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The Newsletter for Riverside Avenue users and residents

IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!
RaRa Annual General Meeting, Broxbourne
rowing club: 15th September 2016 7:30PM

Summer 2016

Volume 1 Issue 5

What has been happening?:

OK, I know that RaRa has been quiet for a while, but there really has not been anything to report, that is until now! The committee has been quietly getting on with the business of finding an independent surveyor to give us a report on the condition of the road and recommendations moving forward. We realised that getting quotes without really understanding what we NEEDED to do is probably ill advised. The major criteria for this person, was that he understood the issues of the concrete slab construction of our road surface and that he could advise us correctly.

News: Doug Ball (Boyscote) who has been a valuable and active committee member has unfortunately had to resign his post due to failing mobility. Doug is a very knowledgeable local historian. I'm sure that you will want to join with the committee and thank him for his efforts and wish him well for the future. We would also like to thank Peter Dore (Pen-Y-Dre) for stepping in to help out

Whist we have been waiting for funds to build up in the RaRa account, we have managed to have the road surveyed and you should have by now received a summary of the areas which were marked by the surveyor for attention. You can view this document online: www.rarauk.org/RARAMapAndHoles.pdf We intend to discuss this document at the AGM on **15th September 2016**. The

Road repairs

bar will be open, so if nothing else it will be a great evening to socialise with your neighbours! We are aware that the matter of the road repairs has been dragging on now for some considerable time now. It is a fact that if everyone's account was up to date we could commission the repairs immediately, however this is not the case and we are still short of the amount

needed to get all the repairs completed, but we feel that we should make a start regardless.

"it is a fact that if everyone's account was up to date, we could commission the repairs immediately"

9.8 All up for discussion on the 15th September! Please make a note in your diary.

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 some time ago. The drains were surveyed and the pumps examined. We are pleased to report that no issues were found with the main sewer pipes, 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 and now the switchgear has been replaced.

"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.

**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!
Email the committee:
committee@rarauk.org

"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"

SPEEDING: During our past rounds to collect payments we had many conversations with fellow residents but one of the main concerns 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.

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"

This 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 sub-

scribe 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 road 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.

Please make sure your payment is identified with your house name.