



Newsletter

November 2023

www.nevillresidentsassociation.org

Joint Chairs: Sarah Neels
Suzy Nelson

Treasurer: Kia Makepeace

Minute Secretary: Lesley Healey
Editor: Carole Kirby

NRA Open meeting Monday 18 September 2023, held in St Mary's Church Hall

Suzy Nelson, joint chair of the NRA committee, welcomed residents to the meeting, and updated everyone on progress since the new committee was set up at the open meeting in May. Unfortunately, two committee members have resigned, the secretary and treasurer. Kia Makepeace is now the treasurer, and Lesley Healey has taken over the role of minutes secretary, leaving a vacancy for the remainder of the secretarial role. To date the association has a new constitution, bank account, and web site (www.nevillresidentsassociation.org) which includes meeting minutes, constitution etc. A survey was distributed to all residents with the July NRA Newsletter. Two speakers had been invited to address the meeting, Penny Ollosson, from Nevill Good Neighbours and Kevin Moore, from Lewes Living Streets.

Nevill Good Neighbours (NGN)

Penny Ollosson introduced the Good Neighbours scheme, which is a separate organisation from NRA, first set up in 2016. It has 26 DBS checked volunteers, who cover requests for assistance from residents of the estate, currently 43 mostly older residents. They help with lifts to medical appointments, small jobs, shopping, or just keep in touch with neighbours who live on their own. It is not an emergency service and does not encroach on services by local businesses. Requests are made by phone and followed up within 24 hours. Penny was pleased that in 2016/17 the service responded to 107 requests for help, whereas in 2022/23 they had 719 requests. She also appreciated the support from NRA. If you need help or want to volunteer:

Phone: 07548 069 063 (*if they don't answer right away, please leave a message and they will get back to you as soon as possible*)

Email: nevillgoodneighbours@gmail.com

Their website is: nevillgoodneighbours.org

Lewes Living Streets

Kevin Moore gave a talk about Lewes Living Streets, which is a local branch of a national organization that aims to improve pedestrian and cycle access, by slowing down and reducing traffic. They have managed to achieve the 20mph speed limits in Lewes, set up community Speed Watch; supported the new pedestrian crossing on the Offham road, and campaigned for better pavements. He said Lewes was a vibrant pedestrian town that needed wider pavements, slower and less through traffic. He wanted to

encourage more walking, cycling and the use of public transport.

The problem of Nevill Road was discussed, with speeding cars and the dangerous junction at the south end of Nevill Crescent. He said ESCC was very unhelpful on these issues. They opposed 30mph speed check signs on Nevill Road, or any other method to reduce speed. If they were to consider the Nevill Crescent junction there would have to be a feasibility study, but ESCC wants local communities to pay 50% of the cost of any scheme.

He suggested that NRA should have a vision of the traffic changes needed on the estate. Residents should join Speed Watch in Lewes, and any potholes should be regularly reported. There is a new contractor who is keen to improve the service, so keep reporting.

(www.live.eastsussexhighways.com/report-problem)

The Survey

Although over 700 survey forms were delivered, only 25 were returned.

Problems raised: lack of gritting on the bus route; upkeep of the neighbourhood; overgrown hedges obstructing pavements; blocked road drains; noisy cars in the evening; Nevill Crescent access into the estate dangerous; parking on corner of Firle Crescent holding up busses; speeding cars on the estate, and potholes.

Suggested Improvements: A welcome pack; equipment for older children on the green eg basketball hoop; car pool; promoting the bus service; electrical charging points; greening the estate; shared equipment list.

Suggested Events: Local speakers; family and children's events; coffee mornings; plant and jumble sales; litter picks; best kept hedge; use of Crossway Green; street parties; barn dance; BBQs; gardening club; music events; Christmas Carol evening; jigsaw library.

Volunteers to Weed the Streets to Prevent Spraying with Weedkiller.

