

ALDBOROUGH HATCH DEFENCE ASSOCIATION WWW.AHDA.ORG.UK

AHDA

Open Space
Newsletter

MAY 2026 ISSUE 41

From the Chair

Firstly, I apologize for not holding an AGM last year, but circumstances and the weather primarily hindered us.

As many of you will know, things have been quieter on the planning front, and the only sign of anything happening at Billet Road (Bellways), is that they applied for changes in some of the conditions laid on them from the Council. We opposed the amendments, however, as always, the Council ignored us and others and allowed them.

The speeding down Aldborough Road North has been a concern for many years and we had thought when Local Cllrs organized a petition, it would be the start of seeing calming measures for residents. I just had a word with Jyostna and she is going to take it back tonight and hopefully something will appear positive to the residents.

Some proposals were put to some residents, but various objections to the schemes were made and to date, we have heard nothing further. Both Jenny Chalmers and I sit on the Police Ward Panel and have raised concerns at every meeting. In January, speed cameras were being used by the Police, and whilst we have not had full details, it is hoped that this will deter excessive speed in Aldborough Road North.

*"This area is
UNIQUE
compared to
Ilford,
Seven Kings,
Chadwell Heath.*

*When family visit,
they say
it's a nice area,
it needs
to be kept that way"*

**Comment made at the
AGM and we totally
agree!!**

Jenny and Chris are the leading stalwarts on the Nature Reserve and its maintenance, and for Fairlop Waters and the gravel extraction.

We continue to be an annoying presence to both the Council and Brett if things are being ignored (hedge trimming) or potentially dangerous (wildfires and footpath width).

We were told at the last Fairlop Gravel Meeting that the site would continue for many years hence, and we again explained that it is for that reason the length of delay and time taken, so many people objected and still object to the gravel workings.

I wish to take the opportunity to publicly thank Jenny for being so proactive and stepping in on occasions when I wasn't available.

To Chris for his continued sharing of knowledge of nature and to Gaby, who has kept the website going and answering queries on that forum.

Glenn our Treasurer was taken into hospital last October, he is still there.

My thanks to Jenny, Gaby and Chris for helping to sort out the Treasurers report as far as I am aware the funds are about £392. 30. We are looking to move the bank account as Barclays are now charging £8 per month so we are hoping to move to a free account.

**Membership / donations can
still be made to:**

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

Thank you.



"I think this area in particular is one of the best in London for Skylarks"

Interview with Francis Castro and Chris Gannaway.

[Link to full interview](#)

Aldborough Hall Nature Reserve finally gets its name ...officially!

Twenty-three years ago, gravel extraction started at Aldborough Hall Farm but only after AHDA's fight to extend the distance from 75m to 150m from the rear of the surrounding properties.

AHDA was involved with the actual planning insisting that we would like to restore it for nature.

We are delighted that it now has its official name. But .. There's more to do.

We have applied for funding under the Council's Community NCIL Fund, for a 'Record & Love Project'.

We want and need to inspire young people to care about the natural world and to be hands on.

We need to record as much data about our local flora and fauna. So we can conserve what we have love and identify what we love and have lost.

The idea is that with some high-tech kits and making full use of the Internet we will work with local youth groups, schools etc.

Using our new Nature Reserve as a venue for a **'Record and love Project'**.

Teaching new skills in research and data recording while learning about nature.

We also hope via management possibilities by example bringing in substantially more flowering plants and pollinator habitat that the biodiversity will improve.

More details will follow as things progress for this exciting project that will not only benefit nature and wildlife but will make the Nature Reserve a better place for all.

We all know that if we put out bird seed the birds will come so if we build a better more diverse nature reserve - they and more will come.

So much has been lost over 23 years of gravel extraction now is the time to help it come back.

We used to have flocks of 3,000 Lapwings in this borough but we haven't seen one this year. This is a national decline but you have got to maintain the habitat to bring them back.

Stage 1 of the application has been completed and we await stage 2 of this important and exciting project.

Biological records of 'what', where', 'when' and by 'who'. allow us to manage the nature reserve with both species and habitats in mind and know when we are getting practical conservation measures correct!

Green Champion Report continues on page 3 & 5.

"Young people really want to get out into nature, learn to identify birds"

RSPB research shows that Bird watching is 'cool'.

Over 700,000 people aged 16 to 29 (Gen Z) regularly enjoy bird watching in Britain. Over ten times more than in 2018.

Young birdwatchers are sharing photos and videos on social media

[BBC News](#)

Vice Chair's Reports

Gravel Liaison Committee

Councilor John Howard has been replaced as chair by Councilor Lebu Phakoe.

We would like to thank John for all his efforts and assistance.

The gravel extraction work continues to drag on and on to the West side of Aldborough Road North.

Ten years ago, the council gave permission for this to happen and they still haven't completed the first section!

We have been fighting for them to upgrade the footpath leading from Saint Peters Church to the Equestrian Centre before they close footpath 94.

Police Ward Panel

The AHDA continues to be represented on the Police Ward Panel.

