



Woodmansterne Green Belt and Residents' Association

Newsletter

Spring 2015

Dear Residents

Although we are still without a chairman, the good news is that we should have one at the forthcoming AGM, possibly a Vice Chairman as well (like the 166 buses – we wait a long time and then two come along) but enough of the good news let us get back to our “moans of the moment”.

At last the repairs and resurfacing of Woodmansterne Lane have commenced and we are told that the major resurfacing is due to start in April 2015, this is not a misprint we do mean this year!

There have been several complaints regarding potholes in the roads and although we forward these to Surrey Highways, it helps if residents also make their own submission to confirm the problem areas. This can be done either on line at: contactcentre@surreycc.gov.uk and follow the links for potholes or other road defects. SCC Highways will carry out an inspection within 5 days. If, in your opinion the situation is dangerous do not report on line but telephone the contact centre on 0300 200 1003.

The long suffering residents in Merrymeet are still at odds with Woodmansterne Primary School regarding some parents parking at drop off and pick up times. The school has recently introduced a “kiss and drop” traffic management system using parent volunteers and members of staff and the neighbourhood police attend occasionally but do not have the resources to make a regular visit. Our councillors together with Crispin Blunt MP recently attended a meeting at the school to see if any further improvements can be made. We have suggested that following the meeting, the school should arrange to meet with local residents to hear their views, communication between the school and residents has been seriously lacking and we hope to see some improvement in future. Raven Housing Trust are applying to build on two areas of land adjacent to Merrymeet, we have asked that the schemes be reconsidered as the construction works and the associated street parking can only aggravate this current traffic congestion. This is a tricky problem as there has to be much needed affordable housing development in the borough but this association represents the local residents and their concerns that we hope will be taken into consideration. On 07 October 2014 we wrote to R&BBC Local Committee as follows: -

STREET PARKING IN WOODMANSTERNE - MERRYMEET In reference to the above, local residents are concerned regarding the hap-hazard street parking caused by parents of pupils at Woodmansterne Primary School at ‘drop off/pick up times’. This has been aggravated by the loss of former parking facilities at the Old Walcountians Sports Club in Carshalton Road. On behalf of local residents, we request that the Local Committee consider provision of double yellow lines (or similar) across the entrances to private houses with garages/off street parking. This would clearly define that parking in these areas causes an obstruction to residents seeking access/egress to and from their garages. Residents have repeatedly asked drivers not to obstruct these entrances and have largely met with verbal abuse and it is felt that the police would take action if the offenders were seen to be causing an obstruction (as happens in nearby LB Croydon). Let me know if it would be helpful for our representative to speak to the committee. We have now at last received a reply dated 10/03/2015: -

We will update our website once the committee report is available (usually about two weeks before the date of the meeting) so if you visit www.surreycc.gov.uk/parking/bdname at that time, you will be able to see which changes we are recommending to be introduced. You will also be able to follow the progress of the changes via that page from the committee meeting through to installation of the new restrictions on the ground.

The legal process involved in introducing or changing parking controls requires us to formally advertise our intention to do so, and we may also carry out consultation with residents, businesses and other stakeholders. Once we have considered any responses to the advertisement and/or consultation, we have to make a traffic regulation order, so that our enforcement staff can take action against people parking illegally. This process does take some months to complete.

I put this item into the newsletter because a resident asked me “what does the WGB&RA actually do”. The above is just a sample of the sort of correspondence that goes on (sometimes over several months covering a variety of issues) in the interests of local residents. We meet regularly with our elected councillors and appreciate their cooperation and advice (mostly sound).

You can learn more at our AGM and put questions to the councillors and guest speakers.

John Dixon

**This is YOUR ASSOCIATION come to YOUR AGM
on Thursday 23 April 2015 At The Baptist Church Hall - Pine walk 8.00pm**

Speakers: Catherine Rose Team Leader Planning Policy at Reigate & Banstead Borough Council

SUBJECT: Neighbourhood Planning & Green Belt issues

Plus Ben Murray of JET (Joint Enforcement Team)

SUBJECT: Dealing with anti-social behavior & how the team works

BEWARE THE SCAMMERS

A resident of Cunningham Road was the victim of a scam in connection with his water supply to which the Police were called. Please do not be taken in by these people and ask for an identity card **DO NOT** use their telephone number, use the number from an old bill or letter head to check validity. **And definitely do not pay out any money.**

The advice is to have no dealings whatsoever with "cold callers" – These scammers are very plausible (but rarely aggressive) so try to contact a neighbour, family member or friend for a cooling off chat prior to informing the police. Never give any bank details, banks do not ask for such information over the telephone. Do not let any cold caller into your home, be polite but firm. It is a fact of life that these days plausible con men (and women) prey on the elderly so look out for your neighbour, keep 101 the police telephone number handy and use 999 if you feel endangered.

