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The Newsletter for Riverside Avenue users and residents

IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!
RaRa Annual General Meeting, Broxbourne
rowing club: Wed. 23rd April 2014 7:30 PM

Spring 2014

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Gritting:

Ready for next year, RaRa has obtained a quantity of road salt and appointed some members of the committee as 'gritting monitors' They hold sacks of road salt and will apply it to the road if required. Likewise they will hand it out for others to apply if required. It is not intended to be used on residents property, only to make the road safe for access. The bags are held by:

Phil Summerlin, Glenbara
Dave Hughes, Cranmore
Darren Payne, Trelawny
Rada Juric, Linden Lea
If you don't know where these houses are, get the map from:

<http://bit.ly/1oD13IL>

News: The planning application for 'The Chimes' has been submitted. It is apparently unchanged from the one presented to us at the Broxbourne Rowing Club meeting.

An area from the estate to the river has been cleared but nothing else of note appears to have happened on the site

Keep an eye on www.rarauk.org/news where we will publish anything that may effect us there first.

Road repairs

Further to our AGM where it was decided to commission repairs to the worst areas of our road, The Committee set about contacting contractors to facilitate this. Unfortunately either because of work commitments or a general lack of interest by them, we were not able to find a contractor willing to undertake the works! We then lost the window of opportunity due to the poor

weather. This was not the problem it may at first seem as we now have more funds and will be able to tackle some of the less problematic areas before they deteriorate further. Our pot currently stands at nearly £7000. Not enough for all of the repairs, but a good start! We will have to close the road for a short period and we will obviously give you plenty of notice regarding

this. We are hoping that parking in adjacent roads

"Our pot currently stands at nearly £7,000.00"

and indeed on other peoples drives (assuming we can split the repairs between two halves of the road) can be organised We will discuss this at the AGM on 23rd April 2014 .

Drains

We had a meeting with Anne Christie (Field Operations Manager), Nigel Fuller and a camera survey team from Thames water at the pumping station in Riverside Avenue last year. The drains were surveyed and the pumps examined. We are pleased to report that no issues were found with the pipe work, however the pumps were found to be woefully inadequate. Only one pump was in service and this one appeared to be temporary. Anne assured us that this was wholly unacceptable and a second pump has now apparently been fitted. It seems however, that our problems are

still not at an end as there have been 4 separate incidences of drain problems since!

"Only one pump was in service and this one appeared to be temporary."

RaRa is monitoring the situation as the pumps malfunctioning is almost certainly the cause of the drains backing up so often because when a pump trips out (as the result of an overload), it has to be manually reset. During this time the level in the pump chamber rises and the drains back up. These further incidents,

particularly when we have been assured that all is well is really not good enough. Our complaint is lodged with The Consumer Council for Water who have been told by Thames Water that all is OK ! We intend to make further representations to Thames and The Consumer Council for Water until we get the matter resolved. RaRa will continue to fight to get this problem resolved.

if you have any concerns or experience further drain blockages, please email committee@rarauk.org with the details so that we can take it up with Thames.

"The objectives of the Riverside Residents Association are to promote a friendly and neighbourly outlook towards fellow residents, protect and promote our investments and ensure the safety and security for visitors and residents alike. Above all, a mantra of 'Live and let live' is paramount to achieving this"

Riverside Avenue Residents Association Newsletter

We're on the Web! go to www.rarauk.org for news and what's happening!

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Remember:
It's YOUR road!

SPEEDING: During our rounds to collect payments we had many conversations with fellow residents but the main concern was regarding speeding. It seems that a great many residents are worried about their children, pets and even the danger to their own safety caused by some residents that drive far too fast. Some names of offenders were even supplied to us and we were asked to do something about it. We don't feel that at this stage this is necessary. However should the situation remain unchanged, we may be forced to act as we are after all, working for the residents. **PLEASE SLOW DOWN**, it's a narrow road with no contiguous pavements, children cycle and play in the road. You offenders know who you are!

Subscriptions

As I am sure you will appreciate, RaRa is a non-profit voluntary organisation with the committee members giving their time for free and even absorbing the costs of some materials, like the newsletter you are currently reading for example! We want all the funds collected to go towards improving our road. It is therefore unfortunate that a very small minority of residents seem to feel unable to join with us and pay the rather reasonable sum of £60.00 per annum to support us

RaRa is a democratic organisation elected by you, the residents .

I think that they are missing the point somewhat inasmuch as we are trying to make things EASIER by collecting small payments, rather than one big payment when the road needs urgent repairs, as happened in the past.

Remember RaRa is a democratic organisation elected by you the residents . We are implementing the wishes of the majority.

We have been asked by some residents about who has and who has not paid. This is not the simple question that it appears to be, because out of the very small minority of residents that have not paid most have stated that even though they don't want to contribute to RaRa, they are happy to pay their contribution to the road repairs.

"Until the local authority shall take it upon themselves the repair of any road or site intended for a road the owner of each plot shall pay his proportion of any repairs or costs of maintenance of such roads"

Now whilst I can't imagine why anyone would want to stump up a 60th of the cost of repairing the road in one payment, that is their choice and we as a committee don't have a major problem with it, apart from the extra paperwork it creates! It therefore follows that we cannot state who has not paid until we (eventually!) get the road repairs completed. Nor would it be fair to name

names at this point. However, once the repairs are completed we will be sending invoices to those who have declined to subscribe and then if we do not receive payment we will have to consider our options. These may or may not include court action. We are really hoping that it doesn't come to this as it is every residents responsibility to contribute to the repairs of the road. The last time court action was used against non-payers back in the 80's it was unsuccessful. We have since taken advice however that suggests that we would prevail this time, so it is an option. An extract of the covenant relating to our area dated 7th July 1908, Para8 says 'Until the local authority shall take it upon themselves the repair of any road or site intended for a road the owner of each plot shall pay his proportion of any repairs or costs of maintenance of such roads'

If you can please pay by standing order, it saves our very hardworking treasurer a lot of work! You can get the form from www.rarauk.org/Payments