

arrow

The London Borough of Harrow magazine



Ready to play? Tennis returns to Harrow

Clean and safe

Week of Action to improve streets





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Cover image Byron Rec tennis courts **Photography** Lucy Baker

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Harrow People is published four times a year by London Borough of Harrow. It is distributed to every home in Harrow. Comments, products and services published do not necessarily carry the council's endorsement.



he condition of our roads continues to be a big issue in Harrow. The winter cold snap left us with a lot of potholes to deal with. We've been filling them ever since and have now fixed nearly 600.

Recently we started a £10million road resurfacing programme that will see 60 of the borough's roads completely renewed.

We're responsible for more than 280 miles of highway and are dealing with a significant backlog of repairs. We've made a start but resources are limited and I know that there are still many miles to go.

The resurfacing programme is one of our 'flagship actions' - our commitments to tackle the big issues in Harrow.

Inside your new look Harrow People, you'll find further information on our work to improve Harrow's roads, together with updates on other flagship actions.

They include the opening of Harrow's new tennis courts, following their half-millionpound transformation. Many were in a terrible state before the refurbishment - some were unrecognisable. The 30 refurbished courts across 11 of our parks really are superb and are now open for bookings. Safety and street cleanliness are two further priority issues that you'll find featured inside, as we kick off our 'Week of Action' programme - intensive, joinedup work with the Police to tackle crime, fly-tipping and antisocial behaviour.

This Harrow People we also take a look at the work of your councillors. I've had the privilege of serving the people of Harrow for 22 years and I look forward to many more. I know that passion is shared by all who serve this community - two of Harrow's youngest councillors, first elected last year, are interviewed inside.

I'd like to wish you and your family a great summer.

Paul S. Osborn

Clir Paul Osborn Leader of the Council, **London Borough of Harrow**



Have your say on climate action in Harrow

Our day-to-day decisions about how we heat and power our homes, how we get around, what we buy or how we use our gardens, can make a big difference to the environment.

We've launched a draft climate and nature strategy that will

set out the borough's journey to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and want everyone to be able to contribute.

We know there is good work already happening in Harrow. We want to hear about these good practices and initiatives and consider how they can be extended across the borough, as well as what the key issues of concern are, and what actions people are willing to take.

>> Visit talk.harrow.gov.uk to have your say before Sunday 24 September.

£8m high street investment

Public consultation is set to take place this autumn on exciting new plans for Harrow town centre.

Designs are being drawn up over the summer to improve the walking route from Harrow-on-the-Hill station into the town centre, concentrating on College Road, Clarendon Road, Pinner Road, and St Ann's Road. People will also get to see plans for Greenhill Way car park and the small business kiosks in St Ann's Road.

The improvements are being funded by £7.1million from the Government's Future High Street Fund and the remainder from the Council.

Solar pergola's grand designs to cut bills

The London Borough of Harrow's Housing team have partnered with British technology company Polysolar to trial a new solar power solution that could help council tenants cut their energy bills by more than 40%.

The technology offers solar power energy production via transparent glass built into a pergola, providing both clean sustainable energy and an attractive addition to an existing

garden space. Our work to decarbonise our council housing saw us recently win three Net Zero Awards, including Landlord of the Year.

The technology is currently being trialled at one Harrow home and we hope to offer it to more tenants soon.

It went on show at the prestigious Grand Designs Live exhibition at London's EXCEL earlier this year.

Support with cost of living

We're supporting those most in need with the cost of living, thanks to £3million of funding from the Government's Household Support Fund.

We're continuing our offer of vouchers to families on free school meals outside of term time and our support to Help Harrow, who provide residents with access to food supplies as well as advice and information on topics such as energy, health, wellbeing and benefits.

We're also targeting help to those who miss out on existing



cost of living support, including care leavers and those receiving Housing Benefit.

We've updated our directory of help for Harrow households, where you can find out more about the Household Support Fund, as well as check your benefit entitlement, get advice on debt, find financial support for living costs, help to boost your earnings power and much more.

→ Go to harrow.gov.uk/ costofliving to find out more



Holidays packed with fun and food

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme for children returns this summer, promising a packed programme of sport, workshops, music and more.

