

SLEEPERS HILL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL REPORT – OCTOBER 2022

INTRODUCTION

This year's AGM will be held on Sunday 6 November 2022 at 12 noon in the John Stripe Theatre, University of Winchester, Sparkford Road. Parking is available on campus and we really hope that as many residents as possible will be able to attend. As in previous years, there will be an opportunity to meet and socialise over drinks after the meeting.

CHAIR OF THE ASSOCIATION AND OF THE SLEEPERS HILL ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

As you may be aware, Chris Day moved house to elsewhere in Winchester earlier this year, so he had to resign as Chairman. We are very grateful for his work during his short tenure as Chair.

Since then we have had another period of interregnum; however in September Kate Harrington kindly agreed to take over the Chair of the Committee. Subject to confirmation at the AGM, she will become Chair of the Association from November.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Since the last Annual Report, Derek O'Neill, Jackie Organ and Matt Johnson have joined the Committee. Currently the other members of the Committee are Kate Harrington, Steve Osborne (Treasurer), Jan Royston Smith (Secretary), Hamish Adair and Tim Jones.

Subject to confirmation at the AGM, Derek O'Neill will take over from Steve Osborne as Treasurer from 7 November.

Hamish Adair and Tim Jones are due for re-election this year.

ROAD AND VERGE MAINTENANCE AND TRAFFIC MEASURES

The 2021 Road and Verge repair work was discussed at length during last year's AGM and was recorded in the Minutes. The final cost to the Association of the repairs was of the order of £23,500, which was within the bracket indicated in the last Annual Report. Repainting of the SLOW signs has still not been carried out because of the very high costs of such work. The next major road repair is currently scheduled for 2024.

We had a meeting with our WCC and HCC Councillors in December concerning various aspects of the Hill and roadway. A number of ideas for traffic calming and the like were discussed, but nothing feasible on improvements emerged. The Councillors reported that Sleepers Hill had come under some criticism with the residents of Wentworth Grange area after the severe summer 2021 storm because of flood water and debris from the hill. With the paving of some areas of the Sleepers Hill south side, it is hoped that the issue of debris from the hill will not recur.

There have been ongoing problems with the lower of the two Vehicle Activated Signs (VAS). We are hopeful that a solution will emerge shortly.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Last year's subscription was £75. The Committee have discussed the issue of future road repair costs at length. Observing current continuing inflation and the ongoing high costs of roadway work and materials, the Committee have decided that the subscription for this year should be increased to £85.

RESIDENTS LIST

An updated Residents List will be issued shortly. Members are reminded that each Committee member has responsibility for a number of houses in terms of communication with residents. The relevant Committee member for each house is shown on the Residents List; please liaise with that person in the first instance on any relevant issue.

SUMMER PARTY 2022

The 2022 Summer Party was held at the Pavilion and was a huge success, with around 90 attendees. It was particularly pleasing to see quite a few new arrivals on the hill. Many thanks to Nick and Kate Harrington for allowing us to use their garden.

The 2023 summer party will be held at Christchurch Vicarage, and will take place on Sunday 2 July.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Little Snakemoor.

Little Snakemoor has been acquired by Shorewood Homes. The property already has planning permission for four new houses. However the developer has submitted a new planning application to change the current plans. This application is now working its way through the planning process. The developer had hoped to start work on the property this autumn, but this will inevitably be delayed.

Shorewood Homes have undertaken to contribute £2,000 per property to SHA funds

Arthurs Court. All six properties have now been sold and are occupied.

LEAF SWEEPING

We plan to carry out leaf sweeping again this year and it is currently planned to take place in early December. In order to constrain costs, this year only the south side of the road and George Eyston Drive will be swept.

KINGS CRESCENT AND NON MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASSOCIATION

Members of the SHA Committee have continued to engage with Kings Crescent over their non-membership of the Association and discussions are ongoing with all the owners. An update will be given at the AGM

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

Jackie Organ has taken over responsibility on the Committee for Neighbourhood Watch. She will give an update at the AGM

AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

The Constitution currently puts a limit on the amount of money that can be spent on our “non core” activities. That put the Committee in a difficult position when they considered the extensive work on the verge by St Marys that needed to be done on safety grounds.

The Committee have recommended the Constitution be amended to cover a future situation of this kind.

The relevant paragraph with the amendment in bold is shown below:

“Outside its normal duties as laid out in section three above, the committee is permitted to spend up to 50% of the association’s annual income without a full meeting of the SHA in special circumstances as determined by the committee. ***Should the committee wish to spend in excess of this amount outside of normal duties, the Honorary Secretary will send a communication to all members detailing the proposed expenditure and its rationale. Members will have at least 30 days from the date of the communication to raise objections to the proposal. So long as total objections received do not exceed 10% of the membership, the committee will be deemed to have the authority to proceed with the proposal.***

Your committee recommend that this change should be approved at the AGM, which will require a resolution carried by 75% of the members present.

WEB SITE

The web site address is <http://www.sleepershill.org.uk>. The ‘Residents’ Section is password protected. The password is currently SHA2016 and will be changed shortly to: TheHill22. Members will be informed by email when the change is made. Please do not pass this on to non-residents.

ROAD SIGN

You may have noticed that the Sleepers Hill road sign has recently disappeared from the bottom of the hill. Your committee has obtained quotations for a replacement which has been ordered, and which we hope to have installed before too long.

October 2022