Nick Tigg informed the meeting of the concerns some residents have about the use of glyphosate by the County Council as a weedkiller on the estate. If there is enough support residents can ask for their road to 'opt out' of being sprayed by becoming part of a community weeding group. The residents of South Way have done this. There are 8 volunteers who go out about 6 times a year to pick up the weeds. This could also include litter picking or general upkeep. Many roads on Nevill have already

volunteered. The roads that still need co-ordinators are Windover Crescent, Hawkenbury Way, Nevill Crescent, and Middle Way. For further information contact Nick on 07990 877007 or email Nicktigg@yahoo.com

Festive Fair for local Artists and Makers

On 11 November 2023, NRA will hold a Christmas Fair at St Mary's Social Centre, 12 noon to 4.0 pm. There will be twenty stalls selling work from artists, makers, potters, textile artists. Cakes and drinks will be served, and the bar will be open.

The takings from Hilda's kitchen will be shared between the Royal British Legion and the Poppy Appeal, while other non-bar proceeds will go to NRA funds.

Other Issues

The meeting agreed that a leaflet promoting the local bus timetables would be produced and paid for by the association.

The NRA noticeboard on Nevill Green has been damaged. If anyone knows what happened, please contact a member of the committee, or e-mail carole.kirby@talktalk.net, so a claim can be made.

There have been many complaints, by wheelchair users, people with poor sight and mothers with prams, about **overgrown hedges on the estate**. Please check that the pavements bordering your property are clear of shrubbery.

Snow Shovels. In 2011 NRA purchased ten snow shovels which were distributed to residents in different roads on the estate to be used to clear snow from pavements in their area. The committee has since lost track of who has the shovels. If you were given one of these shovels or have inherited one from a previous owner, please e-mail carole.kirby@talktalk.net.

Committee Meeting held on 19 October 2023

Permission has been given for a defibrillator to be put on the wall of St Mary's Church Hall. The committee will now look into the full cost and the possibility of obtaining a grant. The quote NRA was given for refilling the two salt bins it owns was almost £800. They are now seeking help to reduce the cost. Other bins on the estate are filled by ESCC or LDC. The committee is also trying to get the blocked drains on the estate cleared.

On 15 December 2023 NRA is holding a Christmas Social Evening for all residents, 7.30 pm at St Mary Social Centre Christie Road. Come and meet your neighbours.

Reducing surface Water Flooding A discount on your water bills!

Homeowners are being encouraged to ensure that all rainwater falling on their properties discharges directly to the underlying chalk aquifer through either permeable paving materials or via soakaways or rain gardens. Exemption from the Southern Water surface water drainage charge can be sought when none of

the rainwater drains from the property into a public sewer.

<https://www.southernwater.co.uk/help-advice/sewers-and-drains/surface-water-rebate>

How to make a raingarden: Information on making raingardens can be found at:

<https://wearetap.org.uk/raingarden-campaign/>

Reporting drainage problems on public roads.

A reminder of the process to report drainage problems on public roads with ESCC and their contractors, Balfour Beatty:

<https://live.eastsussexhighways.com/report-problem/report-blocked-gully>. This gives options to report a flood, a

damaged drain cover or a blocked road drain. For the latter, to report a **blocked road gully** causing local flooding: carefully note the exact location of the blocked road gully. If possible, take a photograph of the drain and any surrounding flooding. This can be uploaded as part of the reporting process. Follow the East Sussex Highways link above to add details of the problem.

Nevill 2030 is a group of Nevill residents concerned about the climate emergency and loss of biodiversity. They are currently working on guidance about how to make our homes more energy efficient. Onezero (www.onezero.energy) is a new business in Lewes with the mission to get communities across the UK off fossil fuels. They say the housing stock on the Nevill is ideal for their bundle of home energy improvements - solar panels, battery storage and insulation - that can be installed in days by local tradespeople. The cost is typically less than £10k and homeowners could start saving money on their energy bills immediately. Nevill 2030 has invited them to explain their offer at a meeting at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, November 8th at St. Mary's Church Hall, Highdown Road.

The Next NRA Open Meeting for all residents 5 February 2024.

7.30 pm, St Mary's Church Hall, Highdown Road.

Contact numbers:

Sarah Neels: 07497 115349

Suzu Nelson: 07941 159463



A diverse range of wares from over 20 Artists and Makers

Refreshments, open bar, raffle and free parking.



Money taken for refreshments from Hilda's kitchen will be donated to the Royal British legion and the Poppy Appeal.