



SUMMER NEWSLETTER September 2018

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Introduction

Welcome to the summer edition of the RCRA Newsletter.

Our membership continues to thrive representing approximately a third of all of the residents within the conservation area. Obviously we would like to see more as it makes us a stronger community and gives a greater strength to any representations that we make on your behalf. It would be nice to reach at least 50 per cent and so we need more residents to join. My request to you is therefore please mention the RCRA to your neighbours and encourage them to join. My contact details are given at the bottom of this newsletter.

The summer is always a quiet period and there have been no new major items that have been brought to our attention with perhaps the exception of the development on Sunnybank School site

The Committee has therefore continued to pursue the on going issues of the members with Hertsmere Borough

Council, Hertfordshire County Council and our Councillors

AGM

For those of you who were unable to make the AGM a summary of the key points are listed below.

- PCSOs Cheryl Lavell and Graham Tippet gave a short presentation regarding keeping your personal and house property safe.
- Teresa Travell talked about the current issues for the Potters Bar Society.
- Councillors John Donne and John Graham sent their apologies but gave a written report.
- The Chairman Martin Woodcock gave an update on the trees, footpaths and parking.
- Membership is currently 78 .
- The Associations funds stand at £744.

Planning Matters

Application

The big planning item this period is the proposal to build 30 houses on the Sunnybank School site. The

Committee respects that residents may have differing views as to the merits of this additional housing development. The Committee have noted and commented to Hertsmeire Borough Council planners regarding [1] the intrusion into the Green Belt, this valuable nature asset; [2] the need to maintain and increase primary school places [3] the worsening traffic impact along Baker Street and [4] the risk of further development creep.

Hertsmeire Local Plan 2018- 2034.

You will recall that back in November Hertsmeire Borough Council started a consultation process relating to their future plans for the borough and options for delivering the governments housing targets. The Royds are maintaining a keen interest in the Local Plan as one of the large areas of housing development lies adjacent to our conservation area backing onto Oakroyd Avenue and Close. Following the conclusion of their consultations and an independent sustainability check Hertsmeire will be publishing their considerations [2nd draft] in the Autumn 2018 and we await to see if any major changes have been made.

Highway Matters



Footpaths

Improvements to the condition of the footpaths remains one of our top priorities and currently Council money has been allocated for April 2019. The committee would however like residents to write individually to the County Council if they share our view that there are dangerous and in need of repair. The address to which to send your correspondence is:- Highway Locality Officer Mid Herts Group. PO Box 153 Stevenage SG1 2GL for the attention of Mr T Burt.

We hope that by such actions greater lengths of the pavements will be improved.

Trees

Hopefully the new trees which the Association pressed hard to have planted have survived the very hot summer months. And long may they live. It is appreciated that the demands on the council's budgets means that regular inspection of trees and watering may have to be reduced. This is an area however where we members of the association can assist by watering the trees if further dry spells continue throughout the remaining summer months.

Street lighting

The street lights appear to be working reasonably now which is good news as the dark nights will shortly be with us. The lamp columns are still scheduled to be painted but is delayed due to the need to tackle old red lead paint.

Baker Street Traffic

The Committee continue to be concerned about the speed of traffic along this road and the dangers to both young and old in crossing to the bus stops, church, school and shop. At present the County Council traffic engineers do not appear to share our concern. We will however continue to press for better sight lines for those entering Baker Street from Oakroyd and Elmroyd Avenues

Safety Neighbourhood Watch and burglaries.

Whilst the mysterious white van that was parked in Elmroyd Avenue has now been removed properties in the areas are still being targeted by local gangs.

Apart from generally being vigilant some things which residents can do to minimise such risks include:- not leaving bins where they can be used to climb over gates; letting neighbours know if you are planning to go away; keeping sheds and garages securely locked; don't leave unwanted metal on the verges as it encourages 'white vans' to cruise the area. Most importantly as the PSCO Tibbett stressed ring 101 if you see anything or anyone acting suspiciously.

Web Site

We are in the process of upgrading our web site with a new look and more information . The site is www.roydsresidents.co.uk and the old site will soon be deleted. It will have copies of the newsletters, key contact information of the council and county council officers as well as the Article4 Design Manual to help those who wish to modify their properties. If there are any other matters which members would like to see then drop me an e mail.

Christmas Coffee Morning

Following the success of our first coffee morning in the spring we intend to hold a Christmas coffee morning event on 1st December 2018 at St Johns Church from 10 00 am to 12 00 noon as we found it a great way to meet everyone and hear of their views in a very convivial atmosphere. Please come along and have a cup of tea, coffee and mince pies with us.

Contacts

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Chairman Royds Conservation Residents Association