



Hills Amenity Society

Formed 1972

HillsWatch



Working for the Conservation Areas of and around York Hill, Baldwins Hill and Staples Road

Town Council seeks to ban further massive developments



Loughton Town Council has requested a one-mile *cordon sanitaire* around the Forest in Loughton, where no new dwellings or huge enlargements would be permitted, to minimise future damage to the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation. The request follows realisation of the full impact of development and future proposals on the Special Area such as Jessel Green and Woodberrie (pictured seemingly towering over the existing house) in the York Hill Conservation Area. An irony to the Woodberrie development is that the Arts and Crafts house may now have figured twice in momentous change in the last 50 years. In 1972 the Hills Amenity Society was formed to oppose development by pulling down the old house and erecting four new homes. This followed in due course with the creation of the York Hill and then Baldwins Hill and Staples Road Conservation Areas.

Road issues top Hills agenda

The Hills Committee has taken the opportunity of the Essex Highways Users Survey, open until 15 December, to raise a number of road related issues. These include failure to replace heritage lamp standards when damaged with like for like leaving an eclectic muddle; the clash of LED versus sodium lighting and the "never-never" completed lamppost on the corner of Queens Road and Pump Hill; the "screamingly obvious" need for 20 mph speed limits; parking on footpaths and verges; and the plague of HGVs far too large for our narrow roads. Report Pages 6 and 7.

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Loughton IG10 1RB
020 8508 2030
sales@woodburyhomes.co.uk

WOODBURY
HOMES



Gardeners Arms

York Hill, Loughton Tel: 020 8508 1655

**Season's Greetings
from Pat, Geoff, Tracy
and all the staff
at
Gardeners Arms**

Now offering Christmas Lunch Menu

2 Courses £19.90

3 Courses £26.90

Please call for reservations

***Book your Christmas parties:
Free buffet for groups over 30***

Always a warm welcome



Hills Watch



As reported each month on the HillsWatch page on Facebook, Essex Police statistics show that crime reported in the Hills is, happily, well down on 12 months ago. But as individual reports record on those same pages

that does not mean that the "men in masks" are not going about their criminal business.

Tracy: Z
November
at 08:16
Male cyclist riding

around Baldwins Hill at 06.15 this morning. No lights, hoodie jacket and looking very suspicious. Taking a look in car and van windows.

Mark: About 3 or 4 months ago the police were inquiring door to door in Queens Road about a guy on a bike who had been doing exactly this. Someone's home security camera had picked him up trying their car doors in the driveway. Sounds like he's still active in the area.

Tracy: thanks Mark. We need to keep our eyes peeled

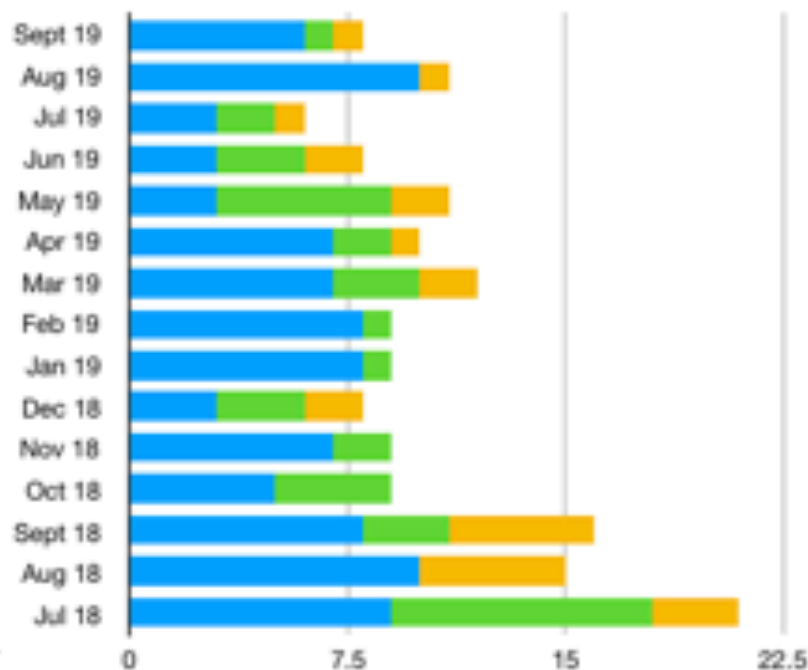
Kirsty: Interesting - car alarm on pump hill went off at 530 this morning!