WGB&RA Website

Although the Website is a good place to find out what's happening in the Village, it's also a good place to find out what's been happening and how the Association has been working on behalf of all the Residents. To ensure the Website and the Association are meeting **your** needs, we need you, as Residents, to tell us about any activities or events you are organising and what would be of interest to you (and others). Please visit the website and let us know what you think: www.woodmansternerresidents.com

Some of the Committee will be manning a stall at the Woodmansterne May Day Fete on 4th May – please come and see us and have a chat! In addition to organising a Quiz for Adults and Children, we will have a Suggestion Box for your ideas and suggestions, and hope to be able to answer any general questions you may have about your Village and the Association.

We look forward to seeing you on Monday 4th May!

LOOK AFTER YOUR VILLAGE DAY - Saturday 16th May 2015 10.00 am – 12.00 noon

Can you spare an hour or two on Saturday 16th May to do a few bits and bobs around the village?

In addition to some tidying and clearing up (we have the necessary clothing and tools to pick up litter safely and securely), the Noticeboards need sprucing up. As a Resident, you may have noticed some things that need to be looked after – here's your chance to help get them done! You'll be able to sign up to help at the May Day Fete on 4th May, but please let us know about things you'd like looked after by contacting the WGBRA Committee by email: wgbra@hotmail.co.uk

Many thanks in advance.

WOODMANSTERNE VILLAGE MAY QUEEN FETE – MONDAY 4 MAY 2015

Woodmansterne Village May Queen Fete takes place on the Village Green on Monday 4th May 2015. The procession will leave from The Readens at 1.50pm and travel along Chipstead Way, arriving on the Village Green at approximately 2.15pm.

This year's May Queen is Hannah Styles. She will be crowned by The Mayor of Reigate and Banstead Cllr. David Pay, accompanied by the Mayoress, Mrs. Barbara Pay. Stalls at the fete will include a bouncy castle, children's rides, face painting, tombola, raffle, refreshments and many more. Hannah aged 10 moved to Woodmansterne when she was 18 months old and joined the May Queen Group in 2009. Hannah attends Woodmansterne Primary School. Her hobbies include art, animals and reading. Hannah belongs to Woodmansterne Guides.

If you would like to book a pitch at the Fete, or have any items that you would be willing to donate that would be suitable for raffle or tombola prizes please contact the May Queen Group at mayqueengroup@hotmail.co.uk This year we will be raising money for local charities as well as The Royal Marsden Hospital in Sutton, registered charity number 1095197 and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), registered charity number 1081247

Please come along and help support the event.

125 YEARS OF SPORT at WOODMANSTERNE SPORTS CLUB

Before 1890 the Cricket Club played in a field in Rectory Lane, adjacent to Eastlands Farm. In 1890 the Lord of the Manor gave the field opposite the WOODMAN PH to the village for recreational purposes. The Cricket Club started to play their matches there in 1890. The village also held various community events there, such as the May Queen. In time the original Village Hall was built in one corner of the recreation ground. Football was also played there for several years. After WW2 the Council bought the farm across the road and turned it into a recreation ground. Since then, the Sports Club has had the benefit of pitches on both sides of the road.

In 2006 new changing rooms were built, and the refurbishment of the clubhouse is nearly complete.

The club has a bar and is available to hire for parties and other events. The cost to hire the club and bar is £100. For children's parties the hire charge is only £50. Enquiries about booking the club should be made to John Munday on 01737 360294 or jrmunday90@hotmail.com.

NEW SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP.

Your local Sports and Social Club comprises four sporting sections: -

WOODMANSTERNE HYDE FC run 13 teams from U8-U18 and two adult football teams.

The **CRICKET CLUB** puts out at least five adult teams every weekend. The COLTS section has cricket teams from U9-U17.

DARTS and **TABLE TENNIS** sections play in local leagues all year round.

If you want to play any sport at the club then for further information please go to: www.woodsports.co.uk

In addition SOCIAL MEMBERSHIP of the club is open to everyone. We are keen to encourage the residents of Woodmansterne to join us and to watch sport in a pleasant environment. There is SKY SPORTS TV available at the club. Social members can join for as little as £10 per year, or £15 pa for a couple. Please contact John Munday as above. The BAR OPENING times are as follows; Wednesday evening from 7.30pm to 11.00pm ALL YEAR Sunday evening from 8.30pm is QUIZNIGHT. In SUMMER; every Saturday and Sunday evening from 6.00pm after cricket. In WINTER; every Saturday from 4.00pm after football.

BLOOMFIELD SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB

We meet in **Woodmansterne Village Hall**, Carshalton Road. We are a sociable short Mat Bowls Club who are seeking new members. Beginners or experienced players are warmly invited to attend for a free trial game at our regular meeting times:

Sundays	6.30 – 9pm
Monday	7.30 – 10pm (closed 3rd Monday of each month)
Thursday afternoons	2.30 – 5pm

Phone Bob on 020 8669 7478 or Liz on 01737 359262 to find out more.

WOODMANSTERNE OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

WODS spring time production is to be the musical **'When the Lights Go on Again'** on 13 - 16 May 2015 7.30pm

St Peter's Church Hall, Chipstead Way.