20+ local organisations have come together with the help of the council and Young Harrow Foundation to banish boredom for youngsters aged 5 to 16 years, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.

Expect enriching activities, hot meals and lots of fun with friends in a safe and supportive environment. The programme is aimed at children in receipt of means-tested free school meals, but families in other circumstances are also considered.

Visit harrowfoundation.org/haf-programme to find out more.



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Made in Harrow

New logo and look for the **London Borough of Harrow**

arlier this year we revealed a new look and logo, coupled with a return to our rightful name of London Borough of Harrow.

The new logo has been developed for under £500 and the old logo will be removed on a 'replenish not replace' basis, meaning there will be no extra costs to the rollout, which could take several years to complete.

The logo incorporates an updated version of the civic coat of arms, which has been rejuvenated to reflect Harrow's rich and diverse culture.

The journey began last year with a competition for students at Harrow College and the University of Westminster to design our logo.

After sifting through dozens of entries, we chose the design submitted by University of Westminster student Kareena Ravaliya, pictured right. As well as her £250 prize Kareena was invited to work alongside Harrow's digital and design team to see the logo turned into branding throughout the organisation.

Cllr Stephen Greek, Portfolio Holder for Performance. Communications and Customer Experience, said: "The rebrand is a great example of our belief in encouraging and supporting local

talent by giving our colleges and university the opportunity to be part of making history. The logo represents our past, present and future and has a contemporary feel to it. We now have a logo that we can rightly say has been 'made in Harrow' that we can all be proud of."

Cllr Paul Osborn, Leader of the London Borough of Harrow, said: "Restoring pride has been at the heart of our new branding - and we've done this at a minimal cost spending under £500.

"Over the coming months and years, we will continue to keep costs down by only updating assets with the new logo when they need to be replaced. The logo captures the past, present and future of our borough and has been designed to work well in both digital and physical forms."

Kareena has now graduated with First Class Honours and plans to work as a freelance designer and travel. She said: "It's been fantastic to work on this project and I've really enjoyed working with the team at Harrow to see it grow from my initial design to fully fledged branding which will be around for years and years to come.

"Not many design students can say they've played a key part in such a prestigious project and I'm glad it has pride of place in my portfolio."

Kareena Ravaliya's design beat dozens of entries





Kids get some coaching on the new courts; main picture, the Mayor of Harrow Cllr Ramji Chauhan cuts the ribbon with Leader Cllr Paul Osborn, Cllr Jean Lammiman and Cllr Kanti Rabadia ust in time for Wimbledon fortnight, Harrow's tennis courts were officially opened by the Mayor and youngsters from Elmgrove Primary.

A £587,425 grant from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) Tennis Foundation has served up a major refurb of tennis courts in the borough's parks, bringing them back to life and back into community use.

Cllr Jean Lammiman, Portfolio Holder for Community and Culture said: "The refurbishment of our tennis courts has been one of our flagship actions.

"This time last year one third of

our tennis courts were deemed unplayable by the LTA. In one park (Queensbury Park) the two courts had disappeared completely. Fast forward to this year and what a difference."

Last autumn 57% of people who responded to our consultation backed the plans to secure the LTA grant. Pay and play charges split respondees, but we promised to keep prices low, with concessions for under 18s, over 65s, disabled people and those on low incomes.

As well as weekly free park tennis sessions, with equipment provided, the newly refurbished courts will host local tennis leagues, giving people the





opportunity to get involved in friendly and social local competitions.

Residents can book any one of the refurbished courts now via the LTA website at www.lta.org.uk/book. New booking systems and gate

access technology mean it is now easier to get on court by booking ahead.

The final courts to be refurbished are in Harrow Recreation Ground, which are due to be completed in September.

Ready to play?

The courts are run on the council's behalf by Premier Tennis. Check out www.harrow.gov.uk/ tenniscourts for park-bypark details of the tennis court refurbishment and how to book. There are also free sessions at the courts for all ages.

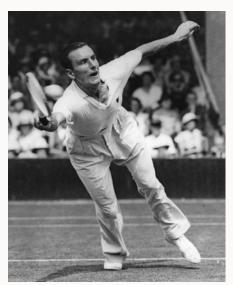
Courts cost £5 an hour to book (£4 for concessions) – small fees that will ensure the courts are maintained at their new high standard for years to come.