The picture was picked up by CCTV on a driveway early one morning on Baldwins Hill.



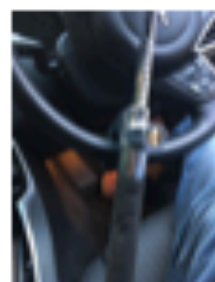
Crime in the Hills - from July 2018

■ York Hill/Queens Road/Pump Hill ■ Baldwins Hill ■ Staples Road



Think it. Do it. Sort it...to borrow a TFL slogan

- 1 Use a steering wheel lock - Enough to deter anyone but the most determined
- 2 Keep keys in a secure safety bag (so at least they cannot be cloned making the car thief's life just too easy)





Crime reported in August+September

Twelve crimes were reported in August but notably none in Baldwins Hill: so hurrah for the crime watchers at our northern end. Five anti-social and one violent crime at the top of York Hill was unwelcome. A burglary and a violent crime in Queens Road and anti-social and violent offences in Staples Road and Forest Way made the list.

In September we saw eight reported crimes: a vehicle crime in Baldwins Hill plus a vehicle crime and one public order and one violent crime at the top of York Hill. At the bottom another vehicle crime plus a public order and a violent incident kept the police busy. Staples Road was the scene for a criminal damage with arson which the police are continuing to investigate but without enough information to prosecute so far. https://www.police.uk/essex/130/crime/+FzAnll/?fbclid=IwAR3fe7GivcJBZSKcnLA53xrmZEgJ1ay1zOy_JIV9mAJGxTx6YuiwYEAIEvU

essex.police.uk update

Nearest Police Station with front counter is now Harlow, open between 9.00am and 5.00pm. Reporting crime online is encouraged. Our senior police contact for Epping Forest is Sergeant John Berwick and PCSO is Paul L'Estrange

eppingcommunitypolicingteam@essex.pnn.police.uk

Phone 999 in an emergency and 101 for everything else or go to www.essex.police.uk/do-it-online/

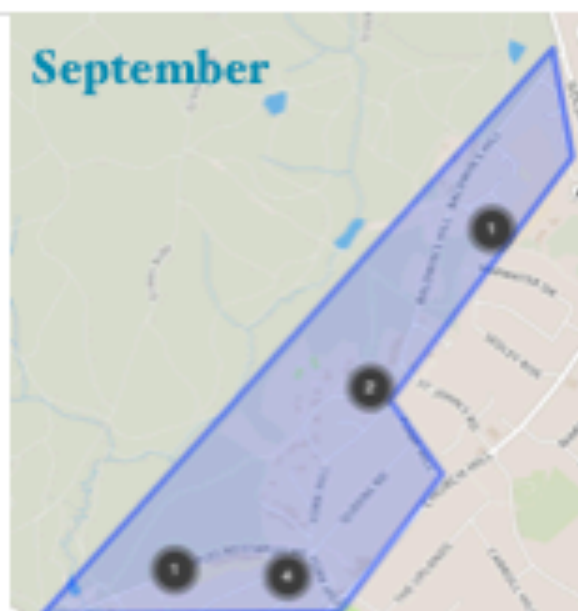
Who to contact

Noise: District Council Environmental Health team (01992 564000, 24 hours).

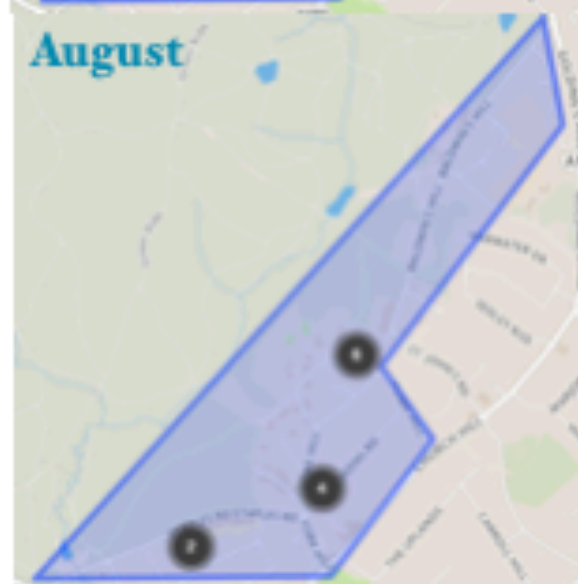
- **Anti-social behaviour**, such as drunk and disorderly, intimidation etc, ring 101 and get a crime number or telephone 01245 491491

- **Criminal activity**, such as a threat to life/safety or property emergency: Ring 999

September



August



Top: Eight crimes reported in September, rather better than August when the tally was 12 - but note none in Baldwins Hill area.

