



**LEADER'S COLUMN**

**DEAR RESIDENT**

There are some exciting events coming up over the summer and I urge you all to get involved. One is our very own Wipe Out Graffiti Week, which will be held between 6 and 12 July.

We're Building Pride Borough Wide, but we need your help to really make our vision a reality. Wipe Out Graffiti Week will see us teaming up with an impressive alliance of organisations, businesses and residents and running a range of different activities. These will include community clean ups, test shopping to make sure businesses aren't selling spray paints to underage customers, and 'spot squads' that will record and report graffiti. You can read more about the week and how you can get involved on p14.

This summer we're also asking residents to dust off their bikes and join the Skyride Hounslow, which will take place on 9 August. This is the first time that this annual event, which attracted 50,000 people last year to cycle through the centre of the capital, will also be run in outer London, so I'm delighted that we have been chosen as the first hosts. Find out more on page 9.

There's good news for you, but bad news for criminals, on page 6. We have recently approved a £1.8 million investment in a revolutionary new CCTV system, which supports Promise 10, the introduction of more CCTV into the borough. You can also read more about how we're keeping you safe on page 11, where there are some top tips to keep yourself safe from the creepy-crawlies that come with the summer months.

I hope you enjoy this edition of Hounslow Matters. There is a break over August, but the magazine will be back in September. Until then, I wish all residents a happy and safe summer.

**CLLR PETER THOMPSON**  
**LONDON BOROUGH OF HOUNSLOW**

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**hounslow**  
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**NEWS**

**PLANNING**

# HAT TRICK FOR PLANNING ENFORCEMENT

Three couples who broke planning laws are now more than £8,200 out of pocket after they were successfully prosecuted by the council.

In the first case, Mr and Mrs Sidhu of Martindale Road, Hounslow West, were fined £2,250 and a victim surcharge fee of £15 after pleading guilty to illegally putting up a porch and canopy outside their house. They were also ordered to each pay costs of £1,103.

The couple had previously ignored fourteen warning letters from the council to remove the extension, but failed to comply within the given time.

They have now removed the canopy and porch.

Mr and Mrs Kohli of Jersey Road, Osterley, pleaded guilty to illegally erecting a canopy on the front of their house. They were fined £1,500 and a victim surcharge fee of £15 and ordered to pay prosecution costs of £1,250. The Kohlis had appealed against the decision but lost and have now removed the canopy.

Finally, on the same day, Mr and Mrs Warah of Midsummer Avenue, Hounslow, pleaded guilty to a charge relating to an illegal rear extension on their home. They were fined £1,000

and a victim surcharge fee of £15, and ordered to each pay prosecution costs of £1,103.

Cllr Barbara Reid, the council's lead member for environment, said: "The successful outcome of these prosecution shows that we are determined to ensure that planning orders are taken seriously.

"Our officers work hard to resolve these issues through negotiation, but when people refuse to play by the same rules as everyone else, we will not hesitate to take tough action."

For more information, Visit: [www.hounslow.gov.uk/planning\\_enforcement](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/planning_enforcement)

**COMMUNITY**

# RAINBOW PROJECT DELIVERS GOLD

The Rainbow Project provides Hounslow Homes' residents with the chance to bid for grants of up to £100,000 to improve their community and local environment. Over the next three years, £1.5 million will be spent on these projects.

There has been huge interest in the Rainbow Project from residents and community groups across the borough. Since its launch, 32 projects have made it through to the second stage of the application process. The applicants are now working to develop their ideas further and submit a more detailed application to the panel.

Due to the interest in the project, all the money has been provisionally allocated. If any remains unallocated following an assessment of round 2 applications in October, a further funding round may be announced.

You can still get involved by helping your local group to develop its proposal and, if successful, to deliver the project.

If you have any questions or would like register your interest, please contact Aine Hayes by emailing [community.development@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:community.development@hounslow.gov.uk) or calling 020 8583 4813.



**YOUNG PEOPLE**

# COULD YOU BE A MENTOR?

If you think you could provide support and guidance for young people who are at risk of getting involved in offending or anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, or who are vulnerable in other ways, our Youth Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Prevention Team would like to hear from you.

