



AHDA

Open Space Newsletter

ALDBOROUGH HATCH DEFENCE ASSOCIATION WWW.AHDA.ORG.UK

ISSUE 40

From the Chair

There is a saying that when nothing seems to be happening, be prepared, because like buses, problems will come along in threes.

Our aim as an Association has always been to keep residents informed and allow them to bring items of concern to us and for us all to protect the green spaces and environment.

There are some items like the gravel extraction that are on-going, together with pestering the Council to maintain or supervise the hedge cutting and footpaths.

Whilst this may seem simple, the fact that there has been a turnover of staff, none of whom seem to have left notes to colleagues as to where a certain project now stands.

We have also been dealing with Billet Road and the number of homes Bellway wishes to develop, despite the land being an historic landfill site, and the application is still waiting to be heard.

AHDA will be speaking at whatever Planning Meeting it appears at and opposing it. AHDA has also opposed the application for the Environment Agency Permit, and Bellway's proposed amendments to some of the conditions laid on it regarding the capping of the landfill.

We continue to input into the Fairlop Waters Masterplan to try and ensure that what is being proposed is not just for money making, but that

**Please Note
Payments to this
account must be
made by 18/10/24 as
we will be changing
our account.**

**Account Name: AHDA
Sort Code: 20-89-56
Account number:
20672971**

our Green Belt is protected, the fauna and flora there can flourish and all residents of the Borough, not just those in Aldborough, can escape to a safe patch within an ever-increasing busy world.

Redbridge used to pride itself on being one of the greenest Boroughs, if not in the country, then certainly, one of the greenest in London.

That is no longer true and recent figures released show that Redbridge has cut down, or has allowed the cutting down, of the greatest number of trees in London. The same figures also show that we are the 7th worst in the country for cutting down trees – the very life-giving means for all of us to breathe easier.

I would suggest that the Council stop putting up electric vehicle points which rarely seem to be used and protect the trees we have and actively encourage the planting of new ones. I want to say a public thank you to Jenny, our Vice Chair

who is always willing to step in when needed, to Gaby our secretary, who is my human notebook when I forget, to Chris, our expert on all things bright and beautiful and to Glenn for keeping our money matters in order.

My thanks too, to residents who have trusted us enough to bring items to our attention and that they care enough about the local area to do so. And we will continue to fight to keep this part of Redbridge, a green and pleasant land.

Top felling councils in the past 10 years

- North Lanarkshire: 31,480
- Birmingham: 21,486
- Hampshire County: 18,535
- Gloucestershire County: 15,287
- Carmarthenshire: 12,132
- Telford and Wrekin: 11,664
- Redbridge: 10,988
- South Tyneside: 10,844
- Bolton: 10,786
- West Lothian: 8,489