Big break for legends

There are thousands of stories to be uncovered at Harrow Local History Collection and Archives. From medieval to modern, the rich and occasionally surprising history of our area is preserved in more than 100,000 documents, books, maps and photos. We took the tour with the borough's Archivist, Mary Brown...

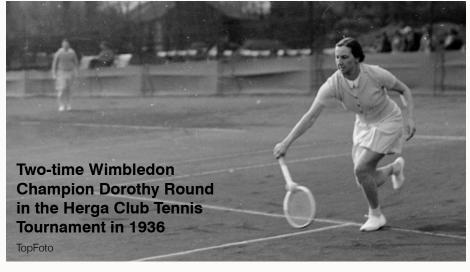
eople are really invested in the history of this area. They visit us because they want to know what their street used to look like or the history of their home - we love to transport them back in time," says Mary.

She's committed to bringing the collection closer to the people of Harrow and works with a band of volunteers



Fred Perry started his career playing at the Herga Club

Central Press/Hulton Archive via Getty Images



to do just that, via the online catalogue - most of its 1,200 maps and 500 reels of microfilm can be accessed digitally.

With the opening of Harrow's new tennis courts, we asked about the history of the sport in our area. Mary found that Harrow played a key role in the early career of Britain's most successful tennis player Fred Perry.

In 1934 Fred Perry won the first of three back-to-back men's singles titles at Wimbledon. A year later, aged 26, he became the first person to complete a Career Grand Slam, adding the French Championships to his Australian. US and Wimbledon titles.

Just eight years earlier, the young protégé was playing his tennis in Harrow town centre, as a member of the borough's Herga club. Its

annual tournament was an important fixture in the tennis calendar, drawing the greats of the period to compete in Harrow – players such as Bunny Austin and Dorothy Round (Wimbledon Ladies' Champion 1935 and 1937).

But it's Fred Perry who is best remembered. The Lawn Tennis Association (which funded our fantastic new courts) spotted his talent while playing at Herga, and the rest is history.

Fred came to play in Harrow because of Herga's great facilities. Perhaps our superb new courts could inspire a future champion?

>> The archives at Headstone Manor and Museum are open to all by appointment only on Wednesdays and the second Saturday of each month. Find out more at headstonemanor.org.



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uperintendent Matt Cray took the reins for Harrow's neighbourhood policing in April. With a wealth of experience and knowledge spanning more than 30 years, he is passionate about improving community trust.

"Harrow is a great place to live, work and visit – I am working with our officers and the London Borough of Harrow to reduce crime and keep it as one of the safest boroughs in London.

"Along with my leadership team – Chief Inspector Muneeb Ishtiaq and Inspector Dai Rees, responsible for the Neighbourhood police teams and Inspector Graig Bradley, lead for schools and the Youth Engagement Team, we'll deliver policing in the borough and give residents reassurances on safety.

"You'll see our officers in the community and be able to report crimes easily. This week we held the first of our regular community meetings – the next one is on 10 August in Rayners Lane. Please come down and talk to us, find



out about our plans for policing in Harrow and ask any questions you may have.

"We are recruiting more staff as part of the Strongest Ever Neighbourhood Policing scheme which means we will have more dedicated officers on the streets of Harrow. The latest recruitment campaign features Harrow Police ◆ Roxbourne PCSO Louise Nicholson was the face of a recent London-wide recruitment campaign

Community Support Officer (PCSO) Louise Nicholson, a former estate agent who is now one of our officers from Roxbourne."

PCSO Louise tells us why she loves the job: "I decided to join the police as a PCSO because I liked the fact that it was a community-led role and that I'd be working in schools and it was just more aligned to my personality.

"The most rewarding part for me is going to see victims of crime giving them some reassurance – just to say that we are here for them we can give them all the crime prevention support and give them a little bit of hope back."

Meet the police

Next community meeting: Thursday 10 August, 6pm at Tithe Farm, Rayners Lane

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Cllr Anjana Patel joined Council teams and the police in the first Week of Action in Edgware

ast month Edgware was given some TLC in the first of four Weeks of Action with teams from the Council and police.

The joint taskforce tackled the problems that matter most to our residents, from fly-tipping, illegal shared housing, inconsiderate parking and street cleansing.