The team is looking to recruit a diverse group of mentors from around the borough and offer full training and support for the volunteers. There is no upper age limit for volunteers but you do need to be over 21. The most important thing is that you enjoy spending time with

young people, and are capable of building positive relationships with them.

Mentoring involves building trust with a young person and helping them work towards agreed goals for their life.

Mentors will need to be able to commit to meeting with a young person for an hour or two twice a month in their spare time. Volunteers will be interviewed and CRB checked. Compulsory training will take place in the autumn over two days.

Applications need to be in by 10 August. For a pack email [syisp@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:syisp@hounslow.gov.uk) or call 020 8583 6363 or 07939 53 55 77.

**CHILDREN**

# STAY AND PLAY AT NEW CHILDREN'S CENTRE

The new Cranford Children's Centre, based on the Cranford Infant and Nursery Schools site, was officially opened to the public on 1 June.

The new centre offers drop-in stay and play facilities, antenatal and postnatal care, and advisory clinics for parents/carers and their children. It is one of fourteen Children's Centres in the borough.

Cllr Lin Davies, lead member for children's services and family, said: "Children's Centres bring together services at a local level. These include supporting families, parents and children of the under 5s and this is what we believe the Cranford Children's Centre will offer our local community.

"The centre will significantly improve the health, well-being and educational attainment of children, particularly those who are disadvantaged. They will also help parents and their children access

self-development, training and employment opportunities."

For further information contact Judy Matthews, Children's Centre Manager, by emailing [cranfordcc@hounslow.gov.uk](mailto:cranfordcc@hounslow.gov.uk) or calling 020 8813 7759.



**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**CHANGE THE WAY YOU PAY!**

A campaign to encourage council tax payers to sign up to make payments by Direct Debit is currently underway. Paying in this way gives you greater flexibility in making your payments. Instead of having to pay the monthly instalment on the 1st day of the month, paying by Direct Debit means you can make payments on 1st, 10th, 18th and 25th day of the month, helping you manage your finances more effectively. Choose to pay this way and we'll enter you into a prize draw to win £1,000 of Tesco vouchers, competition rules apply. For more information, visit: [www.hounslow.gov.uk/ct\\_payment](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/ct_payment) or pick up a Direct Debit Prize Draw leaflet at the civic centre.

**ONLINE PAYMENTS**

From 7 September 2009, the cash counters in the Civic Centre will open from 9am to 12noon. The change reflects the move to make more transactions available online, so that you don't need to visit us. Previously, the cash office opened from 9am to 5pm. From the autumn, if you can only pay in cash, you can continue to do so at the cash office in the morning or at the post office or HSBC bank at other times. One of the council's 10 Promises to residents is to put more services on the web. Cllr Mark Bowen, deputy leader and lead member for corporate services, explained: "We made a promise to make our services as accessible as possible, and the more that we can put on the website, the easier it is for everyone to do business with us at a time that's most convenient to them." Posters with details of the new opening hours will be in the Civic Centre in August. Find out more at [www.hounslow.gov.uk](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk).

**LEADER'S QUESTION TIME**

Question the Leader of the council about key issues at Leader's Question Time on 8 July at 6.30pm. Following the success of the borough's first Leader's Question Time in December, the council's overview and scrutiny committee will once again put the Leader in the hot seat. This is your chance to put questions forward about environment and leisure issues. Don't miss out on having your voice heard! Register with us to secure your place or to submit a question at: [www.hounslow.gov.uk/questiontime](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/questiontime).

# NEW SCHEME WILL MAKE BOROUGH SAFER

**Building Pride  
Borough Wide**

There is good news for residents, and bad news for criminals, after the council approved a £1.8 million investment in a revolutionary new CCTV system.



**T**he ground-breaking system supports our vision to Build Pride Borough Wide and will be shared by the council and local police, bringing together existing CCTV to ensure unprecedented coverage across the borough.

Cllr Peter Thompson, leader of the council, said: "One of our 10 Promises to residents is to introduce CCTV to more parts of the borough. This investment means both the police and the council can share our cameras and expand the network to provide a much more coordinated, and ultimately successful, method.

