

SLEEPERS HILL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2021

INTRODUCTION

This year's AGM will be held on Sunday 7 November 2021 at 12 noon in the John Stripe Theatre, University of Winchester, Sparkford Road. Parking is available on campus and we really hope that as many residents as possible will be able to attend. As in previous years, there will be an opportunity to meet and socialise over drinks after the meeting.

Our last AGM was held on 17 November 2019. Because of Covid restrictions there was no AGM in 2020 though an Annual Report and Treasurers Report was sent out in October 2020. This Annual Report therefore covers the period from October of last year until now.

CHAIR OF THE ASSOCIATION AND OF THE SLEEPERS HILL ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Chris Day took over as Chair of the Sleepers Hill Association (SHA) Committee in April of this year. Subject to confirmation at the AGM, he will become Acting Chair of the Association from November.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Since the last Annual Report, Anthony Pfiffner has retired from the Committee. Currently the Committee includes Chris Day (Chair), Jan Royston-Smith (Secretary), Steve Osborne (Treasurer), Katy Harrington, Tim Jones and Hamish Adair.

Steve Osborne, Jan Royston-Smith and Katy Harrington are due for re-election this year.

ROAD AND VERGE MAINTENANCE

Repairs to the roadway are planned to be carried out later in the Autumn. Under normal circumstances, maintenance of verges is the responsibility of the frontagers. However as a result of a particularly heavy rainstorm this summer a considerable amount of the St Mary's verge was washed away. The Committee considers that the current damaged verge at St Mary's is a safety hazard and it has therefore been agreed that its repair should be funded by the Association.

We had planned to undertake more extensive repairs to the roadway this year. However, we believe that the repair to the St Mary's verge is of higher priority and a recent survey of the road surface has shown that deterioration is less than it might have been. Therefore roadway repair will be limited to patching as in previous years; nevertheless the cost of the overall work is expected to be between £20,000 and £25,000.

The cost of work and building materials has gone up considerably this year and availability of contractors prepared to do the work is limited, but we are optimistic that the work can take place within the budgeted range.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

The Committee has concluded that, in view of inflation in the costs of material and labour for road maintenance running at considerably higher than the official RPI rate, the subscription for this year should be raised from £70 to £75, effective from today's date.

RESIDENTS LIST

An updated Residents List will be issued with the AGM Papers. Members are reminded that each Committee member has responsibility for a number of houses in terms of communication with residents. The relevant Committee member for each house is shown on the Residents List; please liaise with that person in the first instance on any relevant issue.

SUMMER PARTY

The 2021 Summer Party was held at Chanterwood and was a great success. Many thanks to Iain Douglas for allowing us to use his garden.

The 2022 Summer party will be held at The Pavilion, and will take place on Sunday 26 June.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Westacre: Westacre nursing home made a planning application in August 2021 to replace the existing extension on the current site. This should not have visual implications, but there could be considerable disruption to the road

Blue Larch House: The new house in the garden of Struts, Blue Larch House, was completed last winter.

Chingri Khal/Arthurs Court. The Chingri Khal development, now known as Arthur's Court, was completed this summer.

Little Snakemoor: Little Snakemoor has planning permission for four houses; we are not aware of any date for development.

FAST FIBRE INTERNET

The fibre to the property installation is complete and all deposits have been repaid. Some additional residents may be able to connect to the network; Openreach will be able to advise.

LEAF SWEEPING

We plan to carry out leaf sweeping again this year, during the last week in November.

MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION – KINGS CRESCENT

The Residents of Kings Crescent withdrew from the Sleepers Hill Association in 2017. Since then we have made several efforts to persuade them to re-join but without success. At present they have indicated that they will not consider re-joining until two issues have been sorted out. These issues relate to a perceived dispute Kings Crescent's residents' representative feels they have with George Eyston Drive, and which are outside the control of the Association. We will continue to seek their return to the Association and the payment of their subscriptions when opportunities arise, but at present we are not optimistic of an early resolution.

WEB SITE

As a reminder the web site address is <http://www.sleepershill.org.uk>. The 'Residents' Section can be accessed using the password 'SHA2016'. Please do not pass this on to non-residents.