



Newsletter

July 2023

<http://nevillresidentsassociation.co.uk>

Joint Chairs: Sarah Neels
Susie Nelson

Treasurer: Tim Gorringer

Secretary: Tina Quinn

Editor: Carole Kirby

The Nevill Residents Association was formed just over twenty years ago, to give a voice to residents of the estate, and to promote the interests and rights of residents. All residents are members of the association. Over the years it has successfully achieved many improvements to the estate, which are now taken for granted: the play area on Nevill Green, the pedestrian crossing on Nevill Road, the steps from Firle Crescent to the Downs, tree planting on the greens, and a long list of other improvements. Since covid the association lost two important members of the committee and almost collapsed, but with the help of LDC officers and the enthusiasm of residents it has formed a new committee and agreed to change its constitution at a meeting held in St Mary's Social Centre, on Thursday 11 May 2023.

NRA Open meeting Thursday 11 May 2023 Held in St Mary's Social Centre

Over forty residents attended this open meeting to discuss the future of the association. With the help of Ruth Tahsin and Richard Tomkinson from LDC, the meeting discussed the possible changes to the constitution which had not been reviewed since the start of the association over twenty years ago. The officers would draft a new constitution and it would be finalised at the at the next meeting of the new committee.

A new NRA committee was then elected:

Co Chair: Sarah Neels
Co Chair: Susie Nelson
Secretary: Tina Quinn
Treasurer: Tim Gorringer
Newsletter Editor: Carole Kirby
Adam Manning Jones
Kia Makepeace
Lesley Healey
Jane Jackson

Several residents volunteered as road reps/newsletter distributors, but the full list was not able to be produced, as not everyone was present.

Treasurer's report

Rob Handy the treasurer has resigned from the committee and moved away from the estate. His report stated there was £330.65 in the account. Tim Gorringer has taken over the role, and it was hoped that the association would be able to hold social events to raise money to pay for projects on the estate, such as the installation of a defibrillator.

Other items

There will be a survey of Nevill residents to find out what issues were of concern to them. There was discussion about the 5G mast in Nevill Road, and it was decided that NRA would not get involved as there was a split of opinion amongst Nevill residents. It was also agreed that the profile of the association should be raised to ensure it was consulted on issues that would affect residents on the estate.

Committee meeting Wednesday 24 May 2023

This was the first NRA meeting with the new committee. With the help of Richard Tomkinson, an updated constitution was written. This can be viewed on the NRA web site. During general discussion about

the needs of the estate, it was decided that NRA would look into refilling the grit bins.

Committee meeting Monday 3 July 2023

At this meeting the committee discussed the possible siting and funding of a defibrillator. This will be researched. It was decided that the committee will ask the Fof L Tree committee to reconsider their application for trees to be planted on the verge on Highdown Rd, near the shops. The chair will be contacting 'Living Streets' about improving road safety on the estate. Overgrowing hedges blocking pavements, and speeding on Nevill Road were major issues. NRA web site will be updated and regularly reviewed.

Road Reps.

Many people have offered to be road reps. Their job is mainly to deliver the NRA newsletters. Most of the estate is covered, but we still need reps for Crossway, Middle Way, Nevill Road and Nevill Crescent. If you live on these roads or are on roads that already have a rep and would like to help, please contact: Tina Quinn, Secretary.nevill.residents@gmail.com.

Thank you

A big thank you to Vicki Tenhaille for patiently taking the NRA minutes over the last ten years, and helping to keep the association going.

Nevil Garden Trail Sunday 25 June 2023

Twelve residents across the estate kindly opened their gardens with three offering refreshments, including teas, cake and home-made lemonade. With an eye on the cost of living crisis, the ticket price was maintained at £3 each with accompanied children going free, and many residents propagated plants to sell on the day. Advertising leaflets and programmes were designed by Fiona Griffin, a Nevill estate resident and graphic designer. Around 50 programmes were bought from the Nevill shop prior to the event. On the day itself, glorious weather encouraged a further 80 people to come and wander around the gardens in the sunshine! A wonderful day was had by all with many positive comments on the gardens and event. Overall ticket sales were £375, boosted by plant sales and refreshments raising a further £630. After printing costs and wristbands, a total of £950 was raised for charity. The money will be split between two charities, one local and one international. Wildflower Lewes, formed in 2016 to encourage wildflowers into the urban areas of

Lewes, will receive £300. This will help them buy seeds for High Street Pollinator Corridor troughs, overwinter plants and improve their nursery facilities. The majority of the funds, £650, will go to the DEC Turkey-Syria Earthquake Appeal. Everyone who participated seemed to enjoy the day and we look forward to repeating the event in two years' time.