Source: FOI data provided to i



Trees, tree protection and hedges

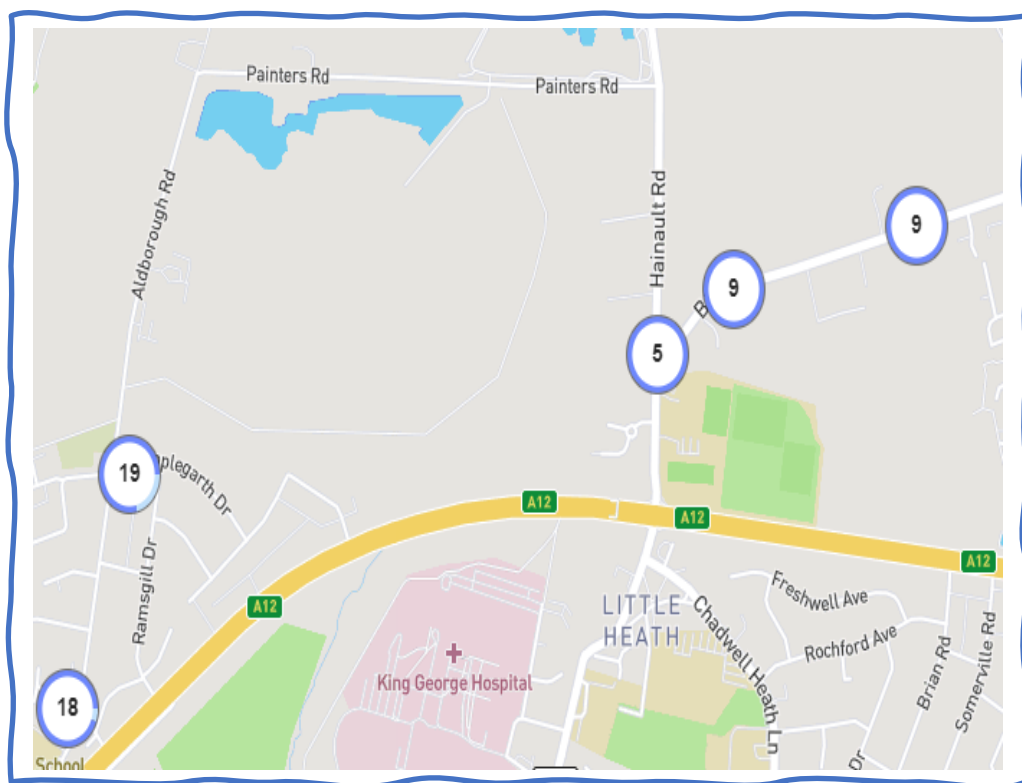
Trees play a unique and important role in enhancing the quality of life in Redbridge and we try to protect existing trees and encourage new trees to be planted.



In April 2024 AHDA members were offered the opportunity to join Redbridge's Clean Air Movement. Whereby residents received diffusion tubes to monitor Nitrogen Dioxide in their area for 6 months.

The results show that most of the test sites exceeded WHO guidelines (Purple circles on the map). A couple of sites at Applegarth were below WHO guidelines a couple of times but not for the full 6 months.

Full details can be found [here](#).



Aldborough Hall Equestrian Centre – under new ownership

We were delighted to welcome David, Chad and Julian to AHDA's recent meeting and to hear their plans for the Centre.

Horse and rider training for all levels will be available once refurbishment is completed. And for those needing manure for gardens of allotments it's free to collect 8am to 5pm, please bring your own bag and spade.

For more information see their [website](#)

The Dick Turpin Orchard Needs your help!!

Volunteers are needed to help with the Orchard maintenance. Let us know if you can help.



Fairlop Waters Country Park Fishing Lake

In July 2024 we were informed that the fishing lake and access area had been fenced off with locked gates and barbed wire denying the public access to this area of the of the **Public Country Park** part of Fairlop Plain which is a Site of Importance for Nature Conservation SINC recommended to be a Metropolitan site which must be managed accordingly.

Why? Because Vision contracted it out to Premier Fisheries and their members, with no public consultation.

Chris and Jenny were immediately on the case, emails and photos sent out and meetings held. The result so far is that the Fishing Lake area will be open during normal opening hours and the gates will only be locked after normal park closing times. The barbed wire was removed.

Vision claimed that the locked gates are for security however Premier Fisheries clearly state on their FB page that it is to offer their members exclusivity.



Results from Residents' Survey

Run by Aldborough Councilors' full details [here](#)

Biggest issue in area: Crime & ASB, Street litter & rubbish & Environment.

Best thing about your area: Green related things clearly come to the front.

What would you most like to change: Speeding problems on Aldborough Road North, Oaks Lane and Perrymans Farm area.

Issues	Desired outcome	What we're going to do
Crime and anti-social behaviour	•Reduce crime in Aldborough Ward. •Make residents feel safer.	•Work with residents to identify local problems and issues - work with the police on them. •Campaign for more funding for local police officers. •Have regular ward walks with the police and council officers to tackle problem areas.
People like greenery	•Fairlop Waters is expanded and made more accessible. •Create more greenery across the ward.	•Campaign and secure funds for more trees and greenery. •Support the expansion of Fairlop Waters. •Protect local green spaces across the ward and look for opportunities to enhance them. •Create community gardening and pocket park projects.
Street litter and rubbish	•Reduce street litter and rubbish in Aldborough. •Less untidy front gardens.	•Promote Redbridge report-it app. •Lead local campaign to promote good front gardens and discourage untidy ones. •Support people to use their new wheelie bins. •Run community litter picks.
Local speeding problems	•Reduce speed on Aldborough Road North. •Reduce speed on Perrymans Farm Road. •Reduce speed on Ashurst Drive.	•Work with the council to investigate schemes for these areas and discuss options with local residents.

