

# Northern Approach Action Group

## Newsletter: Autumn 2008

Edited by: Steve Last & Martin Goss

For all residents on the Northern Approach Road - Delivered to 640 homes

# Road Adoption is nearly here!

Work continues to ensure that Wallace Road, Hakewill Way (down to Wallace Road entrance), Stevens Close, Knevet Close, Dickenson Road, Shepherd Drive, Cambie Crescent and the front half of Bolsin Drive (up to number 45) is adopted. There has been one minor issue where Bovis Homes built the porch of a house too close to the pavement and this has been holding up adoption. Bovis Homes have known about this issue for 12 months but didn't actually have the courtesy to tell the householder.

An action plan is in place to get remedial work carried out in order to ensure adoption is carried out as quickly as possible. In reality we estimate it will be around Christmas time by the time all of this is completed. Coftons are the developer responsible for the majority of roads maintenance. Coftons also have some remedial works to grass verges and roads, but these won't be completed until the doorstep issue is resolved. The roads will also have weedkiller applied to them and be swept prior to them being handed across to Essex County Council.

In the meantime, we continue to push Taylor Wimpey into completing works at the back-end of Bolsin Drive and Tranter Drive. They have some remedial works to carry out to the road, pavements and block paving. The green areas have all been adopted and are being managed by CBC.

## Meeting with Taylor Wimpey MD

Various meetings have been held between Taylor Wimpey, NAAG, Myland Parish Council, residents, and various staff from Colchester Borough Council to try and get St James Park completed.

As many of the promised actions have not been completed, such as finishing and opening the playground in Bradford Drive, repairing the knee high fencing which has no cement supporting any of it (yes honestly!), the green open space areas and fixing the lampposts. We have another meeting on September 26th @ 11.15am with Bryn Maidman, Managing Director of Taylor Wimpey (East Anglia).

He will be bringing along his Senior Management team and meeting with Cllr Martin Goss, Bob Russell MP, the Head of CBC Planning, Robert Johnstone, Chairman of Myland Parish Council and Essex County Highways.

During the meeting all outstanding issues will be discussed and a conclusive way forwards will be agreed. Please let us know if you have any issues you would like us to address on your behalf.

## Fly tipping issues?

Fed up with constant fly tipping in and around their communal bin store, Hakewill Way residents Jamie and Darren decided to take action themselves. They cleared the store of abandoned items that refuse collectors can't take, and took these to the tip themselves. Jamie and Darren were rewarded for their hard work with a photo in Estuary News - and there has been no fly tipping since then.

This is an issue which faces many shared communal bin store areas.

## Green days for the children

Fancy planting a tree, modelling with clay, or making a picture you can eat? These were some of the activities families took part in as part of two "Green Days" at the beginning of August. Run jointly by Community Action in Mile End and Myland Community Association, and with collaboration from local artists and other organisations, families were encouraged to play together using every day materials many of us throw away. One highlight was the competition to create a likeness of Martin Goss. Knowing his commitment to keeping Mile End clean we used a wide variety of materials that normally would be put out for recycling!

## Email newsletters - join us!

We send out various updates to residents via email which always get the latest news to you fast, are greener as we deliver less newsletters to residents and ensure you can feedback to us really quickly.

If you want to add your name to the list please email NAAG2006@aol.com and we will send you updates as they occur.

## Neighbourhood Watch update

Neighbourhood Watch has signed up over 100 homes now and continues to grow. It is free to join, is a great way to get involved with the community and also reduce your household bill, as you get cheaper household insurance! The scheme covers all roads on the Northern Approaches.

Phone Martin on 844734 to sign up or email NAAG2006@aol.com

## Groves Close update

Hopkins Homes are the developer who built the new homes in Groves Close, which is the road off the bottom of Mile End Road which leads up to Bradford Drive and you can cut through to the station.

The public open green space has already been offered for adoption to the council, but there is a little bit of remedial work due before this can be adopted.

There are issues with commuters using the road for parking, as currently there are no Yellow Lines included. As the road is private and has been included inside the Yellow Lines programme there will be no money available for Yellow lines until after April 2009.

Steve Last said "The situation is unacceptable for residents as their lives are blighted by selfish and stupid parking by people who don't live there. NAAG have asked Hopkins if they can paint yellow lines, but they have said this is a County Council issue. I will keep pushing to bring this part of the scheme forwards."

Hopkins Homes have also generously given Myland Parish Council two litter bins which installed in Groves Close which are very well used.

## New Park Bench for Dickenson Road

A new park bench has been donated by Myland Parish Council and installed in the centre of the green. It is made entirely of recycled plastic and is vandal proof. Steve Last said "We hope residents enjoy the new bench and that it provides much needed seating for the area." The bench was paid for by a grant and there were a total of 4 installed in Myland, including the Community Garden, Raven Way by Myland School and Squirrels Field off Mill Road.

NAAG is now online at [www.martingoss.org.uk/NAAG](http://www.martingoss.org.uk/NAAG)

# Restricted parking update \* QUEEN BOUDICA SCHOOL BOUNDARY

An open session was held in June for all residents on the Northern Approaches concerning the proposed Yellow Lines for all roads. The event was held collaboratively between Myland Parish Council and NAAG in St Michael's Church Hall. Feedback from the event has been summarised with over 60 responses from residents and submitted back to Essex County Council. Changes to the plans will be made in October with the County Council updating the documents which will be hand delivered to all houses in late October/early November for final comment.