St Mary's Children's Sports.

A fun time was had by over 50 children at St Mary's Children's Sports Day for their 75th anniversary year. From egg and spoon to afternoon sprints, the spirit of the young sports people and their wonderful friends and family who cheered them on could not be beat. Well done to Cleo; winner of the sportsmanship cup, and to all those who participated. Thank you to all our sponsors, volunteers, and cake donators.

Nevill 2030

Nevill 2030 is working on a Nevill Home Energy Action Guide. They have received a small grant from Lewes Town Council to subsidise whole house retrofit assessments. These provide a guide to refurbishing your home to make it more energy efficient, taking into account all the ways the house loses heat and suggesting which actions to take first. They indicate likely costs of the recommended improvements. The costs of the assessments range from £380 for a 2 bedroom house to £590 for a 4 bedroom house. Nevill 2030 will pay half of the cost of the assessment provided that the information produced can be included in the guide. In allocating the funding they will prioritise the most common house types and homes that have not been extended. If you are interested in having your home assessed, please email: Nevill2030@gmail.com.

They organised a well attended gardening question and answer session in April, and are planning events in the autumn on whole house retrofits and planting trees in gardens to promote biodiversity and provide shade.

Free Energy and Utility Bill Advice

Ovesco's community energy champions offer free, impartial advice and support around energy use in the home. You can contact them to arrange a 1:1 or feel free to pop along to one of their drop-in sessions where they can offer:

- Energy Bill Health Checks
- Help with reducing energy usage in the home
- Free energy reducing kits and insulation materials for the home
- Checking eligibility for the warm home discount and energy related financial support
- Help with approaching suppliers regarding arrears, direct debits and payment plans

Weekly drop-in surgeries for energy advice:

- Tuesdays 10am – 12pm: Lewes Town Hall
- Wednesdays 10.30am – 1pm: Lewes House

Nevill Good Neighbours

With the lockdowns fading into the past, Nevill Good Neighbours continues to be busy in our community. In fact, they are pleased to be busier than ever. In the twelve months leading up to their last AGM, Nevill Good Neighbours provided 539 'helps' to people in the

Nevill community, nearly five times more 'helps' than their first year in 2017/2018. Much of their work has been 'keeping in touch' calls to neighbours who may be living on their own. They also have provided regular 'helps' plus over 100 ad hoc requests for assistance, including shopping trips, odd jobs, lifts, and prescription pick-ups.

It's very satisfying when assistance is appreciated. Feedback from our neighbours has been very positive. One neighbour said "You've been so wonderful. So many times, I've needed something, and you've been there. It's so comforting" And another neighbour commented "Since I had my stroke I don't know where I'd be without Nevill Good Neighbours. They have helped me so much. I don't drive and they give me lifts to the doctors and dentists. They shop for me every week. I don't know where I would be without them".

They were very happy to be able to support their neighbours through another twelve months. The service was ready when it was most needed. They have plenty of capacity to help so do not hesitate to contact if you would like a "helping hand" around the home (see supported activities below), please contact them via the details below. They always welcome new volunteers. Please contact them to become a 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

For those not familiar with the Nevill Good Neighbours Scheme, they are a free DBS checked volunteer service providing assistance with daily activities that include (when permitted): *small household jobs, collect shopping or prescriptions, help with computers or paperwork, put out bins, occasional lifts to the shops or medical appointments, walking the dog or feeding the cat, letter writing or form filling, providing company (over the phone during the past 12 months or in person when rules permit)*

Services are free after petrol costs (50p per mile or parking charges), if any. All volunteers are DBS checked.

The Local Buses

Buses: 128 service is to improve.

We cannot publish a full timetable for the Nevill as we have done before, because most of the timetables will change on 23rd July. However, the 128 service will improve, with buses every half hour during daytime Monday to Saturday, and it will run to Tesco every hour. Nevill buses will not become dial-a-ride. The Sunday service provided by CTLA will remain the same. Times from Firlie Crescent: 10.56, 11.56, 12.56, 13.56. Compass Buses will publish their new timetable on their website very soon: compass-travel.co.uk. Some villages will change to Flexibus dial-a-ride service. Other routes such as 121 will become more frequent. Service 129 via Winterbourne will be less frequent. According to the DoT web site, the £2 fare cap on the 128-129 busses will hold until 31 October 2023.

The Next NRA Open Meeting for all residents Monday 18 September 2023,

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

Contact numbers:

Sarah Neels: 07497 115349

Sue Nelson: 07941 159463

Tina Quinn: 07935 197721