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**Query 1: Street Cleansing on Downsfield Road**

**Nick Thatcher** stated that his original question was not answered. He explained that he had asked when his street was last cleaned, was there a rota for street cleaning on Downsfield Road, if yes was the rota duly complied with and how many days has it been cleaned since last year i.e. since 20<sup>th</sup> November to date? Also by what means is the cleaning done, is it a litter pick or a sweep?

**Response from Paul Tickner – Contract Monitoring Officer, Greenspace Services**

The rota for street cleansing in Downsfield Road is Monday and Fridays. I spoke with Kier, our contractor and they told me that Downsfield Road was cleansed 14 times between the dates of 20 November 2009 and 31 January 2010.

Kier can use any number of different methods to cleanse a road, as long as the required standard is met. This can include litter picking, mechanical sweeping or manual sweeping.

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*Initial response and original query (at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009 meeting)*

**Response: Paul Tickner**

*I can confirm Downsfield Road was swept on Monday 14 December 2009 as I inspected the road.*

*As this is a busy route due to the schools in the area, we feel a frequency of once a week is not enough and will therefore increase the frequency to twice a week (Monday – Friday) from the first week in January.*

**Original query: Nick Thatcher** (Downsfield Road) explained that the Council's website states that street cleansing is supposed to be done every week but Downsfield Road had not been cleaned in weeks. He asked for confirmation of when the road was last cleaned.

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**Query 2: Lack of Publicity for Walthamstow Village**

**Helen Lerner** (Walthamstow Village Residents Association) stated that her question had not been answered. She asked how it was possible that the WFM article which publicised their achievement appeared in the August edition of the magazine as stated in Andrew Strickland's response, when their award in the 'London in Bloom' was in September. She asked for a response to her query why no publicity or any form of recognition had been given to their achievement.

**Response from Jenny England – WFN (Waltham Forest News) Editor**

I have only been the editor of Waltham Forest News since Monday 15 February, but my take on the situation is as follows:

Andrew Strickland wrote a piece about the Walthamstow Village Residents Association (WVRA), headlined "London in Bloom success" on the 'Our Community page' in 10 August edition of Waltham Forest News. I attach a PDF of the page (see attachment titled 'Our Community')

The story is complimentary and publicises the fact they have entered London in Bloom and judges had visited and given a "green thumbs up" to their work. They quite clearly were praised, even though the outcome of the judging was not known.

A colleague received an email from Helen Learner on the afternoon of 12 September giving the news that the residents had won silver gilt and Best Urban Community awards.

I feel here it is necessary to explain how Waltham Forest News is produced. The newspaper works to a three-week lead-in schedule. Pages are written to daily deadlines and submitted to the external designers. Stories for an edition must be received a minimum of three weeks prior to publication, preferably earlier. An editorial meeting takes place on the Monday morning three weeks prior to the distribution of an edition of Waltham Forest News, stories are allocated to particular pages and writing begins. So the editorial meeting for 5 October edition would have happened on Monday 14 September.

I think the most likely explanation is that the colleague who received the email from Helen Lerner had already compiled his list of stories for the editorial meeting on 14 September, prior to receiving the news from her, and therefore it was not put forward for inclusion.

This means the next issue that the story could have been used for was 19 October edition. Unfortunately by this stage it probably would have been decided that the story was no longer timely.

I would like to receive more news from WVRA in the future, and report their successes in the paper where I can. Perhaps if the group enter the competition again this year I can do a longer piece about it?

I would be very happy to speak to members of the WVRA, either in person, by telephone or via email, to discuss future ideas for news stories.

Best regards,  
Jenny England, Editor - Waltham Forest News.

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*Initial response and original query (at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009 meeting)*

**Response: Andrew Strickland**

*A story and a colour photograph, celebrating the achievement of the WVRA in the London In Bloom finals, appeared on P10 of the August 10 edition of Waltham Forest News. It is therefore not true to say 'no publicity or any form of recognition had been given to their achievement.'*

*I hope this clarifies things for Helen Lerner and I look forward to receiving more WVRA news in the future.*

*The August 10 edition can be viewed on the council website.*

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**Original query: Helen Lerner** (Walthamstow Village Residents Association) explained that Walthamstow Village had achieved a silver-gilt award in the 'London in Bloom' finals in September and won the Urban Communities category. She added that it was the first year it had entered 'London in Bloom'. She asked why, when they e-mailed Waltham Forest news (WFN) and informed Council departments, no publicity or any form of recognition had been given to their achievement.

