

NORTHERN APPROACHES ACTION GROUP

Newsletter : Autumn 2007

For all residents on the NAR

SUCCESSFUL RESIDENTS MEETING!

We would like to thank all those residents who attended the very successful annual Northern Approaches meeting on August 17th. Over 60 people attended which included Bob Russell MP, Cllr Anne Turrell, Cllr Brian Jarvis, Matthew Young & Vincent Pearce from CBC and Lou Middleton from Essex Police. The meeting was chaired by NAAG Chairperson and Parish Councillor Martin Goss. A number of actions and issues came out of the meeting which have been taken away and are being dealt with. These included:

- Bus lane concerns**
- Anti Social behaviour**
- Parking issues**
- Overgrown areas**
- Churchyard gateway**
- Untidy gardens**

We will of course keep everyone informed of progress against the list of actions and if you would like a copy of the minutes please email NAAG2006@aol.com or our hotline 01206 844734.

Let there be light!

Bovis homes are now undertaking work to repair a number of streetlights which are situated in shared parking areas. Unfortunately some residents who purchased their home from Bovis are responsible for electricity and repair costs. All the other builders on the development set-up a management company to ensure all costs are equally shared.

NAAG are currently investigating how we can set up an informal management company to ensure all residents who own a Bovis home contribute to annual running and maintenance costs.

Community event ideas

During the recent meeting the idea of "community" and what it actually means were raised. We have been asked by some residents to organise a development wide event. Some of the ideas include:

- Halloween Party**
- Entertain the neighbours**
- Bring a home prepared food dish**
- Charity event**
- Pub event**
- Children's Party**

Please email your idea to NAAG2006@aol.com or call our hotline on 01206 844734 for a further discussion.

Make Percy Thrower Proud!

Following some input from the residents meeting we have decided to run a "Best kept garden" competition for all residents to participate in. We would like to hear from any residents who would like to enter their gardens into the competition - front and back, so we can judge them. We will include flats in the competition too! The prize for the best kept garden will be a £25 cheque. We will also involve the local press and radio where possible to ensure we get major coverage for this idea on our own doorstep. Please email NAAG2006@aol.com or call our hotline 01206 844734 if you wish to discuss and enter your garden. Closing date for entry is **1st April 2008** with judging being completed by **July 1st 2008**. Terms and conditions will apply and the judges decision is final.

CHURCHYARD GATEWAY

A number of you may remember the unacceptable vandalism which occurred to the St Michael's churchyard for which two youths were caught and sentenced. Unfortunately, some recent vandalism has returned to the churchyard. In order to stop this happening further it has been decided to potentially lock the churchyard and also install two sets of gates in the passage from Bolsin Drive. Currently George Wimpey are in discussions with the Church about them adopting the footpath. Once this has been agreed then George Wimpey will transfer ownership of the land and also pay to install two sets of gates to ensure the churchyard is kept locked at night. We will let you have further news as we hear it.

Very unfair play - literally!

Some of you may have noticed that the new play area in the centre of Bradford Drive has been closed. This was due to vandalism by drunken youths who have been disturbing residents by drinking in the area until 2.00 am. We are currently investigating whether we can obtain funding to get cameras and lighting installed within this area to ensure no future issues occur once the playground re-opens in later this year. We welcome views on this area.

Residents clean up!

Recently some very public spirited residents got together to clean up some gardens down Hakewill Way. This resulted in two transit van loads of rubbish being taken to the tip and over 70% of it being recycled. In 2008 we are working with the council to ensure we get a freighter to visit this area to help residents who do not have cars remove bulky items. Thank you to all of those involved.

Neighbourhood Watch - your views please!

We would like to know your views on starting a Neighbourhood Watch across the entire development which includes St James Park and the Hopkins Homes development. We need a co-ordinator in every street to make this a success. Please email your views to NAAG2006@aol.com or call 01206 844734 with your thoughts.

Rubbish collection reminder

We are reminding all residents that rubbish collection for this area is a Monday (apart from Bank holidays). There are still a number of householders putting rubbish out way before the day of collection which is causing an issue with some of the local cats tearing bags open at night and leaving the rubbish to blow around everywhere. This littering can infact result in a fine from Colchester Borough Council. If you need a recycling pack please let us know.

Annual Myland Community Association meeting

Residents are warmly invited to Myland Community Association's first Annual General Meeting at Colchester Rugby Club, Mill Rd on **Wednesday 26th September from 12.30 to 2.30pm**. After the brief, formal business there will be a guest speaker from Living Streets www.livingstreets.org.uk Sandwiches are provided.. The Association will be reporting on several key projects and partnerships they are involved with, dealing with a range of issues and plans affecting the area including the new Community Stadium.

Please RSVP 01206 853439 or email jo.wheatley@colnehousing.co.uk to reserve you place(s), (no obligation), and help us with catering arrangements.

New bins

You may have seen that we successfully got a new litter bin installed at the edge of Mill Road recreation ground where it meets the entrance to Tranter Drive.

A dog waste bin is also being relocated to the side of the EDF Electricity sub-station at the corner of Tranter Drive, following complaints about dog fouling.

If you see people who do not clear up their dog mess please let us know as there is a **£50 fine payable**.

Invasion of the Asda trolley!

There are still some Asda trolleys being taken from Asda and dumped around the Northern Approach Road, Wallace Road, Hakewill Way or Cambie Crescent. It costs the council to pick these up pick and ultimately increases your council tax! **PLEASE** if you take a trolley for whatever reason, take it back to Asda and do not let it blight our area, or let it become someone else's problem!

Adoption is on the way!

Adoption progress is looking good and the final stages of the remedial work will be carried out by Coftons on Bolsin Drive, Tranter Drive,, Cambie Crescent, Dickenson Road, Wallace Road, Stevens Close, Knevet Close and parts of Hakewill way which means adoption will happen in early 2008 for the mentioned roads.

Grass verges in Wallace Road

Following intervention from Bob Russell MP, a walkabout was held in July concerning the roundabouts and grass verges which suffer continual damage. Essex County Council have now agreed to look at putting in extra protection for the grass verges and this is now being investigated.