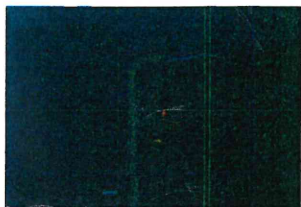


Residents Deluge Council with Letters on Planning Issue

A big "well done" and thank you is due to the more than 70 residents who wrote to District Councillor Guy Stacpoole to enquire about progress on adoption issues and the Skinners Lane planning situation. This is an absolutely fantastic response that has certainly shown the strength of feeling that we all share. It is only through persistence that we will keep our concerns at the front of our elected representatives' minds. Hopefully all of you who wrote will have had a reply from EHDC, but if (like me) this raised more questions than answers, the main article in this newsletter should go some way towards explaining it.

Cllr Stacpoole was invited to attend our Residents' Group meeting on 7th July but unfortunately had another engagement. Thankfully his County Council colleague, Cllr Vaughan Clarke, has stepped in to try and resolve the situation. EHDC still have the lead on local planning issues, so please feel free to follow this up with further letters to keep the pressure on.

Left in the Dark by Your Street Light?



It won't have escaped your notice that quite a number of the street lights on the estate do not come on in the dark. Anyone who has tried to report this to Hampshire County Council will have

been told that this is not their responsibility as they have yet to adopt this aspect of the estate. So until this happens, please refer all lighting defects to Taylor Wimpey on 02380 255288.

Save the Planet with Electronic Distribution

A growing number of households have signed up for electronic distribution of this newsletter. To save on the number of paper copies, just send me (editor) an e-mail with your name and address and I will add you to the list.

BBQ in the Park Saturday 5th Sep

A number of hardy residents braved the somewhat less than "BBQ Summer" weather on Saturday 5th September to enjoy a friendly community BBQ in the play area on Luker Drive. Amongst the attractions were Gaile's singing, Steve's perfectly cooked sausages and Chris' top quality East European "Champagne". Here's looking forward to next year...



What Colour is Yours?



First it was front gardens, now our attentions appear to be turning towards our front doors, with increasing numbers of our houses sporting a wide variety of colours and shades. For

the small cost of a pot of paint and a weekend's work, the estate is brightened up, one door at a time, revealing the individualism and flair of those who live here. What colour will you paint yours?

Spot the Difference?



Following an act of vandalism, the road signs at the entrance to Barentin Way were removed by EHDC and have now been replaced, further away from the wall, which should reduce the likelihood of further vandalism. A big thank you to EHDC for a quick turn around.

Ram's Residents' Group

October 2009 - Autumn Edition



Dear Residents,

With the disappearance of a short lived summer the cold is definitely starting to set in which can mean only one thing, Christmas is round the corner! I personally cannot wait until December to see who puts what decorations up and will be competing with other residents.

Thank you to those who turned up to the BBQ in the park, it was a fun afternoon which ended quite late at one resident's home and although turnout was small I would like to see it happen again.

Unfortunately we still have issues with parking on the entry to the estate; we assume by parents from Churchers. I know this can be frustrating and we have communicated with the local police and college to try and get it resolved. Watch this space.

In February 2008 our newsletter said "This can be a great place to live but we all have to respect our neighbours and the environment that we live in." This is more valid now than ever before. We have heard of incidents of children throwing stones at lights and kicking balls at windows. I am sure it is the minority but we have enough issues with trying to get the estate adopted, so let's all make sure the younger ones are doing their part.

I look forward to seeing you all for our end of year meeting on the 3rd November! I will be providing the usual sip of wine!

Chris Burgess

Adoption Issues Clarified at Residents' Group Meeting

The last meeting of the Ram's Residents' Group was held on 7th July and was well attended with 29 motivated residents squeezing into a classroom at Churchers College to discuss the important issues that affect us as a community. Chief amongst these, without doubt, was the ongoing debate about adoption of the estate by local authorities and we were fortunate to have newly-elected County Councillor Vaughan Clarke in attendance to explain some of the history to the current situation and to help us take the matter forward.

