

# THE HOLLY LODGE ESTATE

FROM THE COMMITTEE REPRESENTING ALL PLOT OWNERS & INFORMING ALL RESIDENTS



## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2019



### WITH MUCH APPRECIATION TO PETER WESLEY

Peter has announced his retirement from the HLE Committee and as a Trustee of the Estate. He has worked tirelessly for 13 years and the Committee would like to extend a huge thankyou for the wise contributions he has made as a committee member and latterly as Chair as well as a king pin on the Summer Party sub-committee.

### GOVERNANCE REVIEW

As promised at the AGM a review of the Rules & Regulations in our Trust Deed has been undertaken in the last few months. Thank you to John Hendy and Judith Hunt for their invaluable contributions.

The changes were approved, in the main, at the Half Yearly Meeting in November, but there are a few minor amendments to be made around HLEC members' and Trustees' tenure.

The HLEC will be holding a meeting to finalise the Rules & Regulations. This will be at St Anne's Church on February 13<sup>th</sup> at 19.30. Please do come along and support your Committee and make sure you have a say in the governance of your Estate.

### ESTATE WIDE SURVEY

Thank you to the 200+ people who took the time to respond to the recent survey. There were many thoughts and ideas put forward and the HLEC is now collating and assessing the feasibility of these.

The results will be shared with residents and be discussed at the meeting on February 13<sup>th</sup> in St Anne's Church at 20.00 after the Governance review.

### EV CHARGING POINT PROJECT UPDATE

The EV charging point project was approved by residents at the Half Yearly Meeting and we are currently in the process of finding a contractor to take on the installation and running of the system. Further updates will come in subsequent newsletters.

**No trailing cables.** As is the case in all the London boroughs the HLEC reminds residents that cables for charging electric vehicles should not be trailed across the footpaths.

### PARKING REMINDERS

In order to manage the limited parking spaces on the Estate may we remind you of several of the rules which appear to be flaunted quite regularly.

- Permitted hours for tradesmen: Mon-Fri. 08:00-18:00; Sat. 09:00-13:00 and not at all on Sundays or Bank Holidays. Emergency Vehicles are excluded. A visitors' note is required during these times.
- The visitors' notes now require to be dated for all visitors. Please include:
  - 1) Address being visited
  - 2) Emergency contact number and
  - 3) Date of visit
- Visitors must park as close as possible to the property they are visiting.
- Residents must park as close to their home as possible so as not to inconvenience other residents.



## **MOTOR BIKES**

In the New Year we are going to be asking all motor bike owners to register their bikes with the Estate office. There will be no need to display a permit, but we do need to be able to contact the owners should we have to request the bike be moved for any reason. Please look out for notices on your bikes and further information in newsletters.

## **DISABLED BAY CRITERIA – BLUE BADGES**

Earlier this year the HLEC reviewed the disabled parking bay policy and has decided to bring it in line with the Borough of Camden policy & process. If a resident meets the criteria we will install a disabled bay close to their home. See the policy on our website [www.hle.org.uk](http://www.hle.org.uk) under 'Residents/Disabled Bays'.

The National Blue and Green Disabled Badges are not recognised on the Estate. Disabled residents who have been awarded a bay will be issued with an HLE Blue Badge. Visiting disabled divers must display a Visitor's Note like any other visitor.

## **WHATSAPP AND NOTIFICATIONS OF ASB AND STREET CRIMES**

We have been in touch with our local police, who have prioritised disrupting drug dealing across the borough, particularly because of the link with gang violence. If you spot something, please report on the WhatsApp group as much specific information as you can. In particular, please report: make, model and licence plate of the car - even partial information is helpful, such as a few characters from the VRM plate; anything to describe the individuals; and what it is about their behaviour that you find suspicious. This will then be shared with the police and help them to help us to remain safe and undisturbed - and where we can pass the information in real-time, may lead to immediate action. Also, please report anything to 101 if not urgent and always use 999 for urgent matters.

## **INCREASE IN ABANDONED CARS**

We have seen an increase in cars being abandoned on the Estate of late. We are working with LB Camden to get these removed, but there is a process to follow and it does take some time. Camden will not start the removal process until the tax has been out of date for 2 months, then their process can take several weeks before they will remove the vehicle. I appreciate this is frustrating for those of you who have one of these vehicles outside your home, but please bear with us, we are doing the best we can.

## **GARDENS SUB COMMITTEE**

The committee has formed a Gardens sub committee to oversee the long term development of our beautiful Estate. This met recently and identified several projects it would like to undertake in the coming years. These were prioritised and the top 4 projects are:

- Tesco beds to be extended and planted up with an impactful display of all year round interest shrubs
- Lower Park border beds to be overhauled and extra planting planned.
- Ditto Holly Lodge Gardens border beds.
- 'Wilding' will continue with, and extension of, the experiment of leaving certain areas of the grass verges & parks to grow as meadow.

