

SLEEPERS HILL ASSOCIATION – HALF YEAR REPORT – MAY 2016

AGM: This year's AGM will be held on Sunday 4th December at 12 noon in the 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. There will be several important issues on which we would wish to consult residents and your input would be greatly appreciated. As in previous years, there will be the opportunity to meet and socialise over drinks after the meeting.

COMMITTEE: Our thanks go to all the Committee members for their work on your behalf throughout the year. We still have a vacancy for the Hon Secretary role and Don Midgley our Hon Treasurer has announced that he will not be standing for re-election at the AGM, after many years of valuable service to the SHA. If you are interested in joining our Committee either as a member or in any other capacity, would you please contact me. Being a member of the Committee is not an onerous role and it enables residents to become involved in issues which may affect us all on the Hill.

ROAD MAINTENANCE We now have in place a regular programme of clearing gulleys and soakaways and we again remind frontagers of the need to keep hedges and trees tidy along the Hill particularly around the street lighting.

As mentioned at the 2015 AGM, the Committee commissioned our Roads Consultant to advise on options for the future maintenance of the road surface together with an estimate of costs for each option. This will allow us to make an informed decision on the longer term maintenance regime and to budget accordingly. The Committee is reviewing the options and will be making a recommendation to residents in the coming months on the preferred course of action and a full discussion will take place at the AGM.

SLEEPERS HILL HOUSE – GEORGE EYSTON DRIVE Alfred Homes started work on site in March 2016 and the ground works are well under way. The utilities to the site have been upgraded and a parking area for contractors' vehicles has been created on site. The two semi-detached houses fronting George Eyston Drive will be constructed first and the two larger detached houses to the back of the site will follow on. It is expected that completion will be in late summer 2017

CHARIS HOLT Construction by Millgate (Winchester), the developer, is well under way and we have been advised that completion is scheduled for late summer 2016.

CHINGRI KHAL The developers have submitted a pre application to the Council proposing the demolition of the existing property and the construction of two detached houses fronting Sleepers Hill and two single storey "eco" houses to the rear of the site. Whilst no formal application has been submitted at this stage, we have written to the developers stating that the proposed scheme would breach guidelines for the number of houses which can be constructed under the Local Area Design Statement for Sleepers Hill and that the Association would object to this scheme if formally submitted for planning approval. This would also be the first scheme to propose the infilling of back gardens on the south side of the Hill, thereby losing the "green corridor" which currently exists. Please see separate heading for LADS below.

LOCAL AREA DESIGN STATEMENT FOR SLEEPERS HILL Just to recap on my previous report, this document was published in 2007 following lengthy consultations between the City Council and local residents and a full version can be found on the City Council's website. Amongst other subjects, the guidelines stated that there

would be a limit on the number of new houses permitted to be built unless improvements were made to the road and to the junctions at either end of the Hill. We wrote to the Director responsible within the Council to say that, by our calculations, the limit had now been reached. We have now received a response saying that a number of criteria have changed since the LADS was issued and in short, the cap on the number of houses which can be built no longer applies. The committee has taken advice from a planning expert who provided us with a report addressing the changes in policy put forward by the City Council. We wrote to the Council in January 2016 making it clear that we did not accept that the limit on the number of new houses permitted under LADS should be changed and have yet to receive a reply.

BROADBAND ON THE HILL Many residents are concerned about Broadband speed on the Hill. For your information, Virgin Media is running a programme called 'Cable My Street'. Virgin is making a multi-billion £ investment to expand its national fibre network. It is seeking input on where to expand its network, by people asking for their street to be cabled. They have set up a "Cable My Street" web-site:

[https://cablemystreet.virginmedia.com/?](https://cablemystreet.virginmedia.com/?intcmpid=Link_pchome_networkexpansion_switchernavlink#!/cablemystreet)

[intcmpid=Link_pchome_networkexpansion_switchernavlink#!/cablemystreet](https://cablemystreet.virginmedia.com/?intcmpid=Link_pchome_networkexpansion_switchernavlink#!/cablemystreet)

This will capture the details of people who might be interested in getting connected. If there is sufficient take-up, then Virgin will consider including your street in the programme. There are no guarantees that Virgin would prioritise Sleepers Hill. The relatively low housing density and distances between properties might make Sleepers Hill economically unattractive. However, given the frustrations of relatively low-speed and inconsistent BT broadband, which seems to be the best option today, you may wish to register your own interest. There is no cost or obligation associated with registering on the web-site.

SPEED WARNING SIGN As part of our response to the City Council's current views on allowing further development on the Hill, we commissioned HCC to carry out traffic surveys to provide up-to-date data on traffic volumes and speed of traffic. These showed that the average speed for the 85th percentile had risen from 32mph (in 2007) to 38mph currently. This is despite the designated speed limit being reduced from 30mph to 20mph in the last year or so. The Association has looked at various traffic calming measures over the years, none of which provides a suitable solution. We are currently looking at the option to purchase a flashing speed sign which would show drivers the speed of their vehicle as it approached. The sign, which would be attached to a lamppost, would also maintain a log of the volume and speed of vehicles. The sign would cost £2500 and we are applying to HCC for a grant of £1500 via one of our County Councillors, to help offset the cost. The Committee has mixed views on installing such a sign given the rural nature of the Hill, but on balance, have come to the view that we must take positive action to reduce vehicle speeds, particularly as there is an inadequate footpath and the Hill is used by a large number of schoolchildren.

SHA WEBSITE One of our residents has very kindly offered to help us update and expand the Sleepers Hill website. We hope to launch the updated site in the coming months and then seek your views on its content and any further additions or changes.

ELECTION BOUNDARY REFORMS Sleepers Hill has now become part of St Paul Ward and following the recent council elections earlier this month the councillors representing us are Liz Hutcheson, Martin Tod and Lucille Thompson, all three representing the Liberal Democrats. We will shortly arrange to meet them to brief them on current issues relating to Sleepers Hill

ANNUAL PARTY: The SHA Summer Party will be held on Sunday 3 July from 12 noon to 2.30 pm. Mrs Joyce Yip has kindly offered the use of her garden at Little Snakemoor, Sleepers Hill for this most enjoyable social event. We do hope that you will be able to attend and, as is customary, please bring food and drink to share

Paul Barlow
Chairman