Moving forwards

Why cycling and walking are key p15
11,524 food parcels to vulnerable people

£73.74m in grants for 5,377 businesses (most in London)

6,000+ pupils back at state schools. During lockdown, schools kept open for 1,000+ pupils (eligible families)

1,000+ volunteers via Ealing Together

£1.5m of COVID-19 hardship fund provided to residents

2,679 key workers given free parking permits

850+ social distancing signs/stencils (and more to come)

20,909 calls to vulnerable residents

20,909 calls to vulnerable residents

330,000+ hours of home care for 1,815 vulnerable residents

8,476 phone calls taken by Ealing Together helpline

442 local care providers given emergency PPE

1 million+ items of PPE sourced for local frontline staff

£26.3m of council tax support provided

19% more recycling than usual (dry mixed and food waste)

62 emergency grants to voluntary sector

78 Groups, charities and organisations working under the Ealing Together banner

450+ people given safe places to stay to avoid rough sleeping

8,476 phone calls taken by Ealing Together helpline

150 parks and green spaces kept open

Our response

In 12 weeks: 23 March – 21 June

#EalingTogether
Welcome to the July-August edition of Around Ealing. We hope you found the coronavirus special mini editions useful during the lockdown. Now, we decided the time is right to try to return to something more resembling normal service. The virus is still with us, of course, and affecting life in almost every way and it has been a strange and worrying time for everyone. I want to offer my sincerest condolences from everyone here to anyone who has suffered a loss.

We will continue to keep you informed, but may I also recommend you check our website ealingnewsextra.co.uk and social media regularly. And, also, sign up to our regular email updates via the council’s My Account service (sign up at www.ealing.gov.uk/myaccount and, then, go to the ‘My Account Information’ page in your account and select ‘yes’ to receiving emails and updates about council services).

Richard Nadal
EDITOR
Reopening cautiously

From 4 July, the social distancing rules changed. People are now advised to keep two metres, where possible, from anyone outside of their own household.

This means a number of local facilities will be able to start reopening, with COVID-19 safety guidelines in place, including:

- Libraries
- Outdoor playgrounds
- Outdoor gym equipment
- Community centres.

However, indoor gyms, leisure centres and swimming pools were not yet able to reopen and, as the magazine went to press, were remaining closed. Keep an eye on the council’s social media for further updates, or sign up for emails at www.ealing.gov.uk/myaccount.

Council leader Julian Bell said: “Where possible, we should all make sure we are keeping a two-metre gap between us and anyone not in our household. Although it is very welcome to now be able to reopen some community facilities, we must still be careful and use our common sense. The coronavirus has not gone away. As well as maintaining the social distancing of at least one metre, but preferably two, face coverings are also advised in enclosed public spaces – including shops.”

CULTURAL DESTINATIONS
Museums and galleries were given permission to reopen from 4 July. Pitzhanger Manor and Gallery in Ealing and the museum at Gunnersbury are among those expecting to do so, with safety measures in place.

BUSINESSES
Pubs and restaurants were also able to reopen from 4 July, if they met COVID-secure guidelines and offered table-service only. Hairdressers were able to open their doors as well. This is in addition to the many high street shops that had already been allowed to reopen in June. Read more about local businesses’ attempts to survive the crisis from page 10.

OTHER CHANGES
Two households are now able to meet indoors as well as outdoors; and groups of up to six different people, regardless of household, are able to meet up outdoors – while observing the social distancing advice. Find out more online at gov.uk.

Face coverings are still mandatory on public transport.

For the latest information on local changes, visit www.ealing.gov.uk/coronavirus
As the country moves out of lockdown, it is critical our recovery is a positive, ‘green’ recovery. That means better choices for our health and wellbeing and for our environment.

As you can read from page 15 of this magazine, it means more ‘active travel’ – or, in other words, more walking, cycling or scooting for our shorter journeys. The council is putting measures in place to make this easier for us all to do. It is a safer alternative to using public transport during social distancing restrictions, yes. But it also means less car traffic and less air pollution. Cleaner air to breathe. Better physical health and improved mental wellbeing. And, of course, fewer harmful emissions that do such damage to our planet when we are in the full grip of a climate emergency. We have been told to expect a window of around 12 years to make a difference and we are now in a position of us all needing to take urgent climate action – both as individuals and as groups. At the council, we have adopted a draft climate strategy which will inform our policies and drive numerous projects. You can read more about this from page 20 and it will be a recurring theme for the foreseeable future. I urge you all to have a think about how you can do your bit.

Designated low-traffic neighbourhoods are one of the measures we will be using soon to encourage active travel around the borough. Take a look at page 18 for more details.

The unexpected but essential spending to support the borough through the COVID-19 crisis has been considerable. It threatens our ability to provide residents with services in the future.