## **MAKE YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION EARLY!**

Highgate Library, built in 1905, continues to survive thanks to the active participation of its dedicated volunteers. If you can spare a few hours a month, please help us keep this vital local resource open. Contact Sarah Harrison at the Friends of Highgate Library <http://www.dartmouthpark.org/FOHL> and have an even Happier New Year.



## HIRE BIKES

We are being overrun with dumped hire bikes! These are not only an eyesore but are a potentially lethal trip hazard when they are just dropped on the footpaths. We are looking at making the Estate a 'No Parking' zone with these hire companies, but in the meantime PLEASE, PLEASE park your bike in a considerate manner when you have finished with it, and make sure it will not be in the way of pedestrians.

And whilst I am talking about bikes, please do not ride bikes on the pavements. It is extremely dangerous as people do not expect to come across a speeding bike as they come out onto the footpath and we have had several near misses.

## COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AFTER HOURS

It has been pointed out to us that some people require catering vans to park after permitted hours in order to facilitate their parties. If this is the case for you then please contact Barbara, giving 2 week's notice at [manager@hle.org.uk](mailto:manager@hle.org.uk) and she will organise an exemption with MET Parking Services.

## PATCHWORK AND QUILTING GROUP – request from a local

I am a keen patchworker and quilter and I am very interested in forming a local patchwork group to meet once a week. I especially love the old craft of English paper piecing, as it is such a lovely, calming and sociable way to sew, but we could work together on any kind of patchwork or quilting. Everyone would be welcome, all levels of experience, and I would be delighted to teach people who have never made patchwork before. A patchwork group would be a wonderful way to make something beautiful, have a nice chat, and beat the winter blues!

If you are interested please contact me by email, at [debra.louise.webster@gmail.com](mailto:debra.louise.webster@gmail.com), and we can discuss and refine what we would like to achieve. Currently we could meet Thursday mornings, Wednesday afternoons, or late mornings Saturday and Sunday.

## EMAILS FOR MAILSHOTS

If you would like to receive these newsletters by email plus any other relevant Estate news and announcements, please contact Barbara on [manager@hle.org.uk](mailto:manager@hle.org.uk) requesting you be added to the mailing list.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

The HLEC and the Estate staff would like to wish all our residents a wonderful festive season. However Christmas can be a lonely time of year for some people so please do look in on your neighbours and perhaps consider some random acts of kindness.



HLE FOREMAN – Gerry Hartigan:  
Mobile phone: 07447 869570 Email: [foreman@hle.org.uk](mailto:foreman@hle.org.uk)

HLE MANAGER – Barbara Wheatley:  
Office: 0203 538 4454 Mobile phone: 07731 301119 Email: [manager@hle.org.uk](mailto:manager@hle.org.uk)

HLE COMMITTEE SECRETARY – Ronnie Day:  
Email: [secretary@hle.org.uk](mailto:secretary@hle.org.uk)



## **DON'T LET THIEVES STEAL YOUR CHRISTMAS!**

### **Top tips to keep your valuables safe:**

- Keep wallets, purses, mobile phones and iPods out of sight and bags secure, especially in crowded places.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash, and be vigilant when drawing money from ATMs.
- Keep your PIN number safe, do not disclose to anyone or carry with your card.

### **Top tips to keep your car safe:**

- Park in a busy, well lit area or secure car park if possible.
- Close windows, sunroof, lock doors & activate security alarms when leaving your car.
- Do not leave valuables or shopping on display in your car.
- Take valuables with you when you leave your car, eg: cash, credit cards, mobile phones, sat nav systems etc.
- If you have no choice, make sure valuables and shopping are locked in the boot; taking care no-one is watching you.
- On cold days, don't leave your car unattended with the engine running while it warms up.

### **Top tips to keep your house safe:**

- Keep gifts, cash & valuables safe and well hidden so they can't be seen or reached by thieves.
- Lock doors & windows before you go out.
- Leave a light on in a room & draw curtains when you go out at night.
- Postcode your valuables with a UV pen or mark with SMARTWATER.
- Cancel newspapers, milk etc when you go on holiday.
- Look out for your neighbours property.
- Make sure callers to your home are genuine, always ask for ID.

## **SNT POLICE CATALYTIC CONVERTER ADVICE**

### **Theft**

The start of the credit crunch in 2008 and high prices for precious metals resulted in a noticeable increase in catalytic converter thefts.

Thieves simply cut the catalytic converter from the exhaust pipe of a parked car and sell them on to scrap metal dealers.

- Taller vehicles (4x4s) are particularly vulnerable as the converters are more accessible. Because they tend to have larger engines, they contain more of the precious metals too.
- Once an unmarked converter has been removed from a vehicle it's quite difficult to match it to that vehicle as there aren't any distinguishing marks.

### **Reduce risk**

To reduce the risk of theft of your car's catalytic converter:

- Garage your car whenever possible
- Park in well-lit busy areas
- Look out for people working under cars
- If the car is high risk consider marking the metal shell of the converter with a unique mark, so that if it is removed by thieves it will be easier to trace back to your vehicle
- If you operate a small fleet, consider obstructing access to vehicles with high ground clearance by parking lower vehicles close by.