Coffee with Cops

The monthly Coffee with Cops held in Loughton is currently suspended. We are pressing for this popular opportunity to meet with our local police to be re-started. Meanwhile you can keep in touch with the activities of Loughton Community Police and CID on Facebook [#EppingForestCommunityPoliceTeam](https://www.facebook.com/EppingForestCommunityPoliceTeam) [#LoughtonCid](https://www.facebook.com/LoughtonCid) [#LoughtonHub](https://www.facebook.com/LoughtonHub)

Snippets from the Ponds

- Looks as if Shaftesbury will be resurfaced before end 2019 weather permitting
- The Local Plan Examination in Public has resulted in Jessel Green being removed from the development list. The inspector has ruled that at the present, she cannot be sure the plan will not result in harm to the Epping Forest Special Area of Conservation (SAC), so the parties have been required to do further work. Loughton Town Council has requested a one-mile *cordon sanitaire* round the Forest in Loughton, where no new dwellings would be permitted (or huge enlargements), to minimise future damage to the SAC.
- The cricket ground has been transferred to the Town Council, who are seeking Fields in Trust status to protect it in perpetuity
- Street lights in Staples Rd outside nos 27-65 will be turned off at 1am following a poll of residents. Those by nos 3-25 will stay on as now.
- Many of the signs marking the Warren Hill - Baldwins Hill cycle quiet route are now missing, so there is a Local Highways Panel scheme to replace them.
- There will be fewer peak hour trains north of Loughton from 26 Jan whilst TfL fit new motors to all 600 tube cars that run the Central Line service.
- Homebase closed on 26 September and Lidl is expected to open Spring 2020. The Homebase bus stop has been renamed "Sedley Rise".
- The Church Hill convenience store has closed down

Clrs. Chris and Caroline Pond are Staples Road residents, he a member of Essex County and both of Epping Forest District and Loughton Town Councils.

Help us to reduce speeding in Hills



If you would like to join those residents displaying the "Speed Kills - Please slow down" stickers on their wheelie bins, (and a big thank you" to those who are) it is still not too late to apply for your FREE sticker.

Please email hillsamenityociety@gmail.com

with a name and address and one will be delivered to you....

Email: hillsamenityociety@gmail.com or on HillsWatch, our Facebook page.

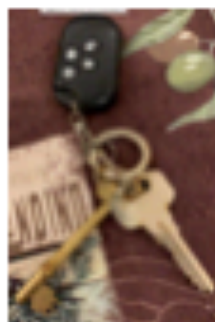


Need for parking permits?

The first residents parking permit scheme in the Hills was introduced on Kings Green - where the Conservation Area meets the High Road - and appears to have gone smoothly enough. Inevitably though some impact has been felt in Queens Road, Staples Road and York Hill. Is it time to ask the question again as to whether residents would support a CPZ - controlled parking zone - in any of those three roads? The answer a few years back was no, but pressure builds. Have your say on HillsWatch or email hillsamenityociety@gmail.com.

Lost or found.....?

Jessica Huff, a Hills resident and HillsWatch member operates the Facebook Group LOUGHTON LOST & FOUND & STOLEN with some 500 followers in the area. These keys are one example of items found - along with seemingly countless cats lost. Very worthwhile logging on if you either lose or find.



Hills Committee report

At its meeting on 7 November Hills Amenity Society Committee welcomed back Parag Shah, who served previously on the committee, together with Kevin and Sarah Little.

Planning

The planning report highlighted that an application had been submitted for a Lawful Development Certificate for a proposed shed/pool outbuilding as part of the redevelopment and extension of Woodberrie (development pictured right).

It was noted that no decision had yet been recorded on applications to extend 30 York Hill, 17 Stony Path but 6 Ashley Grove application had been turned down.

The District Council had received three applications in respect of 32 Queens Road for an annexe, a single storey extension and Prior approval

application for a 6 metre deep single storey rear extension, height to eaves 2.5 metres and maximum height of 4 metres. The Council had responded that prior approval was not required for the six metre deep rear extension which the Committee felt should be a matter for concern.



New speed trials

Following speed strip trials in York Hill reported previously the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) has carried out further trials, this time in Queens Road, and we await results.