Speeding Aldborough Road North & Painters

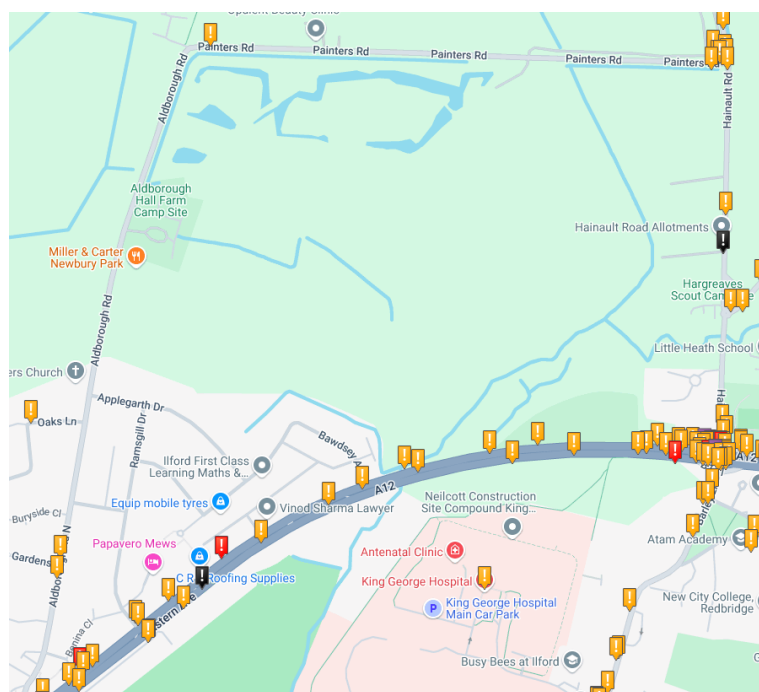
Traffic speed monitoring was set up by Noble from 30/8 – 5/9/24 to record 30mph speed observation. The results are staggering!

11,820 vehicles of which 91% were cars/vans. Only 533 vehicles kept to the speed limit of 30 mph (including bicycles).

4,404 vehicles drove at 35-40mph
 2,443 vehicles drove at 40 – 45mph
 815 vehicles drove at 45 – 50mph
273 vehicles drove at 50 -55mph
91 vehicles drove at 55 – 60mph
41 vehicles drove at 60 – 65mph
38 vehicles drove as 65+ mph

A vehicle travelling at 20mph would stop in time to avoid a child running out 3 car lengths in front. The same vehicle at 25mph would not be able to stop in time, hitting the child at 18mph, a similar impact to falling from an upstairs window. (Brake road safety charity)

CrashMap Data 1999 - 2022



Aldborough Labour Councilors

1 October at 13:22 · 📍

****Aldborough Road North Speeding****

This weekend, we were out speaking to residents around Aldborough Road North about an important issue—speeding and dangerous driving in the area.

We have a petition running that we took door to door and there was lots of support for action to be taken to make our roads safer!

If you haven't signed yet and would like to support the cause, you can do so by visiting the link below. Every signature counts in making Aldborough Road North a safer place for everyone.

Sign the petition: <https://www.redbridgelabour.org.uk/arnspeeding>



Please sign Aldborough Councilors' Petition

We are repeating this as it still hasn't happened

Aldborough Hall Nature Reserve

New sign boards are to be installed so that The Aldborough Hall Nature Reserve gets its name as an acknowledgement of the significant contribution made by Ron Jeffries (Our Ron!). Although when that will happen has yet to be confirmed. We are 'reminding' Redbridge about this as the announcement was in August 2023.



THE MOST POPULAR POSTS ON OUR WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK!

