



# Newsletter

November 2017

<http://nevillresidentsassociation.weebly.com/>

Chairman: Alan Chapman  
Co-Chair: Sarah Neels  
Executive Officer: Vacancy  
Treasurer: Daphne Wyatt

Minutes Secretary: Vicki Trenhaile

Editor: Carole Kirby

## Report from Residents Association meeting:

25 September 2017

### Flooding on Nevill Road

Early on the 8 September there was serious flooding on Nevill Road, from the junction with Nevill Crescent to the hospital. Water covered the road and pavement, and ran down the embankment. Sarah Neels met a representative from Southern Water, who said that their drains were clear, but the problem was caused by blocked road gullies, the responsibility of the Highways Department. He tried to alleviate the problem, but the water did not clear until the following day. Warning signage was not erected until late evening. NRA will write to the Highways Dept.

Flooding in Nevill has been a continued occurrence. It is hoped that a surface water management study by the local council and other bodies will produce a solution.

### Feedback on Neighbourhood Plan

Although most people supported the neighbourhood plan, there were concerns about the concept of low cost housing. The question is: is it deliverable? The problem is the high cost of land, the government requiring councils to get the full price for land, and the concept that affordable housing should be 80% of market price. It is hoped that this can be resolved, and together with more employment, local people can stay in the town. The plan also suggested that car parks could be built over, but not on. There was also a demand for more one to two-bedroom houses. A road-show of the completed plan will visit all areas of Lewes soon.

### 'Right of Way' path at the Old Race Course

The racecourse bridleway diversion (to the south-east of the racecourse building) has been refused by the Council. The Rights of Way team said there were a high number of objections to the original proposed plans and even after amendments relevant concerns were still outstanding. The decision will be appealed. To support similar campaigns, join the Open Spaces Society at <http://www.oss.org.uk/membership/become-a-member/>

The Residents Association is also considering the effective closure of a footpath that goes around the field by the reservoir above the chalk pit. There is a stile at either end, but the Rights of Way Team at the Council claim it is not a designated footpath. NRA is therefore applying to have it registered and need your support. Please visit our website, address above, to let us know your use of this path in the past.

### Policing

On 5 July a car was damaged by a group of youths. Early morning on 21 September the grocer's shop was broken into and £7000 worth of cash and cigarettes taken. Later a crowbar was found in the Sheepfair twitten and taken to the police. There have also been multiple reports of cars being entered without permission and the contents rummaged through, but

very little taken. The local police have only recorded six 'break ins' but it believed many incidents have gone unreported. Residents need to report these events by calling 101, or online [www.sussex.police.uk/reportline](http://www.sussex.police.uk/reportline). To establish the true scale of the problem NRA is undertaking an urgent survey. No individual case will be identified, but your help is needed to draw attention to what might become a larger problem. Our survey is at <http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/78JZ3GL>.

### St Mary's Hall in Highdown Road.

Over the last year there have been substantial repairs to the building to meet legal requirements, so the hall can continue its use in the community. Also, the annexe has been redecorated and is now a well-lit room with safety flooring suitable for meetings and other activities for approximately thirty people.

The hall is already the home to groups: badminton, WI, table tennis, dancing, adult ballet, pilates, and the monthly church ploughman's lunches. Both the hall and annexe are available for hire at £8 per hour. Call Mrs Diana Rogers, booking secretary 01273 474964 or Jackie Bishop 07813354350.

The NRA is in the process of applying to register the hall as a community asset. Such a registration, if granted, prevents the asset being sold without first being offered to the community. This is a long-term action as the hall has just been refurbished and the local church has made it clear there are no plans to sell.

### The Garden Trail

Sarah Blake and Carol Smithyes were congratulated for organising this year's successful Garden Trail. Aided by beautiful weather it raised £845 which was donated to St Peter and St James Hospice. Under discussion is the possibility of holding the trail every year, alternate years, or various times of the year. A leaflet drop is planned to gather feedback from residents.

### Christmas lunch at Christ Church

Anna Frearson is Planning a Community Christmas lunch at Christ Church for people who may be alone and isolated on Christmas Day. If you are aware of such people on the estate, please contact Anna at [vsmart04@gmail.com](mailto:vsmart04@gmail.com)

### Rat infestations.

There have been reports of significant rat infestations in parts of the estate, which the council has been investigating for over a year, particularly around the hospital and the Gallops. They ask residents to look out for signs of rat activity, particularly around bird-feeding stations, sheds and decking and to keep the ground clear of food. Report any sightings or evidence of rat activity online in the 'Report It' section of the website <http://www.lewes.gov.uk/23015> or ring 01273 471600

### Road Safety

To aid visibility when turning out of Highdown Road into Nevill Road, NRA has asked ESCC to extend the double yellow lines on Nevill Road. It is being considered, but

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