

# Northern Approach Action Group

## Newsletter Spring 2009

Edited by Steve Last

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

### Who Will Finish Our Streets?

The economic recession has sadly hit many householders with the announcement on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb 09 that Cofton Ltd have gone bankrupt. Cofton were responsible for, and are still the landowners for, Wallace Road, most of Hakewill Way, Dickenson Road, Shepherd Drive and the front portion of Bolsin Drive.

It is very bad news for the staff who have lost their jobs, but also quite worrying for householders, as the roads are still not completed and adopted.

NAAG got straight in touch with Essex County Council and they have informed

him they are starting the legal process of drawing down a bond, which is left in place by developers to cover the completion of the infrastructure. Some money was recently returned to Cofton Ltd after they had completed the majority of the works and they were due to commence completion from March 4<sup>th</sup>.

There is concern that the existing bond might not have enough funds to complete works required for the road to be adopted. Essex County Council will keep us informed of progress so we can keep all of you up to date.

Whitehall Industrial estate along with equipment from Healey Tool Hire. He did this for free as, like the residents, he was shocked about what an absolute disgrace it was for this boy to cause so much damage and show zero remorse or even apologise. None of us can thank Tim enough to be honest.

Steve Last said "I seriously hope the parents and children will come forwards and offer an absolute apology for this pathetic behaviour to all residents."

### Yellow Lines Update

Slow progress is being made on finalising the next set of plans for Yellow Lines for every road on the Northern Approach development. Essex County Council are shortly due to amend the plans for Dickenson Road following residents feedback and these will be issued as the next draft.

The plan is to hand-deliver a copy of the plans to every household for final comments. This will include St James Park 1 and 2 and Groves Close.

Funding for the scheme has also not been approved from the main Project budget from Essex County Council Highways for 2009/10, so it is more likely the work will be delivered in phases so a different budget can be used.

We will keep you informed of progress.

### Graffiti Removal

The recent graffiti attack was undertaken by a 14 year old boy who lives in the area. He was given a caution as this was his first offence. He had a friend who was also present during the graffiti incident and this boy was also given a caution.

We all find it sad that people who live amongst us think it is ok to vandalise private property.

Most of the graffiti was removed by a kind business man Tim Day who runs IWJS from the

### NAAG RESIDENTS MEETING

NAAG has booked a residents meeting for Saturday for Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 10 am - 12 noon at the Methodist Church hall on Nayland Road (opposite Defoe Crescent).

Bob Russell MP, Cllr Anne Turrell and Cllr Martin Goss will all be present to answer any queries or questions

Please drop by so we can discuss any issues that you might be concerned with.

### Rubbish and recycling

If you live in a house there is a weekly recycling scheme. Card, paper, glass and cans are collected one week, with garden waste and plastic the alternate week.

Check with Colchester Borough Council for which items are collected when at [www.colchester.gov.uk](http://www.colchester.gov.uk) or telephone 01206 282700.

Sometimes people forget which week items are due to be collected. If this happens to you, please store your recycling on your property. Don't leave it out where it can be blown about, torn open by cats or cause a nuisance in any other way.

If you live in a flat recycling is not yet fully available. Local residents have been working hard with landlords and Councillors to change this so that recycling is available for everyone. Check with your landlord what progress has been made.



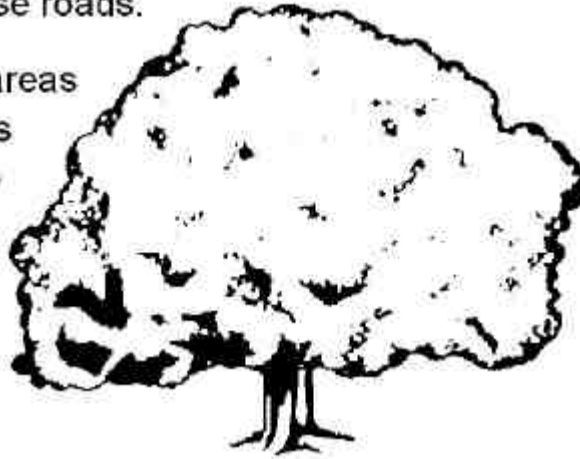
## New Trees and Plantation

There have been more new trees planted in Bolsin Drive, Tranter Drive, Dickenson Road and Hakewill Way.

