

Northern Approaches Action Group Newsletter: Winter 2008

Edited by: Martin Goss

For all residents on the NAR - Circulated to 600 homes

SIGN UP FOR NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH!

Following a very successful initiative in December 2007 which saw Nine volunteers out door knocking (including two Myland Parish Councillors, 6 residents and 1 Police Constable Special Officer (PCSO)). We have seen around 80 households sign up for Neighbourhood Watch.

Martin Goss, Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and NAAG Chairperson said, "I am thrilled with both the turnout of volunteers to help set up the scheme and also the level of participation from residents. I cannot thank everyone involved enough!"

There are many benefits to signing up which could include lower insurance premiums for being part of an accredited scheme, access to crime information for Colchester and greater community involvement. The scheme is also free to join.

For anyone who has not joined the scheme please contact Martin on 844734 or email NAAG2006@aol.com and Martin will register your property for the scheme. Myland Parish Council have also contributed £100 towards new lamppost signs which will be put up shortly.

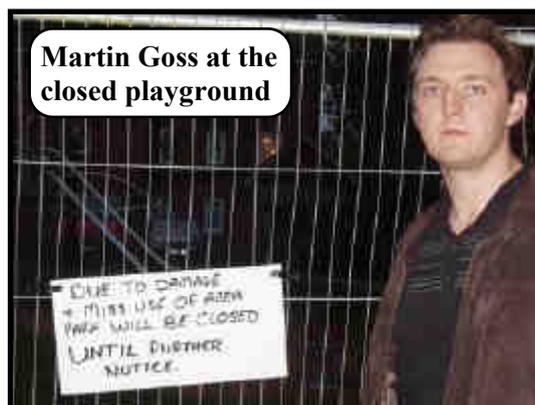
Bradford Drive Play Area to re-open

Following a door knocking exercise in Bradford Drive, residents were asked about their concerns and worries relating to the play area which was closed off in the Summer of 2007 (within several weeks of the area being opened) due to vandalism and late night drinking.

A number of residents wanted to see the play area turned into a Community Playground with residents holding the keys enabling the area to be opened and closed by those living next to it.

Currently, Taylor Wimpey have further remedial work to carry out and Colchester Borough Council will hopefully adopt the playground in February. Steve Collis from the Council will be contacting those residents who have expressed an interest in helping to run the playground.

Martin Goss said, "I want to personally thank Steve Collis and all the residents for their enthusiasm and input into this worthwhile scheme."



Parking Consultation Outcome!

Every resident should have by now received a letter from Essex County Council (ECC) concerning their intention to place a parking restriction across the whole of the development from Cambie Crescent covering every road stretching to the bottom of Bradford Drive. We have just heard that due to the over whelming objections from residents, ECC have decided not to go ahead with the parking order. We fully support the notion that residents should not park on grass verges or roundabouts. Just look at the mindless damage caused in Hakewill Way next to Wallace Road caused to the verges which have been repaired 6 times! There are also some residents who choose to park the whole of their car on the pavement, particularly at the bottom of Hakewill Way. We must remind residents this act is illegal as you are blocking a public right of way. The police will start taking action.

Yellow Lines for the worst areas of the development are also being looked into by ECC and will happen in 2008.

If you have not voiced your views, please email TRO-commentseastarea@essexcc.gov.uk or contact NAAG2006@aol.com

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

It pays to NAAG!

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 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 - Subject to planning permission, Royal Mail plan to install a post box in Dickenson Road and Wallace Road.

Dog mess - CBC leaflets have been delivered to 600 homes on the NAR reminding dog owners to clean up after their pets. A dog waste bin is now situated by the EDF electricity sub-station in Tranter Drive. There is also one in Bradford Drive, near the play area. Please use them!

New park benches - Consultation is underway for Myland Parish Council to install up to two benches on the NAR development.

Tree planting grant - Martin Goss, wearing his Parish Council hat, applied and was successful in obtaining £1,243 for new tree planting for Myland. A significant proportion will be spent on the NAR development.

New litter bins - Hopkins Homes have agreed to install two new litter bins on their development in Groves Close.

New Parish Councillor - Steve Last, NAAG Vice-Chairperson has been appointed to Myland Parish Council as a Parish Councillor.

New Parish Noticeboard - A new Myland Parish Noticeboard has been placed by the Mill Road play area and entrance to Tranter Drive.

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.

Graffiti removal and new pathway - Some graffiti has finally been removed from the lampposts in Hutley Drive. Work is being undertaken to remove it from the fencing in Hakewill Way and Hutley Drive by Places for People. A new set of steps have also been installed in the pathway from Hutley Drive to Hakewill Way. Work is being undertaken to clean up the overgrown areas too.

Adoption Update

It looks like positive progress is being made by Coftons on the remedial works still required by Essex County Council. Currently it is anticipated that adoption of roads will become formal after January 2008 for the following - Tranter Drive, Cambie Crescent, Dickenson Road, Bolsin Drive, Shepherd Drive, Knevett Close, Stevens Close, Wallace Road and Hakewill Way (down to Wallace Road).

This means that any cleaning and maintenance of the area will come under Local Authority control. St James Park is still some way from adoption and we estimate this will commence in around 2011, dependent on progress by Taylor Wimpey.

Stolen ASDA trolleys

We really don't wish to give the ASDA brand so much free PR, but something has got to be done about the eight trolleys which get stolen and dumped in Mile End every week!

Martin Goss met with ASDA recently to try and ensure their trolley system is working correctly. Asda have re-inforced that taking trolleys is theft, and they will treat this as such!

Please, for those who do repeatedly steal these trolleys, stop causing offence to the great majority of law-abiding residents by dumping them for others to clear up.

Health Treatment?



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