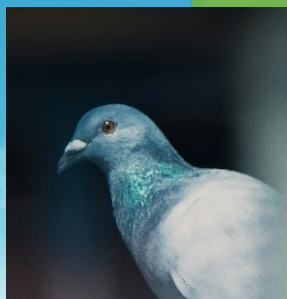
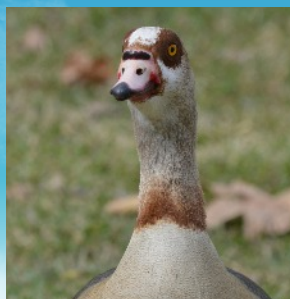
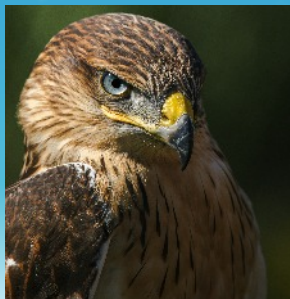


PETRA News

Parkhill Estate Tenants & Residents Association

Number 182 February 2024



Meet the new neighbours!

Park Rise, the retirement village for the over 55s, built on the grounds once occupied by Sunrise, Serena and Solar Courts, has welcomed its first residents.

The homes are a mix of council-rented and shared-ownership properties. Before long, all 175 apartments will be occupied.

PETRA residents can be forgiven for feeling some relief at seeing an end to the building site.

We've had to put up with a good deal of inconvenience and noise these last two years, with the site encroaching on our green, the felling of several young trees, and heavy traffic, all adding to the disruption.

'Teething problems' have already been identified in the finished blocks. Holes in the design of the balconies are believed to be causing a loud whistling sound that can be heard whenever the wind blows. Currently under investigation, it is not yet clear how this is going to be resolved.

Meanwhile, a hawk has been employed to fly over Park Rise on a regular basis to deter Egyptian geese and pigeons from leaving Harrow Lodge Park and making these new blocks their home.



Your Committee needs YOU

We need residents to take part in making the big decisions that can help to maintain and improve this place we all call home.



In other words, we currently have several tenant vacancies on our Management Committee. Here's your chance to get involved in the running of our estate.

Committee members meet once a month to discuss operational issues and finance and possible future projects and how we fund them. This is an unpaid role, but it's a chance to meet other residents, and it gives you a say in how the estate is run. It also looks very good on your CV if you are looking for work.

If you have problems with child-care we do offer a baby-sitting allowance, and besides, most meetings do usually only last for an hour. There are experienced members on the Committee who can offer guidance on how the committee works and what commitment is expected. If you are interested, please come into the PETRA office and have a chat with Caroline, our Estate Manager.



Caroline's

viewpoint

Parking permits saga goes on and on...

With residents beginning to arrive now over at Park Rise, we are still waiting to hear from Havering Council on the parking permit proposals that I first raised almost three years ago.



Along with Jan Davis, PETRA's former Chair, I began talking to the Council about this idea as soon as the plans for the redevelopment of the site became clear.

It was obvious to us that if you are about to invite another 175 households into the area, this was going to have significant implications for parking on our estate.

#InHavering We Foster

Havering Council is looking for "people who have space in their home and heart to foster a vulnerable Havering child or young person".

There is no such thing as a typical foster carer, but they are all special people. They have the skills and character to help children feel safe, healthy and happy despite an

You might have thought that the interests of the existing community, and the need to safeguard *their* parking facilities, would be high on the Council's list of priorities. And yet here we are, with still nothing in place.

Here, below, is **PETRA News** from July 2019. We have been talking with the Council about a parking permit scheme ever since. And, on behalf of residents, I promise to keep on doing so!

Regards,
Caroline



Vaccinations

The Covid-19 winter vaccination programme has now ended, but eligible people will be able to get another dose in the spring.

Flu vaccines are still available, and you may be eligible for a free one at your local pharmacy or from your GP.

For the full list of those eligible for a free flu vaccine, visit the Havering website and search 'Vaccinations'.

Havering's cost of living page

With the cost of living pressures continuing, it's worth keeping an eye on Havering Council's Cost of Living Support page on its website.

It contains all the up-to-date advice and information you will need to ensure your household is getting the support it needs.

Pension Credit is just one example of a benefit many miss out on despite being eligible.

If you are over State Pension age and on a low income you could be entitled to Pension Credit. You might also get extra help if you're a caregiver, disabled, or looking after a child.

