

Update – Sept 2013 Heston & Cranford

Welcome

This is the next edition of your monthly Area Newsletter. In it we explain what we've been doing in your community, the wider borough and how we have been performing in different areas.

Hounslow High Street revamp to begin

Hounslow Highways will begin works on Hounslow High Street on September 30 to improve the appearance of the pedestrianised areas.

Works will include new seating, paving and trees, and will remove existing clutter to transform the appearance of the street and provide new facilities for outdoor events and performances.

The new-look High Street will be a more welcoming and accessible civic space in Hounslow.

The renewal of the High Street aims to transform the street environment, attract further investment and boost the local economy.



Hounslow Highways was awarded the contract to carry out the project and has been working closely with project officers from the authority to bring the plan to fruition.

The construction programme is made up of two phases.

The first phase will see Bell Square (the area between the bend of Staines Road to the west and Bell Road in the east) upgraded with a completion date before Christmas.

The second phase is the rest of the pedestrianised area of the High Street, with works scheduled to start in the New Year.

Core Investment Programme (CIP) – Progress till date:

We are now eight months into the five-year CIP programme and we have already resurfaced 74,317m² of footways (equivalent to over 10 football pitches), 175,959m² of carriageways and replaced 2,989 street lights and 1019 illuminated signs with LED lighting. As part of CIP footway works, Hounslow Highways is offering a 20% discount on crossovers. The discount applies to properties that do not currently have a crossover. Properties with an existing crossover will have their crossover re-constructed as part of the works.



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Delivering better streets

Pedestrian management workshops demonstrate best practice in site set-up

Hounslow Highways is leading the way in safe pedestrian management through a series of practical workshops.

Four 45-minute sessions were held at the Bridge Road Depot on 13 August with a total of 70 operatives and supervisors from Hounslow Highways and their sub-contractors.

Core Investment Programme Project Manager James Kavanagh and Traffic Management Project Manager Matt Gurney led the workshops and demonstrated how operational sites should be set up to use footpaths safely.

Three footpath scenarios were positioned around the depot, including one that demonstrated working around street light removal and installation, and one using a wheelchair.

James said: "Sometimes the safest option for operatives and the public was to close the footpath completely and direct pedestrians to the path on the opposite side of the road."

He also highlighted the importance of ensuring sites were safe when crews put down tools at the end of the day.

Hounslow Highways Service Director Rob Gillespie said: "The quality of CIP works being carried out across the borough are of a high standard, but good work and site safety come hand in hand."

Hounslow Highways will host a similar exercise over four days in September – Highways to Excellence. Those workshops will focus on customer service, how to interact with the public and residents while on site, best practice while on site, behaviour and areas for improvement.

110 operatives are expected to attend these workshops which will be refreshed and rolled out to new staff on a recurring basis.



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Collaborative working a win for local residents

Hounslow Highways is ensuring improvement works in the borough are more efficient and less disruptive to residents and road users through collaborative working agreements.

The highways provider is partnering up with utility companies to share road space and carry out works at the same time to minimise disruption to residents and businesses.

It means roads will be closed less often and public money saved when carrying out repairs and changes to the network.

Hounslow Highways has also agreed to replace ironworks such as manhole covers on behalf of Thames Water when carrying out road surfacing schemes in order to avoid repeat visits to the same location with associated road closures.

Hounslow Highways Service Director Rob Gillespie said: “Joining up with other organisations and the work they do is more efficient for the utility companies, more efficient for Hounslow Highways, and it is a win for local residents.

“Any way to reduce disruption to residents while our huge programme of works takes place is a positive move.

“Given that we are carrying out works on 85% of the borough’s roads, 75% of the footpaths and 16,000 street lights in the next five years, it is important we work together.”

This collaborative approach was demonstrated last week when Cappagh Browne, a contractor for Thames Water, carried out footpath reinstatement works under a closure for street lighting installations in Hibernia Road.



