Crime & policing

- There have been a few burglaries and car crime on the Estate since the beginning of the year – several burglaries (mostly from the back) on Princes Gardens, cars and scooters stolen, and possessions taken from cars. Residents are reminded to take simple precautions – e.g. to lock their cars and check they’re locked (to combat jammers), and not to leave any possessions visible in their vehicles. The Safer Neighbourhoods team are under a lot of pressure because of other events in London but they said they’d try to organise some plain clothes patrols on the Estate, possibly using special constables.

- Volunteers are needed for a campaign on traffic speeding in the ward. Details are on the website at www.hhgera.com/latest-news and I’m putting fortnightly newsletters from the Acton police cluster on the website at http://www.hhgera.com/safer-neighbourhood-scheme. If we have concerns, the local team would welcome an approach.

- The other main focus for the ward has been on Ashbourne Parade, where there have been a series of raids, arrests and action on antisocial street drinking. 10 new Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinators have been recruited in the ward.

- We raised informally the Princes Gardens central reservation (‘Cherry Tree Walk’) restoration project. Police reaction was very positive, both on grounds of security (the more open an area, the less criminals like it) and road safety (large numbers of children in particular crossing Princes Gardens, where visibility is currently very limited because of the dense vegetation). PC Prabjeet Boghal has since contacted us to say he’s spoken to the Community Safety Team about the project and will be meeting at the start of next month to discuss how they can support us.

- Cllr Nigel Sumner asked for more information about the Community Payback scheme (using people sentenced to Community Service) and suggested it could be useful for the Cherry Tree Walk project. This to be reviewed in light of any further information received on the scheme, project specification and funding position.

Ward Forum

- Cllr Nigel Sumner raised the lack of conservation reviews / enforcement and disbanding of Ealing Council’s regulatory committee that used to be responsible conservation areas. All our councillors are very frustrated by the resultant reduction in leverage (Planning
Committee appear not to regard it as part of their remit) and the fact that all conservation reviews are now badly out of date.

- Cllr Greg Stafford raised a proposal by the Mayor of London about extending the **ultra low vehicle emission zone** to the whole area inside the North and South Circular Roads. As it stands, any pre-2006 petrol vehicle or pre-2015 diesel would have to pay to drive in the zone. We’d be inside, central Ealing outside, the zone. The assumption is that a lot of high-emission traffic would be diverted onto the North Circular, making the pollution problem here worse. Residents with older cars (almost always those with least money) would have to pay every time they drive. Note that most pre-2006 vehicles will anyway have to pay an additional £10 **Toxicity Charge** to enter the existing Congestion Charge zone from 23 October 2017.

- Cllr Joy Morrissey has been involved with the **Grenfell Tower** volunteer co-ordination group and gave a flavour of how difficult the situation there has been. Several Grenfell residents were staying in our borough during the immediate aftermath of the fire but may now have been found more suitable accommodation.

- There’s lots of other development under way – a strongly contested potential plan to build on the Barclays Bank playing fields in central Ealing; plans to convert Westgate House into 300 flats; and the Old Oak and Park Royal development scheme – on which subject, the Association is investigating a suggestion in the small print here [https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/plans-to-protect-park-royal](https://www.london.gov.uk/press-releases/mayoral/plans-to-protect-park-royal) that **1,500 new homes may be built at Park Royal**. We are not aware of any concrete proposals as yet.

- Lots of concern about **fly tipping** around the borough and lack of Council interest when it’s on private land. HHERA Flats Committee, which was also represented, raised the problems on our Estate. We’re asked to take photos and send them to our councillors at the same time as we notify the Council.

- We outlined the Cherry Tree Walk project and the Ward Forum confirmed **£2,000 funding** from the current year’s budget. Kofi Nyamah, our ward co-ordinator, will organise the details.

ENDS