

Spotlight

on Isleworth and Brentford

Issue 14 / September 2014

Welcome

This is the 14th 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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Hounslow Highways' anti-skid schemes improve road safety

Hounslow Highways recently completed a large investment programme of anti-skid works to make roads safer across the borough.

Road surfaces need to have good grip to ensure road users can stop quickly in any weather conditions. This is vital at pedestrian crossings, key junctions and near traffic lights. In these areas, it is good practice to have special surfacing material installed that helps to further reduce stopping distances.

To date, Hounslow Highways has installed the anti-skid material at over 45 sites across the borough.

This is in line with the strategy of delivering better safer streets. The new surfacing has a very strong skid resistant stone in it fixed in place by high strength resin adhesives, giving the surface not only great skid reduction, but also a longer life.

Hounslow Highways Service Director Rob Gillespie said: "It is hugely important to address safety issues on our roads and to include these in the plan for highways maintenance. On the Highways contract in Hounslow we are able to direct the right amount of investment at this important area in a way that has good quality and good durability."

As the investment period for the highways in Hounslow continues over the next three years, further enhancements and improvements will be brought to the streets and wider 'street scene' environment.



Over 200 litter FPNs issued

Hounslow Highways enforcement officers were kept very busy over the summer, issuing 122 Fixed Penalty Notices for environment-related offences.

It brings the total for the year to 211. Hounslow Highways' enforcement officers targeted key areas across the borough where litter and waste offences are generally high.

This led to a number of businesses being formally warned under the Environmental Protection Act, individuals fined for littering/ dumping rubbish, and households were fined for leaving their rubbish out in the street outside of the published collection times.

The borough's CCTV cameras are also providing valuable evidence that is helping prosecute repeat offenders.

Deputy council leader, Cllr Amrit Mann, said: "Our clampdown on litter louts, fly-tippers and the selfish few who spoil our streets will be relentless. Like most people who live in Hounslow, I want our streets to be the cleanest in the capital.

"And to make this happen is the responsibility of us all."

Hounslow Highways Service Director Rob Gillespie said: "Our enforcement actions have been very successful and we will continue to issue FPNs to those people who do the wrong thing.

"It is up to everyone to help contribute to a cleaner borough and we must get the message across that littering and fly-tipping are simply unacceptable."



Delivering better streets

Hounslow Highways gains new apprentices

Hounslow Highways have welcomed three Business Administration apprentices to the Jubilee House offices in partnership with education provider Redwood Skills.

Nine candidates were interviewed originally, and from these, five were shortlisted to complete a task based assessment using real enquiries received by Hounslow Highways to assess candidate ability.

While it was a tough choice, the top three were chosen and have started working with Hounslow Highway to gain experience in a professional environment whilst they work towards an NVQ level 3 in business administration.

They will gain experience across different areas, including customer service and general administration duties, and will gain a thorough understanding of how the business works during their 12-month apprenticeship.



Our new Business Administration apprentices settling into their new roles

Hounslow Highways Service Director Rob Gillespie said: "We are committed to investing in local people to keep jobs within the borough. We decided to open these new Business Administration apprentice positions to bring local people on board and develop their skills in a dynamic, technologically advanced environment."

Hounslow Highways will continue to invest within the local community by offering work experience placements and summer internships to students, graduates and school leavers. New apprentices will be hired annually to provide regular opportunities for young people within the local community.

Thames works on Hatton Road hole complete

Thames Water repair works to the collapsed sewer on Hatton Road have been completed and the road has now reopened.

There were several delays which caused the works to be ongoing, including emergency electrical works to a high voltage cable.

A 1.5m sewer pipe also had to be replaced deep in the ground.

Supporting local businesses

Hounslow Highways is the headline sponsor of the Chamber of Commerce Hounslow Business Awards, to be held on 2 October 2014.

Hounslow Highways Service Director Rob Gillespie said: "Business excellence comes in many different forms and it is fantastic to see the diversity in local industries vying for this honour.

"Thriving local businesses are vital to the borough's local economy and to help stimulate growth.

"These awards recognise excellence in local business and we are delighted to be able to support that."

Lay Assessors update

Hounslow Highways has eight confirmed Lay Assessors to evaluate works and services in the borough.

The Lay Assessors will be assessing site safety, accessibility, customer care, quality of works and environmental impact.

Training sessions have been held this month, with some sessions addressing road and pavement improvement works and others looking at street cleansing.

The sessions will educate the Lay Assessors on how the work is done and why the work is done in particular ways.

