

**HIGHBARN RESIDENTS GROUP MEETING  
21 APRIL 2009  
CANTEEN, CIVIC CENTRE – 6.00 PM**

**PRESENT:**

**Dacorum Borough Council & Nash Mills Parish Council:**

John Clarke, Head of Public Protection (Dacorum Borough Council)  
Louise Manders, Senior Manager, Corporate Communications (Dacorum Borough Council)  
Jenny Young, Civil Contingencies Co-Ordinator (Dacorum Borough Council)  
Katie Kiely, Tenant Services Manager (Dacorum Borough Council)  
Councillor Terry Douris, (Nash Mills Parish Councillor and DBC Councillor)  
Theresa Chalkwright, Member Support Officer (Dacorum Borough Council – Minutes)

**Others:**

Nik Pringle, PC 452, Herts Police  
Lesley Kirkpatrick PCSO 6582, Herts Police  
Dave Bowman, Herts Highways

**Residents:**

Richard and Jennifer Taylor, Carly Savage, Matthew Simon, (Highbarns Residents)  
Michelle Berkeley (Pond Close Resident)

**Apologies:**

Councillor Lucy Foster, (DBC Councillor Nash Mills Ward Councillor and Nash Mills Parish Councillor), Lisa Bayley, (Highbarns Resident), Rodney Berkeley (Pond Close resident)

John Clarke welcomed Lesley Kirkpatrick, the new PCSO for the Nash Mills area who will be assisting Nik Pringle and Dave Bowman from Hertfordshire Highways who is taking over from Mark Goodyear.

**1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING**

Actions undertaken:

Questionnaire sent to residents with the last newsletter.

Actions Outstanding:

Link to be set up on Dacorum Borough Council's homepage. LM to follow up on this.

**ACTION – LM**

**2. UPDATE/CURRENT SITUATION**

Jenny Young, the Council's Civil Contingencies Co-Ordinator gave a brief update of where we are at present

**HCA Funding:**

Confirmation has been received from David Keeton from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) that the High Barns project received approval into the Land Stabilisation Programme at the Projects Executive. The final amount is not yet known. This approval is however subject to the Council deciding to progress the project and submitting an Application for undertaking of the works

## **Project Management:**

The procurement process is now over half way through, 8 companies have been shortlisted and it is envisaged that the exercise should be completed by June/July. Councillor Douris wished it noted that the Project Management Company that is appointed will have dealt with these kind of issues before and will be in charge of managing the whole project. Once the project management team is appointed work will be able to begin. There is a lot of work that needs to be carried out so a definite timescale cannot be given at present but residents will be kept informed. John Clarke asked if the residents were fairly clear of the process that needs to be undertaken with both the funding and the project management projects.

### **3. COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE**

Louise Manders updated on the Communications Strategy. This is now at the final draft stage and will need to be signed off by the Highbarns Steering Group at their next meeting which is due to take place on Tuesday 12 May 2009.

Louise reported that she had not had much feedback from the latest newsletter.

Carly Savage responded that the residents seemed happy with the format and that the information that is received is useful to the residents and that on the whole it is working well.

### **4. HIGHWAYS ISSUES**

Dave Bowman, Assistant District Manager from Herts Highways, is now the contact for the Highbarns area. Alyson Fricker is the Assistant District Manager for the Hemel Hempstead area including the Industrial area and Leverstock Green so therefore it was delegated to Dave Bowman to look after the highways issues in the area.

Dave Bowman can be contacted via the main email address which is: [hertsdirect@hertscc.gov.uk](mailto:hertsdirect@hertscc.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01438 737320 (Customer Services fault line) ask for Dave Bowman, if he is not available a message will be taken and he will then contact you. He also said he is happy for residents to approach him with any issues if he is on site.

Carly Savage asked DB to note that the day after the last residents meeting a road closed sign had blown down and has not been put back up since. This sign is outside Lisa Bayley's house and it is causing her real problems and she is not happy that a more permanent sign is not in place. CS also pointed out that at the last meeting Mark Goodyear said he would look at providing signs showing how far the roads are closed up to.

DB highlighted Mark Goodyear's update in the Newsletter as summarised below and said that he would go back and find out about how works were progressing and how far Mark Goodyear had got. With regard to the road closed sign he said this should be in the middle of the road not at the side and a more permanent sign should be provided.

The knocked down lamp column opposite 24 Highbarns has been replaced. EDF should be reconnecting the mains supply by late April.

The grassed areas opposite Pond Road should be reseeded by the end of April (weather permitting)

More permanent road diversion signs are on order, due to be installed in May, the other more informative traffic signs are planned for delivery by end of June. Additional permanent guardrail has been ordered for the road closure point expected to be delivered in May.

Councillor Douris said that he understood the residents' frustration as their quality of life is being diminished outside their houses and if measures were to be put into place it would minimise disruption.

DB said he recognised this and is aware of the current situation. He would like to provide the support from Herts Highways to make the situation better for the residents.

Nik Pringle added that more durable barriers? need to be put in place.

JY said that the concrete planters have been ordered and Brian Scott, Head of Street Care is chasing up the order.

Nik Pringle reported that the hole in Bunkers Lane has now been coned off with six cones which will make it a little safer. He also said that a 3½ hour traffic survey had been carried out during the school holidays and there was very little traffic. He did add that had it been in term time the likelihood was that it would have been a little busier. He said that if the police receive more logs it will be followed up and further survey could be carried out if necessary.

Richard Taylor reported that the amber lights on the Chambersbury Lane site have disappeared – so there are no lights there at all. He said this might not have been so much of a problem if the lamp column had been working but as it is not it is pitch black.

Dave Bowman responded that this issue would need to be addressed urgently and the lights would be replaced as soon as possible.

Nik Pringle said that if residents see anything suspicious or people interfering with barriers/fences etc to contact the police as an emergency (999) and they will come out.

The bollards that were put in place at the corner of Highbarns and Chambersbury Lane were put in to protect the pavement from future damage and to maintain the sight lines at the junction for safety reasons.

Carly Savage pointed out that all this has achieved is creating personal parking spaces and the opposite side of the road is now worse.

Dave Bowman responded that he did not have the answer to this, he did not think that more bollards would be necessary but this would have to be left for the time being and he would chase this up to see if anything further is being planned.

Outcome:

Dave Bowman will go back and find out what progress has been made and will report back to Jenny Young by email with any information that is relevant and she will then pass this on to the group. ACTION – DB/JY

#### **4. SECURITY ISSUES**

Nik Pringle had attended the Parish Clerks meeting at Nash Mills on Monday 20 April. He said that there had been 14 crimes reported in total in the area. 3 Motorcycles were stolen from Shendish but there has been a spate of motor cycle thefts across Dacorum. The police have advised people in the area to leave their motor cycles in a garage locked with a padlock and chain to try to deter the thefts.

Nik again reiterated that if anyone sees any suspicious behaviour report it and get it logged.

#### **5. OTHER ISSUES**

There were no housing issues with regard to the Council's stock.

#### **6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Michelle Berkeley had heard from the Valuation Office, photos had been taken from all angles and she is waiting to hear back from them. She said it had been a quick response and that they were aware it was a test case. She said she had also asked if any payment would be backdated.

#### **7. CONCLUSION**

John Clarke thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and said the next meeting would include what items would be going onto the next newsletter and it was agreed that the date of this was likely to be 12 June 2009.

#### **8. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT RESIDENTS GROUP MEETING**

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday 2 June 2009 in the Gade Room, Civic Centre.

The meeting ended at 6.50 pm.