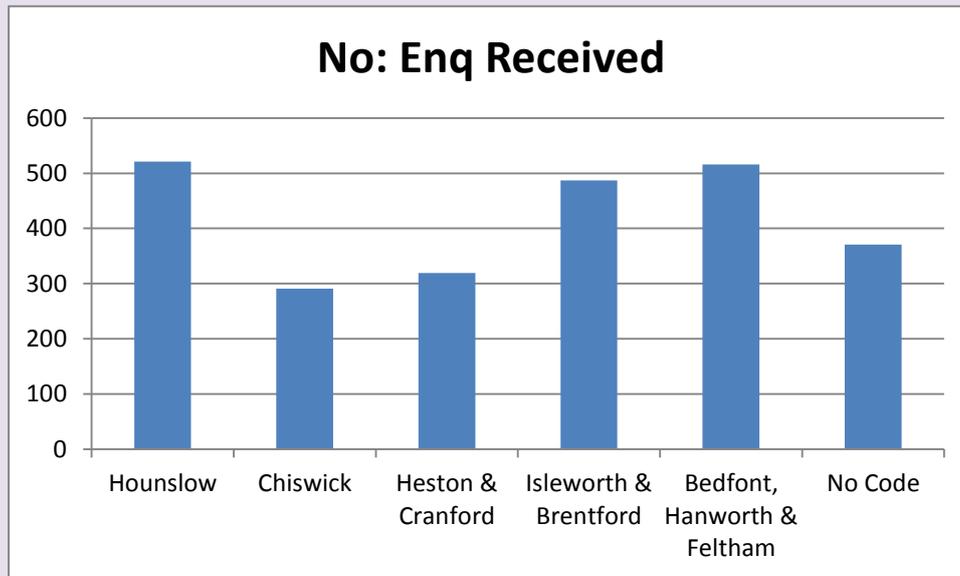
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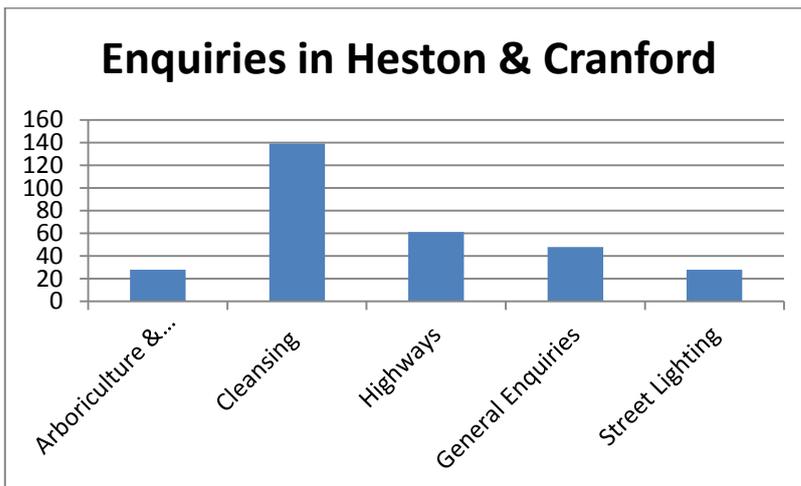
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How did we do in your area last month?

Hounslow Highways received a total of 2505 enquiries in the month of August compared to over 2300 received in July. Heston & Cranford received 12.7% of the total with 318 enquiries.



The majority of reports were regarding cleansing issues which included general street cleaning, illegally dumped waste, abandoned vehicles, graffiti and fly posting.



Fly tipping reports remain the highest reported issues on the network, with the operational hub receiving 67 individual reports from the 139 cleansing enquiries received.

We also investigated and resolved 28 issues regarding grounds maintenance and tree enquiries, 61 for potholes, highways obstructions and blocked gullies, and 48 general enquiries regarding quality of service, information requested regarding the carriageway, footway works, cross overs, trade waste and anti-social activities on the network and 48 street lighting enquiries.

