

Welcome

Welcome to this edition of your monthly newsletter. Within this, we explain what we have been doing in your community and the wider borough.

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Hole in Thornbury Road due to sewer collapse

On Tuesday 29 July 2014, local residents alerted a Hounslow Highways street cleansing crew to a hole in the southbound carriageway of Thornbury Road at the junction with Eversley Crescent (Isleworth).

The crew called it through to the Hounslow Highways Operations Hub to coordinate a response, which included the Duty Manager and traffic management crews attending site within 15 minutes to assess the immediate risk, cordon off the road (making it safe for road users) and coordinate with third parties to determine the cause and extent of the damage.

The hole did not appear large on the surface, but the highways inspector confirmed it was about 4.5 ft deep and 6ft across below the immediate carriageway.

Thames Water has confirmed the hole was caused by a collapsed sewer and their contractor, Cappagh, has taken over the site to carry out repair works.

The southbound lane of the road is closed, with traffic control by 'give and take' system with priority given to northbound traffic.

The repair works are expected to be completed by Monday 18 August 2014.

Hounslow Highways Service Director Rob Gillespie said: "We will endeavour to keep disruptions to local residents and road users to a minimum; however we do apologise for any inconvenience."



The hole was caused by a collapsed sewer more than five metres underground.

Weed spraying

Hounslow Highways carries out weed spraying to effectively manage and prevent weeds across the borough.

Weed spraying is undertaken when the weeds are at their strongest, and they are sprayed again if they have not died off.

The chemical used to spray the weeds is non-hazardous and is called Gallup Hi Active Amenity and is used for Amenity weed control and plant circles. It is applied in liquid form and does not have a rating so toxicity is very low. After spraying it takes around 10-14 days for it to work or it may take longer if weather conditions are not suitable, such as extreme wet periods or extensive dry spells. In these cases the weeds may require an additional treatment.

After the weeds have begun to die, they are removed by our street cleansing operatives. Any roads that have dead weeds will be programmed in for removal as part of the cleansing routes. It is better to remove the dead weeds as this helps prevent their return and weakens them for future treatments. If they are removed when alive the chemical that is applied will not work.

If you notice weeds in need of attention, please submit an enquiry on our Contact page at www.hounslowhighways.org

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Rivers Academy expo

Hounslow Highways attended the Rivers Academy West London Apprenticeship Fair on 2 July 2014.

We promoted our apprenticeship programme and publicised our current available apprenticeships in Business Administration.

The event was attended by about 300 students ranging from 15-18-year-olds.

It is the second year in a row that Hounslow Highways has attended the Rivers Academy Apprenticeship Fair.



Delivering better streets

Campaign to remove abandoned vehicles

Hounslow Highways is working hard to rid the borough of abandoned vehicles.

An abandoned vehicle is generally a vehicle that has come to the end of its life, has no owner and has therefore been disowned.

Since 1 January 2013, Hounslow Highways has received 1,325 reports of abandoned vehicles.

Of these, 53 vehicles were removed by Hounslow Highways. Although this seems like a small number compared with the number of reports we have received, investigations have determined the large majority of vehicles that are reported are not considered abandoned, as they may still have a valid tax disc and are deemed roadworthy.

We also receive many reports of vehicles which are located off the Hounslow Highways project network, and therefore we do not deal with these vehicles.

We would only remove a vehicle from a location off the project network if the landowner paid for its removal.

Dumped or abandoned vehicles are unsightly, potentially dangerous, encourage anti-social behaviour and overall negatively affect the quality of our environment.

The following factors are generally associated with abandoned vehicles:

- Stationary for a significant amount of time (at least two weeks)
- Significantly damaged, run down or unroadworthy
- Burned out
- Lacking one or more of its registration plates
- Flat tyres
- Build-up of dirt around vehicle
- Untaxed

If you would like to report an abandoned vehicle, you can submit an enquiry on our 'Contact' page on our website: www.hounslowhighways.org

It is helpful if you can provide information about the vehicle such as the make, model, colour, registration number, location and a short note on the condition of the vehicle.

Once your report is received, it will be passed to an investigating officer. The officer will visit the location to inspect the vehicle and assess whether it is abandoned and if so, arrange for its removal. Once removed, the vehicle will be taken to the pound where it will be held for a short time and then destroyed and recycled.



Highways enforcement

Hounslow Highways is responsible for maintaining the network and monitoring it to ensure it is not damaged by third parties.

