

Purbrook and Widley Area Residents' Association.

Newsletter no.17.February, 2009.

Committee members.

Pam Cooper (Chairman) 9225 3941.

Maureen Houlihan (co/chair) 9220 7772

John Briggs (Vice Chairman) 9264 1118

Sue Bancroft (Secretary) 9225 0791

Bill Blackett (Treasurer) 9248 2641

Sheila McIntosh (Membership sec.) 9225 8144.

Anne Willoughby (Deliveries sec.) 9225 6008

Mike Mills (Environment) 9278 5218. Brian Woolley 9238 1645.

David Heck 9226 5950. Stephen Long 9232 7197

Gina Doggett 9225 5890. Michael Saunders (co/treas) 9264 8966.

The next meeting is on Thursday 26th February at 7.15 in Deverall Hall. The Agenda is:-

- 1) An update on the West of Waterloo Development by Jackie Wilson (MDA Liaison Officer, Winchester County Council.)
- 2) A talk by Val Swarbrick called "The History of Darts".
- 3) A presentation by Stephen and Linda Long of the work carried out by the Association's Environmental Group at Sandy Brow and Penjar Pond.
- 4) Photographs by County Councillor Robin McIntosh of buildings in Purbrook which could be considered for inclusion in the conservation area will be shown, along with a short talk on the implications of living in a conservation area.
- 5) Any Other Business from the floor.

Report on PAWARA's AGM on 27/11/08.

- a) Pam Cooper, Bill Blackett and Sheila McIntosh were re-elected. Michael Saunders was elected as shadow Treasurer. Maureen Houlihan was elected as temporary co-chairman. Muriel Smith resigned, for the present. The existing Auditors were also re-elected.
- b) The Association Constitution was amended to reduce the number of public meetings and Newsletters from 4 to 3 per annum, but the original numbers can be reinstated later if necessary.
- c) Thanks are due to Paul Chadwick for his informative presentation on archaeological work carried out on the site of the MDA. An original Tithe Barn was located at Plant Farm. Due to work in progress this is not currently open to the public, but the possibility of public access will be reviewed in due course.
- d) The PAWARA accounts were accepted. The Environmental Grant balance currently stands at £1750.82.

Other Items of interest.

1) WILL ALL RESIDENTS WHO HAVE NOT YET RENEWED THEIR SUBS FOR 2008-2009 PLEASE DO SO AT THE NEXT MEETING.(Subs are £3 per person.) ALTERNATIVELY PLEASE SEND YOUR SUBS TO THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY AT 119 CORBETT RD. WATERLOOVILLE PO7 5TF. WE DO NEED THESE FUNDS TO ENABLE US TO CONTINUE THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEWSLETTER AND THE WORK WE ARE DOING FOR THE BENEFIT OF EVERYONE IN THE AREA.

2) Report from Joe Toohey of Capita Symonds. The Maurapas Way/Hambledon Rd roundabout works have progressed considerably and the highway works are due to be completed by the end of February. The remaining landscaping work will be carried out during the relevant planting season, this to be completed by the end of April.

The design of a new woodland, to be situated near the existing Marrelsmoor Row, has been completed and the procurement of a landscape contractor to carry out the work is under way. This woodland is to consist of 2.4 hectares of new trees, and a wildflower meadow to compensate for any tree removal that is required for the development, and also to provide an enhanced wild life habitat. This new woodland is a requirement under the European Species Licensing that has been obtained for the development and also as part of the relevant planning conditions.

The work is to be completed in line with the relevant tree planting season, ie by the end of February.

3) Several residents reported to C.C. Robin McIntosh that the Meadow on Plant Farm had been ploughed and a crop sown. Also there was unwarranted damage to some of the surrounding trees. This meadow has never been farmed and is usually full of wild flowers, including orchids, and many species of butterfly, moths etc. Robin contacted Jackie Wilson and arranged a site visit as a result of which the landowners, Grainger Trust were informed. They in turn contacted the farm contractors who were advised that they could harvest the current crop, but thereafter the meadow must be returned to its natural state. Application has been made by Winchester C.C. to put Tree Protection Orders on the trees and hedgerow. Thanks to the prompt action of the residents, of Robin and of Jackie we will hopefully see the flora and fauna return within a few seasons

Jackie is also looking into the dumping of rubbish at the Milk Lane site entrance.

4) A letter was sent by David Heck on behalf of the Association, on 14th November to thank the Council for improved road and pavement sweeping

5) Our group of volunteers will continue to enhance the Penjar Pond and the woods at Sandy Dell. It is hoped that during late summer the remaining silt will be removed from Penjar Pond. This will allow water to be retained throughout most of the year which will be beneficial to wild life.

We are looking for further projects once the work at the Pond is finished. If any one knows any areas in Purbrook/Widley that could do with tidying up please let the committee know.

We need as many volunteers as possible, for 2 hours a month. We meet between 9.30 and 11.30, second Sunday of each month, at Penjar Pond, starting Sunday March 8th, Sunday 12th April and Sunday 10th May. (Report by M.Mills)

6) Waste collections in the Borough. People who protested at the beginning of 2008 about the move to fortnightly collections of household waste received a standard letter saying that between April 07 and March 08 the council received only 37 formal complaints(0.07% of households affected). Perhaps the relevant words were "FORMAL complaints."

When "over 1000" members of the Citizens Panel responded to an Environmental Questionnaire last summer, the council stated on one side of their report. that 75% were happy with the waste collection service, but on the second page that 46% are unhappy with the FREQUENCY of those collections. If anyone feels strongly about this issue, then it is essential that they continue to make formal complaints, keep the pressure up and make sure that the council does not understate the degree of opposition to the new system, in any future articles etc.

7) Old Purbook Garage Site. Tesco's planning application has been turned down by the Council. Watch this space.

8) Development of the old sports field site on Stakes Road. Nothing to report at present, but your Committee continues to monitor the situation.

9) Lottery money has been secured for Waterloo Library and four other local libraries, to be spent on building Learning Zones. The work at Waterloo is due for completion in 2010.

10) In the recent cold weather it is understandable that people want to feed the birds. However, leaving out kitchen scraps, particularly cooked foods, will attract not birds but rodents. This has been commented on as a real problem by some residents. The Council say that they will only ADVISE against this practice unless it becomes a real Public Health issue. Could Association members ensure they, at least, are not guilty.

Hope to see as many of you as possible on February 26th, after which the next meeting will be on June 25th, 7.15pm, in the Deverall Hall.