Remember, Pension Credit is different from your State Pension. You can get it without it affecting your other income, savings, or home-ownership. Check if you are eligible on the Havering website and claim today.

often difficult start in life, helping them to understand why they're living away from their parents.

Havering welcome applications from all sections of the community, and offer a "bumper benefits package" to those who are successful. To find out more visit Havering's website and search 'Fostering'.

Spring is on its way!



PETRA'S VISION
A safe, pleasant
neighbourhood where people
want to be part of a vibrant,
caring community

Gradually the temperature increases, and while that's a jolly good thing, it does mean it's all the more important we dispose of our rubbish properly.

Please remember to put all your rubbish inside the bins provided, not on the floor next to them.

Rubbish attracts vermin, flies and maggots, especially in warmer weather. If you leave bags of rubbish on the floor, rather than using the bins correctly, this will make matters worse, and nobody wants that.

Bradley's regular reminder

"Please remember that orange recycling bags go in the orange bins, and black bags go in into the steel metal bins. The bin men will not empty them otherwise. Thank you."

Reporting mould, damp and condensation

Havering Council now has a way that you can report and have diagnosed problems of this kind in your home. Depending on your answers to questions, the Council may send a surveyor out to inspect the problem area.

- Go to the Havering website
- Click on the Council Housing Damp and Mould form
- Complete the form and try to answer all the questions truthfully

This will identify the cause of your issue. It will then explain what you can do to tackle the problem, or, if need be, it will book an appointment to have a surveyor out from the Council, with the details emailed to you.

If you prefer to talk to us, or you need help reporting damp and mould, please contact the PETRA office. We will be happy to help.

Tackling anti-social behaviour



Challenges around ant-social behaviour continue, and as with all acts of vandalism and anti-social behaviour, it is up to all of us to remain vigilant, and to report any such behaviour to the PETRA office, or via the out-of-hours emergency number, or indeed directly to the Police, at the earliest possible opportunity.

The Council defines anti-social behaviour as any act that causes, or is likely to cause, alarm, harassment or distress to anyone living in a different household to the person responsible. Including:

- noise nuisance
- drug taking and dealing
- threatening or rowdy behaviour
- violence and disorder
- vandalism

Visit the Havering website for details of how to record and report anti-social behaviour to the Council. As always, if you have concerns or need advice, please call by the office for a confidential chat.

Will your family be making the most of Harrow Lodge Park this Spring?



Letterbox Lotto!

Prize **DOUBLES!**

Every month, we give away one £50 shopping voucher to the lucky household whose number appears on the website?!

Spot your number on the website and report seeing it to the office to gain your prize.

Play Letterbox Lotto today at
www.petratmo.weebly.com
Good luck!

Committee Meetings

Monday 25 March
6.30pm

Caring for our pets

Here's a reminder of the rules governing the keeping of pets on all council estates including PETRA.

"If you live in a flat with direct access to an individual garden you may keep up to two pets such as a dog or cat but you must obtain prior permission from the London Borough of Havering first. Dogs will be required to have an 'identification' chip inserted. If you live in a flat or your home is in a building where there is a shared access/shared lobby you are allowed to keep one pet. You still need to obtain permission from Havering first." Havering Council

Please be aware that if you live in a flat you are not allowed to keep reptiles (including lizards or snakes) requiring live food, farm animals (including ferrets, hens and chickens), pigeons or dogs as defined under the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991.

You and anyone living with you or your visitors must not allow your pets to frighten anybody or cause a nuisance.

This includes:

- Letting your dog bark loudly and continuously
- Failing to clean up after your pet both inside and outside the property
- Failing to keep your pet under control
- Not keeping dogs on a lead
- You must keep any pet in proper and humane conditions.



- You must not leave any dog alone for more than six hours.

Please abide by these simple rules, and if you have any questions or concerns for an animal's welfare here on the estate, please visit the PETRA office for a confidential chat.



CONTACTS

PETRA

Opening Hours: 7.30am - 1600pm
(Closed 12pm - 13.00 for lunch)
Sheila Slater, Chair
Caroline Edwards, Estate Manager
Bradley Pavey, Repairs and Grounds Maintenance Officer
Tim O'Shea, Part-Time Repairs and Maintenance Officer

All based at the PETRA office
Tel: 01708 475358
Email: petratmo@aol.com
www.petratmo.weebly.com

Homes and Housing,
Havering Council. Tel: 01708 434000
Email: homes@havering.gov.uk
Website: www.havering.gov.uk
Out of Hours Emergency telephone number: 01708 756699
(We answer the PETRA office phone up until 5pm.)