In 2014, Hounslow Highways has issued 150 fixed penalty notices (FPNs) to individuals and companies for committing offences on the public highway.

The worst offenders are skip companies that have not obtained a permit to place a skip on the public highway. A total of 51 FPNs have been issued for this offence. That is followed by 39 offences for failing to secure lighting or other marking on a builder's skip. Unlit skips can present a serious hazard to road users so the Network Management team routinely undertakes night scouting checks on the network to find and fine any offending companies. This has had an impact as it is drastically improving the obedience of companies to lamp their skips and improve safety.

Hounslow Highways Inspectors are out on the network each day and if they come across any impediments or obstructions to the highway, or skips that do not have a permit, they feed this back to the Business Management team, who issue the FPN.

Building collapse, London Rd

On 15 July 2014, Hounslow Highways was alerted to an incident on London Road where part of a seven-storey building collapsed.

Hounslow Highways crews worked with TfL and emergency services to implement a road closure for eight hours while investigations took place to ensure that there was no risk of further collapse on to the road.

No injuries were reported and the incident has been investigated by the Health & Safety Executive.



Source: getwestlondon.co.uk

Environment team clean-up Frampton Rd woodland

Hounslow Highways' Environment and Sustainability team recently cleared over 60 bags of rubbish from the woodland on Frampton Road at the junction with Staines Road.

Going above and beyond their normal duties, the team was joined by Police Community Support Officer Daniel Cheeseman from the Hounslow Heath Safer Neighbourhoods Team.

They picked up enough tin cans, glass and plastic to fill about 12 recycling sacks, as well as general litter, clothing, books, cardboard and packaging material to fill 50 green general waste sacks.

Other large items were also removed, including metal bed frames and other discarded metal household items.

Hounslow Highways Service Director Rob Gillespie said: "The Environment and Sustainability team have done a great job and have been clearing this area of land for a few years now, despite it not being on the project network maintained by Hounslow Highways.

"We are working with the council to carry out some maintenance work to the shrubs and trees in order to make the area more visible to members of the public and prevent it becoming a haven for littering, fly-tipping and general anti-social behaviour."

Cllr Amrit Mann, deputy leader of the council, added: "Everybody involved here has done a great job clearing up other people's mess, and we will straighten up the woodland to encourage more people to use it properly. But all of us have a responsibility to stop these areas becoming rubbish dumping grounds. Please take your rubbish home with you."

Hounslow Highways' Environment and Sustainability team carries out clean-up days throughout the year and they will soon be hosting a clean-up day at Barnes Passage in Chiswick.

If you know of an area that could use some attention or would like to host a community clean-up day, please submit an enquiry online at www.hounslowhighways.org



Targeting litter louts in grime crime hotspots

Hounslow Highways' Network Management and Environmental enforcement teams continue to support the Councils zero tolerance approach.

As well as having 20 staff patrolling the network, who are trained and able to issue fines for breaches of the Highways and Environmental Protection Acts, joint Action Days are undertaken to target specific locations. These action days provide the opportunity to educate businesses and residents, as well as issue fines where offences are witnessed.

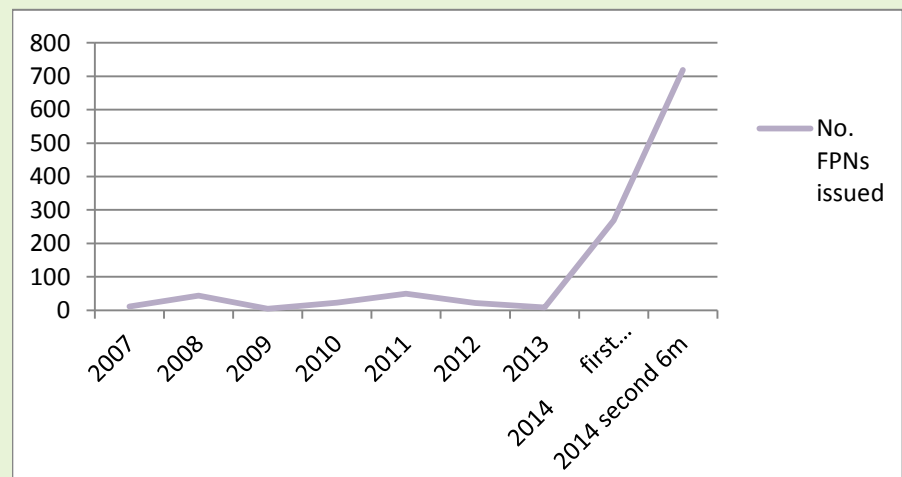
To date, Hounslow Highways has issued 125 fixed penalty notices relating to the environment and 144 for breaches of the Highways Act.