The investigations found an incredible 79 unlicensed shared homes, or houses of multiple occupancy, and will be following up on 10 homes found to be in a state of serious disrepair.

Evidence was found in 30 fly-tips, meaning fines can be issued to those responsible, alonside 15 fines for littering.

In total six fines were issued for parking offences near Stag



Lane school, and four drivers were stopped for speeding near Mollison Way and Camrose Avenue. One driver was found to be driving without an MOT and another with no insurance.

Trading Standards and Commercial licensing officers inspected businesses, finding 95% compliant with licensing and trading laws.

Cllr Anjana Patel, Cabinet
Member for Environment and
Community Safety joined the
teams. She said: "We are listening
to our residents, and this is one of
many ways we are restoring pride
in Harrow."

Road to recovery

We've been patching potholes all year. Now we're getting the big kit out to completely resurface more than 60 roads and footpaths.



Potholes
happen each
winter, but they
were particularly
bad this year
because of the
extended cold
snap.





We've filled 584 potholes this year. It's a two-stage process – first with a temporary hard-wearing patch, completed in 15 minutes and with minimal disruption to traffic. We then follow up with a neater long-term repair, sometimes carried out overnight.





Your road is mostly bitumen, also known as asphalt – a very sticky and viscous oil-based substance. Aggregate, like large gravel is mixed in to reinforce and strengthen.

We respond to reports of road defects within 3 working days – high risk ones are repaired within 24 hours.

Report potholes or other problems at www.harrow.gov.uk/potholes



See our road resurfacing work in action



Street parties



Pangbourne Drive



White Craig Close



Beresford Road



Beresford Road



St Margaret's Avenue



Hillview Avenue

Coronation streets

Streets across Harrow closed over the extra bank holiday weekend in May to allow people to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III. Here are some of the parties that took place.

Thank you to all residents who shared their photos.



Brampton Grove



Gerard Road



Leighton Avenue



Richmond Gardens

'Unity and diversity'

Ilr Ramji Chauhan was sworn in as the borough's first citizen for 2023/24 in May, becoming Harrow's first East African Mayor.

He was handed the chain and robe at a ceremony officially marking the start of his Mayoralty, in which he will represent the borough at events to complement his mayoral theme 'unity and diversity'.

Born in Uganda and evacuated to Britain as a boy in the 70s, Cllr Chauhan, 58, has lived in Harrow for more than 30 years. His life in politics began in

2010 when he was elected as councillor for Harrow Weald. His chosen charities are RITA – a dementia appeal at Northwick Park Hospital and Centrepoint. He chose RITA after seeing the impact of dementia on a family member.

Having experienced homelessness himself when he was young, the Mayor understands the importance of the work charity Centrepoint does to help those affected progress in life.

The Mayor said: "It is an honour to be sworn in as the new Mayor and first citizen of Harrow. My theme this year is unity and diversity – I hope to continue to unite everyone together, celebrate our differences and embrace cultural diversity.

"Very soon the Council will be hosting our community awards Harrow's Heroes, which celebrate the achievements of people from all walks of life. So I look forward to seeing the nominations, celebrating and giving recognition to the work they do for our borough and residents."





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Different class of social work

project set up to identify vulnerable children at the earliest opportunity has been described as "the future" by one of its key workers. The Social Workers in Schools (SWIS) scheme aims to strengthen pastoral support and, in doing so, help reduce referrals to Children's Services.

Ariz Baig has been based at Rooks Heath College since 2021 and is convinced of the project's positive impact. "I think SWIS is the future of social work," he says. "Being in an office just doesn't compare.

"Here I can see for myself the issues kids are facing in school and when there's an incident in a lesson or the playground I'm able to intervene straight away.

"If a child does get referred to Children's Services, I'm able to tell them what I've observed in school. It's the epitome of multiagency working."

Caitlin Neal has been with the SWIS project in Harrow from the beginning. She says "It's very rewarding, especially when you've been working with the same school over that time and the children get to know you. We have an open door policy so children can come to us if for example they have a friendship issue, or just to say 'Hi'. No two days are the same."