Billet Road – Bellway

Gravel Extraction meetings

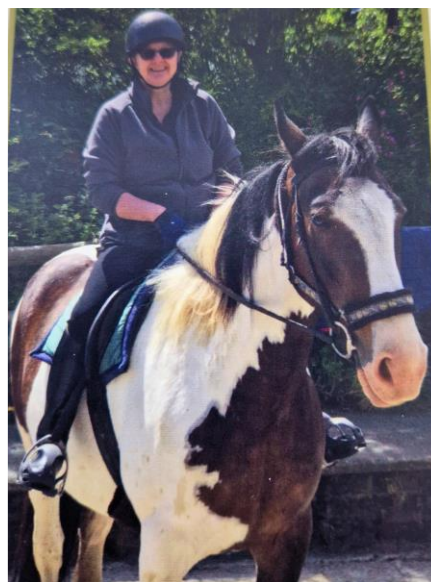
Fairlop Waters Masterplan

Aldborough Hall Equestrian Centre

Newsletters

In memory of Ann Wilderspin of Willow Farm, who sadly lost her fight with CJD in May 2024.

Ann brought us sunshine and laughter, along with occasional visits from her horses and donkeys running down Billet Road stopping all the traffic and her owl swooping over the fields.



Ann attended many of our meetings and more recently those held by Bellway, her knowledge of the area and especially of Willow Farm and the adjacent contaminated landfill helped to get across the associated problems developers may experience.

The Aldborough Hatch Defence Association (AHDA) Annual General Meeting 1/10/24

Minutes

Present: Vanessa Cole (Chair), Jenny Chalmers (Vice Chair), Glenn Harvey (Treasurer), Gaby Laws (Secretary), Councilor John Howard, Councilor Jyotsna Islam, Councilor Lebo Phakoe, Simon Treacy (Brett), Martin Smith (Brett).

Attendance: 33 members and visitors.

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed our members including our new members.

2. Election of Officers: all duly re-elected.

3. Minutes of last AGM agreed.

4. Treasurer We have not spent a lot, just £139.33 nothing since January, £100 in subscriptions. Total held £613.96

5. AHDA welcome to Aldborough Hall Equestrian Centre owners, David, Chad and Julian.

David, who has known this area all his life, outlined their plans for the Equestrian Centre, Chad and Julian recently from Leicestershire are putting a new lease of life into the Centre. There will still be lessons and Julian, who is a professional show jumper, will be producing young horses and training. Chad is from farming in New Zealand. AHDA members welcomed them with a round of applause lead by Shirley.

6. Brett Update -Simon and Martin provided a full update along with maps which members were able to look at.

Area E is planned for 900,000 tons of gravel extraction which started in Feb'24, estimated at 150,000 tons per year with restoration in 7 years. Martin explained that the weather has not helped.

Vanessa publicly thanked Martin for the respect shown by stopping the diggers and moving them off when funerals are taking place at the church.

Members questions to Brett focused on the footpaths and hedges. Footpath 94 will be closed for a time; it was thought better to improve the footpath, especially at Aldborough Road North rather than spending money on a diversion. Members asked for restoration of footpath 93.

Hedges at FP93 and 94 who looks after them. Brett is responsible for maintenance as the incoming tenant but only within the area their lease covers. Outside of that its highways responsibility.

Restoration will be done and will consist of inert soil, not landfill, no gases, not contaminated and no asbestos. Unlike Billet Road.

Will restoration alter water balance. Potentially, but the restoration level is the same depth as the original, planning dictates the depth.

(members were able to speak to Simon and Martin and see the plans at the end of the meeting).

7. Green Spaces Update – Jenny Chalmers. Good things first, it rained more, less fires, improved fire breaks but we shouldn't have to ask for them they should be done when needed. Gravel extraction should have been finished by now, but at least it started this Spring. The liaison meetings are good, but we have to go over the same things every time. It would be useful to have proper management plans in place.

Footpath 94 will close in the near future which raises concerns. The plan was for a diversion, but we consider it dangerous. If that doesn't happen then Aldborough Road North needs to be improved. The overgrown pavements and footpaths need to be cut back.

