

## Nevill Residents Association meeting 10th February 2025 *Minutes*

### 1. Minutes of our last meeting (23rd September 2024) - agreed as a true record

**1a) Matters arising** not elsewhere on the agenda - none

### 2. Financial report (overview) - Kia

Thanks to Jane and her Festive Fair contribution, we have a balance of around £3,000. Approximately £2,000 of that is the grant for the traffic survey. We have committed to spending a good amount of the Festive Fair contribution of £375 on a social event for the estate.

Potential spend on refilling Grit bins - one of the two that are the NRA's responsibility is empty and one is half full. Filling both would cost £532 via Highways. Sheepfair asked that their bin also be filled by NRA but filling two bins already wipes out our resources. Mike Fisk has researched filling by buying bags of grit - much cheaper but requires a lot more residents' effort. Malcolm offered to help to shift grit and others may pitch in. **Agreed we'd pursue this initially.**

### 3. Help your NRA! Kia

We need more committee members and volunteers for specific projects. Kia and Suzy would both like to step down from the committee at the next AGM.

**Please let Lesley ([lesleyhealey267@gmail.com](mailto:lesleyhealey267@gmail.com)) or Suzy ([chairneville.residents@gmail.com](mailto:chairneville.residents@gmail.com)) know if you could join the committee.**

We want to thank Malcolm Young for taking on the NRA website, sorting it out and offering to load content as and when.

Defibrillator 'guardian' - Jane would like to hand this over by May 2025. Weekly visual checks and monthly tests, so minimal effort but best for people living close by or passing regularly. Ann Link said she and her partner may be prepared to share this as they live on Sheepfair. Later on, Kevin Simmons said it would be convenient for him to do too.

Speedwatch - 1 or 2 more people to share this would make a difference - only requires one hour per month. **Still sought**

Neighbourhood Watch alerts - NRA can become an affiliate member and we think we have someone to receive and post NW alerts.

### 4. Snow and ice around the estate – Suzy reported as Robert Massey was unable to attend

'Nevill Snow Angels' - WhatsApp group for people who would offer to help out others - has 15 members now but **needs re-advertising to encourage others.**

NRA has money to replace snapped snow shovels.

Mike Fisk is looking at getting bags to refill the two grit bins under NRA's ownership (see above under '2. Financial report')

### 5. Nevill bus service - Sarah O'Kane

Sarah asked about progress on pinch points for the bus route. Concerns that parking is stopping buses. Then people later in the route wait in vain for the bus with no information about what has happened.

Wendy Maples said there was a review for additional parking restrictions. She put in requests but Nevill requests don't meet the criteria. Kevin has been round with bus drivers and raised requests for additional yellow lines where bad parking will stop the bus. These weren't approved either.

Chris Martin at Compass - Wendy and Kevin have both been in touch about the non-arrival of the 9.05. Problems with the bus aren't notified to Chris for two days. Compass is subsidised by the Council so service failures need to be reported and acknowledged. The positive is better communication with Compass.

**Imogen volunteered to coordinate a petition or other campaign to request yellow lines where Kevin and Wendy had previously requested.**

Suggestion that we could get cones and put them where parking causes problems for bus. However, local residents wouldn't agree to that as they may not otherwise be able to park. Discussion - just for now won't go ahead with cones idea. Likely to be very controversial. Reasons for large bus discussed - Compass says it has to use the same buses for school journeys so have to have capacity. **Wendy will ask again why the bus is so big and whether the bus could be changed for a smaller one.**

Wendy reported a discussion about whether to have a bus shelter on the estate. Would at least provide a bench of sorts in the case of a long wait. Money available can't be used for anything else. Only place on estate with room is the stop below the shop. Agreed hardly ideal. Concerns expressed that Nevill would deprive other more needy areas of a shelter. Also suggested that we should get details of any proposal before it goes ahead since people that live by or across from that stop should be consulted as shelter could attract noisy groups.

Should also be parking restrictions marked on the road as bus often has to stop in the middle of the road. Sarah said - we need to make the most of our bus service. A shelter will at least be a visual prompt that the space is for a bus.