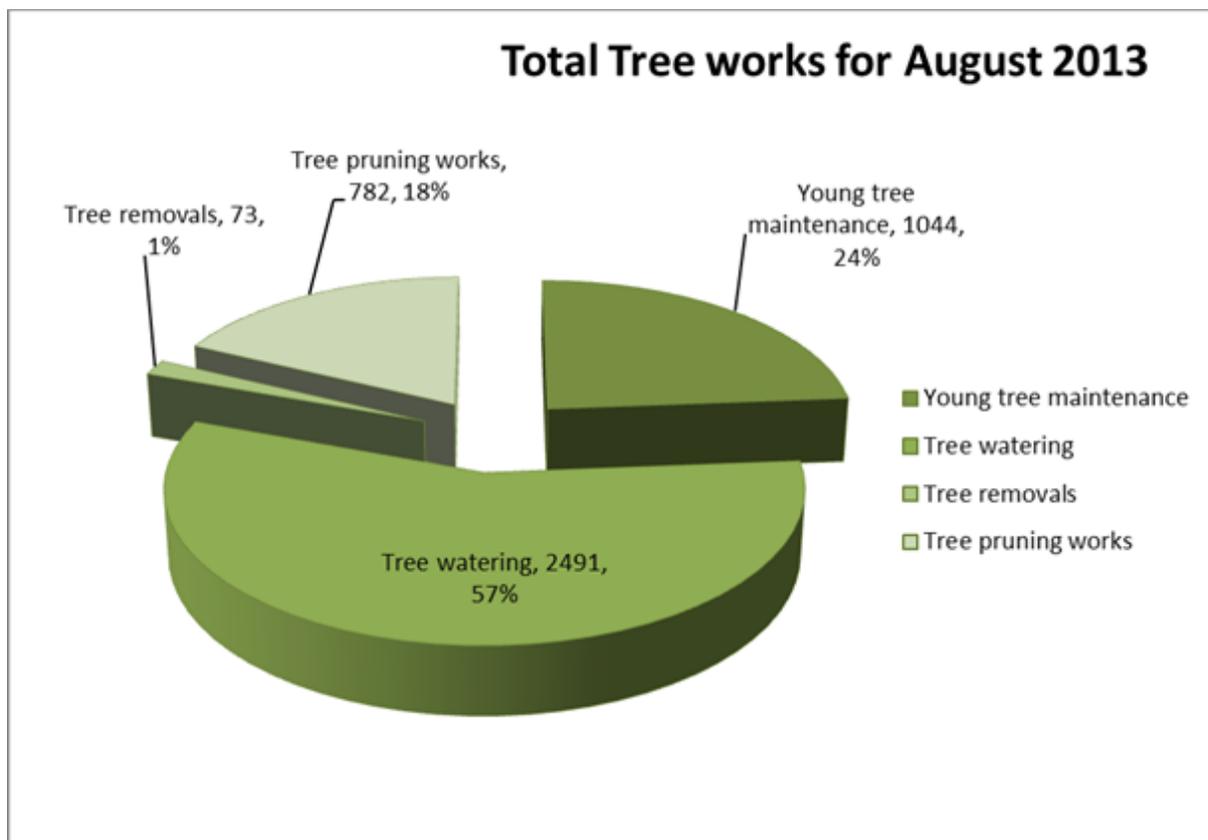


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Trees

The month of August was quite sunny and so with less rainfall young trees benefit from an occasional drenching, so there has been a focus on watering this month with 2491 trees receiving water. Where needed, new alligator watering bags have been installed around the base of young existing trees which ensures that 30-40 litres of water is slowly administered to the roots. This also helps suppress weeds under the bag.

Young tree Maintenance works has been undertaken to 1044 trees which includes the removal of old stakes and ties and guards. The Clean sweep programme has continued along with other pruning works with low epicormic growth being removed to avoid obstructions to street furniture and maintain accessibility of the footway. Regarding tree removal works, some 73 Dead and dying trees were removed this month as part of the programmed works.



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Grass cutting

All grass cutting routes in Heston and Cranford were completed in August. This marked the 10th cut of the season.

The tenth cycle for grass cutting is currently being completed and the verge edging has been completed. The edging programme has produced good results and information about the asset. There are some issues with the age of the verge and the topography. Some verges over time have 'build up' and the edge gradient has sloped towards the footway meaning the verge is higher than the footway. This will be monitored to see what the impacts will be in terms of cleansing, use of the footway and the requirement to maintain a defined edge.

The second weed spray commenced this month. Weeds have increased again in the borough due to good growing conditions. Consultations with the Keep Britain Tidy group have evidenced that other Authorities are also experiencing more weeds than seen in recent years due to the weather.

Hedge trimming

Hedges that form part of the project network were trimmed throughout the ward in August.

Shrub bed maintenance

A total of 20 sites in Heston and Cranford had shrub beds tended to throughout the month.



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Works coming to your area in the next four weeks

Please note: All of the dates below are indicative and may change due to seasonal and other external factors.

Carriageway

In August, 8 carriageway schemes were completed in the month as planned:

- 8 in Heston West

The following works are planned for September:

Street Name	RSL Description	Ward	Start Date	Finish Date
HIGH STREET	THE PARKWAY TO REDWOOD ESTATE	HESTON WEST	27/09/2013	02/10/2013

Footway

In August, no footway schemes were completed in the month as planned:

The following works are planned for September:

Street Name	RSL Description	Ward	Start Date	Finish Date
FOOTWAY	SARK CL TO SUTTON RD	HESTON EAST	12/09/2013	17/09/2013
FOOTWAY NO64	SUTTON RD TO GREAT W RD		18/09/2013	25/09/2013
LICHFIELD ROAD	ARUNDEL RD TO SALISBURY RD	CRANFORD	20/08/2013	06/09/2013
FIRS DRIVE	FIRS DR T JCT TO MINI RBT FIRS DRIVE		23/09/2013	28/10/2013
REDWOOD ESTATE	REDWOOD ESTATE T JCT TO END OF RD	HESTON WEST	04/09/2013	06/09/2013
NORTHFIELD ROAD	NFIELD RD T JCT TO END OF RD		09/09/2013	08/10/2013



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Street lighting

In August, 59 street lighting schemes were completed in the month as planned:

- 36 in Cranford (1 additional scheme has been delayed to Sept from a planned Aug completion)
- 4 in Heston Central
- 19 in Heston West (3 additional scheme has been delayed to Sept from a planned Aug completion)

The following works are planned for September:

Street Name	RSL Description	Ward	Start Date	Finish Date
CHESTER ROAD	CHESTER RD T JCT TO END OF RD (EB) delayed from Aug comp	Cranford	02/09/2013	06/09/2013
HARLECH GARDENS	W OF CRANFORD LN TO E OF CRANFORD LN delayed from Aug comp	Heston West	02/09/2013	06/09/2013
HARLECH GARDENS	HARLECH GRDS T JCT TO END OF RD (HARLECH GRDS) delayed from Aug comp		02/09/2013	06/09/2013
CLARK WAY	SPRINGWELL RD TO END OF RD (CLARK WAY) delayed from Aug comp		02/09/2013	06/09/2013

