

NEWSLETTER No 1

3rd November 2006

This is our first formal Hill Top Road Residents' Association Newsletter. It follows the Inaugural General Meeting and the formal establishment of the Hill Top Residents Association on 16th October 2006.

We will be coming round shortly to collect membership subscriptions from those who want to join, and to ask what you want from the association and how you want to be involved.

For an update on Warneford developments, please go to section 4, and let us know if you want to attend a residents' association meeting on this subject on Thursday 9th November.

1. Report of IGM

Over 30 residents attended the IGM held on 16th October together with a few other neighbours including our local Green Councillor, Nuala Young. Thank you very much all of you who came, and those who sent their messages of support.

We were delighted to have the Friends of Warneford Meadow's exhibition displayed, which a number of residents have worked hard to put together.

Thanks go to Michael Blight, the secretary of the Golf Club, for his generous hospitality and support for the Residents' Association.

In summary this is what was discussed and agreed:

History of HTRRA

Graeme Salmon chaired the meeting, and opened with a brief summary of the 30 year history of the residents' association. We are all indebted to Graeme and other longstanding residents for their hard work on previous campaigns on the street's behalf. We hope to put a brief history on our website (see below, also available on paper on request).

Constitution

We discussed the proposed draft constitution in some detail. After clarification about the definition of membership (see below) and the process for electing the committee, some minor amendments were made and the first constitution approved. A copy will be put on our website and people are welcome to ask us for either a paper or electronic version.

Committee nomination and election

The maximum number for the committee had been agreed as seven and the minimum four. 12 people expressed initial interest. However, several people then decided that they would prefer to stand down and offered instead to be involved in specific projects or areas of activity. So in the end we had the right number of nominees without an election, and your committee is:

- Laura Elliott (60 HTR)
- Stephen Jones (62 HTR)

- Becky Miles (30 HTR)
- Kerry Patterson (59 HTR)
- Karen Spiller (64 HTR)
- David Sutton (12 HTR)
- Floris Van den Broecke (5 HTR)

Officers

It was agreed that the officers (chair, secretary & treasurer) would be appointed by the committee members from within their number at their next meeting (see below).

Membership and subscriptions

It was agreed that membership would be open to all residents of Hill Top Road. Membership is per individual not per household. Residents are defined as anyone who lives in or owns a property in Hill Top Road. Other people may join as members at the discretion of the committee.

The annual subscription was set at £2.00 (waged) and £1.00 (unwaged) per person per year. However, some people thought that this was too low, and it was agreed that if people wanted to give an additional donation this would be most welcome! This would help with the costs of starting up the association, and extra costs linked to the work on the Warneford developments.

Links to DRARA

It was emphasised and agreed that the HTRRA is not a replacement for DRARA, which many of us belong to and value. But a Hill Top Road Residents' Association would enable us to focus on street -specific issues more effectively, and would be a useful addition to the work of DRARA. We will be able to continue to link to DRARA as a group and as individual members.

HTRRA Activities

Suggestions included:

- Traffic & in particular large lorries
- Parking and parking permits
- Social activities
- Rubbish and recycling – and the new wheelie-bins
- Warneford Meadow developments
- Other developments
- Living and working with students
- Houses of Multiple Occupancy (HMOs)
- Baby sitters list
- Project on the history of Hill Top Road and its residents
- Vandalism and anti-social behaviour

The committee agreed to canvass residents in more detail to get further ideas and input.

2. The HTRRA Committee

The committee met for the first time on 24th October. Officers were elected as follows: Becky Miles as Chair, Laura Elliott as Secretary and Stephen Jones as Treasurer. Karen Spiller agreed to be the Membership Secretary.

3. Membership and getting involved

As we agreed at the IGM, we will need to collect membership subscriptions shortly from those who want to join the association, and want to talk to you, whether or not

you want to join, about what activities we should be focussing on, what you want from the Residents' Association and most importantly how you want to be involved. So, we will call on you in the near future, unless you let us know that you would prefer not (contact details below).

We know that the Warneford Meadow developments are very important to everyone, but there are many other things that people are concerned about or interested in. There are not just negative issues and concerns; one thing that many people have said recently is that they are getting to know their neighbours much more than in the past and feel much more part of a community.

4. Warneford Meadow Developments - UPDATE

As time was limited for this topic at the IGM, people at the meeting asked us to organise another meeting for further discussion and information exchange prior to the outline planning applications going to the City Council's North East Area Committee and decision-making Strategic Development Control Committee (SDCC). We think that the applications will be discussed at the North East Area Committee on 28th November and then decided at the SDCC on 29th. At time of writing this has yet to be confirmed by the Council.

We have therefore provisionally fixed a date

Thursday 9th November at 6.30pm

The Golf Club has generously offered use of their facilities again. But we need to have enough people to make it worthwhile doing, so we would be grateful if you could let Becky Miles know if you intend to come by this Monday, 6th November.

HTRRA has already expressed our collective opposition to the current outline planning applications. We will have speakers in opposition to the plans at the forthcoming Council meetings when these are confirmed.

We have been advised by the Chair of the SDCC that, while it is understood that as a street we oppose these plans outright, we must also not lose the opportunity of influencing the type and scale of the proposed developments, This is a key opportunity to report that the street is strongly opposed to a student development if development of some kind cannot be avoided. Therefore we intend to communicate that view to the Council.

Friends of Warneford Meadow, the wider campaigning group, have a public meeting with speakers at Cheney Community Hall on Thursday 16th November at 7.30pm.

5. Hill Top Road Website: www.hilltoproad.org.uk

We have already registered our own website and various people are putting it together. Those with access to the internet and computers will be able to see regular updates and news, as well as committee meetings minutes, etc. And you will be able to contact us via the website.

However, we know that a lot of people prefer ordinary paper newsletters and like real people-contact. We will make sure that those people without email addresses are kept as informed and involved as those who have.

6. Representing you all

We have all agreed that it is very important that members of the committee and any other working groups try to make sure they represent the range of different views of residents on any given issue. Of course, we may have to make a final recommendation or come down clearly on one side or another, and will make sure we then represent the majority view of our members and residents. We will therefore be asking you regularly what you think about things and very much want to hear from you. So if you have anything you are concerned about, want us to raise, have a view about – let us know.

THIS NEEDS TO BE YOUR RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

You can contact the committee through:

Becky Miles: (No. 30) chair@hilltoproad.org.uk

Laura Elliott: (No. 60) secretary@hilltoproad.org.uk

Stephen Jones: (No. 62) treasurer@hilltoproad.org.uk