



Cressida Road

Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter December 2014

(Co-ordinator Tom Forde)

Burglaries

This is the time of year when homes are particularly at risk. The dark evenings and unoccupied houses over the Christmas holiday, gives the burglar extra opportunities to ransack your home.

Crime prevention advice can be obtained by looking up the Metropolitan Police website, <http://content.met.police.uk/Site/crimeprevention>

Someone suggested that a good way to scare off burglars is to write the words ***Job Centre*** over your front door. A better way of course is to utilise the Smartwater www.smartwater.com property marking kit that has been issued to each household by the Hillrise Safer Neighbourhoods Police Team. Smartwater has a unique identifying code that can be used in a criminal trial to identify stolen property. It provides irrefutable evidence that will secure a criminal conviction. Burglars tend to avoid homes where smartwater has been used to mark possessions and where smartwater stickers are displayed on the doors and windows.

Cowboy Builders

Many of these gents learn basics building skills in prison or whilst on parole. They then set themselves up as professional builders. Never entertain cold callers, they very likely will take your money and then disappear. Have you ever thought? Your burglar of today could be your cold call builder of tomorrow?

Conservation Matters

One of the great success stories of the *Shakespeare Roads Association* (**Cressida Road, Lysander Grove, Miranda Road, Prospero and Parolles Roads**) was the achievement of conservation status. The conservation legislation has discouraged the DIY/Cowboy Builder Brigade from causing further damage to the original features of our homes. Any changes made to the frontages of houses without planning permission, such as the installation of plastic/aluminium windows, the painting or plastering of brickwork, or the replacement of slates with concrete tiles, contravene the Article 4 Directions, which became law in 2001. Such changes to our conservation area can reduce the value and appearance of property but worse; the value of a neighbour's property can also be affected. It is always wise to obtain planning advice before making any alterations to dwellings. Contravention of conservation regulations often results in expensive enforcement orders being made

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Archway Gyratory System

Transport for London is now seeking the views of local residents and stakeholders on the proposed new changes for Archway roundabout

If the present scheme goes ahead, Cressida Road, particularly, is likely to be affected by displaced traffic - which will use our street as a rat-run. Older residents will recall the events of the '80's and '90's when we had to fight Islington Council in order to get traffic calming measures installed in our area. LBI's lack of response at that time resulted in the Lib Dems taking over the running of LBI Council for some ten years.

Consultation on the new Archway Gyratory proposals are now being made - on the TFL website <http://www.tfl.gov.uk/archway-gyratory> Make sure you express your concerns about displaced traffic using Cressida Road. Aside from the local residents being exposed to the dangerous speeding traffic, the school children using the three schools in our area will be affected: viz: St Aloysious College, Whitehall Park School and Our Lady of Mount Carmel, will be at risk. Views and comments can be made on the TFL website. The **closing date** for submissions is next Sunday next, 14th December, 2014.

In addition the proposed changes to Archway Gyratory system, Islington Council has plans to make the 'Miranda Road area' a child friendly zone. Full details of this can be found on the LBI website under Ward Improvement Plans. If this goes ahead, it is also likely to have a severe impact on Cressida Road. Where you as a Cressida Road resident consulted on this?

Whitehall Park School

Cressida Road is **not** within the catchment area of the new Ashmount School in Crouch Hill. But the new Whitehall Park School in Ashmount Road, N19, is and it can accommodate children from our street, but the play area will be confined to the roof of the building, which most parents consider inadequate. *Ashmount School Action Group* (ASAG) is seeking a judicial review on this matter on 17th December 2014 in the Royal Courts of Justice. More details can be found on their website: www.asag.org.uk or on the *Whitehall Park Area Residents' Association* website: www.whpara.org.uk/

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Finally, I must again commend the many residents who have spent so much money on carrying out high quality improvements to their homes. Well done - keep up the good work.

Happy Christmas and a prosperous 2015 to you all.

Tom Forde
Co-ordinator