At the November Hills Committee Meeting thanks were expressed to Cllr Chris Pond for this follow-up action.

The dangerous 'never-never' lamppost

It was noted that the new lamppost (pictured) partly installed more than 12 months ago at the top of Queens Road was still not connected despite promises made by County Council officials at a meeting at County Hall attended by Cllr Pond and a Hills Committee representative last July. It was agreed to publicise a complaint number and urge residents sharing concerns about this dark corner to register their complaints. (See Page 7)



[Sarah Little](#) on HillsWatch

For complaints regarding the lampposts (both victorian & corner of Queens Rd/ Pump Hill) please phone 03456037631 quoting reference numbers 2638593 & 20332940. Please stress the danger of this very dark part of the road along with the large hole that hasn't been backfilled - the lamppost is also leaning & if it falls will cause considerable damage/injury. Thank you for your support.

Parking on School Green

Parking on School Green at the Staples Road-York Hill junction was raised as an ongoing concern and it was agreed to maintain pressure on the Forest conservators to take action. Delay in action was apparently due to checks being made on possible service pipes along the York Hill length of the green.



Damage by large vehicles

The Committee heard damage by large vehicles had been growing along with the ongoing major development and redevelopment of Woodberrie, the site on the corner of Woodbury Hill and Kings Hill. This included posts taken out on the corner of York Hill and Woodbury Hill, the Woodbury Hill road sign on the corner of Kings Hill, hedging along Woodbury Hill and the triangle of forest land by Dryads Hall.



Neighbourhood Watch report

It was welcome news that the number of incidents of crime reported in the Hills was continuing at about one third of that 12 months ago.

HGVs still going astray in the Hills

Chair Toby Scrutton said heavy goods vehicles mostly from Eastern Europe were still trying to take the 'short cut' to Enfield using York Hill despite new signage put up to deter them. He showed the meeting his most recent pictures of a truck, this time with a UK plate, in August.