"CCTV reduces anti-social behaviour, robbery and car crime - something that

many people will have been affected by at some time in their lives.

"This investment also means we can tackle environmental crimes like fly-tipping and graffiti, which can have a massive negative impact on an area.

"We hope that this system will also assist in making residents feel safer in the borough as it will be monitored 24/7.

"We are designing an element of flexibility into the system, which allows us to move CCTV cameras into areas for a short period. This means we can respond to specific incidents or concerns to reassure residents, as well as catch criminal activity in new and temporary antisocial behaviour hotspots."

The scheme will include 80 new wireless cameras that can be moved around the borough to crime hotspots.

Some of the money will also be spent preparing the wireless network, with the aim of having 90% of the borough covered by the end of the year. Areas outside the wireless network will be covered by eighteen new Domehawk cameras that can be placed on, and powered by, lampposts.

Alongside the new cameras, a purpose-built community safety control room will be built, which will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Operators will be able to pan, tilt and

zoom the cameras, and police will be able to take full control if an incident occurs that they need to monitor.



**CCTV REDUCES  
ANTI-SOCIAL  
BEHAVIOUR,  
ROBBERY AND  
CAR CRIME**



The system is designed to allow it to adapt to changes in technology, and to be expanded if necessary. Further steps are being taken to see if other cameras can be brought into the system to give a comprehensive range of information in case of an emergency.

The locations of the cameras will be based on intelligence from a number of agencies including the council, police, and fire service.

The system will be rolled out from the summer with the whole borough being covered by the end of March next year.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, visit: [www.hounslow.gov.uk/cctv\\_promise](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/cctv_promise) or [www.hounslow.gov.uk/community\\_safety](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/community_safety)

# MAYOR OF LONDON'S SKYRIDE COMES TO HOUNSLOW

One of the largest cycling events in the country will be heading to Hounslow this summer.

**S**kyride Hounslow will take place on 9 August, and is an addition to last year's popular event, which attracted 50,000 people to cycle past central London's iconic sites along a car-free route.

The first event of its kind in outer London, Skyride Hounslow will help encourage less confident cyclists and their families to get their bikes out and experience the joys of cycling.

Cllr Peter Thompson, leader of the council, said: "This is about Londoners of all kinds coming together to enjoy a superb cycle ride free from the interference of cars. What could be nicer than feeling the wind on your face as you ride through some wonderful parks, and discover some new

views of the borough that, even if you live here, you thought you knew like the back of your hand?"

The latest figures show that the number of Londoners who choose pedal over petrol is on the up. But to truly make a difference, much more needs to be done to broaden the appeal. That's why Boris Johnson, Mayor of London, is investing £11m this year into developing a cycle hire scheme, boosting cycle parking and training, expanding local routes, and rolling out twelve Cycle Highways that will link outer London with the centre.

He explained: "As someone who cycles nearly every day, I can attest to the fact that it is one of the best ways to get around London. It is also good for the environment

– helping cut congestion and reducing carbon emissions. London's face will be transformed next year, so that it starts to look like a real cycling city. Before we get there, we are investing heavily in cycle safety – funding cycle training across London."

This investment also provides the funding to expand on the hugely popular mass cycling event – a festival of cycling, which last year attracted over 50,000 to cycle a car-free central London route, taking in some of the city's most iconic sights.

Everyone can take part on the day – all you need is a bike. All abilities and all ages are welcome to join in the fun. This is not a race, and you don't need to wear lycra!

For more information, visit:

[www.london.gov.uk/skyride](http://www.london.gov.uk/skyride)



TEL: 0300 123 2244  
[futureskills@tvu.ac.uk](mailto:futureskills@tvu.ac.uk)  
[www.tvu.ac.uk/futureskills](http://www.tvu.ac.uk/futureskills)

## be your own boss

### NEW FOUNDATION DEGREE IN BUSINESS START-UP

Do you dream of starting a business and being your own boss? We can help you turn that dream into reality with the new Foundation Degree in Enterprise Entrepreneurship: Business Start-Up. You will benefit from practical and flexible tuition whilst you work on growing your new business.

