

SLEEPERS HILL ASSOCIATION REPORT - OCTOBER 2011

ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2011 AT 1200 NOON
AT THE JOHN STRIPE THEATRE WINCHESTER UNIVERSITY.

1. AGM VENUE: We were very grateful to Winchester University for allowing us to use their facilities once again for our AGM. For those who do not wish to walk, parking is available on a Sunday morning and it is hoped that as many residents as possible will be able to attend. There will be the opportunity to meet and mingle over drinks and nibbles after the meeting.

2. COMMITTEE: We are grateful to all the Committee members for their work on your behalf throughout the year and in particular Christine Wallage and Don Midgley for their roles as Hon Secretary and Hon Treasurer respectively.

3. FINANCE: We propose that subscriptions are increased to £50 per household for this year. The committee's recommendation to increase charges is due to the fact that, in order to complete all of the recommended repairs, we have used up our reserves (please see below). We need to build up our reserves to cover the cost of future repairs, including a possible resurfacing of the Hill when funds permit. Please bring your cheque books to the AGM.

We are grateful to Jonathan Monkcom for examining the accounts once again. Jonathan and his family are moving from the Hill and we are therefore seeking a resident to replace him as Hon Auditor.

4. ROAD MAINTENANCE: We have appointed a highways consultant to advise on the best way of maintaining the surface and structure of the road. His recommendation was to undertake repairs to the structure of the road rather than apply a "chip and tar" top dressing, which would only cover up the underlying problems and these would become worse over time. Simply to resurface the road would not therefore be the best use of our funds. Following the preparation of a detailed schedule of necessary repairs and a tender selection process involving three contractors, Rocon Contractors Ltd was selected to carry out the patch repairs. The bulk of the works will be on the lower half of the Hill, particularly on the south side where the sunken edges of the road will be rebuilt. As we achieved a competitive rate for the repairs your Committee took the decision to have as much work carried out at this time as our funds would allow. The works are scheduled to start on 31 October and will last between two and three weeks; we aim to keep disruption to a minimum.

As part of the consultant's recommendations, we also commissioned a full topographical survey of the Hill. This gives us a very detailed database of our "asset" and includes information of heights/levels along the length of the hill, the location of all street furniture, manhole service covers etc and the position of all the main utilities under the surface (i.e. water, electricity, telecomms and gas). This has also proved invaluable in briefing the contractors as we have been able to instruct them on the precise location and type of each of the repairs. The survey will be updated as required. I will bring a copy of the survey to this year's AGM for those who are interested.

5. SNOW: We are grateful to all those who assisted in keeping the Hill open during the heaviest period of snow for many years. For the second year running we purchased two tonnes of additional rock salt and we now have over 40 x 25kg bags of salt strategically placed along the Hill.

6. CAR PARKING: The Freedom Bill is progressing through Parliament which will forbid clamping of vehicles on private property. This means that our agents, CPS Enforcement, will no longer be permitted to clamp/remove vehicles but will have to issue parking tickets instead. We are taking advice on the best solution to deter selfish and dangerous parking once the new legislation takes effect.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH Sleepers Hill has now re-registered for Neighbourhood Watch, having obtained more than 50% support from residents and more information will be circulated in due course.

8. ANNUAL PARTY: Our thanks to the residents of Kings Crescent for hosting the Summer Party, which, with its various acts of entertainment, was thoroughly enjoyed by the large number of residents who attended. We are looking for a suitable venue for the 2012 Summer Party we should be very grateful if any resident would offer their garden for this social event.

Paul Barlow – Chairman