

PHRA NEWSLETTER AUTUMN 2023



Chairmans Statement

A fantastic evening, enjoyed by all - doors opened at Norbury Library Community Room at 6:30pm, reaching capacity by 7:00pm. Tea, coffee and biscuits provided and guest speakers on the night included: Mayor Jason Perry, Ken Hume of James Alexander (local estate agents), Local Safer Neighbourhood Team and bonus guest speaker, Cllr Roche Cabinet member for Streets and Environment.



PHRA AGM 2023, A TURN UP FOR THE BOOKS!

Thanks to our Members active support - Pollards Hill, is once again a buzzing community again. A lot of ground was covered on the evening by our guest speakers - the feedback has all been positive. Thanks must go to all of the amazing guest speakers on the night, to the PHRA Committee for making it happen and most importantly you, our members.

In response to our ongoing appeal for PHRA members to consider taking up a more active Committee role in collectively enhancing members quality of life issues on the Hill, we now have 2 further resident members - we hope you will also support for Committee Election Votes at our membership General Meeting of 26th October 2023 at St Philips Church Hall, Beech Road.

Mr Reza Ali Malik (Media & Newsletter Representative)

Mr Asan Valimahomed (Treasurer & Membership Secretary)

Followed by further Guest Speakers and our Local Snt Policing Team for Q&A's

We look forward to seeing you all there & have booked the larger seating capacity Hall in anticipation of another great turn out of member residents.

Thankyou again
Jim Sheehan
PHRA Chair.



**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:
PHRA GM
26th OCT 2023
7PM - 9PM
ST PHILLIP'S CHURCH HALL,
BEECH ROAD NORBURY**



**INVITED GUEST
SPEAKERS
LOCAL SNT
POLICING TEAM
FOR Q&A**



**REFRESHMENTS
AVAILABLE
JOIN US ON THE DAY
AND BECOME A VOLUNTEER
WE LOOK FORWARD
TO MEETING YOU**

LATEST NEWS

'Blitz' cleaning Norbury

Croydon Council kick-starts a series of 'blitz' clean-ups, starting with Norbury High Street, aiming to rejuvenate our district and town centres to bring back a sense of pride in our borough.

- Fly-Tipping Solutions: Using data-driven insights, we're tackling fly-tipping hotspots in public spaces. We're also collaborating with landowners to ensure private areas are free of fly-tipping.
- Graffiti and Fly-Posting Clean-up: Small businesses receive their first clean free of charge, along with tips to prevent vandalism. We're erasing graffiti and fly-posting to create a cleaner ambiance.
- Pavements are receiving a mechanical wash, refreshed appearance
- Leaves and debris that lead to flooding are being cleared in gulleys. We're partnering with Transport for London (TfL) and Network Rail for a coordinated approach. But it doesn't end here:
- Residents and businesses involved to maintain the area's cleanliness
- Love Clean Streets app empowers everyone to report issues like fly-tipping, overflowing bins, and graffiti from their smart phones.

Norbury is the first of many high streets prioritized for clean-up using insights from the Love Clean Streets app.

Jason Perry, Executive Mayor of Croydon, shares his vision:

"Clean streets improve quality of life for all. Safety, attractiveness, and thriving businesses are the rewards. Let's unite for Croydon's best look!"

Tony Hooker from Litter Free Norbury adds:

"We're thrilled that Norbury leads the 'blitz'. Let's renew community spirit, uplift Norbury's look, and eagerly anticipate the results."



Jason Perry, Executive Mayor of Croydon



ULEZ is Here

August 29, 2023, the ultra-low emission zone extended to cover our homes in Norbury and the surrounding region:

<https://tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/ultra-low-emission-zone/ulez-expansion-2023>

Non-compliant vehicles driving in the zone face a daily tax of £12.50. Avoid penalties and potential high costs by checking your vehicle's compliance: <https://www.tfl.gov.uk/modes/driving/check-your-vehicle/>
Act swiftly to access grants provided by the Mayor of London on a first-come, first-served basis for vehicle replacement.

The second-hand car market is inflated due to demand for ULEZ-compliant vehicles, impacting non-compliant vehicle values. Please note, this information serves for reference only.

PHRA remains non-political.



POLLARDS HILL NEWS

Revving Up Awareness on Speeding

Promoting road safety and curbing speeding is a top concern for the PHRA and its members.

On August 18, 2023, our members collaborated with local Police SNT for Speed Awareness monitoring on the hill. This proactive initiative highlights our dedication to a secure environment. Through such activities, we aim to raise awareness, deter speeding, and ensure adherence to speed limits.

Our partnership with law enforcement reflects our goal of a safer neighbourhood for all.



Community Vigilance and Safety around Vehicle Theft

A surge in vehicle thefts, both attempted and successful, demands heightened vigilance from our community. PHRA urges neighbours to lock their vehicles securely. For those with key-less start cars, safeguard your keys away from your front door, as criminals employ advanced methods to clone keys wirelessly.

If you spot suspicious individuals near your vehicle, promptly report to the Police, if non-emergency then dial 111. Additionally, share any suspicious activity captured by security cameras, yours or your neighbours', with the police to aid their investigations.

