested more analysis. Then we ran into local Council elections at which point nothing was permitted to progress. So, writing this on 30 July, we still have no outcome and a July meeting of the officer and Councillors had to be cancelled.

So where does this leave us? The ULEZ introduced in October 2021 has undoubtedly helped keep non-compliant vehicles away, but some of the area is still a car park for commuters and long-term parkers. The introduction of the commercial dog walker's licence scheme has helped keep some vehicles at bay, but Wildwood Road is increasingly problematic with too much traffic and parked vehicles making safe passing by cars very difficult in places. Lots of residents are desperate for a CPZ in their road but others disagree, so reaching a solution that pleases everyone is a challenge.

Garden Suburb Ward Councillors Rohit Grover and Michael Mire have offered the following by way of an update:

"This has been a complex exercise, and we are grateful to all residents who participated in the survey independently. As ward councillors would also like to express our thanks to everyone who approached us directly in order to express specific concerns with respect to their own streets.

"We think it is important for all survey responses and viewpoints to be considered by Council Officers before they reach a decision. We do not want to rush into agreeing a plan for the Suburb and think it is important for Council officers to give due consideration to all viewpoints that have been expressed by a wide range of stakeholders.

"It is also worth pointing out that, since May's elections, the Council has been prioritising the implementation of the new Labour administration's manifesto commitments.

"Whatever interventions happen as a result of this exercise, we will press Council officers to keep the situation under review, so that changes can be made in the future in response to resident feedback.

"We think it is important for residents to hear from us directly, across a range of issues and not just this one. With this in mind, we have set up WhatsApp groups for this purpose – please join by scanning either of these QR codes. Both groups are the same but are limited to 200 members, so please join one. Also, you can email us at cllr.m.mire@barnet.gov.uk or cllr.r.grover@barnet.gov.uk."



Play your part in keeping our Suburb special

The Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association was formed over 110 years ago. With nearly 1,900 members, it has become a strong, enthusiastic community in the Suburb. It:

- organises social events including the Summer Fair and Hallowe'en/New Year's Eve festivities •
 - maintains and enhances the greenery in the Suburb by funding the planting of street trees and setting up of a community orchard •
 - supports residents to prepare for environmental challenges •
- works with LB Barnet to keep the Suburb clean and supports local litter picking volunteers •
- supports local community groups and donates to local charities, including Proms at St Jude's •
 - produces the quarterly Suburb News and annual Suburb Directory delivered by volunteers to all households in the Suburb •
 - produces the monthly Suburb eNews with local information and events circulated by email to members only •
- provides access to the Master Tradespeople List with recommendations from fellow Suburb members and the HGS List email group: both available to RA members only •

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Join the Hampstead Garden Suburb Residents Association online at hgsra.uk/join or call 020 3488 9131