

# WELCOME TO THE DERWENTHORPE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2 — April 2016

**Next DRA Meeting**  
**Monday 16th May—19:30pm in the SSC.**  
**All residents welcome.**

## UPDATES

Dear Residents,  
A lot has happened in Derwenthorpe since our last newsletter.....

### Welcome

Over 250 properties are now occupied across the three phases of Derwenthorpe. A big welcome to those who have moved in recently. We hope you have settled into your new home and are enjoying being part of our fantastic community.

### Derwenthorpe Manager

We are delighted to report that the new Derwenthorpe Manager, Joanne Lofthouse (employed by JRHT) has been in post since January. Since starting Joanne has had a positive impact on our community. She is also undertaking some work on the SSC, looking at future use and also a revamp so it can truly be a community friendly facility that both Derwenthorpe and other areas can make use of. Suggestions are welcome.. A very positive start, thank you Joanne!

### Derwenthorpe Caretaker

The second new staff member to Derwenthorpe is Chris O'Neill. Chris will be looking after the SSC as well as some of the maintenance in and around Derwenthorpe. You will often see Chris in the area and longer term he will be based in the SSC. Give him a wave if you see him, he's a friendly chap!

### Core Team Vacancy

Interested in joining the Core Team and helping out the DRA? We have a vacancy and welcome expressions of interests from residents on all phases. Please email the DRA secretary telling us your name, address and a bit about your skills and why you want to join the team.

We would like to thank Nick Hall (phase 1) for all his hard work over the past few years.

The Core Team—Ray, Ian, Katie, Chris, Sue, Sam, Steve, Louis and Sheelagh

## Key Contacts

### DRA

secretary@derwenthorpe.co.uk

### Derwenthorpe Manager

07973 979192  
joanne.lofthouse@jrht.org.uk

### JRHT

01904 735000  
information@jrht.org.uk

### DWH

01904 617660  
derwenthorpe@dwh.co.uk

### Veolia—Faults

0345 078 1154

### DRA Facebook Page

[www.facebook.com/DerwenthorpeResidentsAssociation/](http://www.facebook.com/DerwenthorpeResidentsAssociation/)

### Don't have email?

Don't worry, we will soon be arranging for paper copies of minutes, agendas and newsletters to be available in the SSC. Also keep an eye out for information in the notice boards on each phase.

## DATES AND EVENTS

**Yoga— 10:30 Tuesdays in the SSC**

**Songbox—9:45 Wednesdays in the SSC (babies upwards)**

**Osbalwick Community Choir — New Members Welcome.**

The choir meets every Thursday, 19:00—20:30 in the SSC during term time.

Contact Nicky Helliwell [nickyostwald@clara.co.uk](mailto:nickyostwald@clara.co.uk) or Patrick Reedy [patrickreedy999@gmail.com](mailto:patrickreedy999@gmail.com)

## The Core Team - What do we do in-between meetings?

We are often asked what the Core Team do in between meetings and whilst at times it may see like not much, we can assure you we do! Here is a summary of the issues we are working on at present:

### **Heating Contracts.**

The DRA have been negotiating strongly with both JRHT and Veolia to get the best deal for all of us. At the last residents meeting, we were informed that Veolia have finally taken over the running of the SSC and our heating. Contracts vary across the three phases and we are expecting Veolia to be in touch very shortly with a 'household welcome pack' explaining a bit more detail.

The good news is that we are still billed by Switch2 and so don't have to change any existing direct debits which residents may have set up.

1st of March saw the calculation of residents new charges for heating for 2016/17—watch this space for more information.

Veolia have provided an addendum to the original contract for Phase 1. The DRA are recommending signing the addendum. Veolia have also agreed that the 'gagging clause' is unenforceable and will be removed from the contract when the property is subsequently sold.

### **Estate Maintenance Charges**

The DRA have been working hard to press JRHT for more detailed information on our estate charges and just exactly what our money is being spent on. At January's DRA meeting, Angela Dearing, one of JRHT's deputy Directors responsible for the maintenance gave a brief overview of what the costs cover. Whilst we welcome this information, residents are not satisfied with the level of detail this goes into and the DRA are working with JRHT to try and get more detailed information.

### **Parking**

Tom Hepburn who some of you may have seen doing some of the landscaping is currently looking at different options for marking resident and visitor spaces. The DRA have strongly conveyed to JRHT that residents want labelling and that parking in Derwenthorpe is generally an issue, both in terms of physical spaces and responsible parking by residents and visitors.

### **Derwenthorpe Partnership Advisory Committee**

A DPAC meeting took place 8th March in the SSC. Although not formally on the committee, Ray and Katie from the core team attended to try and represent residents views. They were dismayed to discover that phase 3 representation is not allowed until phase 3 is completed, something which they discussed. The local Councillor, Tina Funnell, also lobbied for more Derwenthorpe representation but to no avail.

The good news however, is that on completion of Phase 2, a representative from that phase will be elected to sit on the committee—watch out for communication from JRHT regarding nominations—a crucial role which will need close work with the DRA.

### **Liaison Committee**

Monthly meetings take place between the DRA Core Team, JRHT and DWH. The DRA use these meetings to get the most up to date information and more importantly discuss concerns and issues that residents have. Updates are then given at the Full DRA meetings every other month.

## **Did you know we have a website?**

The DRA administer a community website for Derwenthorpe with all the latest information on whats going on, meeting dates and more.

**Take a look at our new and improved website:**

[www.derwenthorpe.co.uk](http://www.derwenthorpe.co.uk)