

# The Planit Issue 2 – April 2010



**STOP PRESS – London to Paris Pedometer Challenge** - 3 teams from Planning were part of the virtual challenge, aiming to walk 10,000 steps a day for 40 days. A team from Environment & Street Scene won. **Chairman's Austerity Lunch** – the Chairman held a soup lunch on 31st March, in aid of both The Alzheimer's Society and Christian Aid, which was very successful.

Welcome to the second edition. The Editor invites you to give him feedback on content. Please email Robin H or Sarah K with comments.



Indicative plan of Lidl's new premises at 1 Cartersfield Road, Waltham Abbey

Visitors to the Reprographics (Print) section may have noticed an unusual fellow customer recently, a newt who probably wandered in from the newt-friendly pond habitat installed by Countrycare in the car park!



## Enforcement – our focus this month

The Enforcement team are currently investigating several issues regarding the new Lidl store in Waltham Abbey, whose grand opening was reported in last month's Planit. There appear to have been numerous breaches of planning conditions attached to Lidl's planning permission, involving items sold in the store, an agreement to provide additional trees in the surrounding area, highway issues, and the implementation of CCTV. **Don Andrew** is the officer primarily dealing with the case. Watch this space for further updates.

The Hoe Lane Hedgerow prosecution saga continues. The case has been heard over three days at Chelmsford Crown Court, during which prosecution witnesses **Paul Hewitt**, **David Thompson** and **Chris Neilan** gave evidence. The defence claimed that there was no case to answer. A star prosecution witness, **Dr Rob Walton**, gave strong evidence for the prosecution, and the judge deemed that there was a case to answer. Two further days have now been set for the defence to put its case before a judgement is made.

## Interviews - getting to know...

**Kassandra Polyzoides** – Assistant Director (Policy & Conservation) since September 2009

*Kassandra has worked for several London Boroughs, and felt that Epping Forest would present a different, less inner-city, challenge. She sees her role as ensuring the delivery of a successful Local Development Framework and promoting the excellent work of the Countrycare, Trees and Conservation teams. She has dual citizenship, as she was born in Washington DC, and lived in Crete, where she had the chance to play basketball professionally.*

**Jerry Godden** – Principal Planning Officer (Enforcement)

*Jerry has worked in the Directorate since 1999, in several different roles. His aim as the new leader of the Enforcement team, is to provide a responsive and high quality service to the public and colleagues. He is heavily involved in the Air Training Corps in his spare time.*

## Admin

**Dominique Pharoah**, who was working temporarily in the Admin team, has recently left to continue her worldwide travelling.

Admin have welcomed a new temporary member of staff, **Ben Ixer**, who will also be working on the backscanning project, which is almost complete, up to 2008. The next part of the project involves 'spot checking' of the files, scanned externally, for quality control purposes.

The Admin team will soon be bolstered by another temporary member of staff - **Stephanie Archer**, employed through the Future Jobs Fund.

## Environmental Issues

**Vicky James** won the recent eco-driving event, by achieving the lowest fuel consumption figure of the staff who took part, beating the Leader of the Council **Penny Smith!** Those involved learnt how to drive in a more eco-friendly manner. You can read more about the event at:

[http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/news/2010/chairman\\_learns\\_ecodrive.asp](http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/news/2010/chairman_learns_ecodrive.asp)

The World Wildlife Federation celebrated 'Earth Hour' on Saturday 27th March at 8:30pm, by encouraging people to switch off their lights for one hour. Thank you to all who participated. The worldwide event helps to save energy all over the world and to raise awareness of climate change. Below are images of Big Ben and the Houses of Parliament, two of many landmarks which were plunged into darkness for Earth Hour.



## Economic Development

**Vicki Willis** and **John Preston** recently attended a Council visit, led by the Chairman, to the Sainsbury's Distribution Centre and recycling unit. This Waltham Abbey facility is a key business in the District and responsible for a significant 10% of Sainsbury's distribution network. Economic Development joined forces with the Rates section and external partners to host a well-attended business breakfast briefing on 23 March. Businesses heard about the importance of business continuity planning, as well as contributions from the Valuation Office and Business Link. **Cathy MacBride** has hit the ground running as temporary Town Centres Officer. She has been getting to know the 6 town centres and Town Centre Partnerships and is already thinking ahead to Christmas and the festive lights and celebrations in our centres!

## Building Control

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) reports that the number of deaths and serious injuries on construction sites, although dropping, is still too high, with 180 serious injuries or deaths last year alone.

EFDC's Building Control section was keen to offer support to the HSE in a local area crack down of unsafe construction site workplaces. Information from the database of current projects and some local knowledge, enabled them to provide the HSE with a list of small to medium size construction sites within the district to proactively monitor.

## Conservation

Good news on the conservation front. The War Memorial on the Town Greens, Palmers Hill, Epping, now enjoys Grade II listed status. The photograph to the right was taken by **Lewis McGann**. As well as affording the memorial the protection listed status confers, the Town Council will now be able to apply for grants that are only available for listed structures.

English Heritage are currently assessing Llanfoist, 5 Kendal Avenue, Epping for potential listed status. This building, which is on our Local List, was built in 1907 and is little changed from the original design. The original plans of Llanfoist still survive. They are in the possession of the current owners.



## Development Control

Club 195, which had its licence revoked last October following violent scenes has new management, and has been granted a new licence by the Council's licensing section. It is currently permitted to remain open until 2:30am, but the management have appealed to remain open until the original time of 4:00am – watch this space! Colleagues were pleased to welcome back **Paula Onyia**, as a newly appointed Senior Planner, after her secondment to Forward Planning. **Anne Woods'** family has been celebrating the arrival of her twin grandsons Austen and Lewis, weighing in at 6 pounds 6 ounces.

## Trees & Landscape, and Countrycare

Countrycare have welcomed two new members of staff, **Paul Ceconi** and **Mark Godsafe**, financed by the Future Jobs Fund.

To celebrate the beauty of our spring flowers, Countrycare are arranging a 'Bluebell walk' around the Bluebell woods of the old Lambourne Estate, including Apes Grove, Mutton Corner and Great Wood. Although Epping Forest District has many woodlands abundant with Bluebells, globally it is a rare and increasingly threatened species. The Bluebell walk will take place on 8<sup>th</sup> May at 3:30pm led by **Paul Hewitt**, and **Duncan Fisher** the Multifor Project officer at ECC. You can read more about the Multifor (Management of Multifunctional Forests) Project, at: [http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council\\_Services/planning/countrycare/Multifor\\_project.asp](http://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/Council_Services/planning/countrycare/Multifor_project.asp).

He will then lead a 'bat walk' at 8pm. Both walks start at Lambourne Church. Speak to Countrycare, or read more at : <http://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/assets/saving-species/saving-species-publications/blubells-for-britain-report.pdf>.



**And finally...**The Local Government Association recently published a list of 250 'government speak' words and phrases which we in the public sector shouldn't use. These included such gems as, 'citizen touchpoints', 'deep dive', 'gold plating', 'wash-up session', 'thought shower' and 'wicked issues'!

**Jargon busters...**DDF, or District Development Fund, is a fund for one-off projects which can be either capital or revenue.