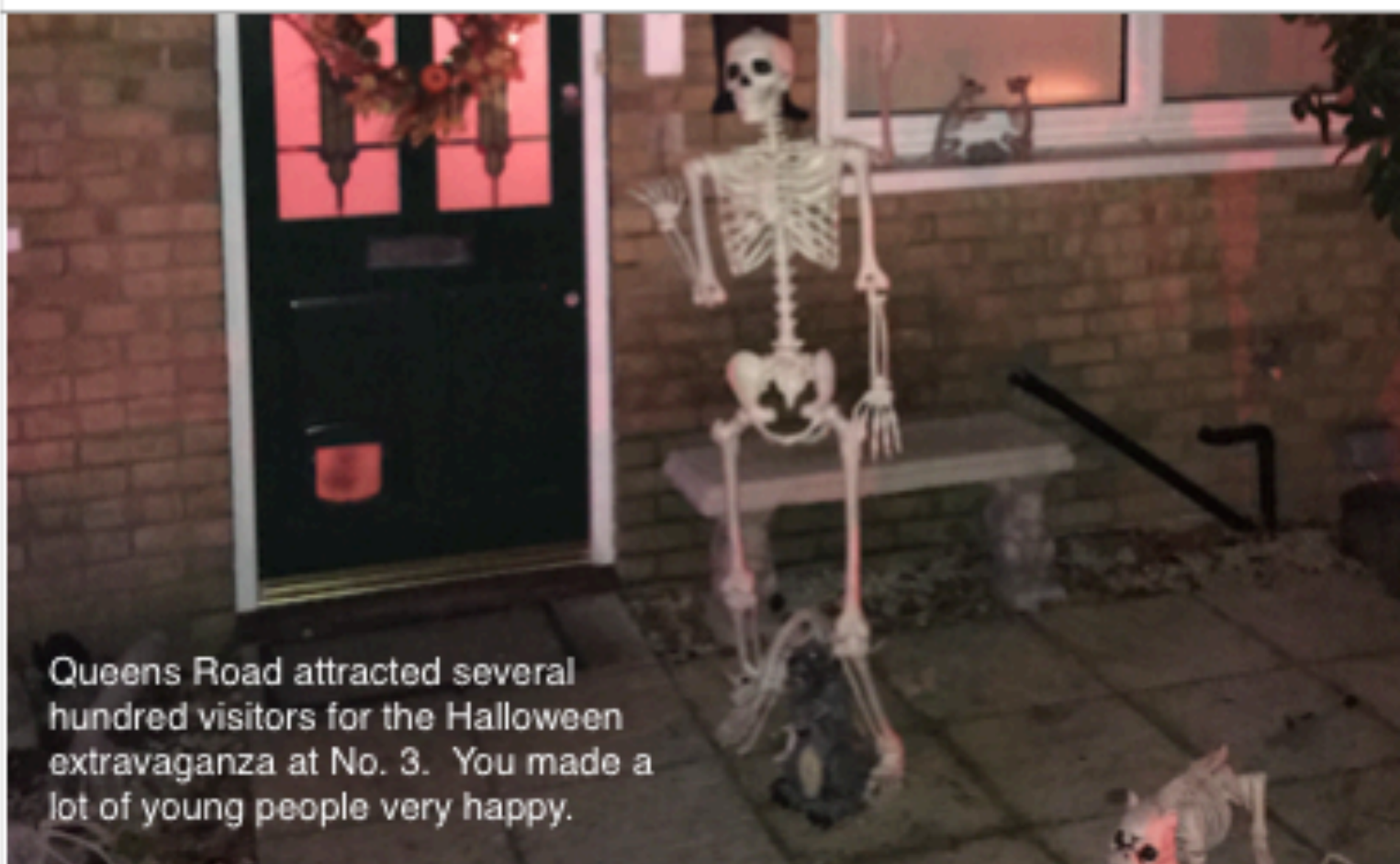


Next Meeting

The next meeting of the committee will be on Wednesday 8 January. If you would like to attend, please email the Hon. Sec. at hillsamenityociety@gmail.com.



Children from Staples Road Schools gather for their annual wreath-laying ceremony on Kings Green. The remembrance service on 10 November was attended by an amazing 1,700 people. Wreaths were laid by Mayor of Loughton, Cllr Stella Murphy, Cllr Caroline Pond, past chairman of EFDC, and Dame Eleanor Laing MP (Picture inset courtesy Epping Forest Guardian website www.eppingforestguardian.co.uk).



Queens Road attracted several hundred visitors for the Halloween extravaganza at No. 3. You made a lot of young people very happy.

Butchers

Bosworths Family Butchers, Church Hill, Loughton
 "Excellent service. Outstanding service." Yell.com 020 8508 4498

Convenience Store

Church Hill Convenience Store 020 8508 8487

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Estate Agency

Woodbury Homes estate agency: one of Loughton's leading agents
www.woodburyhomes.co.uk
 /020 8508 2030

Electrical Contractor

H&H Electrical, York Hill/ Queens Road: Electrical contractors and electricians.
 0208 502 3578

Funeral Directors

Daniel Robinson and Sons: Church Hill: funeral-offices/ Loughton 020 8508 1008
Warriner and Son, Church Hill: Dignity funeral directors in for over 200 years.
 020 3582 0772

Florist

The Florist, Church Hill
 "Luxurious range of flowers and accessories."
www.thefloristloughton.co.uk
 020 8502 2609

Health and well-being

A balanced Life Studio, York Hill. "If you want to enhance your wellbeing then we would love to help." 07950 487005
www.abalancedlife.co.uk/
By Georgina, Church Hill. Hair & beauty salon and make-up academy.
www.bygeorgina.co.uk
 0203 730 4012

Support local businesses

Local businesses are invited to become a Hills Sponsor for just £25 a year or to advertise in this newsletter. Contact Advertising at hillsamenityociety@gmail.com

Dr Leah Cosmetic Skin Clinic, York Hill founded and co-owned by The Apprentice winner Dr Leah Totton and Lord Alan Sugar, Dr Leah Cosmetic Skin Clinics strive to be the UK's most innovative and trusted cosmetic clinics.
www.drleah.co.uk

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www.omm.co.uk
 020 7515 9595

Kitchen design

Mulberry Interiors are a specialist kitchen design and installation company based on Church Hill, Loughton and covering the surrounding areas. "We pride ourselves on providing a truly quality service" . 0208 508 1294
mulberryint@btconnect.com

Opticians

Scher & Ward Opticians, High Road www.seeability.org/
www.scher-ward-opticians-loughton
 02085 085 852

Professional/finance

David Soper and Co. York Hill: Financial Advice 0208 508 3800

Places to eat

Foresters Arms, Baldwins Hill
 "The food is always good and the staff are always pleasant and helpful." 020 8502 5087

Hills Sponsor

Gardeners Arms, York Hill:
 "A great visit to a terrific little pub, great views - a definite must try". 020 8508 1655

