

INTRODUCTION

The early history of local government in the Harrow area is rather complicated. The Harrow Local Board of Health, set up in 1850, administered a district of about 1,000 acres, comprising the whole of the Hill, most of Greenhill and Old Roxeth, and North Sudbury. Other bodies that administered the surrounding area included the Hendon Union Board of Guardians (established 1835), the Edgware Highways Board (1863-79) and the Hendon Rural Sanitary Authority (1872-94). Under the Local Government Act of 1894 and Local Government Board Order no. 31,845, in December 1894 Harrow-on-the-Hill Urban District was formed, with identical boundaries, from the Board of Health District. The new parish of Holy Trinity (Wealdstone), having irregular and scattered boundaries, became Wealdstone Urban District (2,072 acres) whilst Hendon Rural District was formed from those parishes in Hendon Rural Sanitary Authority that had not been converted into urban districts. The parishes were: Pinner (3,791 acres), Great Stanmore (1,484 acres), Little Stanmore (1,591 acres), Edgware (2,089 acres) and the new parish of Harrow Weald (2,384 acres).

On 1 October 1895, as a result of Local Government Board Order no. 33,399, a small part of Harrow-on-the-Hill UD was transferred to Wealdstone and a large area of Wealdstone UD (including portions of Greenhill as well as land stretching towards Dabs Hill, Roxeth) was transferred to Harrow-on-the-Hill, leaving the latter district administering an area of 2,197 acres.

Between 1895 and 1914 Wealdstone developed rapidly and often sought a re-alignment of boundaries. A minor adjustment (Local Government Board Order no. 44,414) in the Hindes Road area on 24 September 1902 left Harrow-on-the-Hill with 2,028 acres, Wealdstone with 1,061 acres, Pinner with 3,782 acres and Harrow Weald with 2,373 acres. In 1912 a petition from Wealdstone for an extra 2,795 acres, mostly from Harrow Weald, was accepted by Middlesex County Council but was not sanctioned by the Local Government Board. Various schemes for more land were unsuccessfully presented in 1926.

When Uxbridge Rural District was abolished in 1928, the Middlesex (Harrow-on-the-Hill Urban District) Confirmation Order no. 72,899 transferred 101 acres from Uxbridge RD to Harrow-on-the-Hill. South Harrow Recreation Ground and the following roads (in whole or in part) were transferred to the Urban District as a result: Westwood Avenue, Wood End Avenue, Mount Park Road, South Hill Avenue, Cavendish Avenue and Wood End Road. A final boundary change, brought about by the Hendon UD Council Act 1929, occurred on 1 April 1931 when Edgware parish was transferred to Hendon Urban District.

The present-day Borough of Harrow area dates from 1934 when Harrow Urban District was formed by an amalgamation of the Urban Districts of Harrow-on-the-Hill and Wealdstone and the four remaining parishes of Hendon Rural District.

This volume of election results deals with each of the three authorities — Harrow-on-the-Hill UD, Wealdstone UD and Hendon RD — in turn. Elections were either held annually (for one-third of the seats on the Council) or triennially for all seats. Each elector had as many votes as there were vacancies. The outbreak of the Great War meant that after the 1915 elections, no further contests were held until 1919. The Elections and Registrations Act 1915 postponed the statutory election of district councillors due in 1916 for a year, and the Parliament and Local Elections Acts of 1916, 1917 and 1918 continued the process while hostilities continued. When casual vacancies occurred they were filled by co-option, the choice of new councillor being made by the remaining members of the Council.

The following paragraphs note special aspects for the Harrow Urban, Wealdstone Urban and Hendon Rural District Councils.

Harrow-on-the-Hill Urban District Council met for the first time on 3 January 1895 and for the final time on 26 March 1934. From 1895 until the election in 1904 the Council consisted of nine members, but in that year three additional seats were created, and the Council comprised 12 members until abolition in 1934. Elections were held annually for one-third of the seats.

As far as can be ascertained, before 1919 almost all candidates sought election as independents and without party 'labels'. However, from the 1919 election onwards candidates were routinely nominated by the Labour Party. Therefore, from that date the party affiliations of candidates are recorded in the list of results. After two Labour nominees were elected unopposed in 1922 it is clear that the "anti-Socialist" elements in the area coalesced around the banner of the Harrow Chamber of Trade, who nominated full slates of candidates from 1924 onwards.

Wealdstone Urban District Council, consisting of 12 members, met for the first time on 31 December 1894 at the Boys School, Wealdstone and for the last time on 15 March 1934 at the Council Offices in Peel Road. After the first election, whole Council elections took place every three years until the outbreak of the First World War. After the 1919 election, electoral arrangements were altered so that elections were held annually for one-third of the seats.

Although Wealdstone Independent Labour Party occasionally nominated candidates in the period before the First World War, a concerted effort to gain significant representation was not made until 1919 when five out of seven Labour nominees were elected. Eventually the Wealdstone Ratepayers' Association organised candidates to oppose Labour and a full slate of Association candidates were nominated at the 1925 and subsequent elections. The 1919 election has again been used as the starting point for recording party affiliations in the list of results.

Hendon Rural District Council assembled for the first time at the Red Hill Workhouse, Edgware, on 8 January 1895, and for the final time on 22 March 1934 at the Council Offices, Uxbridge Road, Harrow Weald. On many documents until July 1901 the Council referred to itself as the Rural District of Hendon Union. This was no doubt because the terms of the Local Government Act 1894 meant that rural district councillors also exercised the office of Guardians.

Initially the Council consisted of eight members. Each parish was assigned district councillors as follows: Pinner (three seats), Harrow Weald (one seat), Great Stanmore (two seats), Little Stanmore (one seat) and Edgware (one seat). At the 1904 election the total membership of the Council was increased to 10 by assigning an extra seat each to Pinner and to Harrow Weald. In 1914 the representation of Pinner was further increased (to five) and total Council membership to 11. Due to the size of Pinner, the parish was split for electoral purposes into three wards at the 1925 election. The wards were: Pinner Village (two seats), Hatch End (one seat) and Headstone (two seats). In 1931 Edgware was transferred to Hendon Urban District and membership of the Hendon Rural District Council returned to 10 councillors.

Throughout the results tables for Hendon, the parishes are not dealt with alphabetically: instead they are listed geographically from west to east. Party affiliations are shown from 1919.