

Welcome to the January Newsletter from Ealing Fields Residents' Association

Traffic calming in Northfields

EFRA wants to make local roads as safe as possible. We have worked with local councillors to secure Ward Forum funding to paint 20mph roundels on many roads in our area. We are also working with our local councillors looking at ways to improve road safety in the area adjacent to Little Ealing School. We are concerned that Weymouth Avenue is used for 'rat running' and that this creates a hazard for children and others travelling to and from schools in our area.

Ealing Fields High School

Last September, Ealing Fields High School became part of the Twyford Academies Trust. The school is hoping to move to the former King Fahad site opposite the Plough in September 2019 from its current location in Boston Manor. A sub-group of EFRA committee members who live close to the site will shortly be meeting representatives of the Trust and contractors to view the plans and consider any issues of concern about the proposed redevelopment of the site. Please contact Jane Cocking at jane75cocking@hotmail.co.uk if there are any issues you wish to highlight. The school will have an intake of 120 pupils a year and will grow to accommodate about 840 pupils in all.

Orion Park Redevelopment

The Orion Park site (north and west of Northfields station) is scheduled to be redeveloped with housing and new shops following the Council's decision to grant the developers planning permission in October last year. A representative from EFRA spoke at the Planning Committee objecting to the over-development of this site. Of particular concern is the proposed 5/6 storey block on Northfield Avenue which we consider is out of scale with surrounding buildings. Despite our objections and those of two of our local councillors (together with a large number of objections lodged by affected residents), the Committee approved the application. EFRA is not opposed in principle to the regeneration of the site but was hoping the development would be on a smaller scale and more sympathetic to the character of the buildings in the surrounding area.

The 'mini gardens' at the Plough Junction

EFRA enthusiastically supported the creation of the mini gardens opposite the Plough in Northfield Avenue. Indeed EFRA members also help maintain these patches of greenery in the heart of our community. But we were dismayed when ugly advertising signs were placed within these mini gardens by the Council last summer. Together with our local councillors, we fought hard to persuade the local authority to remove the signs - which it eventually did.

Chandos Avenue 2-way cycle route

Following on from the successful introduction of the up-hill cycle lane on Little Ealing Lane, Ealing Council proposed extending the safe cycling network by making Chandos Ave 2-way for cycles only, with the road remaining 1-way for vehicular traffic.

When the cycle proposal emerged, EFRA worked with residents, ward councillors and council officers to ensure all parties were informed of the plans; collated all the questions and reservations; arranged on-site meetings; and worked to revise the plans to best meet everyone's needs. The project has recently been implemented and to date seems to have been reasonably well received. EFRA has secured an agreement that there will be a six month review of all aspects of the scheme, including the potential for the road to come within a 20mph zone.

J2 Festival June 2018

For the second year running the Junction 2 (J2) Techno Music Festival will be held at Boston Manor Park. This time it will be held over the weekend of 8th/9th June. Whilst EFRA is keen to celebrate the area's many cultural events and festivals, we do not feel this type of festival is appropriate for a largely residential area.

Last year the local transport infrastructure could not cope with the extra demand. And many local residents complained of incidents of anti-social behaviour and the constant noise. EFRA has received reassurances from the Festival organisers that many of the problems encountered last year will be addressed. We will work hard to ensure that the organisers keep to their word.

Heathrow Update

Heathrow Airport is currently consulting on the mitigation measures if a 3rd runway is given the go-ahead. The airport is also consulting on potential changes to flight paths into Heathrow. HACAN which gives a voice to residents under the Heathrow flight paths says that "these will be very important consultations for local communities. They could impact the quality of people's lives for generations to come..."

EFRA will be reviewing both consultations and decide on an appropriate response. On mitigation measures, EFRA's position is still one of outright opposition to a third runway. Check our website regularly for updates (www.efra.org.uk) Further information is also available on www.hacan.org.uk and you will be able to find the Heathrow consultations on their website at www.heathrowexpansion.com