These include 100 for littering and 24 for trade waste offences and flyposting.

Enforcement activities were undertaken over two days at the end of July where officers targeted 17 key areas of the borough where litter and waste offences are high.

Deputy leader of the council, Cllr Amrit Mann, said: "We will keep handing out heavy fines and will use more CCTV cameras to come down hard on anyone who litters, dumps rubbish, paints graffiti or lets their dog foul public spaces. But all of us have a role in keeping the borough clean. We all have to do our bit."

The graph below shows the number of FPNs issued by Hounslow Highways in 2013-14 compared with previous years for which data is available from 2007-2012. These include environment-related FPNs and highways-related FPNs.



A holistic approach – Operation Regenerate

Hounslow Highways recently participated in discussions about Operation Regenerate, a council initiative aimed at regenerating the borough through a holistic and joined up approach.

Themes around Operation Regenerate include enforcement, civic behavior, education and awareness of civic pride.

Hounslow Highways has already displayed collaborative working to educate the public about correct waste disposal and issue FPNs to litter louts.

Lay Assessors update

Following two information days, we now have eight confirmed Lay Assessors for Hounslow Highways covering a range of wards. The information days presented a good opportunity to engage with informed residents regarding the expectations of both parties and receive initial feedback on how Hounslow Highways and the provision of its services are perceived.

Delegates will now attend a one-day or two half-day training sessions at Jubilee House concentrating on CIP and cleansing-related topics.

Works in your area

Below is the Core Investment Period (CIP) programme of works for your area in August. Please note that all of the dates are indicative and may change due to seasonal and other external factors.

Street Lighting

To view the street lighting programme, please visit the My Works page on the Hounslow Highways website:
www.hounslowhighways.org.

Carriageways

Road	RSL Description	Ward	Start Date	Finish Date
BALFOUR ROAD	LAMPTON RD TO ALEXANDRA RD	HOUNSLOW CENTRAL	04/08/2014	06/08/2014
IVY ROAD	WHITTON RD TO HEATH RD	HOUNSLOW CENTRAL	14/08/2014	14/08/2014
LAMPTON ROAD A3005/040_2C_01	END OF ISLAND TO BULSTRODE RD	HOUNSLOW CENTRAL	13/08/2014	15/08/2014
STANBOROUGH ROAD	BRIDGE RD TO NR GREENHAM HOUSE	HOUNSLOW CENTRAL	13/08/2014	13/08/2014
TIVERTON ROAD	KINGSLEY RD TO ELLINGTON RD	HOUNSLOW CENTRAL	11/08/2014	11/08/2014
WORTON WAY	SPRING GROVE RD TO NR WORTON COURT	HOUNSLOW CENTRAL	11/08/2014	12/08/2014
CROSS LANCES ROAD	HANWORTH RD TO WHITTON RD	HOUNSLOW HEATH	14/08/2014	14/08/2014
STAINES ROAD A315/340_1C_01	END OF ISLAND TO STEVE BIKO WAY	HOUNSLOW HEATH	06/08/2014	08/08/2014
CHURCH STRETTON	CENTRAL AV TO END OF RD (CHURCH STRETTON RD)	HOUNSLOW SOUTH	15/08/2014	15/08/2014
LEAMINGTON CLOSE	PRIORY RD TO END OF RD	HOUNSLOW SOUTH	04/08/2014	04/08/2014
SOUTHLAND WAY	CENTRAL AV TO END OF RD (SLAND WAY)	HOUNSLOW SOUTH	15/08/2014	15/08/2014
WOODLAND GARDENS	WOODLAND GRDS TO WOODLANDS RD (WOODLAND GRDS)	HOUNSLOW SOUTH	01/08/2014	01/08/2014

Footways

Road	RSL Description	Ward	Start Date	Finish Date
FOOTWAY Z480/010_5D_01	PEARS RD TO LONDON RD	HOUNSLOW CENTRAL	27/08/2014	30/08/2014
GLEN WALK X0010/500_5E_01	WHITTON DENE TO JCT HALL RD	HOUNSLOW SOUTH	27/08/2014	18/09/2014