

blurb!

The regular newsletter of
 Brookvale
Community Association

ISSUE 31
November 2005

In this issue: Call for new Committee Members • 193 May Street • Local Football Team • Lottery winners • and more...

Do you care about Brookvale?

The Brookvale Community Association has cared for over 30 years.

The various volunteer Committee Members have worked hard to promote a sense of community and have fought long and hard battles with the local Council on planning, highway, conservation and licensing issues. In fact we have been so effective that we now have a 5% 'say' in the outcome of the development of the allotments in Churchill Way. The events we organise for the community have never before been so well attended. Around 200 Brookvale residents came to our September picnic.

This is now all about to be lost, and **we are facing a crisis**. The number of volunteers involved on the Committee has fallen to a drastically low level and the Association is in danger of being dissolved. This would mean that we will no longer have a 'voice' regarding changes to our living environment and we would lose the Hall to whoever the Council decides to grant the lease.

If you care about this historical area and the constant battle to maintain its identity together with encouraging a more cohesive community, please consider joining the Brookvale Community Association. The time you would have to give up will be minimal, there is one meeting a month and of course the social events to help organise, which are great fun for everyone. In fact you can be as involved as much or as little as you would like.

If you are interested please contact Brookvale Community Association's Secretary, Karon Chewter, for more information **before 1st December**:
Call (01256) 427290 or email karon.chewter@brookvale.org.uk

For all the latest local news , events and information, visit our website:

www.brookvale.org.uk

September crime meeting

The public meeting on Crime & Safety in Our Community was a great success. Thank you to all the residents who came along on 14th September to be part of the lively discussion.

Our local beat bobby, PC Lee Stanbrook, was joined by officers from Hampshire County Council's ACSO scheme (Accredited Community Safety Officers) who work alongside the police, dealing with lower level crime and nuisance behaviour, allowing the police to concentrate their resources on tackling more serious crime.

Officers from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council were also present and discussed ways in which the council is trying to reduce crime and Anti-Social Behaviour. We also had two representatives from the local Neighbourhood Watch Association give a presentation on how Neighbourhood Watch can empower local residents to tackle the issues of crime in our community.

It was very clear from the views that residents expressed that there is definitely a perceived increase in crime, regardless of what the official statistics actually are. Specific issues raised included:

- anti-social behaviour caused by children as little as four years old, up to their late teens
- vandalism to public property and parked cars (especially at night time, caused by young drinkers on their way back home from town)
- vandalism and overt drug dealing at the Downsland Parade shops
- night time racing/speeding on Worting Road and Churchill Way
- securing shared alleyways between houses

PC Stanbrook again reiterated the importance of reporting crime and anti-social behaviour. He explained that police resources are naturally concentrated on areas where crime is being reported. If more crimes were reported, no matter how small or insignificant they might seem, we would have more resources dedicated to our area.

This is the biggest point of action on which you can have a direct impact. Even if you are calling after an event has happened, if it's just a case of kids

causing havoc on an ongoing basis, help the police to build up a picture of the problems we face in our area. Several car wing mirrors were kicked off of cars parked in Lower Brook Street a few days ago and yet only a handful of people bothered to report the incident.

if you don't feel it's worth your effort to pick up the phone and report it, please think again. We are aware that there might be some confusion over who to call to report incidents like these, so we have put together a cut-out-and-keep guide below to keep by or under your telephone. Please use it. Please put the Hampshire Police number into your mobile phone and use it when you're out and about in case you witness a crime or anti-social behaviour in progress.

Several residents put their names forward to establish local Neighbourhood Watch schemes. We look forward to further developments on that front.

Since the meeting, there has been a notable increase in ACSO patrols in the area and PC Stanbrook's beat has been split into two, allowing him to spend more time in a smaller area whilst a colleague takes on the other half of his beat (he still looks after Brookvale).

