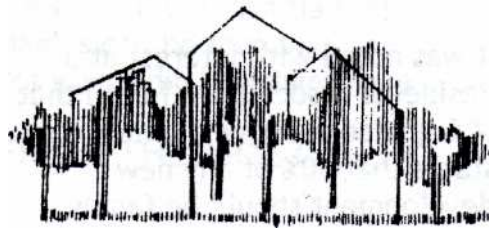


North West Bassett **NEWSLETTER** Residents Association



www.nwbra.hampshire.org.uk

Newsletter no.9 - June 2008

Chairman - Chris Witt
chris.witt@lineone.net

Secretary - Mary Milne
mary_milne@hotmail.co.uk
Telephone - 023 80766466

WELCOME to another of our Newsletters!

Our third AGM and social gathering was held on 11th April at St Michael's Church Hall, and was well attended by current members, as well as our Ward Councillors and representatives from other local Residents' Associations, plus 2 PCSOs! The chairman, Chris Witt, reported on issues concerning our residents - inappropriate development as well as other local issues. A copy of the Minutes of the meeting appears on our website www.nwbra.hampshire.org.uk or is available from the Secretary, Mary Milne. Committee members elected at the meeting were: Andrew Blunsden, Chris Edmond, Alan Guppy (Treasurer), John Maguire, Mary Milne (Secretary) and Chris Witt (Chairman). As well as dealing with issues of immediate concern, the primary aim of NWBRA is to preserve the character of our area, and this neatly leads on to our ongoing initiative -

PROJECT PROTECT

The work to produce a Neighbourhood Design Statement continues. A large number of photographs have been collected, but more are required of individual properties. If residents would like to supply photos of their own properties they can be emailed (digital format) to NWBRA at www.nwbra.hampshire.org.uk - or, they can be sent to the secretary who will forward them to the Project Protect co-ordinator. We are particularly interested in any special aspects of individual properties. The aim of the project is to capture the character of the neighbourhood to assist developers and the planning authorities in making planning decisions. We still require

volunteers to help put this document together so if you are interested please email us at the above email address.

WELCOME DEVELOPMENTS

It was noted with interest at a Residents Associations forum that SCC guidance for new builds now states that 30% of any new development should be family homes. New development last year comprised 95% flats! This new aim may now be consolidated due to the emergence of the "credit crunch" and the remaining unsold flats in the city.

UNWELCOME DEVELOPMENTS

HMO'S (Houses of Multiple Occupancy) are low in this area but some owners are beginning to push the boundaries, not to mention the law. SCC Planning Enforcement is in the process of addressing the problem. Due to continued pressure from your committee on the SCC officials and enlisting the services of our Ward Councillors, and MP, results are forthcoming. **SO-** please renew your membership or join. We also welcome new people to the area, and hope they too will join us.

Rights of Way

A public footpath which had been compromised has been promptly restored in accordance to the findings of SCC Rights of Way. The process of appropriate action can bring results.

PAVEMENTS AND POTHOLE!

It would appear that the "pot" is empty!

A number of residents have registered their concern about the

state of the pavements and roads in the area, in particular along Bassett Heath Avenue. Highways and Parking Services have no allocation for repairs this year but stated that a scheme will be given consideration for possible inclusion in the 2009/10 programme. If you require additional information, email nigel.lodder@southampton.gov.uk

PARKING

A number of residents have been in contact with SCC and the Ward Councillors regarding their various concerns about vehicles parking in the vicinity of the junction of Bassett Heath Avenue and Bassett Avenue. SCC Highways and Parking Network Management will continue to monitor the junction and consider proposals for the next Various Roads Traffic Regulation Order.

RUBBISH!! -OR, RATHER, THE ART OF RECYCLING

We all have to do it as, believe it or not, we produce (on average) our own body weight of rubbish every 7 weeks! The rules on what can, or cannot, be recycled can be complex but the Council has produced a very useful guide. This was printed in the June issue of Cityview and more detailed advice is available online at www.southampton.gov.uk/environment/rubbishandrecycling under each of the headings shown.