Let's unite to protect our neighbourhood against these threats.

Norbury Library Updates

Norbury has been chosen as a pilot library for the new Open+ Self Service scheme. This means that from October 2nd the library will be available five days during the week (instead of the current three).

10am - 6pm and from 9am - 5pm on Saturdays!

Tuesday, Thursday and Friday will continue to be fully staffed with all services available.

Residents can Register for Open+ by upgrading their library cards (at the library) and getting a PIN number for accessing the building on the new days. There will be a Council employee staffing the building, all book borrowing and returns will be electronic and the photocopier will be unavailable. Access to toilets will be on request of the staff member. 16-17 year olds will need a parent / guardian to sign their registration and 16 and under will need to be accompanied by an adult registered to the Self Service Opening. The Study Area and computers will be available.



POLLARDS HILL NEWS

Mayor's Question Time

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Mayor Lynne Hale with a welcome and opening remarks around the agenda and general housekeeping protocol, as standard.

There were cabinet members and councillors in the audience of around 60, Love Norbury members and resident association representatives were in attendance, meaning plenty of opportunities to unpack the evening and feedback through local channels.

Mayor Jason Perry's opening remarks were not lacking in detail. 16 months in office has been quite a journey, in May 2022 inherited a broken council with 1.6bn of debt and costs 66 million a year to service with assets of 300k and a controllable budget of 330k. 161 legacy issues were identified and 49 of which are still ongoing as a result of the opening of the books programme. The wind up of the council's failed developer brick by brick and the untangling of the council's failing companies, is still ongoing. Despite the difficulties there have been some successes: on planning, SPD2 planning document fully revoked (details of spd2 available on our website) and the local plan currently under review, regeneration of the town centre with regular meetings with the owners of Westfield and the expectation that new plans will filter through the council.

Norbury was the first of many planned Blitz clean borough-wide programmes (details we have already posted to our website!). New mechanical sweepers have been trialled and as a result of the blitz, reports of fly-tips have dropped significantly.

A notable mention here is a plan to remove the graffiti from the rail bridge and this will include the London Road needing to be temporarily closed to facilitate. This will be a welcomed improvement to the visual amenity of the Norbury district centre. The street Bins have also been restored along the London Road! A special thanks must go to Tony and the team from litter free Norbury for their unrelenting efforts to get our bins back in Norbury and to councillor Scott Roche for making this happen.



Crime and policing were mentioned but this mostly relates to the lapsed PSPO's being reinstated with Thornton Heath getting prioritised after the town centre. Public Space Protection Orders give Police greater powers from the council to deal with for example, Street drinkers.

Housing was mentioned with the infamous Regina Road scandal and the transformation plan that is in progress. A residents' charter has been adopted which resets the relationship with the council and ensures council tenants are treated with respect.

Finally, Mayor Perry ended on holding to account those that brought the borough to its knees with the Penn report and Kroll report passed to the Police. Final word much more to do, the journey of improvement is well underway and he and his team are determined to restore pride in our borough.

For the purpose of keeping this article short two questions have been selected from the Q&A session; When is the library opening on Saturday and the function room being more readily accessible to the community. Mayor Perry mentioned that open plus will be coming which will allow the use of the library on Saturday as part of a phased approach however the function room access will still be limited access until the costs to the council can be worked through. When are the Bus Shelters being reinstated? The bus shelters are a legacy issue and should have been installed 18 months ago. The contractor (Valo) is obliged to install them and the Mayor has reminded them of their obligation. We should see Bus shelters coming before the end of the year however the contract could be terminated, if not.

POLLARDS HILL NEWS

Little Book Library

Exciting ideas are buzzing in our Facebook group! How about a fantastic little book library, just like the one that recently popped up in Figges Marsh?

Imagine having a cosy book box right here in Pollards Hill, accessible to children and seniors alike. A charming way to spread the joy of reading and could spark even more wonderful community endeavours – think book clubs and more.

A simple and heart-warming initiative to bring smiles to everyone in our neighbourhood. Let's embark on a literary adventure together!



Knit Together Norbury

I am sure over the past few years you have seen and marvelled at the knitted creations in and around the local area (like the post box topper below created for Queen Elizabeth's 70th anniversary of her Coronation).

These works of art are created by "Knit Together Norbury" of whom we are privileged to have several members living on the hill.

The keen group of knitters continue to decorate our local area.



Knit Together Norbury are displaying a wonderful portrayal of the Empire Windrush by the closed entrance to Norbury Railway Station.

The 75th Anniversary of the arrival of the ship was commemorated at St. Oswald's Church on Saturday 24 June.

The large Windrush knit is be displayed in Norbury Library.



They've been using the library to ensure it gets used and to encourage members to support the many ways the library can be used for the community.

Elmer is used for story time and a large knitted caterpillar is in the children's part of the library already.

To join them you must be a member of the Pollards Hill Residents' Association - get in touch if you want to join the group.

Join PHRA as a member and connect with Knit Together Norbury.



