

SLEEPERS HILL ASSOCIATION REPORT – OCTOBER 2008

AGM – Sunday 23 November: Jonathan and Caroline Monkcom (Landseer) have kindly agreed to host us in the long room above their garages (enter at the back of the house). Jonathan will welcome some help with chairs from reasonably adjacent neighbours. The tradition of having a glass of something at the meeting had to be suspended during our time at Highcroft. Steve and Bish Osborne have kindly agreed to organise a resumption of this tradition. We are grateful to Winchester University for offering us a room at the John Stripe Theatre. This is now not needed – our thanks to them nonetheless.

Committee: We were sorry to lose Elaine Carp who moved away this summer. We are however delighted to welcome Sally Pfiffner (Dawn House) who has kindly agreed to take her place. Sally will act as contact for Dawn Gardens Nos 9 to 24 and Hamish Adair will act as contact for Dawn Gardens Nos 1 to 8, Highcroft, Highcroft Cottage, The White House, Uphill, Dawnhill and Dawn House.

Development on the Hill: We have spent some time in discussion with the local authorities and Barratt over the proposed development of the Highcroft site. Despite the recent housing market slump Barratt intend starting this project in the spring 2009 when the Health Authority complete their evacuation. The scheme will, if anything, improve the top of the Hill in that all vehicular access onto the site will be from Romsey Road and the present access will be closed. We have disagreed strongly with the planning official's insistence of a footpath access from the Hill through the site and may appeal this requirement at a future date.

Annual party: We are very grateful to Lisa and Frank Doyle and Louise and Peter Federico for organising this year's party and to all the residents of Sleepers Hill House for letting us use their spacious garden. In lovely weather we were able to enjoy "meeting the neighbours" while the young were able to use up much energy on the slide and other activities.

Finance. We are very grateful to Don Midgley for all the hard work he puts in keeping our accounts and, not least, collecting our contributions – please bring your cheque books with you on 23 November – Our thanks also to John Monkcom for auditing the accounts. We are again holding contributions to £40 for this coming year.

Road surfacing: The surface has held up well during the past year and, apart from patching, we do not see the need for an overall coating for at least another year. Our thanks to Hamish Adair for drawing up a schedule of repairs and seeking estimates.

Speed of traffic: Such advice as we have had leads us to believe that imposing a 20 mph speed limit is impractical and would create more problems than it would solve. The possible use of a flashing SLOW DOWN sign is being investigated.

Greening of the Hill: It is encouraging to see a number of owners' improvements to their frontages. Historically your Association has taken no responsibility for individual verges. There may however be a case for your Association organising the trimming back of trees which mask signs and streetlights.