Caitlin says people sometimes view social workers negatively but that hasn't been the case with SWIS. Ariz adds: "It's testament to the school that children were immediately accepting and receptive to me being there and parents reach out to me with questions too.

"It's support for the teachers as well. I've been able to deliver safeguard training for staff and they can ask me for my take on something."

He adds there are still major issues to overcome. "I think the biggest challenge in schools at the moment is kids' mental health.

"Covid and lockdowns definitely had an impact on that and because all services are so stretched, schools are taking on a lot of responsibility for dealing with that. So being able to be in schools and support them through that is really positive."

Caitlin Neal, Ariz Baig and Sandee Sidhu from the Social Workers in Schools team at Rooks Heath School

What's On

HARROW ARTS CENTRE

www.harrowarts.com

Twelfth Night

5 August, 3pm - 4.50pm, outdoors. From £12

Immersion Theatre are back with their very own adaptation of Shakespeare's plays. Audiences will be treated to a whirlwind comedy of mistaken identity, music, and of course, the mayhem of love! Ages 10+

The Boiler House Festival

5 and 11 August, 1 September, From £7

Harrow Arts Centre are proud to introduce a brand-new fringe festival - 'Boiler House Festival'. Across the month of August, HAC have programmed 3 innovative and original performances from up-andcoming talent from Harrow and beyond. Full programme available on the website.

HEADSTONE MANOR & MUSEUM

www.headstonemanor.org

Headstone Village Show See top pick

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Top pick

Headstone Village Show

28 August, 12pm - 5pm, From £2.50

A jam-packed day of entertainment for the whole family in the beautiful historic grounds of Headstone Manor & Museum.

The Horticultural & Craft Show returns alongside live entertainers and music, Gardening Olympics, openair theatre performances, arts and crafts workshops, guided nature walks, food stalls and more!



Summer Family Workshop: DIY Banana Pinata!

6 August, 11am and 1.30pm, £3 (£1.50 concs)

Make your own fruit pinata and stick using recycled materials and enjoy seeing which one of your friends finally gets the sweets.

This family workshop is suitable for children ages 5 and above, and children must be accompanied by an adult. You will be required to register with Learn Harrow to take part in this workshop.

HEATH ROBINSON MUSEUM

www.heathrobinsonmuseum.org

Happily Ever After? Illustrating Andersen & **Perrault**

Until 17 September

Best known for his inventive contraption drawings, William Heath Robinson also illustrated many fairy tale collections. This exhibition displays some of his finest drawings for fairy tales by Charles Perrault and Hans Christian Andersen.

Illyria: Twelfth Night 27 August, 6.30pm

Enjoy a dreamy Shakespearean night with your loved ones for the most exciting theatre show in Pinner: Illyria is coming back with "Twelfth Night".

Bring your own seating (picnic chairs or rugs).

Tickets must be booked in advance.

Art in the Park

Every Thursday, 1.30pm -3pm over the school summer holidavs

Art sessions for all ages, including sketching, park life, watercolour basics, trees, mixing natural colours and figure drawina.

Children must be supervised. Basic materials supplied but feel free to bring your own.

Meccano Model exhibition

12 August,11am - 4pm

Free exhibition of Meccano models from the West London Meccano Society, where you will find a variety of peculiar machines and vehicles! Suitable for children and adults anyone who loves engineering.

Have an event to promote? Email communications@harrow.gov.uk

HARROW LEISURE CENTRE

www.everyoneactive.com

Summer Junior sessions

Gym*; 4pm – 7pm for 11-15yrs, £4.80 off peak, £6 Peak Soft play; 1.5hr sessions, 9am – 4.30pm for children up to 12yrs, £4.70

Climbing taster session; 5.30pm – 6.30pm, for 7-15yrs, £9
Juniors, £11 Adults
*Induction required – contact reception.

Pickleball

Tuesdays 8pm – 10pm, Fridays 12noon – 2pm, Adults, £5

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Summer Swimming Crash Course

Weekly courses through the summer at Hatch End Swimming Pool and Harrow Leisure Centre, £42.50pw

Young or old, regardless of swimming skill this swimming crash course will help you improve confidence and skill in the water.