Most of the trees were paid for by Colchester Borough Council (CBC) who have now adopted the majority of the green space within these roads.

Cofton Ltd also paid a lump sum to CBC to cover areas which need new shrubbery planting. This money is safely banked with CBC and improvements will be made to planting in Bolsin Drive, Shepherd Drive and Hakewill Way.

NAAG have also paid for some extra trees to be planted in Hakewill Way.



## Dogs Mess

There are still complaints being received about dog owners who don't clear up their dogs mess. Currently this is happening in Dickenson Road and parts of Hakewill Way.

The dog wardens are out on patrol and will fine anyone who fails to clear up their dogs mess. Dog mess can actually be placed in litter bins, so there is no excuse for leaving it dumped everywhere.

## New Litter Bins

The Northern Approach development now has more litter bins installed than any other housing development in Colchester.

These are situated at the following locations:

1. Entrance to Dickenson Road (paid for by Bovis Homes)
2. Entrance to Wallace Road
3. Oaks hospital footpath in Hakewill Way
4. Hakewill Way opposite 47
5. Footpath on Northern Approaches by hospital footpath from Hakewill Way
6. Hakewill Way opposite Wallace Road, near 82 Hakewill
7. Bradford Drive children's playground
8. Bradford Drive by car park near flats (paid for by Taylor Wimpey)
9. Bradford Drive by corner of flats (paid for by Taylor Wimpey)
10. Hutley Drive (to be installed by Places for People housing) near mud footpath leading to Hakewill Way
11. Tranter Drive/Mill Road recreation ground entrance

There are also dog litter bins in Tranter Drive by the EDF substation and near the Bradford Drive play area.

So there is no excuse for dropping litter or dogs mess!

## St. James Park Update

A further site meeting was held with NAAG and Taylor Wimpey to discuss the outstanding list of snags. The meeting went well and we await a date as to when Taylor Wimpey will complete the roads, pavements and planting snags which are still outstanding.

The childrens playground is due to undergo a safety report and once completed discussions will continue with CBC about adoption and opening of the playground. Until the playarea is adopted by CBC it will remain closed due to a lack of insurance cover by Taylor Wimpey.

## Grass Verges Hakewill Way

Essex County Council have agreed to put some bollards in the grass verges opposite Wallace Road as these get continually damaged by vehicles driving over them.

The grass areas will also be renewed and we hope this scheme will protect them better.

## Northern Approach Road Vegetation Cuts

Some of you have contacted us about the cutting which has been carried out on the NAR vegetation.

When the Northern Approach Road deal was signed in 1998 with Cofton, it involved Central Government and at the time the landscaping and maintenance funding was agreed.

When any builder plants vegetation or open space which will eventually be handed across to local authorities to maintain, they have to give a "commuted sum" which would pay for 25 years of maintenance, before it becomes a liability on the taxpayer. £145k was negotiated with Cofton for this 25 year commuted sum for verge maintenance back in 1998.

Roll forwards to 2008, the road has been built,

the plantation has been installed and grown and now the money has been passed across we find that it will only last for 10 years of maintenance. This means in 2018 it becomes a taxpayer liability, rather than 2033.

This has therefore resulted in the plantation being cut back 0.5 meters to a low level in order to reduce the maintenance costs and ensure the money lasts until 2033. The plantation scheme with hindsight was also not suitable and something with a lower level of maintenance should have been planted.

A team will be starting work to clean up the area and some new low level planting will also be placed in the gaps.

## Poor Parking

We have continued to receive complaints about inconsiderate parking of some vehicles around the area and remind you of the following:

- Vehicles must not block the pavement so a mother with pram or a wheelchair user cannot get through – it is illegal to block the pavement in this way
- To block a partially sited crossing – a crossing where yellow stones with markings in are placed. There are many along this development.

- Parking within 10 metres of a junction
- Cycle lanes must not be blocked
- Your vehicle must be taxed, insured and in a roadworthy condition

The police are patrolling the area and will deal with any illegally parked cars.

## Contact us:

*If you need to contact anyone from NAAG*

*- please email NAAG2006@aol.com*

*or call 01206 844734.*