



## **Covid, Chairs and Campaigns**

Covid-19 continues to affect all our lives; after a summer when some “new normality” returned, we are now warned of more severe lockdown measures as winter approaches.

Our Corona Support remains ready to help and I am sure all the personal and community group networks will be there as before, now all better prepared like hospitals and other services. If you need any support, or know of others, please ask.

HWA has been able to keep the Centre and Grounds going, with a steady maintenance programme including new security and, at last, new chairs. The Centre Upgrade remains on hold.

At the Centre, Tennis is flourishing and Pre School surviving. Sports activity has made a welcome return to Bartrams Lane under our new relationship with Mount House School. But Bridge and Dance remain unable to resume, and our two November annual events have been fundamentally affected.

Very sadly, we have had to cancel the Fireworks. This is a loss of a great family gathering and of critical income for the Association, on top of the loss of hall hire revenue. We are considering a (No) Fireworks Appeal to replace this income, and hope this will be supported.

Our AGM cannot be held at the Centre, such a shame as we have built the event up to packed meetings with a range of community involvement. We shall hold a Zoom event to cover at least the formalities. This depends on email contact (so please make sure your contact details are correct; if they are, you are receiving our HWAMAIL) - see formal notice under Events. Apology to those of our members who are not on email; please write to us at the Centre and we shall see if any alternative arrangements can be made. All members are valued. Membership is showing a welcome increase this year, especially in the last month. Throughout the year Julie Nedza has kept up the steady work of keeping the database and collecting fees; and (with Dawn Wellings) distributed the membership packs. A new term campaign based on car park conversations at school drop off has brought fairness as well as new members. Our Barchester Campaign has also given our numbers a boost, as residents appreciate the work we do. Our Membership Form is in this HWN to make it easy. Keep safe. Keep involved.

## **Damaging Development. The Community Cares**

The resident response to the Barchester Healthcare Planning Application has been remarkable. There has been a very high number of individual objections from across Hadley Wood, from old and young, from long term residents and newcomers, together with strong group objections from St. Paul's and the HW Jewish Community. Many personal and community networks have been activated including (with thanks) Neighbourhood Watch, Rail User Group, Women's Institute, Tennis Club, Bridge Club, Pre-School and Alphablocks, HWSchool parents and others. Thanks also to our Crescent West Parade for putting up posters.

The article opposite by Steve de Vos (the author, together with David Harbott as Acting Chair of HWNPF, of our main planning policy response) explains more about the proposed development and the manifest breach of a range of policies, which channel the wave of (often passionate) resident concerns into effective planning opposition. Lewis Temple has submitted a well informed response from our HW Conservation Area Study Group on the damage to the unique heritage heart of our residential village. A number of the neighbours commissioned specialist reports on planning and heritage. We have some residents with relevant experience to bring to their objections: care homes, design and engineering, flood damage. Our Councillors are engaged and providing excellent support.

As your resident association with a charitable purpose to protect as well as promote Hadley Wood, we took the decision as the Association to object to the proposal and to campaign to raise awareness and inform residents about how to make objections. We had in mind the combination of almost universal opposition voiced in the earlier Consultation and the gross breaches of basic planning policy identified. This application is objectionable at a different level to any other recent applications on scale, location in the setting of the Conservation Area and the dangerous precedent of change of use from residential to large business.

We do not seek to resist all development; we support sustainable and appropriate development and strongly endorse the dedicated effort by David Harbott and others to bring a Neighbourhood Plan to completion, when it can add a real local force to planning policy.

Our active involvement in opposing this application has been welcomed by many, who want and expect us to provide this leadership and coordination. However we have no wish to be involved in lower level applications. Any feedback is welcome from anyone who wants to comment on the appropriate threshold for HWA Involvement.

**Robert Wilson. Chairman Hadley Wood Association**



**HADLEY WOOD  
ASSOCIATION**