



ACTION on Churchfields Park

Many residents are concerned about late night gatherings in this local park. Noise until the early hours of the morning, discarded cans and broken bottles are evidence of drinking parties. The children's play area is vandalised with graffiti on play equipment and broken glass beside the rides.

As Cllr Nicola Sinclair says "It would be a disaster if it was not for local volunteer Linda Aquilina who regularly clears the park up"

No. 159

Cllr Hugh Cleaver

91 Malford Grove
E18 2DH
Tel: 8530 7810
hugh.cleaver@redbridge.
gov.uk

Cllr Richard Hoskins

Briar Cottage
9 Stanley Road
E18 2NR Tel 8504 4253
richard.hoskins@redbridge.
gov.uk

Cllr Nicola Sinclair

3 Silvermead
E18 2TH
Tel: 8506 0721
nicola.sinclair@redbridge.
gov.uk



TAKING ACTION

Over recent weeks, while Linda was on holiday, Nicola has herself collected three sacks full of bottles and cans. She has also got graffiti cleaned off the equipment, only to see it reappear within days.

Now she has called in our local Safer Neighbourhood police team and Council officers responsible for parks to get involved.

'Churchfields Park is for people of all ages to enjoy themselves responsibly.'

Nicola says "It is clear that at weekends particularly the park has become a late night drinking haunt This includes underage drinkers

I am not a spoilsport, but the late night noise, and the rubbish left behind is just not fair to other park users and neighbours.

So I am asking the police to seek an order banning drinking alcohol in the park.

Redbridge Council also has a key role to play. They spend nearly £1 million a year on their Park Police team.

We want to see them in action locally, particularly on the nights when problems arise

Public Art for Church End ?

Telfords and other local developers have had to pay up a £350,000 contribution for public art works to be set up near the A406 bridge.

A small working party of local businesses, residents along with Cllr Hoskins, are now looking at ideas. He wants wide local consultation before any final decision is taken

Seasons Greetings and a Peaceful 2008

To you all from

Hugh Nicola and Richard

Higgins with a 'twist'

Residents have complained that the Higgins development, on the former Wells Garage site in the High Road, was not in accordance with the actual planning permission the Council had given. All 3 Ward Councillors backed the residents at the Council's Regulatory (Planning) Committee.

The residents were allowed to put their case to the Committee before it went into closed session. Cllr Hoskins objected to their being excluded from the discussion as he wanted them to hear what was said.

In the closed session he reminded Councillors that the second floor being built was 8 metres longer than agreed by the committee. It gave the building an extra 108 sq metres of office space, which overhung adjoining residents' houses.

That was something councillors and officers had previously said should not happen.

Another fine mess the planning department has got us into'

After investigation by the ward councillors it appeared a former planning officer had given Higgins the written planning permission with the correct measurements shown. But with plans attached for the extended floor marked 'Approved'.

So Higgins now claim they have permission for the extended office space.

It also emerged at the planning meeting that Higgins had changed the alignment of the building away from that agreed by the Council, without any permission.

Cllr Hoskins successfully argued that enforcement action should be taken against the builders. This was agreed subject to certain legal advice to the Council.

At the time this Focus is being written we don't know what final legal advice has been given to the Council. But if Higgins get away with it is clear where the fault lies !

Safer Neighbourhood Police News.

The new number for the
office of our Safer
Neighbourhood Team is
020 8345 3637

Email
ChurchEnd.SNT@met.police.uk

To report a crime online at
<http://www.met.police.uk>

Mobex Tel: 020 8721 2842

The **Mobex number** is the
mobile phone that the police
carry while they are on duty, but
you are only charged for a land
line call

REMEMBER in an
Emergency always call 999

Another planning farce !

The planning permission given for the new private school on the High Road is also not without controversy.

Permission for a school was originally refused by the local Redbridge West Planning Committee because they were concerned about traffic access for parents of the 180 pupils.

Worries about the school increased after it was discovered its sole 'playground' was the roof of the adjoining Tempus Court flats garage. This was level with, and only feet away, from residents' living room windows. Former planning officers (there are quite a few of them!) thought the playground was at ground level.

The Bristol based Planning Inspectorate over-ruled the Council's and allowed the school to open, subject to the school satisfying the Council on certain matters.

One of these was that it produced a satisfactory Travel Plan for parents and pupils, as other private and Council schools have done. This was particularly important as most pupils will be driven to and from school,

From cloud cuckoo land

Among the Travel Plan proposals the school put forward for approval were :-

A) parents to take bikes on the train to Highams Park station and then cycle the rest of the way. Even assuming bikes were allowed on rush hours trains, pigs might fly but few parents were going to cycle, however healthy the option is.