Olive Tree, High Road, Loughton:(Trip Adviser 5*)
 "My dad and I come for lunch here every single Saturday, for the last two months. The owner always about and welcoming.
 020 8502 3332

Turquoise Grill and Bar, High Road, Kings Green:(Trip Adviser 4.5)

"We will definitely be coming back!" 020 8926 0002

Quindici, York Hill:(Trip Adviser 4.5 stars)

"A great evening entertaining close friends and we all had such a lovely time."
 020 8508 9655

Zizzi - Loughton, York Hill: (4 star Open Table)

"We use Zizzi in Loughton a lot and always have a good night and food always good ." Tel: 02084149489

Trouble with parking?

Just a reminder that if you are plagued with cars blocking your driveway you may apply to North Essex Parking Partnership for an H bar to be painted on the road outside your home. There is an application fee of £120 - but do give them a ring before applying to discuss individual circumstances (01206 282316) or contact via the website www1.parkingpartnership.org/north/hbarapplication. When the paint wears thin a fee of £80 will be charged - unless like one Hills resident you repaint the lines yourself...(NOT recommended!)



New parking enforcement to tackle school run excesses

New parking enforcement vehicles will be patrolling the streets of North Essex, including Loughton, targeting dangerous, careless, inconsiderate and negligent parking particularly in sensitive areas such as school zig-zag zones, bus stops and supporting County road safety campaigns. The introduction of the CCTV patrols will free up traffic wardens - now perhaps rather confusingly called CEOs (short for Civil Enforcement Officers) - to focus on car parks, parking permits and no waiting restrictions. Perhaps the occasional visit to York Hill and Baldwins Hill might be on the cards at school run time?



Recent Property sales rightmove



14 Shaftesbury
4 Bed, Semi detached freehold.
Sold Aug 2019
£650k



79 York Hill, three bedroom semi sold Aug 2019 £755k



24 The Summit, detached, freehold four bedrooms sold Nov 2018 £800k



27 York Hill Three bedroom semi-detached freehold £492k sold June 2019



39 Staples Road det freehold, four beds. Sold Aug 2019 £845k

21 The Heights Flat, two bedrooms. Sold Aug 2019 £410k



30 Wroths Path semi-detached, freehold Oct 2018 £355k.

32 Queens Road, det freehold, 4 bedrooms sold May 2019 £730k



Comment

Join us for a meeting!

Hills Amenity Society watchers may have noticed that for the first time for many years we have not held an Autumn Lunch, in latter years usually at the Gardeners Arms. The reason is simple: few came and your HAS volunteers felt it was a lot of effort for what in effect had become a committee lunch. Instead we are inviting those interested to join us for a meeting of the committee - and even to join the committee if they feel they would like to help keep the flag flying for the three Loughton Conservation Areas. This issue contains a full report of the issues on our agenda at our last meeting at which we were joined by two HillsWatchers who had expressed an interest in attending. Two others had also been invited. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on Wednesday 8 January and if you would like to attend please email the Hon. Secretary at hillsamenityociety@gmail.com. Our next open meeting will be our AGM in May.

HILLS COMMITTEE

Toby Scrutton (Chair) tscrutton35@gmail.com

Stephen Cohen stephenmcohen@hotmail.com
07968720804

Wendy Fisher
wendlesfisher@hotmail.com 020 8508 2096

Thank you for your support

Hills Amenity Society has been working since 1972 to preserve, protect, develop and improve features of both historic and public interest and to promote higher standards of planning and design in keeping with existing amenities and the rural character of the three Loughton conservation areas of York Hill, Staples Road and Baldwins Hill. The Society organises social events such as occasional picnics, autumn lunch and an open meeting and AGM in the Spring; awards a prize for the best kept front garden; monitors planning; maintains a Neighbourhood Watch and supports the work of elected council members. New members are always welcome.

Let us have your news, views and comments on the **HillsWatch** Facebook Page which links to Epping Forest Neighbourhood Watch Notices

Membership of Hills Amenity Society costs just £5 per household a year payable to Hills Amenity Society and may be sent to The Treasurer, Woodpeckers, 37 Woodbury Hill.

Brenda Harris (Planning)
hillsamenityociety@gmail.com

Ian Locks (Newsletter/Character Appraisals)
hillsamenityociety@gmail.com 020 8502 3998

Peter Wynn (Hon.Treasurer)
p.wynn37@btinternet.com



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