This discusses and **sets police targets** for the ward. These include:

**Car theft,
Burglaries,
Antisocial behaviour including drug use
-Traffic problems.**

**** We would love to welcome **
new members to the Panel,
especially from the
younger age groups
in the community**

**** ****

**Please let us know if you are
interested**

The Dick Turpin Orchard

The AHDA looks after the veteran orchard next to the Miller and Carter Dick Turpin restaurant and have done for over 10yrs.

Some of the trees here are very old, up to 100 years old but still produce some wonderful apples and pears, although the crop has been affected by recent very dry summers.

**Can you spare
2 mornings a year??**

**Yes, just 8 hours out of
8,760 hours in a year?**

**Help harvest apples
(you get to keep them)
Learn about veteran apple
trees and looking after
them.**

**Pruning and general
tidying.**

**Please let us know, either
via email or facebook.
All Orchard Events are
listed on our Facebook
Group and by email to
members.
non-members are also
welcome to contact us.**

You might even see another rare beetle! The Dorcatoma Substriata beetle found at the orchard had not been officially recorded in London since 1928.



We would like to thank Mr. John Brooker for his generosity and continued support of the AHDA.

This area is unique and special so are the residents. All our members care about Aldborough Hatch and surrounding areas.

Freely donating their time either watering street trees helping with the litter pick and Orchard harvests. Its these things that make a community.

Thank you and we look forward to you joining us at the next event.

Nature Emergency

We campaigned via a petition organized by Chris Gannaway with Wanstead Climate Action and other likeminded Groups across the Borough for the **Council to Declare a Nature Emergency.**

The petition had over 1,200 signatures. The Council did get the message and Declared the Nature Emergency in February with full Council approval of the declaration.

Thank you to all the AHDA members that signed the petition. Not all the clauses we wanted were met but we see that as work in progress.

A successful public consultation was held mid-March where over 80 people came to Redbridge Central Library and put their thoughts into the workshops for a Nature Recovery plan. We submitted a bullet pointed document on our thoughts for the topic to the plan. We are now awaiting the 1st draft.

Councillors' Updates and Q&A

Thank you Council leader Kam Rai and Councillor Jyotsna Islam for attending our AGM and meeting.

Speeding on Aldborough Road North and Painters Road.

Jenny detailed AHDA's concerns about the speeding on Aldborough Road North and in the summer the footpath along here gets very overgrown and becomes too narrow so people are having to walk on what is a very dangerous road. The council continues to completely ignore the problem, not even refreshing the speed signs on the road. The Police have occasionally set up speed traps but much more needs to be done.

Cllr Islam expressed her concerns regarding the speeding, highlighting a recent fatality and records of vehicles speeding at 78 - 80mph. Confirmed by members who pointed out there is a wrecked car on Painters Road now.

Councillors previously activated a petition, went door to door discussing various options available: speed bumps, speed cameras. Speed bumps have been tried in the past and speed cameras will cause stop & start by drivers. A chicane was suggested but not possible as the route is an emergency route used by ambulances and police.

Members expressed concern over the 2 schools and 2 nurseries and the danger to pupils and parents. Suggesting speed cameras to monitor at the top and bottom of the road.

Jenny asked if we could at least do one thing, to improve the signage which is now worn and additional

30mph signs. Cllr Jyotsna agreed to take this back and to push for it. Cllr Rai also raised the possibility of asking TFL about a speed table.

UPDATE since AGM:

Cllr Islam has forwarded a reply from Highways, regarding Road Safety.

Aldborough Road North has been included in an area identified for the introduction of a Road Safety Zone in our Highways Capital Programme. Road Safety Zones will typically include the introduction of reduced speed limits and associated traffic calming as well as improvements to crossing facilities.

This is a 5 year programme and would be subject to confirmation of funding and the outcome of a consultation exercise. Aldborough Road North will be investigated later in the programme.

When we reach the stage of developing proposals for the Newbury Park Road Safety Zone, we will ensure that concerns about speeding traffic on Aldborough Road North are fully considered. Any measures taken would be subject to a feasibility assessment and an evaluation of their suitability for the location.

The junction of Aldborough Road North with Roy Garden junction has been identified for improvements to road safety and we will begin investigating options for improvements shortly.

TFL policing team have advised that expansion of the safety camera network in London programme is currently on hold. Their review of the methodology for prioritizing sites is also on hold.

Jenny has replied asking (again) for improved signage on the road until all this consideration happens. We await further updates.

Fly Tipping

Members raised concerns over amount of fly tipping that happens round the corner, mattresses, beds etc. There's a sign saying there's a camera but there's no camera there.

So, people are just dumping. Cameras are expensive but how much is it costing the taxpayer to come and clear it up.

Cllr: there's free service so I don't understand why they dump stuff, its got to be outsiders coming in and dumping. Or its commercial. Where there are regular reports of fly tipping we are putting in mobile cameras to catch the culprits. Reporting it helps us to do this and the police will install it.