Local authorities have been at the forefront of the response to the pandemic; and protecting the vulnerable while carrying out critical functions of everyday life. All that time, lockdown has meant many of our income streams have also been switched off. We asked the government for support and I wrote to the Prime Minister. At the time of writing, the government was offering 40% of what we have spent – but that would still leave us with an additional £39milllion hole in our finances this year. It is deeply troubling because, like all other councils, before the coronavirus emergency Ealing was already facing an incredibly hard task to balance a shrinking budget with the ever-increasing demand for our services. If councils don’t receive the financial support that we need to be able to continue to deliver the services our residents expect and deserve, we will be left with stark choices. We will have to make cuts.

Watch a video and find out more at www.ealing.gov.uk/keepyourpromise

Councillor Julian Bell
Leader of the council

The Black Lives Matter protests recently were a powerful reminder of inequalities in our society. At Ealing Council, we recognised people’s anger and urge to demonstrate. But we wanted everybody to be safe, too, and to avoid the spreading of the coronavirus, so we held a virtual meeting to allow local people to have an opportunity to speak and share their experiences. We are also appointing a commission to look into further work locally – see page seven for more.

Good, genuinely affordable homes
Opportunities and living incomes
A healthy, great place
☑️ FOR ALL
Councillor Tomlinson

Councillor Anna Tomlinson, who served Hobbayne ward, has sadly passed away. Council leader Julian Bell said: “Anna was a joy to know, a really kind and gentle woman, and a good friend to all. She will be deeply missed.” A by-election will need to take place but, under COVID-19 legislation, all elections are postponed, so this will not take place until next year at a date to be confirmed. Read more at www.ealing.gov.uk/news/article/2019

Parking updates

Now the UK has begun easing out of lockdown, some of the borough’s normal parking arrangements have returned.

Normal parking enforcement has resumed across all parts of the borough, although free parking is still in place for key workers in the school, health and care sectors and will remain until further notice. Car park permits and business permits, which many permit holders could not use during the lockdown, had their expiry dates automatically extended by 83 days (to compensate for loss of use between the 23 March-14 June).

In council car parks, extra cleaning is taking place – with the disinfection of handrails, door handles and lift buttons. Pay and display buttons will also be cleaned more often, though payment by phone is the best option for those concerned about using shared surfaces.

For more on parking visit www.ealing.gov.uk/parking

Learning to adjust

“We wanted to make the return to school really special for the pupils,” said Karen Kondo, headteacher of West Acton Primary School. “But, moreover, we wanted it to be welcoming and give a real feeling of safety.” Schools across the borough welcomed children back to school before the summer holidays began and safety was paramount in the minds of staff. Videos and booklets were among the creative ways they approached the return to classrooms. All schools are due to return fully to normal in September after the holiday break.

Read more at ealingnewsextra.co.uk/coronavirus/safely-back-to-school

Meetings online

Ealing Council is holding virtual committee meetings online, including on planning matters. This means you can watch or have your say, and decisions will remain open to scrutiny. You can find the meeting you are interested in, and then ‘join it’ online.

The council was one of the first councils in the country to adopt this virtual approach. The council will update residents once it has been determined it will be safe for councillors and the public to meet in person again.

Read more at ealingnewsextra.co.uk/coronavirus/online-council-meetings-transparency

Service change

Ealing Council has taken recycling and rubbish collections back under its own control, with the creation of a new company called Greener Ealing. It started to operate under a contract with the council from July and will also provide grass cutting and maintenance of our parks and open spaces. A fleet of new trucks will help to provide a more consistent, responsive and reliable service that will build on the borough’s recycling rate, which is the second highest in London. The existing workforce of around 350 staff was transferred across to Greener Ealing and will immediately benefit by receiving the London Living Wage.

Read more at ealingnewsextra.co.uk/latest-news/greener-ealing-taking-over-rubbish-and-recycling
Time for change

Following the recent **Black Lives Matter** protests, and the Mayor of London’s decision to hold a review of all the public realm in London, the same is going to be done in Ealing.

Councillor Julian Bell said: “It is really important that we reflect in our public realm our modern, diverse community. We are setting up a commission that will work with the council to review all of our road names, our public places and our buildings, and see how we can more reflect our modern and contemporary, diverse borough; which is, of course, our greatest strength.

“We will look at ways to honour local members of our black community and other ethnic minorities who have made significant contributions to our borough.”

**TACKLING INEQUALITY**

An online forum was held in early July with local community groups to discuss the issues raised by the Black Lives Matter protests and it is planned to hold these virtual events regularly to explore the realities of societal and structural racism; and to look at realistic action that might provide solutions to these issues. The sessions may include discussions, interviews with key local figures, and YouTube live streams hosted by young people. It will also provide an opportunity to showcase creative work.

Councillor Joanna Camadoo-Rothwell, the council’s cabinet member for community safety and inclusion, added: “There needs to be a substantial piece of work examining local inequalities and finding ways to tackle them – and the council is deeply committed to doing it. The commission will be asked to investigate this in detail and to help identify real action we can take.”