HARROW LIBRARIES

www.harrow.gov.uk/libraries

Summer reading challenge Until 9 September

The annual summer reading challenge is back and this year is themed around the power of play, sport and games. Read any six books to complete the challenge and join in with events and activities at Harrow libraries, including Fantasy Football, drama workshops and creative writing activities. There's also a prize draw to win tickets for a Wembley Stadium Tour!

Community events

Dinosaurs are coming to town!

31 July – 14 August, Harrow Town Centre

Bring your little ones and come and see T-Rex, Brachiosaurus, Velopciraptor, Dilophosaurus and baby Triceratops roar in town! There's also the chance to win a goodie bag. You'll find a clue to the name of a dinosaur next to each of the five dinosaurs. Email info@ha1bid.co.uk with the dinosaur names to be entered into a prize draw. www. harrowtowncentre.co.uk

19th Annual Kids' Fun Fair Day

6 August, 11am - 6pm, Canons Park, Edgware

Fun for all the family with live music from Katie and Juan, 'fun' dog contest, community stalls, face painting, glitter art and hair braiding, Lego Challenge, Dotty's sweets bus, free tai chi and yoga sessions, Nordic walking sessions and refreshments at the Good Friends Cafe. www.canonsparkfriends.org

Conversation Cafe

Mondays, 11am – 2pm, Harrow Town Centre, Katie's statue; Tuesdays, 1pm – 3pm, St Peter's Church, HA1 4BX; Fridays, 1pm – 2.30pm, London Community Kitchen, HA3 5BD

An opportunity for unpaid carers and the people they support to meet face to face with representatives from Adult Social Care, voluntary organisations and charities.



'Dog most like its owner' contest in Canons Park

Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) programme

Through school holidays

Activities for children and young people aged 5 to 16 in receipt of free school meals, including those with special educational needs and disabilities. Find out more at youngharrowfoundation.org/haf-programme

Wealdstone hub summer activities

Through school holidays

Harrow Early Support Youth Offer has support and summer activities for young people aged 9 to 19 and up to 25 years with special educational needs. From arts and crafts, to games, sports and social hangouts. Email wealdstonehubyouthoffer@harrow.gov.uk or call 020 8416 8667 to find out more.

Harrow Architectural Awards 2023

1 September to 1 October

Harrow Heritage Trust will be inviting nominations for its Architectural Awards. Nominate any building, public or private, completed since 1 January 2019. Email info@ harrowheritagetrust.org.uk for a form.

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Why you should care about local democracy



ast year the people of Harrow elected 55 councillors to represent them. We caught up with two of the youngest, both serving their first term, to find out more about their role.

Cllr Eden Kulig is one of two Labour councillors for Harrow on the Hill. Cllr Zak Wagman represents Stanmore with two fellow Conservative councillors.

Regardless of party, "We're all on the same side when it comes to getting stuff done for residents", said Cllr Wagman.

So, we asked them – why should people care about local democracy? How do you help your community?

Partly it's about being a local champion. Councillors help with issues both big and small. A missed bin, observed Cllr Wagman, might not seem like a big deal to the council, "but if you're a family of six, you're going to need that sorted quickly."

Cllr Kulig has just helped to replace a missing bench dedicated to a constituent's late husband. "It meant a lot to Dorothy and it was really quite moving to see her reaction."

Then there are the big issues Cllr Wagman serves on the Planning Committee, scrutinising the quality of proposed



developments, balancing the needs for housing and business growth with protecting the environment and Harrow's character.

Cllr Kulig cares passionately about increasing the supply of housing, reducing excess car use and the representation of younger people and women in politics, "because who your councillors are affects the decisions they make, what priorities are pursued and what gets funded."

Councillors can be regularly found in their communities, holding surgeries or street consultations. This availability is part of the appeal for Cllr Wagman, "We're members of the community too. I love where I live and I want other people to love it too."

Make yourself heard

You should have received canvass forms in the post recently. These forms make sure your details are up to date and everyone in your household can vote in future elections.

When you receive these forms, follow the instructions, letting us know of any changes, by 4 August. The easiest way is online and takes just a few minutes.

Cllr Kulig says, if you meet your councillor, you shouldn't be afraid to "ask them the hard questions".

"And if there's something you're

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unhappy about in your area, let them know," she says.

➤ Find your councillor and get in touch at harrow.gov.uk/elections



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