A story of family life during the war years culminating in a VE/VJ party. Come and singalong with the many well-loved songs of the period.

TICKETS: £15.00 includes a Fish & Chip Supper. Box Office Mrs Pat Rodd Tel: 01737 555009 email: wodsbooking@hotmail.co.uk

The Society welcomes new members for - on stage performers, backstage crew, set constructors, front of house and social members.

Contact Pat Rodd as above.

THE DRONES ARE COMING

Surrey and Sussex Police have been awarded almost £250,000 to expand a trial to see how the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) could help keep people safe and assist with the investigation of crime. The Home Office has awarded the forces the money from the Police Innovation Fund, which rewards creative, collaborative and cost-saving projects aimed at transforming policing. The funding will be used to purchase five more UAVs to use in Surrey and Sussex to see how they can be used to improve policing across the country. UAVs can be used to gather evidence from the air, such as at the scene of road, rail or air crashes, can help with searches for missing or wanted people and can help to capture a broad picture of activities on the ground, such as the spread of flooding, the movement of people during public disorder or events in an armed incident.

A trial of a UAV at Gatwick Airport last year showed that the equipment could provide a faster, safer and cheaper alternative to officer-led patrols in some circumstances. They can cover a distance seven times quicker than officers on foot and can be used in conditions where it is unsafe for helicopters to fly or officers to go, such as smoky environments or when hazardous chemicals or materials have been spilled. With the new UAVs, officers will study the most effective ways the equipment can be used and draw up guides for other forces about their use in different conditions.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

WGB&RA is formally consulted by the council on all planning applications in Woodmansterne and is consulted on green belt and some major applications in the neighbouring wards.

We look at each application but only comment on those where we think there are valid objections from residents, local knowledge or perhaps community issues, we don't always have the detailed local knowledge that residents may have especially if you live near the application property.

So please let us know your views on any applications that affect you, to enable us to give the consensus views of local residents to the council. There is a 21 day timescale for responses imposed by the council, so please let us have your comments asap; by e-mail if possible to wgbra@hotmail.co.uk

The council is increasingly providing information electronically, and planning consultation is now almost entirely based on their web-site which has links to all its (and national) planning policies as well as records of all decisions, and of applications and appeals going back to September 2006.

Most of you will know how to find your way round web sites, but for those who have not used our council's site before, here is some general guidance on the planning application side of it.

Go to <http://www.reigate-banstead.gov.uk> the home site for the council. Click on **Planning search**. Then on **Weekly/monthly lists** – or, if you know the **road** or **application reference number**, put this into the search slot, and the ward (Woodmansterne in our case).

When you find the right application (there may have been others in the past also listed) you will be able to view comments already made and be able to make your own representations click on **Comments** and to see the details of the application and **Related Documents** then click **View associated documents** and open each document that you need, then click on **View Document**. It's all a bit time consuming, but easier when you have done it a few times and it is **worth the effort!** **Some of the terms you may encounter:** -

- Outline:** - approval is sought in principle without full details (these would follow in **Reserved Matter** applications)
- Reserved Matter:** - a detailed application following **Outline** approval
- Full planning:** - a single, detailed application, including full plans and elevations, as appropriate, instead of Outline and Reserved Matter applications
- Change of use:** - application seeking approval to use land or buildings for a new purpose (e.g. to change a shop into a restaurant or private dwelling). Some changes do not require planning permission (e.g. restaurant to shop).
- Permitted development** - Permitted development rights allow householders to improve and extend their homes without the need to seek a specific planning permission where that would be out of proportion with the impact of works carried out. It is important that homeowners understand how they can exercise their rights to carry out development while protecting the interests their neighbours and the wider environment. The Department for Communities and Local Government has produced a technical guidance to help you. It is designed to be used by anyone who wants to understand more about the detailed rules on permitted development and the terms used in those rules. However, anyone who has no previous knowledge of permitted development issues will find it useful to look at the basic information on the Planning Portal first at:
www.planningportal.gov.uk/permission/responsibilities/planningpermission/permitted.
If you have any cause for concern contact R8BBC planning department, WGB&RA or your local councillor.
- Planning appeals** - Please note that the start date is an administrative date determined by the Planning Inspectorate. It is not necessarily the date on which the appeal was lodged with the Inspectorate. Further information on the appeal process can be found on the Planning Portal's website - **www.planningportal.gov.uk/planning/appeals/appeals**

LONGCROFT CLINIC Has been informed that its long-running campaign to move to a new build in The Horseshoe (next to Banstead library) has moved forward. Surrey has in the last year or so gained the capital to revamp the library-health centre section of The Horseshoe including an expanded clinic, and stage 1 planning approval has been granted. The detailed business case has to be drawn up in the next few months. There is of course no certainty of gaining full approval, but a decision is due this year. **IF** all goes well contracts might be signed next year and occupation could then, on a best-case scenario, come in 2017.