**In summary, we'll accept offer to bid for shelter but with proviso that local residents are consulted before installation.**

#### **6. Nevill Garden Trail, 2025 - Vicki**

It's the year for the Nevill Garden Trail. Have 3 hours of open time and need 10 gardens to make this a realistic event. Vicki has produced a poster for each road on the estate to make sure people know about it and can put forward their garden for the trail (handed out to people at the meeting). Will need maybe 4 or 5 more gardens to account for any that drop out. NRA will pay for initial outgoings, to be repaid from income. Usually enough money for charity donation - voted on by open garden owners. Date tbc but likely to be beginning of July. **Please let Vicki vickitrenhaile@fastmail.fm or Lynn Donoghue (via WhatsApp) know if you're interested in considering opening your garden or helping in other ways.**

#### **7. Pedestrian and traffic safety: Consultant's report and next steps - Suzy**

NRA secured grant from Town Council for consultants to look at pedestrian and cycling safety for our estate and approaches. Small group of Nevill residents have been liaising with consultant. Main finding is need for an additional pedestrian crossing from corner of Nevill Crescent to Christie Road opposite. Also the speed of cars going into the Nevill Crescent could be improved by narrowing the entrance. Another meeting shortly will finalise the proposals and priorities and will then put on website with the link notified to as many people as possible.

Matthew asked about a way to restrict the speeding up of cars approaching Nevill Road / Wallands school area from Offham Road, where they speed up going uphill and again going downhill. This is where Speedwatch sessions have found cars travelling in excess of 40mph. Consultants are looking at 20mph stretch to keep speed down further.

On another matter, Adrienne highlighted the left-over fence posts on the back of the pavement approaching Nevill Crescent from the hospital. She feels they are an obstruction and could they be removed? General feeling that this is a private land area but perhaps owners could be asked to remove the posts. Maria knows the owners and would have a word about them.

**Study will be put on website after the next consultant's meeting.**

#### **8. AGM and party proposal Sunday 18th May (proposed date) - Suzy**

Suggested to meeting that our AGM is at 6pm, with drinks and party from 7pm. Welcomed by the meeting, who feel that Sunday is a good day for a party.

#### **9. AOB**

- Imogen: **Consultation on SDNP Local Plan** finishes on 17th March 2025. Go to <https://www.southdowns.gov.uk/planning-policy/the-south-downs-local-plan-review/> to see documents. Please answer questions online (<https://sdnpalocalplanreview.commonplace.is/>) if you'd like, but it would be helpful to copy your points to a local councillor as well so they acquire the greater weight of the Town Council. There is a local meeting with councillors on 15th February, 1.30pm to 4pm at Cliffe Hall, 28 Cliffe High Street.

It is really important to get local views. Housing and other development sites are proposed and there are also policy points to consider eg, transport issues, active travel.

With lots of potential administrative changes (ie, unitary authority status for East Sussex County, plus a Sussex-wide mayor), a Local Plan provides a degree of protection through those administrative changes. Lewes Town is the largest town in the Park. The Plan sits at the Planning Authority level (i.e. SDNP) and the Neighbourhood Plan, currently under development by Lewes DC, needs to align with it.

Several ways to participate and give your feedback - complete the consultation online, write a letter to SDNP, feed back to councillors. Dinah asked that people raise the lack of representation of Lewes on the SDNP Planning Committee - a real issue when the bus station application was being discussed.

Matt emphasised the importance of the housing issues, lack of affordability and need for more affordable homes.

***Imogen will work with Malcolm to get it onto the NRA website.***

- **Estate Notice boards** - Tina and Ann look after our notice boards but need clarity about what can be put up. As a general guidance, we've agreed that classes and playgroups can be put up but not other commercial adverts. No political posts either. We want to leave to their judgement how long to leave things up on the boards.

- Wendy - **Southern Water** Paul Keene has been working to get engagement with Southern Water about drainage issues in particular. Wendy suggested we might like Paul to come to an NRA meeting to talk about this. TBC

- **Nevill street weeding** Nick Tigg asked for more people to join in the group and participate in street weeding to keep glyphosates away from our estate.

- **Flood Conference 31st October and 1st November 2025** - sponsored by the Town Council and organised with Love Our Ouse, Climate Hub etc. This commemorates the 25th anniversary of the last Lewes flood.

Meeting closed

**Date of AGM: Sunday 18th May, 2025 at 6pm followed by party from 7pm**

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Attendees: Suzy Nelson (chaired), Lesley Healey (minuted), Vicki Trenhaile, Kia Makepeace, Maria Birch, Kevin West (Cllr), Jenny Marsh, Tina Quinn, Jane Jackson, Steve Crowhurst, Simmy Viinika, Imogen Makepeace (Cllr), John Somerville, Brian Kirby, Carole Kirby, Dinah Morgan, Ann Link, Matthew Bird (Cllr), Sarah O'Kane, Rob Elvery, Penny Ollosson, Malcolm Young, Frances Lord, Kevin Simmons, Wendy Maples (Cllr), Kathryn Van Howe, Adrienne Soudain

Apologies: Mike Fisk, Robert Massey, Fiona Griffin, Steve Williams, Pat Williams, Ann Holmes, Carolyn and Derek Blayney, Cllrs Keene, Clews, Tigg, Blackwell, Livesey