**Unequal impact**

As we reported in our last special edition, a government study found that black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities are being disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and have a higher risk of serious illness and death. Among the factors thought to be contributing to the impact on BAME communities are: Higher rates of pre-existing serious health conditions; the jobs people do, such as being key workers in frontline roles; and, also, poverty.

Councillor Joanna Camadoo-Rothwell, Ealing Council’s cabinet member for community safety and inclusion, said: “Although it has been said that coronavirus doesn’t discriminate, this crisis is highlighting the longstanding inequalities faced by black, Asian and minority ethnic people.”

Key advice to minimise the risk from the coronavirus includes staying at home as much as possible, keeping your distance from others when out, and washing your hands regularly. Preferably, also wear face coverings in shops or other enclosed spaces – and they must be worn on public transport.

View the full story, and a video, at ealingnewsextra.co.uk/features/unequal-covid
Got COVID symptoms?

Get tested now. Here is how:

www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test

Protect your neighbours
Protect your friends
Protect your family

KEEP EALING SAFE

KEEP LONDON SAFE
Anyone with a fever, a continuous cough, or loss of smell or taste should immediately self-isolate for seven days and arrange to get a coronavirus test.

It is important to get tested as close as possible to when your symptoms start, and at least within three days. The test is painless and involves taking a cotton bud sample from your mouth and nose. It does not take long. You can request a test online at www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test or book a test by calling 119.

Once a test is requested, you will be asked to attend a test site or carry out a test at home. Results should be available within 48 hours.

Members of your household also need to self-isolate for 14 days from when your symptoms first showed. All of you must stay at home and not see anyone outside of your household. This is because people can have the virus yet be free of symptoms for up to two weeks. You should also tell people you have been in close contact with over the previous 48 hours that you have coronavirus symptoms.

THE TEST RESULTS
If the result is negative, you and your household can come out of self-isolation. However, if the result is positive, you and your household must complete your self-isolation – and you should receive a text or email alert from the NHS. The alert will ask you to share details of the people you have been in close, recent contact with – and also places you have recently visited – to help protect those most at risk. No one contacted will be told your identity.

HELP THE EFFORT TO SAVE LIVES
Councillor Binda Rai, Ealing Council’s cabinet member for health and adult services, said: “We are fortunate to be in a position where lockdown has been partially lifted and it is possible to see some of our loved ones. But it is really important we continue to follow the guidance set by government.

“If you have any symptoms, you need to order a test and isolate. It is really easy. You can take the test yourself, and you will have the results in days. So, please help the effort to save lives by following the guidance; booking a test when you have symptoms; and isolating.”

TEST AND TRACE IN EALING
Ealing Council has created a plan to help prevent the virus spreading in the borough and to control the virus in the event of a local outbreak, in partnership with all other London boroughs. You can see more at www.ealing.gov.uk/covidgettested

Find out more information about coronavirus in various languages, including help that is available, at www.ealing.gov.uk/coronavirus
Breathing space in a crisis

“Since COVID-19, we have seen a lot of new faces, many of whom were on zero hours contracts, and who haven’t been furloughed or whose companies have closed. Lots of people are really struggling out there.”

Janet Fletcher, the manager of Ealing Foodbank, sees people in crisis every day and these numbers have more than doubled since lockdown began in March. Regardless of why people are coming to the foodbank, she is very clear about their goal.

She said: “Our aim is to restore dignity and revive the hope of people who use our service. We talk to them as humans and ask them how they are doing and what they need.

**MORE DEMAND IN THE SUMMER**

“A lot of our clients are working but are very low paid. The last few months have seen them take a huge financial hit, when many of them were just about managing before. We always see a spike in referrals as we approach the summer holidays anyway, and I’m expecting this to be even higher this year. If you are a family and you need help, please ask for it sooner rather than later.”

**Ealing Foodbank** covers the whole borough and works closely with the Ealing Together coalition, including the council’s local welfare assistance (LWA) team and the Ealing Advice Service (Ealing’s independent advice charity). Each of these refers clients to one another to try to get people the help they need.

**SOME IMMEDIATE RELIEF**

As well as providing support through food parcels and shopping for people who were isolated because of COVID-19, the council’s LWA team has also seen a rise in residents needing financial help, with a 50% increase in crisis payments made during lockdown. But foodbank vouchers and crisis payments are just the start.

Councillor Bassam Mahfouz, the council’s cabinet member for finance and leisure, explained: “The local welfare assistance team was set up in the wake of the benefit changes and the move to universal credit. Since then, our team has helped thousands of people who have found themselves in real financial trouble, because of delayed benefit payments, sanctions, or just because their working wage is too low to cover their outgoings.”
“A crisis payment or referral to the foodbank is the first step. It gives people some immediate relief and a breathing space so they can feed themselves and their families. The team can then work with them to improve their circumstances in the long term, with advice and support, so they can break the cycle of debt and dependence and move to a situation where they feel more in control of their finances and their lives.”