Steve Joyce, NAAG Treasurer commented "The turnout to the event was good and the feedback was very helpful. We want to thank all those residents who made the effort to turn up. Changes will be made to the plans, particularly in the upper end of the development, with people in the lower end being relatively happy with the proposals."

Funding for the scheme won't be available until at least April 2009, so the agreed scheme will be implemented in the 2009/10 financial year for all roads.

Some of you might be aware of the proposed school boundary changes where EVERY road on the Northern Approaches will now be within the mandatory catchment area of the new Queen Boudica school being built on Turner Village, near the hospital.

Existing children will continue to attend Myland School and the sibling rule should protect brothers and sisters if you wish them to attend Myland.

However, all new children will automatically be included as part of the new school boundary. Martin Goss does not personally believe the balance is right given Myland school is a 5 minute walk for many parents. Please email your views to [Julie.Aiken@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.Aiken@essex.gov.uk) and [NAAG2006@aol.com](mailto:NAAG2006@aol.com).

## Mill Road play area opening

The new Mill road play area was opened on Sunday 14th September and over 80 people turned up. Around £90k has been invested in new equipment and work will shortly be completed on the Teenagers youth pod and basketball hoop. Security cameras and lighting will also be installed.

Work will also shortly be completed on the Bradford Drive play area by Taylor Wimpey and that area will also be adopted by the council.

## Graffiti culprits sentenced

During May this year some 2 youths decided to break into a garage on Dickenson Road and steal some spray cans. These youths then thought it would be a clever idea to spray many houses and cars in Dickenson Road causing thousands of pounds of damage. Within 12 hours of the crime the assailants were apprehended and in police custody, admitting their guilt. Sentences were passed in June 08 with James Wild from Princess Drive in Highwoods being given an Asbo, a fine, community service and a ban for 18 months not allowing him into this part of the town.

A 2nd youth was also sentenced and received a much lesser penalty. This youth cannot be named for legal reasons.

Marin Goss said "To be honest this crime should never have happened, the 2 youths who carried this out clearly have no respect for this community and in fact carried out the vandalism to the churchyard in 2007. I am appalled this ever happened and I think the sentence passed was not tough enough. I want to personally thank all those who helped me co-ordinate and clean the area up quickly, particularly those at CBC."

## Local News in Brief

**BOVIS HOMES LAMPPOSTS** - All Bovis Homes customers will have received a letter from Martin Goss asking for feedback about setting up a management company to ensure all private lampposts on private roads and shared parking areas are maintained. Please contact Martin on 844734 or email him with your feedback. It is important we get this issue resolved before all the lampposts are out of service!

**REPLANTING IN NOVEMBER** - A meeting was held on 15th September between Martin Goss and officers from Colchester Borough Council. There will be some replanting in Bolsin Drive, Cambie Crescent, Dickenson Road and Hakewill Way. We are also looking to install some bollards in Bolsin Drive to stop people parking on the grass adjacent to number 45. Bollards are also being considered for some of the grass verges in Hakewill Way to stop people damaging them by parking on them.

**NEW LITTER BINS** - A new litter bin will be installed in Hakewill Way near number 84 and Taylor Wimpey had also promised 2 new litter bins for St James Park. However, as they spent £3,500 on tarmac for the paths from the Northern Approaches to Bradford Drive and also in the old mud footpath behind Hakewill Way in Hutley Drive they withdrew this offer. We have asked they reinstate the offer immediately.

**RUBBISH BAGS OUT TOO EARLY** - Some residents are still putting rubbish bags out too early. These get attacked and leave rubbish stewn across the area. A number of residents also put rubbish in the wrong bags and just leave it dumped on grass verges. If this continues the local Borough Council will start to issue fines of £100 for fly tipping. **Monday is the correct collection day, apart from bank holidays.**

**RECYCLING** - If you need a green recycling box or white garden sacks for your garden waste, please email [NAAG2006@aol.com](mailto:NAAG2006@aol.com) and we will order you some.

**BUS LANE CLEARED** - The proposed bus lane has now been cleared from the top of Mill Road all the way down Bruff Close. It will receive two cuts a year now and some rubbish has been removed.

## Stolen Asda trolleys

There still seem to be a small proportion of people who feel it is fair to steal Asda trolleys and leave them dumped in Hakewill Way, Bardsley Close and Bradford Drive. The message is quite clear, if you are caught stealing them by Asda, you will be prosecuted for theft. **Do you really want a criminal record for shop lifting?**

## Dogs Mess culprits

Dog wardens are on patrol in this area looking to apprehend and fine the minority of irresponsible dog owners who think it is okay to let their dogs defecate all over the pavement or grass verge areas.

Anyone found guilty of this will be given an immediate fine of £75. Why let us down by being lazy? **It is your pet, you must clean up**

## CPM Asset Management

Various meetings have been held with Caroline Lawrie from CPM asset management to get them to carry out the maintenance work on St James Park 2 - that they should be doing e.g. Replacing broken windows, cleaning windows and carrying out gardening.

Some residents are very unhappy with the maintenance and it is now up to you to appoint Resident Directors. Please contact [NAAG2006@aol.com](mailto:NAAG2006@aol.com) if you need further information or call 844734.

## Get involved with NAAG!

We would love you to get involved with NAAG - please email [NAAG2006@aol.com](mailto:NAAG2006@aol.com) or call 844734 and ask how you can help!

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