Thames Valley University offer an innovative support package which includes free loan of the latest note book computer plus software and access to hot desk facilities at our Enterprise Centres in Acton and Southall.

For full details and dates of all our open days or additional information, please visit our website.

#### OPEN DAY

Wednesday 29 July  
 St Mary's Road, Ealing W5 5RF  
 3pm - 7pm



## BEYOND HEATHROW

# WE WANT A WATCHDOG NOT A LAPDOG!

A tough new watchdog with a 'green eye' is needed to keep tabs on Heathrow's environmental performance, say council leaders.

**W**e are one of several local authorities who are insisting that a powerful regulator is needed to ensure that airports stick to proposed new rules on noise and pollution.

The 2M Group of councils says the Government's current plans, to give the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) responsibility for monitoring the green credentials of airports, will not work because the CAA is too close to government.

Cllr Barbara Reid, lead member for aviation at the council, said: "People are fed up with Heathrow flouting guidelines on noise and pollution. We want a watchdog with bite. Instead they are trying

to fob us off with a lapdog with no teeth.

"The CAA relies heavily for its funding from the Department for Transport, which many people think is too close to the British Airports Authority. The authority does an excellent job on air safety but it is the wrong organisation to hold airport operators to task for poor performance.

"It will take a powerful, independent body to keep a 'green eye' on Heathrow and stand up to both industry and government. We believe this could be a job for the Environment Agency.

"Alternatively, the Government could consider creating an independent regulator with the power to keep the

airport in check, look out for passengers' interests and make sure that our residents are protected from more noise and more pollution."



## INDEPENDENT LIVING

# KEEPING YOUR INDEPENDENCE

It is now easier for older people and people with a disability to get information and equipment to help them live independently.

**A**skSARA is an award-winning online self assessment tool, developed by the Disabled Living Foundation (DLF), which asks a series of questions about your home, the kinds of activities you do each day and what difficulties you have. It then produces your own report with advice about how to manage those difficulties and what products are available locally to help.

Cllr Pamela Fisher, lead member for adult social care and health at the council, said: "This is a great opportunity for those who have difficulty managing everyday tasks, but prefer not to involve

social care services. AskSARA allows you to decide what is best for you. Self-assessment tools like this are likely to be the way of the future."

If you do not have access to a PC at home, you can access the site at your local library or at Age Concern Brentford, located on Albany Road. If you can use a computer, drop into their Internet Café, Monday to Friday, between 10am and 4pm. If you need help, call them on **020 8560 6969** to arrange an appointment with a tutor.

You can also access AskSARA via the DLF by calling **020 7289 6111**, ext **353**,

where a trained advisor will guide you through the assessment. Lines are open Monday to Friday, 10am to 4pm. Please state that you are a Hounslow resident when calling.



### FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, visit: [www.hounslow.gov.uk/equipment\\_and\\_adaptations](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/equipment_and_adaptations)

# DROPPED KERB ENFORCEMENT

Councils have been given new powers to crack down on dangerous parking, and will be able to issue penalty charge notices to drivers who double park, or block dropped kerbs.

**I**n August last year the council's parking section started booking vehicles blocking pedestrian dropped kerbs. This enforcement has now been extended to cover driveways too.

This change will help wheelchair users and people with powered mobility vehicles and prams get around more easily and safely, as well as preventing residents having drives and garages blocked.

Providing there are no other restrictions outside your house, (for example yellow lines, designated bays), you or your visitors can still park outside the house, providing you do not share the crossover with anyone else. This covers vehicles which are fully on the road, but blocking access to the driveway. If the vehicle is on the driveways, you can still get a ticket for pavement parking.

To report a vehicle causing obstruction in this manner call **020 8583 5452**. You

will need to provide your name and address, landline telephone number and details of the vehicle causing obstruction. We are unable to carry out enforcement unless a landline number is provided. The parking section will call the complainant straight back on the landline number provided to confirm the details and will then despatch an officer and removal truck to deal with the vehicle. The service is available Monday – Friday, between 8am and 5pm.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, visit: [www.hounslow.gov.uk/dropped\\_kerb](http://www.hounslow.gov.uk/dropped_kerb)

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