‘GET IN TOUCH WITH US’
Councillor Jasbir Anand, cabinet member for business and community services, added: “If you are facing these financial problems, you are not alone. Sadly, it can happen to anyone. It can feel overwhelming, so, many people don’t want to face it in fear of how hard it will be. But, by doing so, it will only make it harder to deal with down the line. Help is at hand, so please reach out at the earliest opportunity and get support.

“We can help with debt advice, personal budgeting sessions, job clubs, skills and training so that income can be increased; and benefit checks to make sure you’re getting all the help that you’re entitled to. We can also help you to negotiate with your landlord if you’re in rent arrears, so you can keep a roof over your head.”

More information about the help on offer can be found by visiting www.ealing.gov.uk and searching local welfare assistance.

‘Shielding’ change
The government’s advice on COVID-19 shielding for vulnerable residents is changing from 1 August and weekly food boxes will stop. For more information on this, and to see what alternative help here is for those coming out of shielding, go to www.ealing.gov.uk/coronavirus or call 020 8825 7170.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP CHANGE A CHILD’S LIFE?

We know that this is a difficult time for people and we’re changing the way we work to keep everyone safe. During these challenging times we still need more people to become foster carers to look after the children in our care. Foster carers come from all walks of life and everyone brings something different. As a foster carer we will provide you with excellent support and training, including our new virtual sessions. You don’t need a spare bedroom to foster with us, as you may be able to look after babies if you have space for a cot in your bedroom. We also pay allowances of between £267 to £464 per week for each child you look after, depending on their age and your experience.

Find out how, together, we can do this at

Freephone: 0800 731 6550   Email: fosteradopt@ealing.gov.uk
Website: ealingfosteradopt.co.uk (for details of our next virtual events)
Facebook: /ealingfosteradopt

Ealing
www.ealing.gov.uk
There is now also a one-way route around the zoo and its indoor spaces and the playground have been temporarily closed, to help limit the spread of COVID-19 and keep everyone visiting as safe as possible.

One thing that has not changed is that there is always plenty to get excited about at the much-loved community zoo in Brent Lodge Park.

Two of the latest animal additions come in the form of a pair of miniature donkeys named Nile and Anubis, who settled into their new paddock in March.

Zookeeper Jim Gregory said about the charismatic beasts: “Miniature donkeys originated from Sicily where they were used for carrying water and pulling millstones.

“Sadly, even today, donkey numbers are falling globally because they are still seen as beasts-of-burden and exploited for trade in other countries.

To have two donkeys here safe and happy, playing a role in our community, is brilliant.

“I have no doubt that they will prove really popular with visitors, but we also want to educate people about how valuable our donkeys are as a species and their urgent need for protection.”

Councillor Bassam Mahfouz, the council’s cabinet member for finance and leisure, said: “I’m delighted that Hanwell Zoo is once again welcoming back visitors. There are a number of changes to ensure that everyone can continue to social distance safely so, if you are planning a trip, please go online to pre-book your visit.”

Hanwell Zoo hosts more than 50 species – from meerkats and ring-tailed lemurs; to porcupines and red-crowned cranes.

Book your visit to Hanwell Zoo at www.facebook.com/hanwellzoo

MORE INFO

There is also now a secretive, rare and threatened cat species from South America at Hanwell, too. A single male margay has moved in. Read more at ealingnewsextra.co.uk/features/zoo-visit
Located opposite Ealing Council, Perceval House
49-51 Uxbridge RD, Shaftesbury House, Ealing, W5 5SA
Car park available for pick up and drop off

• Ofsted registered
• Outdoor Learning
• Quality Teaching and Learning
• 3 months – 5 years
• 30 hours of funding available

Early drop off
Late pick up
Contact
078282 86269
info@thelittlehoneybeesdaynursery.co.uk

www.thelittlehoneybeesdaynursery.co.uk
Ealing Council has been working with Transport for London (TfL) to make it easier, and safer, for residents to get around the borough by bike or on foot instead.

Research by TfL shows only a third of the car trips made by Londoners are for a distance of more than three miles. That means that two-thirds of car journeys are for shorter distances – journeys that could potentially be made in other ways.

More people walking or cycling these short journeys instead of using their cars will help limit road congestion and, more importantly, curb air pollution.

Council leader Julian Bell said: “We need to take the pressure off the public transport system, which is running at lower capacity. And many people are also, understandably, worried about the greater risk to health of travelling in an enclosed space anyway.

“But, if those people who previously made their journeys on public transport now decided to jump in their cars instead, we’re going to exacerbate the air quality problems that we’ve already had for many years. Nearly 10,000 people were dying prematurely in London because of poor air quality.

‘AIR QUALITY IMPROVED’

“During lockdown, roads have been quieter and air quality has markedly improved.

“Recent data has shown that we have seen an average reduction of around 25% in nitrogen dioxide levels, and almost 5% in the levels of particulates across monitored sites in the borough.

“It would be a terrible shame to waste all of this improvement and to return to pre-COVID levels of pollution. Let’s not exchange one medical emergency for another through poor choices.

