



Newsletter

November 2018

<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:

24 September 2018

Drainage

On the 10th of August we experienced a localised storm that dumped 40mm of rain in ninety minutes on the estate. One of our residents said that it was the most he had ever recorded in twenty-five years. Inevitably this caused the Nevill Road and Christie Road junction, and the recreation ground to flood. Within a few hours it had all soaked away, which is a much better performance than in the recent past. The committee is continuing to work with the various agencies, companies and councils that share the responsibility for drainage, and hope to see even more improvement, especially the sewage that escapes during these events. Residents can help by limiting the amount of water that gets onto the road from their property. If you have a drive, make sure it drains onto your property, also check your soak-away is working (don't forget that you get a discount on your water bill).

Gas Works

The NRA Committee is monitoring the progress of the gas mains replacement work and have raised a number of issues with SGN about road closures, the impact on waste collection, and the bus service on the estate. Councillor Ruth O'Keeffe has also taken up these issues and secured some commitment from the company to keep all those concerned informed of their progress.

The work has also highlighted the problem where extensions were built over gas pipes, and the meter is not relocated to an outside wall. If you might be in this position, talk to a gas engineer before the upgrade gets to you, otherwise you might be disconnected for more than a few hours.

If you experience any problems with the work, contact SGN on 0800 912 1700 or email them at mains@sgn.co.uk

Grit Bins

The grit bin at the top of Highdown Road has mysteriously disappeared. The association has received a grant for £200 towards its replacement, and the NRA has met the extra cost. The bin will be delivered by LDC soon.

The Racecourse

The enforcement officer for South Downs National Park reports that all planning applications for the racecourse have been rejected except for the large cross at the top of the gallops. There had been several infringements of the planning regulations, and two properties built without planning permission.

Neighbourhood Watch

The Town and Rural Neighbourhood Watch committee is still running, and will help people to set up a new group. With the reduction of PCSOs in the district there is a need for the community to be alert, and to help each other. Currently there are two verified Neighbourhood Watch schemes on Nevill Estate, and there is a trained team of 'Speedwatch' volunteers

If you would like to start a new NW scheme, then all it takes is for one person to go to www.sussexnwfed.org.uk click on 'Menu' and then click on 'Join us'. Follow the simple prompts to register, and then start setting up the scheme. The NW committee will then contact you. You can also email enquiries@sussexnwfed.org.uk.

If you would like to just receive crime and other key messages from Neighbourhood Watch and our partners, then simply register in a similar way.

Speeding on the Nevill Road

There is a campaign to slow down traffic on Malling Hill in Lewes and the committee are looking to join forces with them to see if we can get traffic to stop speeding along Nevill Road. If you would like to get involved, please make contact via our website (<https://nevillresidentsassociation.weebly.com/contact-us.html>) or via the contact numbers on the newsletter. Our local Speedwatch Group is also actively monitoring and reporting speeding traffic on the Nevill Road.

Tree Planting on Nevill

The Friends of Lewes Tree planting committee have agreed to plant three trees on the green in front of the shops. They decided a good group of trees would be ginko biloba (male, because the females have smelly fruits), which are very resilient and have pretty shaped leaves. Field maple, which grow well in our area and are very pretty in autumn. Whitebeam, which has very attractive flowers and orange berries. The planting will

take place on Sunday morning 18 November.

Residents who offered space on their drives for the delivery of the trees will be notified by FOL. Please could residents in that neighbourhood keep an eye on the trees once they are planted to make sure they do not dry out in hot weather, and, also for vandalism. The seat erected in front of the shops only a few years ago has already been vandalised, which is a worry.

It had been hoped to have trees planted on the square in Mount Harry Road, but when the chairman of the tree committee inspected the site it was covered with Medway Utilities equipment. As soon as the equipment has been moved completely, another approach will be made to the committee.

Also, the green in Cross Way could be improved by a few trees. If you have any other ideas about tree planning that would enhance the estate, please e-mail carole.kirby@talktalk.net.

Is the County Council Going Bust?

Along with other Residents' Associations, NRA is concerned about the massive cut-backs ESCC are proposing. The consequence of this is that the community will have to try and fill the gap. Members of the committee are meeting with other residents' associations to try to address this, but will need help to do so. If you have any spare time, please think of us and get in touch. We are looking to fill various roles, including that of the joint chair who retires at the next AGM in May 2019.

Food Bank

The Association is exploring the possibility of establishing a food bank for the Nevill, which would be based at St Mary's Hall. As always this depends on resources and the scale of the need. If you have experience of helping to operate a food bank, or would simply like to help, please make contact with a member of the NRA committee.

St Mary's Hall

The application for Community Asset status for St Mary's Hall had been rejected by Lewes District Council because of an error on the application. Another attempt will be made.

A New Parking Problem

A car parked very inconveniently on a narrow piece of road between two drives for over a week without moving, making exiting these drives difficult and dangerous, turned out to belong to a Brighton resident, with an out of date Brighton parking permit. The owner of the car had spent the week in London, and had chosen to park their car free on our estate. They arrived by taxi from the station to pick up their vehicle and drive back to Brighton. Hope this is just a one off!

Nevill Residents Good Neighbour Scheme

Nevill Residents Good Neighbour Scheme is running smoothly, with several regular, and a good number of occasional, requests for help. The majority of calls are for lifts within the locality, although others appreciate home visits and help with small household tasks. The scheme had its AGM at St Mary's Church Hall in May and this was very well attended by volunteers, users of the scheme and residents of the estate. In our first year we answered a total of 66 calls. Please see our accompanying leaflet for contact details.

Appeal for new NRA Committee members

Since Alan Chapman gave notice at the NRA AGM on the 21 May 2018 that this is his last year as co-chair of the association, and Daphne Wyatt said she will retire as treasurer after this year, the committee is desperate for new blood. If you would like to help improve the estate, please get in touch with a member of the committee, or come to the next meeting. Since its creation eighteen years ago the association has campaigned for a playground on Nevill Green and added extra play equipment. A lighting column was gained for the Sheepfair twitten; it started the first Garden Trails to raise funds for the association; asked for yellow no parking lines; obtained grit bins; campaigned for a zebra crossing on Nevill Road, and opposed the application for a telephone tower on Wallands school.

Nevill Residents Association Meetings

Nevill Residents Association meetings are open to all residents of Nevill Estate. Do come along and listen, or even take part in the discussions that affect your community. We meet in St Mary's Church Hall (at the junction of Highdown Road and Sheep Fair) at 8pm for an hour or so.

The Next Meeting will be on –

Monday 21 January 2019, 8 pm in St Mary's Hall.
All residents welcome.

Contact numbers:

Alan Chapman - 01273 483501

Sarah Neels - 07504219256

Daphne Wyatt - 01273 475966