

Newsletter No.3 - March 2007

Thanks again to all of you who've joined the Hill Top Road Residents' Association and for your ideas on the issues we should focus on. For those who still want to join, you're still welcome to – please drop your subs (£2 waged / £1 concessions, plus any donations) together with your name, address and email (if you have one) through the door of number 64. Remember the membership is per person (not per household) and residents are defined as anyone who lives in or owns a property in Hill Top Road.

If we delivered this newsletter to you on paper, it means that we don't have an email address for you. If you have email and would prefer to receive it electronically, please send your email address to secretary@hilltoproad.org.uk.

Minutes of committee meetings are available on the website. If you wish to receive paper copies, please contact Stephen Jones (no. 62, tel. 421643).

1. Warneford Meadow

We sent out an update on 13th March. Please contact us if you didn't get a copy. We now understand that the Strategic Development Control Committee will definitely not be considering these applications on 28th March, and probably not until the end of May.

2. Parking and traffic calming

Parking

David Sutton has been in contact with the County Council to obtain information on possible residents' parking schemes and traffic calming. This revealed that consultation in relation to a Residents' Parking programme for the Divinity / Southfield / Hill Top area is to be started in June / July 2007. The consultations and legal procedures can take 18–20 months before any parking restrictions are implemented. Residents are consulted, traffic surveys carried out and commuter data collected before decisions are taken.

Residents' parking requires there to be parking bays. One of the issues that will arise is that Hill Top Road is only wide enough for residents' parking bays on one side of the road unless part of the pavement is also used to provide the required width of clear road.

The regulations for parking bays are as follows:

- 3 metres width of road must be clear of parked vehicles
- 1.8 metres width required for parking bays

Therefore the road needs to be a minimum of 6.6 metres wide to allow parking on both sides of the road.

Our road is 6.1 metres wide, mostly, so this is not wide enough to allow parking on both sides of the road. Elsewhere (eg. Bickerton Rd) part of the pavement is used for parking bays but there must be a walkway of at least 1 metre. Most of our pavements are 1.5 metres wide. It is possible therefore that some pavement could be used to allow parking on both sides of the road.

You can ask for your driveway to be marked by a white painted line, currently costing £50. This deters people from parking there; the householder can, of course, park on the line.

Traffic calming

There are no traffic calming measures planned by the Council. They can be asked to consider calming measures as a result of increased traffic or a history of accidents. Parking and road width can influence measures adopted. Options are humps or speed cushions. Also, DRARA are actively campaigning for the area to be a 20mph zone. We are also writing a letter to the golf club asking them to remind members to watch their speed.

If you want more information before the consultation starts, please contact David at number 12.

Parking survey

We are planning to carry out a survey on Wednesday 21st March to establish how many cars parked during the day on Hill Top Road do NOT belong to residents. You should have received instructions and dashboard notices in connection with this. (If not, please contact Stephen Jones at no. 62.) At various points during the day we will count non-residents' cars parked in the street. This information will help give us an independent picture of the current parking situation, both in relation to residents' parking plans and the parking implications of any development on the Meadow.

3. Burglary, anti-social behaviour and vandalism

We would like to organise an open house event in the near future at which the community police officer will be answering questions on these topics. For example 'What should we do when somebody's

burglar alarm goes off?', 'How can we protect against vandalism ourselves?'

4. Rubbish collection/recycling

We have sent initial feedback on the introduction of wheelie bins to the City Council pointing out that some bins have not been properly emptied or put away. If you would like us to channel further comments, please send them to Laura Elliott at no. 60. We plan to invite a recycling expert to a future open-house meeting to clarify areas of doubt and answer specific questions.

If you have any immediate queries about recycling, please feel free to contact us for help.

5. Brookes' Licensing Applications

DRARA have co-ordinated an objection to the applications by Brookes to extend the licensing hours for student bars. There is going to be public hearing on these applications on Tuesday 3 April, 9.30am at the Town Hall.

6. Hill Top Road website: www.hilltoproad.org.uk

The website is up and running and is updated regularly. It provides information on the aims of the committee and its constitution, minutes of meetings and previous newsletters, documents relating to current issues, details of events of specific interest to HTR residents, information on how to join the HTRRA and contact the members. Please give us any feedback / suggestions.

7. Music

There are a number of singers and instrumentalists in Hill Top Road who might like to get together to play music. If interested, please contact Stephen Jones at number 62 (treasurer@hilltoproad.org.uk). Also, if you are interested in singing with the East Oxford Community Choir, please let Stephen know and he will pass your details on to the organiser.

Committee members

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