“Cutting harmful emissions from car exhausts is also an important part of us tackling the global climate emergency as a society.

With social distancing rules still in place, it is vital people find alternatives to cramming on to public transport, wherever possible, to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and support the NHS. And jumping into your car instead is not always the right answer.

‘So many benefits’

Jessica Kang, who lives in Southall, started learning to ride a bike earlier this year. She said: “There are so many benefits to cycling – to yourself and to the rest of the environment. It contributes to increased cardiovascular fitness and improved mobility and muscle strength. It is much cheaper than a car, and cuts down on greenhouse gas emissions, noise and air pollution. All the benefits are motivating me.”

“The more of us who can make our shorter journeys by walking or cycling, the better.”

Smart move

Jessica Kang around ealing

July-August 2020 15
Some people will fear travelling in the confined spaces of buses and trains. And public transport will be running at reduced capacity, anyway, and restricted because of social distancing.

So, Ealing Council is making temporary and permanent changes to some footpaths and roads to help; and is also applying for funding to make more.

New, segregated cycle lanes have been introduced in Acton, Ealing and Southall by the council and its cabinet recently approved a report with plans for 200 other schemes to make walking and cycling easier and safer.

Councillor Mik Sabiers, the council’s cabinet member for environment and highways, added: “We are looking at a number of ways to help pedestrians to maintain social distancing and for cyclists to get around more safely, too. It will make it easier to get around locally by walking or cycling. This, of course, can take the pressure off public transport, and help restrict the spread of COVID-19; but it is also an opportunity to make positive changes in the long-term for our physical health, air quality and the environment by encouraging people to swap four wheels for two – or simply for your trusty feet.”

CYCLING

The segregated cycle lanes are designed to run alongside the main road lanes for general traffic. They are separated by cycle wands (plastic posts) which help to clearly define the boundary to all road users. The lanes have also been widened in places.

For example, in Acton, they have been added to sections of the westbound lane of The Vale, between Bromyard Avenue and Larden Road; eastbound beside Acton Park; and northbound, along Greenford Road between Uxbridge Road and Fleming Road.

Resurfacing of the road surface in The Vale has also been taking place in the with the aim of creating a smoother, quieter road surface with cycle-friendly gullies that prevent wheels from getting

More space for walking and cycling is being created to help us all get around the borough safely – and to shop safely as high streets reopen. It will also help us to keep the cleaner air that has resulted from the big drop in traffic during lockdown.
caught in grates – and also repairs being done to drainage and manhole covers. Once resurfacing is complete, extensions to the new cycle lanes will be put in place.

The council is planning to expand the use of similar segregated lanes and cycle wands, as well as other schemes, as quickly as funding from Transport for London (TfL) and national government allows it to.

WALKING AROUND
Using temporary measures like cones – and ramps to help those with impaired mobility and parents with buggies – a wider footway has been created in several busier locations to create more space to get past one another at a safe distance.

This includes widening the area for shoppers in several spots in Ealing Broadway; and in West Ealing, near Lidl; and in Hanwell, by the post office and surrounding shops in Uxbridge Road. But there have also been other changes such as widening a previously narrow pathway in Pitshanger Park to provide a safe gap for people and bikes to pass one another. And also temporary widening of pathways next to bus stops in Boston Road, Hanwell; Ealing Road in Northolt; and South Road, Southall.

Meanwhile, in busier high streets, signs have gone up and stencils have been painted on the ground, as reminders of the social distancing rules.

For more tips on walking and cycling, visit ealingnewsextra.co.uk/features/active

10 bikes/one car
A new bike port was recently put up next to the West London Islamic Centre. It can hold up to 10 bicycles in a space that would only be able to accommodate one parked car.

It is part of the Live West Ealing project, a collaboration between Transport for London, Ealing Council and other local organisations. The aim is to make positive changes to the neighbourhood and encourage residents to stop using cars.

Dr Abdulkarim Khalil, CEO of the centre, said: “It will make it easier for people who do come because they know that there is space available for them to park their bikes. Also, you have the new people living in these blocks around here, I am sure they will make good use of the bike port.”

Find out more at ealingnewsextra.co.uk/features/bike-port-mosque
Back to (and from) school

As many pupils returned to school after the easing of lockdown, the council worked with schools to help them provide parents with advice for the school run.

It included working with more than 60 schools to install colourful two-metre footway markings outside school gates to help manage social distancing.

But it also looked at ways to encourage people to travel to, and from, school by walking, cycling or scooting. Not just in the short term, but when everyone returns for the new school year in September, too.

Nationally, the average primary school journey is just 1.6 miles, and yet one in four cars on the road during the morning peak are traditionally doing the school run.

Councillor Yvonne Johnson, deputy leader of the council and cabinet member for schools, said: “Encouraging children to walk, cycle and scoot plays a role in reducing congestion and air pollution around the school gates and is also great for children’s mental and physical health. Teachers find that pupils who walk and cycle arrive at school more relaxed, alert and ready to start the day than those who travel by car.”