"Love Clean Streets" app works well. Jenny reported 1 last week and gone the next day. We need to take some responsibility by recording this via the app. There were lorry loads coming into the Nature Reserve and we really had to fight to get that removed. But it all disappeared just before they officially opened the Nature Reserve. A whole load of dignitaries going down there and no more waste.

Blocked off area of Fairlop Waters

A member complained that an area of FW has been blocked off (fishing lake). Jenny explained they are meant to have it open during the day.

If it isn't then ask at the Boat House and one of the Rangers will unlock it. It is locked in the evenings for security reasons.

Circular Route (Aldborough Hall Nature Reserve and Fairlop Waters)

Eventually the plan for FW is to open up a circular route so you'll go through Aldborough Hall Nature Reserve here along the path, cross Painters Rd into FW so you could cycle right round there, it's going to be at least about 6 miles, quite a nice cycle. But that won't happen until they finish the gravel extraction.

Bridleway No 94

Next year they are planning to close Bridleway No. 94 from the stables up here into FW. Because they are going to be working over there.

They were going to build another footpath beside the tube line but we said that is unsafe so what we've asked for the path along Aldborough Road North to be done up which they have agreed to.

The plan is to actually move the hedge back put in a wider pavement and put in more posts. It will be safer. We all know what happens in the summer, the hedge grows out, everyone is forced onto the road with cars coming along at 60mph or 70mph and it's an accident waiting to happen.

Oakfield Playing Fields

Oakfields has been listed (re-listed) as an Asset of Community Value. The process seems to have taken far longer than is normally necessary. It was assessed in accordance with the prescribed legislation.

All statutory requirements have been met. It will be listed for a maximum period of 5 years.

AHDA member and representative of Oakfields asked Cllr Rai about negotiations on the lease as it is

currently on license. Hopefully now that the elections are over, they can make more headway.

Green Champion Report Continued

2025 and 2026 have been busy years in many ways with a change of emphasis for AHDA to being more nature orientated.

We have had a few meetings on possibilities to improve on the outline **Fairlop Waters CP plan** with the project manager. These are ongoing.

We have been working / liaising with the **"Love the Cranbrook project"** and Thames 21 in conjunction with the Roding Trust over the pollution problem that emanates mostly from the old Fairlop landfill at Barkingside under the country park, with the polluted Cranbrook bypassing the Aldborough Hatch Farm horse pasture leaving it dry in summer.

We are awaiting a full report from Thames 21 and the Council on the options. One of the options is to make the old embankment area secure with a sluice reinstalled such that the old mill pond can be re-flooded and natural processes allowed to take place. Another is to open up the landfill at Barkingside and plant extensive reedbeds to take up the pollution. It would probably be both as the leachate is very high in ammonia.

Also, on the subject of Rivers I have been working with the Gardens of Peace Muslim Cemetery team on the pollution incidences that are occurring from the Hainault Industrial Estate there is a need for a filter/ reedbed to help.

Also Working with Thames 21 on the winter silt pollution to SKW that emanates via Hog Hill Ditch from the upper farmland of Hog Hill on the Crown Lands this is deposited down river from Seven Kings Park as far as South Park. Hopefully consideration will be given to incorporation of a silt settling lagoon prior to discharge into Seven Kings Water in the near future.

Note I drew up such a scheme over 26 years ago with benefits for nature in mind for the Hog Hill ditch / Seven Kings Water confluence.

UPDATE since AGM

Redbridge have confirmed that pollution from the historic Fairlop landfill is entering the Cran Brook, primarily via groundwater, although it is partly diluted by cleaner surface water flows.

The main issue identified is elevated ammonia levels above environmental standards, which will require treatment. Suspended solids are also occasionally elevated but are considered a secondary issue, while heavy metals are not deemed significant.

MET ENGAGE

A very useful app for finding out what the Met are doing in your area and also receive Latest Alerts

As well as being able to tell them what is concerning you most, they can act upon it.

This could include speeding, and antisocial behaviour etc., all of which were discussed during the meeting.

[Metengage.co.uk](https://www.metengage.co.uk)

The Aldborough Hatch Defence Association (AHDA) Annual General Meeting 12th May 2026

Minutes

Present: Vanessa Cole (Chair), Jenny Chalmers (Vice Chair), Chris Gannaway (Nature)
Council Leader Kam Rai, Councillor Jyotsna Islam.

Apologies: Glenn Harvey (Treasurer), Gaby Laws (Secretary), Shirley Rudge, Terry Dickenson, Pat O'Grady

1. Welcome and Introduction

The Chair welcomed our members including our new members and Councillors.

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

3. Minutes of last AGM agreed.

4. Election of Officers: Vanessa, Jenny, Chris and Gaby all duly re-elected. Pat O'Grady elected to monitor local planning.

5. Treasurer: Our Treasurer Glenn remains in hospital having been there since October 2-25. Chris Gannaway has offered and been elected to take on the role of Treasurer.

6. Chair's report, Vice Chair's report and Green Champion Report – detailed in preceding pages.

**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.**