B) the Headteacher will also tell parents which adjoining residential roads they can park their cars at school's start and finish times

Roads adjoining Churchfields are not only heavily parked but also thronged at these times by the parents and pupils of some 800 Junior & Infants pupils walking to/from school. This is a recipe for disaster

Cllr Hoskins, backed by Cllrs Cleaver and Sinclair, argued strongly against accepting the Travel Plan, but lost the vote by 7 votes to 4.

Derby Rd Car Park Is their story changing ?

The Save Derby Road Car Park petition and the continuing Residents Campaign has really shaken the 10 strong Cabinet, which runs Redbridge Council..

It now knows the strength of feeling in Church End (and across the borough) against their policy of selling off car parks

Previously Cabinet Members like Cllrs O'Shea and Huggett said Derby Road Car Park could be sold and people could use Waitrose and Sainsburys instead. Something they are now trying to forget saying.

Another shot across their bows !

Cllr Nicola Sinclair sits on the all-party Highways & Cleansing Scrutiny Committee. It told the Cabinet it should think again about its sell off policies. In particular that there must be alternative public parking if a car park like Derby Rd was sold off.

Of course the Cabinet can ignore what a Scrutiny Committee says. Just as it has done when the full Council told them to make changes in other policies.

But now we are hearing Cabinet voices admitting there may be a problems selling if there is not be any alternative parking to Derby Road Car Park.

Have leopards really changed their spots ?

Now another all-party committee has been set up to 'review' the Cabinet's sales plans. We will see what it says. Then most importantly what the Cabinet decides

Until then the campaign to 'Save Derby Road Car Park' continues.

We will continue to work with residents until we are sure the battle is won.



Save Derby Road Car Park co-ordinator Frank Cruder with some of the team collecting petition signatures with Ward Cllrs Hugh Cleaver and Richard Hoskins

High Road Traffic Lights must be sorted out

The new traffic lights outside the Telfords development are not working properly. Traffic is building up along the High Road, and frequently blocking the junction at the George.

It appears that High Road lights at Telfords turn red too often. This is because sensors are picking up parked vehicles in the Telfords access road, as well as vehicles actually waiting to come out.

There is also a need to review the timings of the lights at the George junction.

Risky for pedestrians !

Although the traffic lights by Telfords were designed with motorists in mind they don't work for pedestrians either.

It is particularly dangerous for people walking along the pavement by Telfords. When High Road lights go red pedestrians can be lulled into thinking it is safe to cross Telfords junction. In fact that is just the time vehicles are allowed to enter and leave the site.

Pedestrians crossing from the Library side of the High Road pavement are also partly hidden from southbound vehicles behind the decorative wall.

We have asked officers to get all these things reviewed as a matter of urgency

Graffiti Clean Up underway

No one can have missed the graffiti around the A406/High Rd junction. And we have told you in Focus about the argument over who is responsible for cleaning it

At last we have got some cleaning, costing many thousands of pounds, done. Anti graffiti paint will be used to make future cleaning easier. **Thank you to the Redbridge officers who have worked with us to get this clean ing done.**

Doubtless the vandals will come back, but cleaning is the only way . With more local CCTV we will catch more of them. **Recently in Redbridge Court we sentenced one young man to over a hundred hours community service and over £1000 costs and compensation for doing graffiti locally. So let the vandals be warned.**

Working
with
residents
- getting
things done !

Churchfields Juniors Rebuild

The delays in the beginning work have been caused because the Council did not allocate enough money to get the rebuilding and clearance work done.

The first design would have come in £3m over budget. Now the Governors and Council are trying to cut costs or find more money while maintaining standards. The delays of course simply add to the problem as prices rise

A provisional start date is now postponed to the Spring.

Woodford Arts Festival

The Festival will be held from Sat 4th October until Sunday 12th 2008

Cllrs Hinds and Hoskins are joint Chairs with Anny Wortley -Millek as Secretary and Ron Wortley-Millek as Treasurer

Anyone interested in getting involved is welcome to come to the next meeting at the Redbridge Drama in Churchfields on Jan 21st at 7.30 pm

Keep up with news from our local websites

www.redbridge
libdems.co.uk
And



The new street lights in the Triangle area.

Work is progressing on the new lights, though not all are working in every street.

The new lights are more efficient and as a result some lamp posts have had to be moved. This new system will bring our street lighting up to modern standards.

We know this is a disappointment to some residents who have enjoyed the comfort and convenience of one of the old lights shining more directly on their front door or path.

But when the work is completed we hope you will feel the overall improvement in lighting will keep our streets safer.

If there are specific areas of concern please let us know.

Printed by West Essex Litho 109 Maybank Rd E18 1EJ Published & Promoted by Church End Lib Dems 9 Stanle Rd E18 2NR

Local Councillors out working with all year round

Dear Councillors
Can you sort out

Please let us know what you think and contact us at our homes

Your name/s Address
..... Tel Email