An audio recording of the full meeting will be available to stream from our website in mid-December. Please visit www.brookvale.org.uk/crime



Brookvale
Community Association

HELP REPORT CRIME!

Is the crime in progress or of a serious nature (eg. burglary, assault, rape) or is human life at risk?

Call 999 immediately

To report all other crime and anti-social behaviour to Hampshire Police, including something that is no longer in progress:

Call 0845 045 4545 and ensure your call is assigned a reference number

Report ongoing anti-social behaviour and other ongoing lower level crime issues to HCC's ACSO officers. They can assist the police in gathering evidence and help to reduce crime through their presence alone:

Call 0845 600 1747 (office hours)

Report serious ongoing anti-social behaviour problems to the ASB officer at Basingstoke & Deane:

Call Jason Murphy on 01256 844844

Successful picnic event

Thank you to all the residents who participated in our Community Picnic on 3rd September.

It's hard to believe now with the awful weather and darker evenings now upon us, but we were fortunate to have glorious summer weather on the day of the picnic. Judging by the smiling 200+ faces that joined us throughout the afternoon, it seemed everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

We built upon the success of our 2004 picnic, introducing live music from a fantastic local school steel band, a bouncy castle for the kids (and also the adults at the end of the afternoon!) and competitive games and races.

Thank you to Eric, Marco Polo, BCOT, Rejuvenate and Esperanto's for their donated raffle prizes and also to Cllrs John Shaw and Doris Jones for all their help. Thanks also to the guys and girls from the Hampshire Fire Service who were on hand to give demonstrations and fire prevention advice.

193 May Street

The new owners of 193 May Street have finally put in a planning application, despite having been developing the property without consent for several months. The owners tried to pull the wool over the community's eyes and didn't display the statutory site notice correctly in an attempt to get through the public consultation period without any objections being raised!

A council officer actually had to come down to the site to put a site notice up and start the proper 21-day consultation period. We still aren't satisfied that the notice has been placed in a prominent enough location.

The owners are planning on converting the old DriveSound building into an Afro-Caribbean take-away/cafe/snack-bar that would be open from 9am to midnight, six days a week.

Already, signage which contravenes the Town & Country Planning (Control of Advertisements) Regulations has been attached to the building. It has been reported that the applicant wishes to hold street parties at which food will be cooked and served in the street and music will be played with no regard for local residents. There is very little detail about the proposed business in the planning application. Our greatest

concerns are: noise and disturbance to residents, cooking odours, the already strained parking situation getting worse, an increase in through traffic to our area, the degradation of a residential conservation area and the possible increase in loitering by youths who will use the snack bar as a drop-in centre.

Many residents have contacted us to raise significant concerns to the plans.

One wrote to us saying, "my young daughter's bedroom window is just 10 metres away! The increase of traffic, noise and disturbance will frighten her and disturb her sleep."

Another resident commented, "where will all the customers park? The street is struggling with residents' own parking as it is. And imagine the litter that will be chucked about in our street, and the noise in our Conservation area!"

It is expected that the application will be refused by the Planning Officer managing the case under delegated authority, and that it won't even make it to the decision committee. But this might not happen and the applicant can always appeal against the decision.

A number of residents have decided to go around canvassing for petition signatures. We also urge you to write in to voice your objections **before 17th November** (the cut-off date) - nothing makes more of an impact to the decision committee than a pile of written objections.

You can view the application on the council's website at:

www.basingstoke.gov.uk/planning and following the links to the "Planning Applications Register".

The application number is BDB/61052. Please write to the Planning Officer handling the application: Emma Davies, Development Control, Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, Civic Offices, London Road, Basingstoke, RG21 4AH. Don't forget to quote the application number in your letter.

Planning enforcement campaign

We reported in the August issue of Blurb that the council has conducted a comprehensive planning enforcement survey covering the entire Brookvale West Conservation Area.

Please don't underestimate the council's determination to crack down on every single case of unauthorised work.

