

SLEEPERS HILL ASSOCIATION -AGM REPORT - NOVEMBER 2015

AGM: This year's AGM will be held on Sunday 29th November at 12 noon in the Stripe Theatre, University of Winchester, Sparkford Road. Parking is available on campus and it is hoped that as many residents as possible will be able to attend. As in previous years, there will be the opportunity to meet and socialise over drinks after the meeting.

COMMITTEE: Our thanks go to all the Committee members for their work on your behalf throughout the year. Due to other commitments, our Hon Secretary, Christine Wallage, has decided not to stand for re-election. We now require a new Secretary and are also looking for other residents to join the committee; if you are interested would you please contact me. Membership of the Committee is not an onerous role and enables residents to become involved in issues which may affect us all on the Hill.

FINANCE: We propose that subscriptions are maintained at the current level of £55 per household for this year and will review again next year.

ROAD MAINTENANCE Our Roads Consultant has recently carried out a survey of the road surface of the Hill and has provided us with a report and drawings showing the recommended remedial works. The Committee has reviewed and approved the recommendations and the necessary repairs are scheduled to take place on 9 November 2015. We now have in place a regular programme of clearing gulleys and soakaways and we again remind frontagers of the need to keep hedges and trees tidy along the Hill particularly around the street lighting.

The Committee has commissioned our Roads Consultant to advise on options for the future maintenance of the road surface together with an estimate of costs for each option. This will allow us to make an informed decision on the longer term maintenance regime and to budget accordingly. The Committee will review the options and make a recommendation to Residents during 2016 on the preferred course of action.

ROAD DRAINAGE Our Road Consultant developed a scheme for installing a small number of soakaways along the Hill to help reduce the volume of storm water. We arranged for several trial holes to be dug to assess the feasibility and ground conditions. As a result the Committee has concluded (in conjunction with advice from our Consultant) that we should not proceed with the soakaways. We have, however, carried out a number of minor improvements to the drainage. It is disappointing not to be able to make significant and radical improvement to the drainage but the decision we have taken is based on extensive research with advice from experts.

THE DAY HOUSE Alfred Homes have now completed the three properties which are currently being marketed.

SLEEPERS HILL HOUSE - GEORGE EYSTON DRIVE Alfred Homes have now purchased the property following the granting of planning approval by the City Council. Alfred Homes take possession in January 2016 and hope to commence demolition in late February/March following some ecological works. Construction is scheduled to start in April 2016 with an anticipated building programme of 14 months. The development of six dwellings comprises two executive houses both with five bedrooms and two further properties, both semi-detached and each having three bedrooms. We will be meeting with Alfred Homes to discuss the arrangements for the delivery of materials and parking of contractors' vehicles.

CHARIS HOLT Construction by Millgate (Winchester), the developer, is well under way and we have been advised that completion is scheduled for August 2016. Contractors' vehicles park on the verge immediately outside the site and there has been some concern about congestion in this vicinity. The developer has offered to install posts in the verges of neighbouring properties if requested by individual householders. The developer has now made a capital contribution to the SHA.

CHINGRI KHAL We understand that a pre application has been submitted by a developer for the demolition of the existing property and the construction of three houses each with 5

bedrooms and two houses each with 3 bedrooms. No formal application has been submitted at this stage. This development would breach guidelines for the number of houses which can be constructed under the Local Area Design Statement for Sleepers Hill. Please see separate heading for LADS below.

LOCAL AREA DESIGN STATEMENT FOR SLEEPERS HILL This document was published in 2007 following lengthy consultations between the City Council and local residents and a full version can be found on the City Council's website. Amongst other subjects, the guidelines stated that there would be a limit on the number of new houses permitted to be built unless improvements were made to the road and to the junctions at either end of the Hill. We have written to the Director responsible within the Council to say that, by our calculations, the limit had now been reached. We have now received a response saying that a number of criteria have changed since the LADS was issued and in short, the limit no longer applies. The committee has agreed that we should take advice from a planning expert before fully responding to the Council to ensure that we reply from an informed position. We are currently seeking that advice. In the interim, until there is any public notification to the contrary, the Committee believes that the current LADS is in force and valid

SHA WEBSITE John Stanning, who set up and maintained the SHA website is moving away shortly and will no longer be able to undertake this role. We are looking for a volunteer to take this over and if you are interested, please let me know. In the absence of a volunteer this Committee will need to decide whether to pay for a web designer to do it for us or to close down the website for the time being.

ELECTION BOUNDARY REFORMS The Parliamentary Boundaries Commission has approved changes to some boundaries of the City's Wards and this will result in Sleepers Hill becoming part of St Luke's ward and no longer in St Michael's ward. This means a change in the Councillors which represent us with effect from May 2016, when the City Council in its entirety will be up for re-election.

ANNUAL PARTY: We are looking for a suitable venue for the 2016 event and should be very grateful if any resident would offer their garden for this most enjoyable social event.

Paul Barlow
Chairman