Visit www.sustrans.org.uk for information and advice for cycling and the school run. You can also use the site to plan a cycling route.

Cutting rat-runs

Nine areas across the borough will be designated as ‘low traffic neighbourhoods’ (LTN) to reduce the amount of rat-running and air pollution.

An LTN is a group of residential streets, bordered by busy main roads. Although residents living there will still have easy access, it will become more difficult for others to drive straight through from one main road to another and treat the area as a rat-run. This can reduce air pollution, lower collision rates, increase community activity, encourage people to switch to greener forms of transport and make streets more pleasant.

Ealing Council has secured more than £400,000 of funding from Transport for London to put in the nine LTNs, which will include measures such as bollards, speed humps, double yellow lines, greening of streets, additional seating, cycle parking, 20mph speed limits and new signs.

The nine locations will be announced soon.

Read more at ealingnewsextra.co.uk/features/low-traffic
Walking and cycling are great ways to do your bit – but did you know there are now more than 130 electric vehicle charging points across the borough, including more than 60 installed into streetlights? SimpleSockets, as they are known, are installed directly into existing streetlights and are powered exclusively by 100% green electricity. They provide a quick, convenient and cost-effective way for electric vehicle owners to charge up. Not only are they environmentally friendly and run at a reduced cost to the council, their convenient location in existing streetlights ensures easy access without taking up any extra space on the road.

‘IT’S BEEN SUPER EASY’
One local person taking full advantage is Natalie Bayliss, who lives in Ealing and switched to a fully electric car three years ago.

She said: “Air pollution is a real issue and we didn’t want to continue being part of the problem, especially with growing evidence of the health impact of polluted air. When we needed to replace our car, we chose a fully electric car.”

And for Natalie, having easily accessible SimpleSockets to charge from is another bonus of going electric. She continued: “Ever since the council rolled out electric vehicle charging points, it’s been super easy for us. “We just plug the car in whenever we’re parked and it’s ready to run when we need it. There are five charging points near where I live, and 30 within a 10-minute walk. Once you know where charging points are located near your home and the places you visit regularly, you get into the habit of charging up wherever is most convenient.”

‘A GREAT ALTERNATIVE’
Council leader Julian Bell said: “We are facing a climate change emergency. If every one of us decides to make as many of our shorter journeys as possible by foot or bike it could, cumulatively, have a colossal impact. And an electric car is a great alternative, when walking or cycling is not an option. It also has a positive effect on reducing air pollution and curtailing the choking effect of petrol and diesel car fumes. That is why we are supporting residents going electric by installing a network of charging points across the borough.”

Walking and cycling are great ways to do your bit – but did you know there are now more than 130 electric vehicle charging points across the borough, including more than 60 installed into streetlights?
‘We need to act now’

Becoming carbon neutral by 2030 is no easy task, but that is exactly the challenge that Ealing Council has set itself as it looks to respond to the climate emergency and support residents to lead greener lives.

From moving around the borough, to the way waste is processed, achieving big results means making bold and ambitious changes. This is why, in May, the council’s cabinet confirmed a number of steps to help achieve this aim.

The council’s draft strategy for the climate emergency focuses on five main areas, which you can read more about in the box on these pages: Energy, food, green infrastructure, transport and waste.

**JUST 10 YEARS LEFT TO ACT**

Councillor Mik Sabiers, the council’s cabinet member for environment and highways, explained: “We are treating climate change as a crisis, and we need a swift and sweeping response to tackle it – the action needed is not dissimilar to our swift response to the COVID-19 crisis.

“The plans tackle carbon reduction from a number of key areas, including transport, as well as supporting local businesses so they can thrive and be ecologically sound at the same time.

“In 2018 the UN reported that we had 12 years left to act on climate change to avoid a global
CLIMATE EMERGENCY

We need to act now

Acting now on climate change will dramatically improve the council’s environmental performance and help to protect residents from the impacts of climate change in the future.

GET INVOLVED

The task ahead is immense, and local people are urged to get involved, share their views and help shape the response. Visit www.ealing.gov.uk/climateaction or email climateaction@ealing.gov.uk for further information.

Energy

Heating our homes is one of the main causes of harmful carbon emissions in the UK. As part of the council’s commitment to create 2,500 genuinely affordable homes by 2022, all new council homes will have to be designed to zero-carbon standards. Existing council homes across the borough will be retro-fitted to improve their energy performance.

Food

How we source, grow, cook and dispose of our food has wide-ranging impacts on the climate. The council will work with local food producers to create more opportunities for food to be produced and used locally, reducing the miles involved in transportation and cutting our carbon footprint.

Green infrastructure

The council is increasingly switching to using electric vehicles and is also doing the same with vehicles and power tools used for maintaining our parks and green spaces. Meadows, hedgerows and tree canopies are being expanded across the borough to help tackle emissions and boost biodiversity (find out more on pages 22-23).