This article continues on page 4 >

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Meg Green is now practicing from Healthworks at Worting House, Basingstoke

< News continued from page 3

Planning enforcement campaign

(continued from page 3)

A total of 174 breaches have been discovered by council officers and all of them will be enforced!

The Conservation Order came into effect in 1999. If you or a previous owner has carried out work to a property in the Conservation Area without planning consent, you will be forced by legal proceedings to put things back the way they were. Works that are up for scrutiny include: satellite dishes on front elevations (they must not be visible from the street), replaced walls, windows and doors, works to the roof and chimneys and removal of any period features.

The Planning Department is recommending that residents who are aware of unpermitted work to their property are upfront and honest and seek retrospective approval for the work by submitting a planning application. Approval will be, of course, subject to normal planning regulation. Call (01256) 844844 for more details.

New local football team

Congratulations to local resident, Roy Lewis of George Street, who has set up a local boy's football team. "Brookvale Youth" now play in the Under 13's Peter Houseman League. The team have so far played five matches - winning 3, drawing 1 and losing 1.

Roy is looking for somebody to coach the boys. If you have any previous coaching experience, please contact him on (07771) 927944. He would also welcome support from anybody who can lend a helping hand. If you want to support our local team, they play around every other week on Sundays at the Sherborne Road Playing Fields (opposite the Soldier's Return pub).

Deep Lane alterations

Look out for a full public consultation on this matter. We have had preliminary drawings from the council, but so far no firm plans. You can view the drawings at: www.brookvale.org.uk/deeplane

Halloween Event

Apologies that we had to cancel our planned Halloween Event. We simply didn't have enough people available to organise the event.

Lottery Winners

August 2005

1st (£50) E Thumwood (Southend Rd)

2nd (£30) R French (Townsend Rd)

3rd (£20) Mrs Taylor (George St)

September 2005

1st (£50) Mrs Grenhelf (Lower Brook)

2nd (£30) Margaret Aubrey (May St)

3rd (£20) Mr & Mrs Wilkinson (Solbys)

Congratulations to our winners! It is both easy and fun to play the Brookvale Lottery and support your local Community Association at the same time.

Information on how to play the Brookvale Lottery can be found on our website:

www.brookvale.org.uk/lottery

Alternatively, please contact our Lottery Agent, Pam Mansfield (see details in the right hand column).

Upcoming Events

Brookvale Baby & Toddler Group

Every Wednesday during term time,
1:15pm - 2:45pm, Village Hall

See our website for more details or call Helen on 421141. New members are always welcome...

3Cs Coffee Morning

Saturday 3rd December,
10am-midday, Village Hall

Don't feel like you're part of your community? Meet your neighbours and find out more about what's going on in your local area. Join us for Coffee, Cakes and Chat at 3Cs! Your County Councillor, Jo Kelly, will be present at 3Cs Mornings to conduct open surgeries.

All other events have been cancelled until an expanded Committee can take the Association and its programme of Community Events forward. Please help us! (See our front page)

BCA Information

More up-to-date information can always be found on our website: www.brookvale.org.uk

For information on the Village Hall or to book tickets for BCA events, please contact:

Chris Hall,
Hall Bookings Agent
(01256) 351074
chris.hall@brookvale.org.uk

For information on the Brookvale Lottery, please contact:

Pam Mansfield,
Lottery Agent
(01256) 324313
pam.mansfield@brookvale.org.uk

For any information on local disability/mobility related issues, please contact:

Chris Hall,
Disability & Mobility Co-ordinator
(01256) 351074
chris.hall@brookvale.org.uk

For any other information, please email:

info@brookvale.org.uk

Your local councillors are:

Cllr John Shaw
(01256) 461776
cllr.john.shaw@basingstoke.gov.uk

Cllr Doris Jones
(01256) 415062
cllr.doris.jones@basingstoke.gov.uk

Your county councillor is:

County Cllr Jo Kelly
(01256) 328702
jo.kelly@hants.gov.uk

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