Hounslow Highways Service Director Rob Gillespie said: "We hope that the Lay Assessor programme will allow us to understand the perception of Hounslow Highways in residents' eyes and improve that perception where needed.

"We also hope it will be a good opportunity to explain to these residents, in more detail, how we carry out our works and services."

CIP update

In the continuing works programme:-

22 carriageway schemes were completed in the month of August.

22 footway schemes were completed in the month of August.

As of 31 August, 11,671 new LED lights have been installed across the borough.

Autumn leaf clearance programme

Hounslow Highways has developed a proactive approach to the removal of leaves for the autumn season to deal with the leaf fall onto the roads and pavements from the 12,000 street trees and 50,000 private trees across the borough. Resources will be allocated to match peak periods of leaf fall and flexibility has been retained within the programme to take into account different species of trees shedding their leaves at different times.

The programme is due to commence by the end of October and will involve crews removing leaves from streets seven days a week in a cyclical pattern, attending to each street two to three times over the Autumn period. Any leaf fall occurring prior to 3 Nov will be removed as part of routine cleansing operations.

Provisions have been put in place for any emergency clearance required. Crews will travel in caged vehicles and be equipped with leaf blowers and suckers. The full schedule of planned clearance works will be published on the Hounslow Highways website in November.

Ensuring tree safety

Within Hounslow Highways' commitment to improving local environment quality is the maintenance of the borough's 11,000+ street trees. Part of this maintenance involves the removal of dead, dying or diseased trees and those that are considered to be a hazard.



A decayed tree on Thornbury Road following removal



Collapsed tree on Brackley Road

Following a collapsed tree on Bolton Road on 25 August, a crew was dispatched to make the area safe and the road remained closed from 6pm to midnight. No injuries occurred as a result of the collapse. The tree was subsequently removed and a review was conducted to determine other trees in the borough that posed a risk to pedestrians and/or road users.

In accordance with Hounslow Highways' contract with the London Borough of Hounslow, all trees that are removed will be replaced to maintain the population level. If the spot is no longer viable for planting, the nearest viable spot will be selected and a replacement tree planted within the next planting season of winter 2014/15.

Kingsley Road bridge strike

On 29 August, a lorry struck the Piccadilly Line rail bridge on Kingsley Road adjacent to Hounslow East station. Hounslow Highways dispatched a crew to assist Transport for London (TfL) and the Metropolitan Police in making the area safe. Temporary traffic restrictions were put in place and the vehicle was removed. TfL confirmed that a full service to the Piccadilly Line was restored promptly after the incident occurred.

Landlord's Conference

Hounslow Highways attended a Landlord's Conference at the Civic Centre on 25 September where landlords from across the borough attended. It was an opportunity for Hounslow Highways to promote better waste disposal and collection practices within the private housing sector.

Works in your area

Below is the Core Investment Period (CIP) programme of works for your area in September. 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
JERSEY ROAD	WOOD LN TO THORNBURY RD	Osterley & Spring Grove	08/09/2014	12/09/2014
BRADDOCK CLOSE	ST JOHNS RD TO END OF RD (BRADDOCK CL)	Isleworth	17/09/2014	17/09/2014
PRIMROSE PLACE	PRIMROSE PLACE T JCT TO PRIMROSE PLACE T JCT	Syon	17/09/2014	17/09/2014
ALTON CLOSE	AMHURST GRDS TO END OF RD	Syon	29/09/2014	03/10/2014
SIDMOUTH AVENUE	START OF RD (W) TO END OF RD (E) (SIDMOUTH AV)	Osterley & Spring Grove	30/09/2014	10/10/2014

Footways

Road	RSL Description	Ward	Start Date	Finish Date
DOWNS VIEW	START OF RD (W) TO END OF RD (E)	Osterley & Spring Grove	09/09/2014	23/09/2014
SUMMERWOOD ROAD	NR THIRLMERE HOUSE TO END OF RD	Isleworth	11/09/2014	25/09/2014
RIDGEWAY ROAD	COLLEGE RD TO OSTERLEY CRES	Osterley & Spring Grove	15/09/2014	06/10/2014
THORNBURY ROAD	SPRING GROVE RD TO OAKLEY CL	Osterley & Spring Grove	23/09/2014	03/11/2014
HAZEL CLOSE	HORNBEAM CRES TO HAZEL CL	Syon	25/09/2014	07/10/2014
CHURCH ROAD	THORNBURY RD TO RIDGEWAY RD	Osterley & Spring Grove	29/09/2014	12/12/2014