



# Rams Residents' Group

## November 2008 – Special AGM Edition



### Letter from the Outgoing Chairperson of Rams Residents' Group - Gaile Gould

Dear Residents,

This is my last letter as Chairperson and I would like to say that I have enjoyed myself and have met some very lovely people but it is time to move over for new blood.

I would like to welcome Chris Burgess as Chair along with Danny Owens as Newsletter editor. Wendy Ash has kindly agreed to assist Martin Cox as Secretary with Claire Reynolds as Treasurer.

I think that Chris will be a dynamic Chairperson and would invite everyone to give him their support – I certainly will.

I would also like to thank everyone who came along to help on the Ramshill Clean-up day, well done and let's hope that we can repeat it again next year.

Finally I wish you all a happy New Year .

Regards,

Gaile Gould.

### News from the AGM

We held our 2008 Rams Residents Group (RRG) Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at Churchers College.

These are the main points that we discussed at the well-attended meeting.

- ❖ Minutes from last meeting:
  - a £10 garden voucher was presented to the winner of the Ramshill Front Garden Competition with a £5 voucher each going to the two residents who came 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - if we see any play equipment in the Play Area that has been or is being damaged please contact Greenbelt on 0800 0281749
  - the issue of the street lights that are not working or are working intermittently has been confirmed as being on Bryant Homes snagging list for the estate (due to be completed in the next three months). The trees that are dead are also due to be re-planted when the season for planting comes around in the Spring
- ❖ No further progress has been made on Skinners Lane. Daryl Phillips, Head of Planning at East Hants District Council (EHDC) has reported to Gaile that Nigel Phillips of Taylor Wimpey Homes (previously Bryant Homes) has submitted a proposal for the completion of Skinners Lane, including lighting, to Hampshire County Council but this has been rejected
- ❖ A further report has also been received from EHDC saying that the outflow of rainwater from the estate is still exceeding the level agreed by Southern Water within the original planning consent. Apparently a local farmer's field is flooding because of this. Again this is standing in the way of EHDC adopting the estate.
- ❖ Gaile sent a letter of complaint about these issues (including the sewerage issues) to Michael Mates, MP for East Hants. He wrote to the Managing Director of George Wimpey, Mr. A.J. Sturla – the main points from this reply are summarised in the following section.

## George Wimpey Report

George Wimpey (GW) accepts that there were a number of failures of the foul water pumping station adjacent to Kingsfernsden Lane during the first 18 months of occupation (2005/6). However looking at the history of the maintenance contract for the last 18 months there have been no failures, only routing maintenance. GW do have records of two blockages to the gravity sewerage system. The crews who attended reported that the blockages were caused by disposable nappies. (DISPOSABLE NAPPIES WILL BLOCK THE DRAINS IF DISPOSED OF IN DOMESTIC TOILETS – Ed).

All of the design and construction work (to current regulations) for the drains was carried out to the satisfaction of Southern Water and all of the documents relating to this are available.

GW have already arranged to carry out specific inspections with regard to 4 residents' properties where there was a reported blockage and smells were occurring.

GW also state that they are confident that they have responded promptly to any such issues but point out that the Skinners Lane issue might take some time to resolve.

## Letter from EHDC

Following Gaile's letter to Michael Mates MP, he wrote to EHDC and Hampshire County Council. He received a reply on 20<sup>th</sup> November from Daryl Phillips

(EHDC) which he then passed back to Gaile. This is a summary of the main points in the letter:

- ❖ (Landscaping) "Drawings have been submitted, but they still need to be verified to confirm that they are accurate. However, this is now more of a verification process, rather than an issue of principal."
- ❖ "I can confirm that the Committee (i.e. the Planning Committee) have authorised me to use all available planning enforcement powers to secure the provision of the Skinners Lane cycleway link.

You should be aware however, this will require the developer to take additional action against residents of Hogarth Close, who own a dangerous wall adjacent to the site. This is likely to make this resolution of the matter quite protracted."

It is clear that Taylor Wimpey Homes (George Wimpey) are trying to get the last issues resolved with both Hampshire County Council and East Hants District Council if for no other reason than to get the estate off their radar.

## The Clean-Up Day

30 enthusiastic residents turned out for the first Ramshill Clean-Up Day, mainly aimed at cleaning up the mess that had developed down the length of Skinners Lane. Everyone enjoyed an ample quantity of tea, coffee and butties

with the help of Pat, Wally, Jean and Trevor. EHDC supplied the yellow tabards and devices to help pick up rubbish safely.



## New Officers for RRG

A discussion was held about voting for new Residents Group Officers as Gaile Gould (Chair) and Paul Vangrove (Newsletter) were stepping down.

After much debate Chris Burgess agreed to be Chairperson for one meeting then review the situation and Danny Owens agreed to write the Newsletter. Wendy Ash has also agreed to share the Secretary's role with Martin Cox. Full names are shown below:

### Ramshill Residents Group - Officers

<b>Chairperson:</b>	Chris Burgess – e-mail: <a href="mailto:chris@cbinfosystems.com">chris@cbinfosystems.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Martin Cox Wendy Ash
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Claire Reynolds
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Danny Owens