Our Councillors have a petition for traffic calming measures. We need action on this, the road is dangerous, there are schools here.

Dick Turpin Orchard – The crop failed this year. We hope to have a work/tidy session in Autumn/Winter. There are very old and rare trees there. We are concerned at the increase in money making schemes at Fairlop Waters which are not fed back to Fairlop Waters to improve biodiversity. The staff work like mad clearing litter. Yet we have money to put in a Sculpture trail. Is that really what is needed there.

The Nature Reserve was fenced off, locked up with barbed wire for a private fishery. This happened overnight with no consultation. Having taken this up with Parks the barbed wire has now been removed and we are told that the gate will be open during the day. But what right do they have to close off part of our public park?

There's been a huge increase in litter and fly tipping in Aldborough Hatch, I collected 3 bags of litter in Footpath 93

alone. I did it 2 weeks ago and its already back. We can clean around our homes, but the Council need to do more, enforcement needed.

8. **Wildlife** – Chris Gannaway I'll start with a update on the lack of nature support in the borough. Vision RCL still to replace nature conservation officers after the best part of two years for Francis Castro and nearly 9 months for Tajinder Lachhar.

The appointed new manager for nature and country parks failed to materialise in September so this will be the third time of advertising the role and if by some miracle there is an appointment don't expect them in place till the new year. Needless to say, the knock-on effect on Fairlop Waters of not having direction and a volunteer team in action can be noted.

I have continued to carry out wildlife surveys when possible. Mostly moths and invertebrates it's been a bad year for butterflies and some invertebrates due to the wet cold spring, good for the Housemartins and swallows at the equestrian centre. Poor on passage birds on the core Fairlop Waters site probably due to the successional changes to woodland away from grassland.

Recently have been surveying the Fairlop ponds for the London Pond project coordinated by Zoological Society of London we have about 25 ponds excluding the large lake on Fairlop plain of which I surveyed 22. The others being inaccessible or lacking permission to visit. Thanks to all who allowed access to their ponds especially Martin Smith of Brett's who chauffeured me around the 5 ponds in their control on Monday.

Today I have been coordinating with Peter Target of Redbridge regeneration over aspects of the Fairlop plan that affect nature and the urgent management need at Fairlop waters and the nature reserve.

We have another meeting scheduled for a site meeting on Seven Kings water later in month where I hope to convince them that the small river should be naturalised after the lake that would correct the terrible Victorian drain there and reduce the risk of flooding downstream at Seven Kings

9. **Green Belt** – Vanessa. Joined the London Green Belt Council who like to hold in-person meetings and include surrounding areas. They fight for retention if Green Belt. It's good to have friends and their resources are helpful.
10. **Councillors' Update** – Cllr John Howard. AHDA do an excellent job in raising issues, thank you for the work you do. Aldborough Road North – speeding was raised at the School Streets meeting; we have been pushing for 8years or more and are a bit more optimistic due to new leader. But we need more support from local residents, more signatures from local residents.

Problem being that it is an emergency route but that shouldn't negate the need for safety.

Gravel extraction, working with Council and Brett on this is like extracting teeth but the new council officer is good, so we are hopeful.

There have been issues with waste collection. Members added that the green garden waste is not being collected and that it would be cheaper to do it weekly.

The 'Love Clean Streets App' is impressive, Jenny reported that a dumped sofa was removed very quickly, and it was easy to use the app.

Loss of trees – it's the management of them that is the problem. The Council budget is really tight.

11. **Questions raised by Members -**

Planning Constitution changes. The issues with the Planning portal and how it functions, any planning application with more than a few documents causes it to time out. Councilors said its being looked at.

Vision – they have been given green spaces, but the council aren't talking to them about their contract which only has 18months to run. They have no security of tenure how can they put plans in place and raise money?

12. The meeting closed with 15mins to spare allowing members to chat and speak to Councillors, Brett and our new neighbours at Aldborough Hall.

The Aldborough Hatch Defence Association (AHDA)
Working with local residents and the council since the 1960's to ensure
Aldborough Hatch and environs, is a pleasant place to live.



