

***** WISHING EVERYONE HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND PROSPERITY IN 2007 *****

November Members' "Get-together"

Thanks to all who attended and made it an enjoyable evening. Special thanks are due to the two speakers from the University (Mr Kevin Monaghan and Mr Steve Waring) and to Mrs Julia Brown and Mrs Catherine Griffiths who produced the food. We were pleased to have representatives from the Residents' Associations of North West Bassett and Highfield and to welcome Councillor Mizon and Mr Ben Rogers (President of the Students' Union).

"Get-together" : Planning Questionnaire

Attitudes shown by members' answers to the questionnaire handed out during the evening were: ****that** new planning applications must retain the general character of the existing area; ****that** residents do not have enough say in what is built in their area and ****that** it is detrimental to cram new buildings into garden space. ****There** was general concern that over-provision of flats in place of family homes is creating dormitory areas within the City and a demographic imbalance resulting in falling school numbers. ****It was** felt that on-street parking is a serious problem and adequate parking provision must be made for every new development. ****The increase** in conversion of family homes into Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs) was regarded as a serious problem causing more on-street parking, noise and disturbance, neglected properties and a rootless population, and **** that** these conversions should be brought under the control of planning regulations. These responses give us a helpful direction for future discussions.

National Representation

We have recently been in touch with two national organisations formed by residents throughout the UK who share similar problems with ourselves. Following on from this, we have joined the Network of Residents' Associations (presently involved in the review of recent Licensing Laws); and the National HMO Lobby which voices the growing concern over problems created by HMOs across the UK.

First Bus Route Changes

We are delighted that First Bus has responded handsomely to our pleas of hardship caused by cuts to the No. 7. During their discussions with Councillor Mizon, a solution was found by rerouting the No. 6 through the Flower Roads and Bassett Green Road so that the Nos. 6 and 7 combined give a 15 minute service to Portswood. As well, the new route provides direct access to the General Hospital from Bassett Green Road. Three cheers for all concerned!!!

University News

Retirements. Two of our past contacts have recently retired: Mr Roger Mallett (Director of Business Services) - not yet replaced; Mr John Waugh (Transport Manager) replaced by Mr Alec Gore.

Newcomer. We are pleased to welcome **Sophie Evans** to the new post of **Community Relations Officer**.

Ms Evans came to our recent Committee meeting to listen to concerns passed to us by yourselves. Residents can contact Ms Evans on local2u@soton.ac.uk.

Development Programme. We have recently been told that the plans for **Boldrewood** are not expected to be available before the Spring. A public exhibition of the plans is promised but there's no date for this yet.

We are also anxious to see plans for a new **Life Sciences building** on the Highfield Campus.

Preparation work on the **The Mountbatten Building** site caused intense noise disturbance to immediate residents. Particular concern has been expressed at the hours worked on Saturdays. We are enquiring about the official Conditions for hours of work and will let residents know the outcome in due course.

Disposal of New College site. The University have sold the site for £20m.

Cantell School

The next Residents' Liaison Meeting will be held at the School at 7 pm on Thursday 29th March.

On 9th March, an Agency Fair is to be held at the school bringing together dozen of groups offering help and information for the pupils on health, further education, hobbies, employment etc. The first one, held last year, was a great success.

Policing

We have recently met with our new **Community Police Support Officer Vicky Geddes** who patrols Beat 5. Beat 5 is: all the Common, the Sports Centre, up to the Chilworth border, down Bassett Green Road, round the outside of the Flower Roads into Glen Eyre Road and back to the Common. Vicky is on her own, but for Beat 4 (covering the Flower Roads, Leaside and Mansbridge) we have 3 CPSOs and at least 2 for Beat 3 on the Hampton Park side of Burgess Road. CPSOs are primarily there to respond to calls involving anti-social behaviour. If you have a problem, Vicky can be reached on: victoria.geddes@hampshire.pnn.police.uk.

Traffic Concerns

Dahlia Road. The Council have proposed closing this off at its junction with Burgess Road. The period of public consultation has ended and the Police are presently being asked for their view.