A number of issues were discussed at the meeting and these, along with the agreed actions, are recorded in the minutes, which will be made available at the next meeting on 3rd November. Discussion was dominated, however, by previously reported concerns that residents could find it difficult to sell their properties due to the Planning Contravention Notice placed on the developer (Taylor Wimpey) by East Hampshire District Council due to non-completion of the cycle-link to Ramshill along Skinners Lane. This issue had become linked in our minds, over time, with a collective desire to see the estate adopted by the local authority, however Councillor Clarke (having been a Town Councillor for a number of years, a previous Mayor and now County Councillor) was able to set us straight on what had previously been agreed and what could possibly happen in the future. Adoption of the estate falls into 3 categories:

1. Roads & Lighting. The intention is for these to be adopted by Hampshire County Council once agreement has been reached with the developer that they are at the required standard. Previous indications were that both parties were close to agreeing transfer of responsibility.

2. Surface Water Drainage. The intention is for Southern Water to assume responsibility for this, however disagreements regarding the suitability of the overflow arrangements adjacent to Kingsfernsden Lane mean that responsibility remains with Taylor Wimpey until agreement can be reached.

3. Green Spaces. Taylor Wimpey have contracted a company called "Greenbelt" to look after those areas that are not the responsibility of either

Drum Housing or Petersfield Housing Association. Whilst this arrangement can stay in place indefinitely, Taylor Wimpey have previously approached Petersfield Town Council with a view to transferring a suitable sum of money to pay for the Council to take on this responsibility; unfortunately agreement could not be reached on the sum required, but Taylor Wimpey remain keen to transfer responsibility to either the Town or District Council. Residents are concerned that we could become liable for funding this service if Taylor Wimpey should go out of business without transferring responsibility for green areas to either local authority.

Separate to these issues is non-completion of the planned cycle path along Skinners Lane, connecting the estate with Ramshill; this has run into difficulties due to the unstable nature of the walls on either side and opposition from adjoining property owners. East Hampshire District Council has the lead on local planning issues and has served a Planning Contravention Notice on Taylor Wimpey as a first step towards solving the problem.

To try and bring all these issues to a satisfactory resolution, the Rams Residents' Group Committee contacted Cllr Clarke, who attended our Residents' Group meeting on the 7th July. Since the meeting, Cllr Clarke has been able to confirm that the developer has submitted revised plans for Skinners Lane, which have been approved by EHDC. These plans involve building a footpath rather than a cycleway, which (being narrower) will allow for the construction of retaining walls on either side to overcome the danger posed by the unstable nature of the existing walls. Details of high-level lighting and timescales for construction remain to be agreed. The surface water drainage scheme has also been approved, which paves the way for its adoption by Southern Water and adoption of the roads by Hampshire County Council. Thanks Vaughan!

Know Your Local Councillor #2

Hampshire County Council – Petersfield Hangers



Vaughan Clarke (Conservative)
26 Pulens Lane
Petersfield
Hampshire
GU31 4DB
Home Telephone: 01730 268206
Mobile: 07765 380720
vaughan.clarke@hants.gov.uk

Residents' Ads



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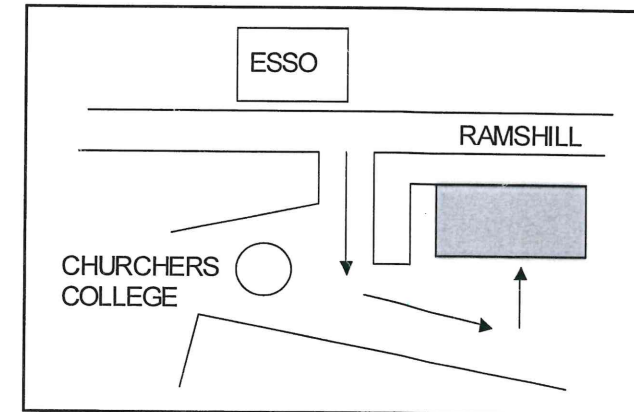
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Next Group Meeting

Annual General Meeting:
Tuesday 3rd November 2009 at 7:30pm at Churchers College (in class room block on left of main entrance)



Elected Officers

Chris Burgess – Chairperson...

Martin Cox – Secretary...

Claire Reynolds – Treasurer...

Danny Owens – Editor...

...@ramsresidentsgroup.co.uk