It really is important that we correctly sort out items for Green waste, "blue top" recyclables and the normal "green top" waste bins. If in doubt, then telephone Action Line (0800 5191919) or visit the Council website.

CRIME

We are lucky not to suffer as much crime as some parts of the city. However, there has been a series of thefts from vehicles. Residents are encouraged to report any theft immediately. The PCSCTs for this area have been made aware of these

incidents.

It may be of interest to note that the beat officer for our area is PC John Woodfield who can be contacted on 0845 045 4545. The non emergency number 101 also works directly with SCC and provides a useful access for reporting, for example, instances of anti-social behaviour. Alternatively call the Anti-Social behaviour Team on 023 8083 2013

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH - Update

Although there is evidence of Neighbourhood Watch schemes in our area viable activity is unclear. For anyone interested in the scheme contact details are: Phil Wickins
Southampton Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator Safer Communities Southampton City Council Ground floor Southbrook rise 4-8 Millbrook Road East Southampton SO15 1YG
Telephone: 023 8083 4408 Email: phil.wikins@southampton.gov.uk

TEA DANCES

Your dancing days may not be over! The Parish Hall at St Michael's Church, Bassett Avenue was the venue for this successful social occasion held in April, May and June. Future dates of this recreation and of the many activities at the Parish Hall, St Michael's can be found on WWW.bassettparish.hampshire.org.uk

KEEN ON THE ARTS?

NADFAS - (National Association of Decorative and Fine Art) Offers excellent talks, tours, and days of special interest. Next years programme includes: Gainsborough, Charles Rennie Macintosh, The Fine art of Crime, Making Sense of Modern Art, The Scottish Colourists and more

Evening meetings - second Monday of the month at Southampton University. Join or come as a visitor - for more information contact the NWBRA Secretary.

CURSE OF HONEY FUNGUS!

No - not the next blockbuster from Hollywood but, quite literally, a creeping disease that is affecting our area. Have you noticed how some of our trees are looking "tired", as if drought is affecting them? It could well be the dreaded Honey fungus (*ArmiUaria*) that frequently exists on dead plant material - but some species have the ability to become parasitic on living roots of woody plants, trees, herbaceous perennials and even bulbs. Whilst the active part of the fungus is beneath ground, the above ground effects can be dramatic, as in the sudden death of shrubs and trees within a season.

Essentially there is not a lot you can do about it - but to find out more the Royal Horticultural Society website www.rhs.org.uk has good information, and advice (follow the Advice and Problem Solver link). If you are concerned you can also contact www.southampton.gov.uk/leisure/southamptonparks/trees.

A HOT TOPIC

Bonfires continue to be a regularly ignited issue and the subject of some to heated discussion. The subject has featured in previous NWBRA Newsletters therefore can only re-iterate, please be mindful of your neighbours and exercise consideration. Whilst enjoying the warmth of the sun, smoke and smell are not welcome from over a fence. At the AGM the point was made that adequate provision is available at Eastleigh and Southampton for garden waste which can not be accommodated in the green bags provided by the SCC.

REPRESENTATION

We are aware the certain roads in NWB are not adequately represented within the Residents' Association and would like to hear from anyone who may be interested in providing this link. Lingwood and Fitzroy Close spring to mind as does Bassett Row.

Anyone who may be interested should contact the Secretary - we do not require street reps who we wish to thank for all their help over the year.

We are also grateful to Sara Merrett for auditing the accounts.

FINALLY

Welcome to our new members and thank you to all those who have renewed their membership.

NORTH WEST BASSETT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Subscription renewal for year April 2008 to March 2009 (£3 per household)

Amount £

Name.....

Address.....

EMAIL.....

Date..... /..... /..... Please make cheques payable to NWBRA, and send form and payment to Mary Milne, 11 Bassett Heath Avenue, SO16 7GP.