

Northern Approach Action Group Newsletter: April 2008

Edited by: Steve Last & Martin Goss

For all residents on the NAR - Circulated to 600 homes

New trees for Northern Approach Development

Following a grant from Essex County Council for £1243 via Myland Parish Council and also fundraising by NAAG currently 20 new trees have been planted on the Northern Approach development. PMS and CPM Asset Management, Suffolk Heritage Housing, Colne Housing, Places for People and Estuary Housing all gave extra funds to allow for so many trees to be planted. The trees are planted in Tranter Drive, Shepherd Drive and Hakewill Way.

Currently we are looking to put some further trees in Bolsin Drive, Hakewill Way and Hutley Drive. Colchester Borough Council are looking into this for us.

Steve Last, Vice Chairperson for NAAG said "I am pleased with the new trees and I want to thank everyone involved in the project and also those who gave funds to us to allow us to improve the area. If there are any other areas you would like to see trees planted, please get in touch. If residents want to come forwards and help water the trees then that would be appreciated."



Residents planting the new trees

Stand up and be proud of where you live!

Some of you will have seen the disgusting graffiti which occurred in early February 2008 in Wallace Road, Hakewill Way, Bradford Drive, Orrin Walk, Hutley Drive and Groves Close. The culprits caused thousands of pounds of damage to the area by scrawling amateur and worthless graffiti on residents' property causing distress to many.

The Police have been working hard to try and catch the culprits and have been following several leads. CPM Asset management are working with their insurance company and are shortly due to start work on the repairs. Most of the area is covered by the company but we are aware of several householders who will have to foot the bill themselves or claim on their buildings insurance.

Martin Goss, NAAG Chairperson said "I want to personally thank all those residents who came forwards and offered to help deal with the issues. The culprits are sad and pathetic people who I hope hang their heads in shame! We need to stand up to these people and ensure we have one of the best places to live in Colchester."

£25 NAAG Gardening Competition

NAAG are running a best hanging basket and garden competition. If you wish to enter either your hanging baskets or garden, please ring 844734 or email NAAG2006@aol.com - there is a £25 prize for the overall winners!

Submissions need to be made by 1st June 2008 and the judges decision is final.



Yellow Line parking consultation on the way!

Essex County Council are shortly due to deliver a new proposal to each householder concerning the implementation of Yellow Lines on potentially every street that we all live on. Myland Parish Council and NAAG have been involved in the initial consultation and have been working to mature the contents of the proposal as we don't currently believe it to be workable.

There is a definite parking issue, where some residents choose to illegally block pavements with their cars and some commuters have chosen to start parking up here during the day. With the consultation we plan to try and come up with a scheme which matures parking behaviours, rids us of commuters and makes the area easier to navigate.

All grass verges in Hakewill Way opposite Wallace Road are due to be planted with vegetation, to stop drivers either parking on or damaging the area. Please email NAAG2006@aol.com with any ideas which you may have to help improve the parking situation.

NAAG is now online at www.martingoss.org.uk/naag.html

NAAG-ING UPDATE!

Following various emails, meetings and phone calls we wanted to list the current progress of many items you have raised with **NAAG**:

Bolsin Drive Gateway - Negotiations still continue between St Michael's Church and Taylor Wimpey over installation of two new gates which will be locked in the evening to keep the churchyard safe from vandalism.

Post boxes - These are now installed and are potentially due to be opened in late April 2008.

Dog mess - This continues to be an issue in the area. If a resident sees anyone letting their dog foul in the area and they do not clear it up, please let us know and we will ensure action is taken by the local authorities.

New park benches - Consultation has been carried out with residents concerning the installation of a new metal vandal proof bench in the middle grass area on Dickenson Road. A decision is expected shortly.

New litter bins - Hopkins Homes have agreed to install two new litter bins on their development in Groves Close. Taylor Wimpey have also been asked to install several new litter bins in St James Park.

Flats Recycling - Martin Goss is trying to work with some of the various landlords and stakeholders to

implement recycling for all flat residents.

Recycling - Please contact NAAG for a recycling pack if you wish to help the environment rather than filling up landfill and increasing pollution. Email NAAG2006@aol.com or call 844734.

Bradford Drive play area - It now appears further work is required as some of the equipment which has been installed is wrong and needs replacing. We estimate this will open in May 2008 - nearly a year after it first closed.

Bus Lane update - The bus lane is being paid for by the developer who was successful in purchasing the Severalls Hospital land. Due to the slowing down of the housing market, the development of Severalls is delayed and therefore the bus lane is also delayed! It was scheduled for 2009. More news as we know it.

Resident volunteers - If anyone wants to get involved with the local community, NAAG is a great place to start. If you want to get involved and help please email NAAG2006@aol.com or call 844734.

Throwing cigarette butts from flats - NAAG has received complaints about some tenants in Bradford Drive throwing their fag butts off their balconies and leaving them there. There is an £80 for littering - please don't be inconsiderate to others.

Colchester Council elections - Don't forget the Colchester Borough elections on May 1st. Martin Goss has decided to stand so we hope you will show your support for him.

Adoption Update

It looks like Cambie Crescent, Dickenson Road, Wallace Road, half of Hakewill Way (down to Wallace Road), Tranter Drive, front half of Bolsin Drive, Stevens Close, Knevett Close and Shepherd Drive are all due to be adopted just after Easter.

The St James Park end of the development still needs quite a bit of work to finish this off and NAAG have been putting pressure on Taylor Wimpey to get these works underway and completed.

Steve Joyce, NAAG Secretary said "It is fairly typical of developers to sell all the houses and then disappear offsite without finishing the roads! We will not let that happen to residents."

Neighbourhood Watch update!

Neighbourhood Watch has reached the first major milestone since its' launch in December 2007. We have now signed up 100 homes which means 1/6 of all properties on the NAR are now registered. If you want to join call 844734 or email NAAG2006@aol.com

14 Neighbourhood Watch lamppost signs have also been installed from the top of Cambie Crescent, right down to Groves Close.

NAAG wishes to thank all those residents who helped put these up.



Residents putting up the signs

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