

Purbrook and Widley Area Residents' Association.

Newsletter no.18. June, 2009.

Committee members.

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The next meeting is on 25th June, 7.15pm in Deverell Hall, Purbrook. The Agenda will be:

(1) An update on the progress of the Major Development, called Newlands Common. It will be given by Jacky Wilson, the liaison Officer, John Beresford of Grainger plc and Jonathan Steele from Atkins. They want to hear from residents any concerns and queries.

(2) A talk by Linda Long called 'Health and Well Being'. Linda is employed by Portsmouth City Council as Community Development Worker for the Health Improvement and Development Services.

(3) At the Public Meeting on February 26th, John Briggs gave a presentation on the conservation area in Purbrook. Residents had been on a walk-about in December 2008, to look at various buildings to see if there were any which might be included in an extended area. Both Councillor Robin McIntosh and Pam Cooper made representations to the Council about the importance of protecting historical or architecturally important buildings. Their arguments were not accepted, so we have asked Chris Lyons and/or Rachel McMurray (HBC's Conservation Officers) to speak at our June meeting to explain why they think there is little worth conserving in Purbrook other than the Church, the Old School, the Church Hall and Marrelswood House, which are already protected.

4)A.O.B.

A big thank you goes to Val Swarbrick for her talk 'The History of Darts' at the last meeting.

Police Community Group. Michael Saunders represents PAWARA on this group. Michael advises a) that there are thieves about in the area, currently targeting London Rd and Stakes Rd. b) There have been break-ins in cars in Bushy Mead. We have been made aware, by Neighbourhood Watch, of a whole spate of cars, stolen or vandalised, mostly in the area bounded by Corbett Rd, London Rd, Mill Rd and, in the south, Elizabeth Rd and Shaftesbury Ave. Advice given is that if you hear anything untoward in the night, check it out **WITHOUT** putting on your lights: take a note of the people and vehicles involved, and notify the police. With regard to other types of theft, we would ask you please be vigilant- check locks on doors, sheds and garages; don't leave doors open when gardening etc, and check your insurance. The Telegraph, 12/5/09, reports an increase in gardening thefts and advises only fixed items like hedges, sheds etc are usually covered by home insurance-moveable objects like mowers, garden furniture, pots etc are not. If you are aware of any persistent incidents which the police should know about, contact Michael.

A Stakeholders meeting on 16th April: West of Waterloville development. Mick Mills and Sheila McIntosh attended this meeting. Much of what was discussed is not yet in the public arena, but we may get an update in June. What is clear is that Wimpey have formally started on the Hambledon Road site with Phase 1 of 110 residential units (Report from Jacky Wilson). It is **NOT** clear what parts of the necessary infrastructure- schools, surgeries, community centre etc- will be in place before these homes are built or occupied. Moreover, as reported in the News on May 15th, it is likely that the number of houses to be built will rise from 2000 to 3200. Winchester Council is asking the public for its views on these and other proposals, but the public consultation period only commenced on May 16th and ends on July 3rd. If you have concerns, **DO VISIT** the exhibitions either on Thurs June 11th at Denmead Community Centre, or on June

20th in the Waterlooville pedestrian centre and make your views known in writing to the Head of Strategic Planning, Winchester City Council Colebrook Street, Winchester SO23 9LJ, or at the web site winchester.gov.uk/preferredoption Meanwhile much tree planting has been completed in the area to the west of the gas sub-station behind Purbrook Gardens. This work took nearly a month to complete, but the contractors were most considerate in that they took on the heavy equipment and lorries each morning after 9 0'clock. This meant there was little inconvenience to traffic as they backed down the narrow footpath.

Report from John Beresford (Grainger Plc) re MDA build. "The Newlands Common development is still very much going ahead and a lot of progress has been made in recent months. All present work is now complete and we're glad to see the roundabout functioning with no further disruptions to traffic to be expected. Further small works are scheduled to be carried out and will concern the white lining and anti-skid surfacing which were highlighted in Stage 3 safety audit. These works will be undertaken during off-peak hours in order to ensure minimum impact on traffic flow, and are due to take place w/c 26th May. Grainger has always been applauded for its broad consultation process and we plan to carry on in this path, with news of the next public exhibitions to be published shortly, once Grainger receive confirmation of the Local Planning Authorities formal response to our Phasing Strategic Document. Following the talk given by our archaeologist, I have had several requests from local residents regarding archaeological matters. I have arranged for some additional copies of the report the team produced and propose to give one to PAWARA and one to the Waterlooville Library."

The PAWARA Environment Group. Volunteers have again spent time clearing rubbish from the woods at Sandy Brow. One tree at this location has been pollarded by HBC. Local residents were concerned that other trees would be felled. I have been informed that this is not the case. The Penjar Pond project will be completed in November 2009. During August we will remove the thick layer of silt from another stretch of the pond. The pond has historically always been a winter pond and during summer it will dry out. We are hopeful that our efforts will allow the water to remain for a much longer period which will be of benefit to the pond life. September and October we will spend replanting the area with indigenous plants so that by this time next year the pond should come to life.

IF YOU CAN SPARE ANY TIME BETWEEN 0930 AND 1130 on either 13TH Sept or 11th Oct, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO COME ALONG AND HELP.

The group are looking to tidy up the small overgrown corner at Purbrook Gdns at its junction with London Rd, some time in the autumn. If you know of any other local area that could benefit from our activities please let me know. (Michael Mills)

The old garage site in Purbrook. Still no news on the future of this site. However residents will be interested to note that a parking review meeting with Councillors Gwen Blackett, Jenny Wride and Council officers was held on 22nd April and it was noted that:-

1) Ladybridge Car Park- charges could be introduced, but it is necessary to consider the possible impact of displaced parking onto the street. It was agreed a duration survey of the car park was required to establish whether the majority of parking is short or long stay. 2) It was agreed that the loading bay area of 32/34 London Rd should be reduced to create additional parking (in the 2009/2010 programme). Consideration would be given to reducing the waiting time from 1 hour to 30 minutes. The markings in the "no loading" bay are incorrect. Hampshire County Council to be notified to amend. 3) Penjar Ave. Consensus could not be reached with the local traders on a limited wait in the car park area. It was agreed to leave things, apart from making an order on the loading bay so that it can be enforced. Consideration will be give to a 30 minute waiting time in the adjacent lay-by in London Rd. No restrictions are necessary in Penjar Ave. itself.

MEMBERSHIP Thanks to those residents who responded to our appeal in the last Newsletter for subscriptions. Membership numbers are up which helps your committee members when they have to deal with local authorities etc on your behalf.

We hope to see many of you at the June 25th Meeting in Deverell Hall. The next public meeting after that will be on November 26th at 7.15 pm.