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### **Query 3: Double Yellow Lines and Blue Badge Holders**

Peter King (Edinburgh Road) explained that he was not satisfied with the response because the Police never turn up and vehicles continue to cause an obstruction. He asked why the police never turn up to deal with such matters.

### **Response from Sgt Adam Boyd - Safer Neighbourhood Team (Markhouse ward)**

As outlined by Steve Leftwich, a person displaying a blue disabled badge can park for up to three hours where parking is not normally permitted as long as the following applies:

- 1) The badge must be correctly displayed;
- 2) The badge is being properly used by the badge holder or the person driving the badge holder (there is an institution badge for organisations driving a number of disabled people about);
- 3) The area is covered by an appropriate local traffic order which allows the parking exemption.

If these conditions are not adhered to the user is liable to prosecution or a fixed penalty as usual. The badge does not exempt the holder from the usual offences of causing an unnecessary obstruction or parking in a dangerous position. It does not apply in cycle and bus lanes at times that these are in operation.

Police have to prioritise calls they receive to facilitate quick responses to incidents for example where people are in danger. The response to a call about parking depends on what else is occurring in the borough at that time. If there are numerous incidents happening in the borough, for example a fight, a serious assault, a burglary or a traffic accident then the response to a call about parking will be affected. Such a call would fall down the list.

I would advise that in future, contact is first made with the local Safer Neighbourhood team to see if they are available to deal with it. If the vehicle in question is causing an obstruction which is severely affecting the traffic and could be dangerous then a 999 call would be justified. You can also call 03001231212 for non emergency incidents.

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*Initial response and original query (at 30<sup>th</sup> November 2009 meeting)*

### **Response: Steve Leftwich**

*A double yellow line is a waiting restriction. Vehicles can park on waiting restrictions for up to 3 hours whilst displaying a Disabled person's Blue Badge. That is, provided the badge is being correctly used and that the badge is supported by a correctly set blue clock. However if a Police Officer deems any vehicle to be parked dangerously or causing an*

obstruction they can take action against the vehicle. It is only a Police Officer who has these powers.

**Initial query: Peter King (Edinburgh Road)** asked whether or not a blue badge holder could park on double yellow lines, as a Parking Shop had told him that it was allowed.

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## UPDATE

### **Links between Walthamstow Central and Queens Road Station**

**Percy Wilding (Turner Road, E17):** please let me know when the links will be installed between Walthamstow Central and Queens Road Station.

### **Update from Neil Bullen – Transport Planning Manager**

The Housing Association responsible for constructing the pedestrian link between the two stations is negotiating with Network Rail to obtain the necessary approvals. Unfortunately these processes are somewhat long winded and do take some time. Nevertheless progress is being made and we anticipate that the link will be constructed later this year.

*Initial updates and responses*

Update provided at 20<sup>th</sup> July 2009 meeting

### **Update from Neil Bullen – Transport Planning Manager**

*Following the successful outcome of the Council's court case against the developer we, London Borough of Waltham Forest, anticipate securing the introduction of the pedestrian link between Walthamstow Central and Walthamstow Queens Road stations by the end of this financial year.*

Update provided at 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009 meeting

*Cllr Broadley informed the meeting that events had occurred which had subsequently become the subject of a court case. The Council had taken the developers to court and had won the case. The developers however have time to appeal, though it is highly unlikely to be successful, and it is hoped that work will resume soon. Cllr Broadley also explained that she would submit the question at the next Transport Liaison meeting.*

Initial response and original query (at 27<sup>th</sup> April 2009 meeting)

### **Initial Response: Neil Bullen**

*The Council does indeed still intend to implement the link between the two stations, hopefully this year. The proposed bridge between the Exeter Road housing estate and Queens Road station was a condition of the original planning consent for the estate but the developer failed to construct this. The Council has taken legal action against the developer and the case was heard in the High Court on 8 May of this year. We are awaiting the outcome which is expected within the next two weeks.*

**Initial Query:** *P Wilding (Turner Road) asked: "when is the link being installed between Walthamstow Central and Queens Road station? This should have been done years ago when the flats were built. Will it be ready for the Olympics?"*