Transport

Nearly a third of our borough’s carbon emissions come from the way we travel and during the lockdown the borough saw a glimpse into the benefits of less traffic as air quality improved and quieter roads meant more space for cyclists and pedestrians.

The council is working to provide more safer spaces for walking and cycling and will aim to help make these the preferred way for residents to make all short journeys. The council has also provided more than 130 on-street electric vehicle charging points (EVCP) and aims to ensure all residents will be within a five-minute walk of an EVCP by 2025.

Waste

The council will work with residents to reduce waste, and to help them recycle wherever possible. Greener Ealing has been set up to manage waste collections in the borough and aims to help further increase household recycling rates to 60% by 2022.

disaster, and last year, we declared a climate emergency.

“Acting now on climate change will dramatically improve the council’s environmental performance and help to protect residents from the impacts of climate change in the future.”

around ealing | July-August 2020 21
Growth spurt

Across the borough, the council is expanding meadows and hedgerows, planting thousands of trees and boosting biodiversity as part of its new climate emergency strategy, reports Dan Stephens.

The bold new plan will see decisive action taken to improve on Ealing’s already impressive green spaces with new measures to increase biodiversity and natural carbon capture, and help to reduce harmful emissions.

This includes a commitment to increase the number of trees to the point where there will be canopy cover for 23% of the borough in the next 10 years; and to increase meadows by 10%. The draft strategy, which was confirmed by the council’s cabinet in May, also commits increasing the area of flower-rich grassland by creating new meadows in parks, housing estates, new developments, schools and community gardens. Existing meadows will also be enhanced using new management, planting and grazing practices.

There have already been some great success stories so far when it comes to greening the borough – including well over 100,000 square metres of wildflowers recorded this year, and an amazing 4,000 street trees planted by the council in the last four years alone.

But the community is always at the heart of improving our green spaces, which is why the council’s Transform your Space (TyS) is backing local projects to transform
underused and unloved areas into valuable local assets for both local people and the environment.

‘SAFEGUARDED SPACE FOR NATURE’
The Ealing Wildlife Group (EWG) is working on a project to create a nature reserve, and the council is backing it with some TyS funding.

Sean McCormack, EWG founder, explained: “The derelict Costons Lane allotment site is a crucial green island right in the heart of Greenford’s centre which acts as a wildlife corridor and refuge. “It will become not only a safeguarded space for nature, but a real community asset where local people can come and be part of its creation, learning about wildlife and getting outdoors to meet like-minded people. “We need everybody’s help, from residents to businesses.”

Designed to directly empower local people by putting them in charge of shaping their schemes, TyS offers support to successful projects in the form of guidance, advice and funding from the council.

This time around, residents can get involved with the projects directly by volunteering as well as contributing to the crowdfunding drive.

‘SOME AMAZING PROJECTS’
Councillor Mik Sabiers, cabinet member for environment and highways, said: “We can only play our part in tackling the climate emergency and improving air quality by working with the local community, which is why it so positive to see the EWG’s latest work to create green spaces in the borough. Costons Lane occupies a crucial location by connecting local wildlife to a network of ‘green corridors’ from one open space or habitat to another.

“TyS provides opportunities for residents to help create a sense of pride in their local area and we have already seen some amazing projects come to life already.”

‘The derelict Costons Lane allotment site is a crucial green island right in the heart of Greenford’s centre which acts as a wildlife corridor and refuge.’

Got it covered
Increasing the number of trees in the borough is a critical part of the council’s climate emergency draft strategy.

Ideally, an area would have a minimum 23% of ‘canopy cover’ – meaning almost a quarter of the borough shaded by trees. But we only have 16.9% in Ealing currently. So, the council aims to plant the required number of trees by 2030.

The benefits of this level of canopy cover are varied – ranging from their ability to clean the air by ‘eating’ carbon and producing oxygen, to providing shade in the hotter summers and roots to absorb the increase in water in our wetter winters.

MORE INFO
- Read the full story on the nature reserve and how you can help at ealingnewsextra.co.uk/features/green-growth – including more on the other TyS projects
- Email climateaction@ealing.gov.uk if you have feedback on the council’s draft strategy
- Find out about volunteering activities in parks by emailing parks@ealing.gov.uk
Ealing Council has been widening public footways to make it easier for shoppers to pass one another at a distance; and installing signs and stencils on the high street to remind people of social distancing. The council has also been providing local businesses with health and safety guidance and will be checking businesses are complying with the government’s ‘COVID-secure’ rules. Retailers have been taking extra steps to make sure their staff and customers are as safe as possible. This may include limiting the number of people allowed inside at a time, and frequently checking and cleaning objects and surfaces. They may also be using one-way systems, separate entrances and exits, or asking customers to wear face coverings or use hand gel.

The council has also been working with local business groups and traders’ associations to provide signage and advice to help encourage more residents to feel comfortable returning to shopping locally.