POLICE & COMMUNITY

Norbury & Pollards Hill Safer Neighbourhoods Team Top reported crimes for April - July

Violence and sexual offences	123
Anti-social behaviour	87
Vehicle crime	62
All other crime	142



The top three priorities set for SNT as voted by the ward members:

Violence Related Priority

More specifically against a person. This was expanded to include Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG), with walk in sessions being offered for those affected to speak to a female officer specifically. Aims are to pro-actively patrol Norbury & Pollards Hill Ward to reduce violence within the Ward. Patrol known hot spot areas that are cause for concern on our Ward.

Theft of and Theft From Motor Vehicle

Vehicle related crime is a priority in this ward and also in neighbour wards. SNT Norbury & Pollards Hill is engaging proactive patrol and delivering valuable advice towards target hardening in relation to theft offences.

Drug Offences, Possession and Possession with Intent to Supply

We are conducting patrol to gather intelligence related to drugs user and suppliers, we are actively looking to apply warrants to put a stop towards PWITS and active patrols on the prevention of any drug use.

Speeding

This one is caveat as SNT may need to use their connections with the Traffic unit.

Community Events

Norbury Methodist Church pop-in coffee mornings

- 10:30AM - 12:30PM, Wed 27 September 2023
- 10:30AM - 12:30PM, Sun 01 October 2023

Email – SNMailbox-NorburyPollardsHillsNT@met.police.uk

Tel – 07920 2330882

Twitter:

Website: <https://www.met.police.uk/area/your-area/met/croydon/norbury-and-pollards-hill>



CrimeStoppers.

Speak up. Stay safe.

0800 555 111

100% anonymous. Always.

crimestoppers-uk.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NORBURY

St Philips Church
Beech Road
SW16 4NW

TICKETS
£12.50

QUIZ & CURRY night

QUESTION MARKERS

SATURDAY, 7TH OCTOBER 2023
@ 6.30 PM IN THE CHURCH HALL

MEAT & VEGETARIAN OPTIONS
AVAILABLE

PLEASE CALL 07576150903/
REP2599@YAHOO.CO.UK TO BOOK AND
PAY FOR YOUR TICKETS

COME AND JOIN US!

GROUP DISCUSSION | ACTIVITIES | TRIPS OUT

GIRL SQUAD 12+
STARTING IN SEPTEMBER 2023



Invite a friend

The group meets fortnightly on
Friday's 6.30-8.30pm
Sessions are
FREE

 CITY BRIDGE TRUST
Company No. 6235705 Charity No. 112508

For More Information
E: girlsgroup@cassandraceentre.org.uk | www.cassandraceentre.org.uk



Scam & fraud

AWARENESS AND BANKING QUESTIONS
I asked the banks to deliver workshops so that we can protect ourselves from the number of scams/frauds that is currently in operation.

The good news is, NatWest is offering to hold workshops at their Norbury Branch and details are as follows:

- 10th August 4 - 5.30
- 7th September 4 - 5.30
- 12th October 4 - 5.30
- 23rd November 4 - 5.30

10-12 people at each workshop

Cakes, biscuits, teas, coffee & soft drinks will be available
Due to security, the bank does not have toilet facilities for public use, Costa Coffee is next door, and they have toilets facilities.

Think of banking questions you may want to ask.
It is important that we know how to prevent illegal use of our accounts.
This is a fantastic opportunity and it's Free.

FOOD & LUNCHEON CLUB

Exclusive Weekly Food & Luncheon Club
Healthy & Nutritious Food
Meet New Friends

1st Floor
Norbury Library
Beatrice Avenue
Norbury
SW16 4UW

Every Tuesday
12pm - 2pm

109 Bus
Norbury Train Station



www.arccltd.com | info@arccltd.com | 020 8684 3784



JOIN US

Join PHRA as a new member or rejoin

We welcome you to join us as a new member or to renew your membership to the PHRA for 2023/2024.

Please make sure you live within the catchment area before making payment in order to prevent your application being rejected. Cost per household £5. Membership entitles you to vote in the PHRA meetings and have your say as to how your local area is run and developed. As a member you are also entitled to the PHRA newsletter which is issued three to four times a year.

The PHRA works on the preservation of the environment, maintains links with Croydon Council on a variety of issues including: roads, preservation of green spaces, grass verges & trees, planning, fly tipping & street cleaning. As a member you are also entitled to the PHRA local discount card.

The association's active committee meets monthly (second Thursday). Working to plan events, keep local planning & policing issues under review, and maintain contact with members. Committee members liaise with Croydon Council, Love Norbury, the local Police Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) and other local organisations.

Join PHRA'S member's only Facebook Group

Scan the QR code below and you can request to join the official private PHRA Facebook Group.

You'll have access to the latest news, updates on events, activities and initiatives taking place locally.

Additionally you can connect with your community, get to know others in your neighbourhood and get involved in the chats, it's a safe and friendly place to discuss local issues and share good news.



Scan the QR code or visit:
phranorbury.co.uk
to join the PHRA and take
an interest in where you live.
You can make a difference.



**James
Alexander**

Established over two decades ago in Norbury, we're the most highly ranked agent for customer service in SW16.

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