“Our local retailers are working hard to put measures in place so that we can all shop safely,” said councillor Jasbir Anand, the council’s cabinet member for business and community services. “They have been hit hard by the lockdown measures, so if you need to shop please shop locally and support your local high street.

“But please do your bit to stay alert and keep your distance from others – and wear a face covering if possible. It is vital for residents to take extra care to ensure proper hygiene and cleanliness to contain the spread of coronavirus.”
Edwin Harrison and his wife Magda opened up Artisan coffee shop in Ealing Broadway six years ago. Artisan reopened in late May and Edwin was relieved to find the demand was still there for top quality take-away coffee – socially distanced, of course. However, he described the last few difficult months as being a ‘rollercoaster’ as the couple found creative ways to keep their business going.

They set up a donation site to keep their staff paid in the interval between lockdown starting and the government’s furlough scheme kicking in – with customers paying what they liked for bags of coffee beans. And then, to keep the business going and to stay in people’s minds, they then started to offer a delivery service – selling coffee beans online and dropping them to local homes in their own car.

He said: “It was heart-breaking loading up masses of stock from the shop as we shut down. It felt like watching six years of our hard work going down the drain.

“The first few months were like we were in a constant episode of the Apprentice, where we were set new tasks to recreate the business each time. It has been a bit of a rollercoaster.

“So, it was a hell of a relief when people were there on the first day after we opened up. What we discovered was that people just wanted a decent coffee after three months of lockdown and we were very happy to provide it!

“The thing about Ealing customers is that they are incredibly loyal; and they keep a look-out for the independents. And we are certainly being looked after by them, which is wonderful.

“With good social distancing in place you can still run a good business, with a lot of care and attention for both staff and customers.

“Now we need as many people as possible to spread the word that ‘Ealing is back’.

“We have never needed them more than we need them now. People power is the only thing that will get our high streets through this.

“Nobody wants a boarded-up high street.”

Read the full story at ealingnewsextra.co.uk/features/artisan-covid
The coronavirus emergency meant that for 14 weeks (23 March–4 July) pubs, cafes and restaurants had to close their doors and they were restricted to takeaway or delivery services. However, one local pub found a way to thrive during the lockdown.

The Red Lion pub in Ealing is an old, well-established part of the community – close to Ealing Studios. The licensee of the pub is Edin Basic. He told us: “This whole coronavirus crisis took everyone by surprise. I was no different. When the decision was made to close all pubs and restaurants it felt like a big shock. The streets were soon empty, and it was very strange.

“Then the idea came to me to set up a community store. Not just a shop but a place where people could come and talk and see familiar faces as well as buying essential items like fresh fruit and veg and things like flour. I also brought my own twist to the shop, because I have been in the industry a long time and could get hold of high quality Italian items you don’t usually find easily. I could also freshly bake focaccia bread and sourdough breads early each morning from the woodfire oven in Santa Maria next door.”

They put in a one-way system as part of plans to comply with social distancing and got ready to open. It proved to be a huge success.

“There has been a really big community vibe,” said Edin. “And we have loads of conversations with people about life – recipes, the environment, families; whatever.

“It is the best thing I have done in these uncertain times. We managed to get four members of staff back from furlough and we may even be able to get someone in new, too. It is really positive. We can actually become stronger as a business as a result of the virus. Obviously, it is a terrible, scary time but there are little pockets of opportunity.

“Without the local community, we wouldn’t have been able to do any of this. It has been overwhelming.”

Read the full story at ealingnewsextra.co.uk/features/red-lion

‘The best thing I’ve done’

Edin at the Red Lion
We are a young business, just one year old, and it has been challenging. We have been trying to find new ways to survive but we have done little things which seem to be working.”

Miguel Morales is founder of Reineta. It is a café and a grocery store selling fresh, organic produce – and also provides a catering service.

Like many small business owners, Miguel has had to find ways to adapt to survive. Reineta only opened in June 2019 (in Dickens Yard, Ealing) and the effect of the pandemic has been enough to kill off other new businesses before they had really got started.

In response to the crisis, the business stepped up the selling of its goods online and delivering them to local homes – food baskets, groceries. And it also played on the quality of the produce and the staff’s homemade cooking – making restaurant-quality meals for collection. A Friday night roast has become a regular thing, with customers ordering in advance.

“Because of lockdown, people were finding they had nothing special for dinner,” said Miguel. “It has been an opportunity for us to let people know we are here.”

The café was cleared of tables and chairs and a socially distanced arrangement was set up for customers coming to buy groceries.

Miguel said: “We are in a residential street and people going for a walk would also stop to buy our homemade ice cream, fresh juices and fresh coffee.

“As a young business, we were not absolutely settled, so we have managed to move and to change,” Miguel said. “People came to us and have got to know us now; and many have said they will stay with us. We have a lot of regular customers now, which is really nice. I feel like we are a lucky example. We are a day-by-day success.

“I hope even more customers will come to see what we offer, now that the high streets are opening again.”

Read the full story at ealingnewsextra.co.uk/features/reineta
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