

**Notes of the 2nd Meeting of
The Lower Henlade and Stoke Road Residents' Association
held on Thursday 9 October 2008 at The Mount Somerset Hotel**



Present: Gill Ellis (Chair)
Mike Westlake (Treasurer)
Paul Stroner (Vice Chair)
Jacqueline Cairns (Committee Member)
Gill Hunt (Committee Member)
Richard House (Chairman, Ruishton, Thornfalcon & Henlade Parish Council)
David Durdan, Ruishton & Creech District Councillor
Kelly Durdan, Ruishton & Creech District Councillor
23 residents of Lower Henlade and Stoke Road

ACTION

1. BEEKEEPING

- 1.1 Rupert Jones gave a fascinating presentation on the joys and tribulations of keeping these amazing little creatures. Rupert also reiterated his offer to assist anyone with a wasp's nest or a swarm of bees.

2 SOCIAL

- 2.1 One of the primary reasons for establishing the association was to develop a social programme. The following suggestions were proposed:
- 2.2 Mike Westlake reported that following on from the success of the barbeque held during the summer it was proposed that the event be scheduled again for next summer. Committee
- 2.3 All were in favour and a provisional date of 20 June 2009 was agreed.
- 2.4 Paul Stroner suggested a walk to Stoke St Mary followed by drinks at The Half Moon pub. Members, their friends, families and dogs are welcome.
- 2.5 All were in favour and it was agreed to congregate at 12 noon on Sunday 26 October 2008 at The Bungalow, Lower Henlade All those interested
- 2.6 Jacqueline Cairns suggested a Christmas get together over cream tea or coffee and mince pies at The Mount Somerset Hotel.
- 2.7 All were in favour and a provisional date of Sunday 14 December 2008 was agreed Jacqueline Cairns
- 2.8 Gill Ellis suggested that the previously agreed proposal for a skittles night be broadened to include other games such as Whist, Darts, Beetle Drive, Dominoes and a quiz.
- 2.9 All were in favour and it was agreed to find a date and a venue for Gill Ellis

January 2009.

- 2.10 Jacqueline Cairns suggested that it might be interesting for people to research their house histories and possibly present them to future meetings of the group. A number of resources are available including:
- ❖ Title Deeds
 - ❖ Manorial documents
 - ❖ Census returns
 - ❖ National archive
- 2.11 Jacqueline offered to guide/advise anybody interested in finding out a bit more about the house they live in. Jacqueline Cairns

3 FUNDS - TAUNTON DEANE BOROUGH COUNCIL GRANT

- 3.1 Gill Ellis reported that the Association had been awarded a grant of £450 by Taunton Deane Borough Council. The original thought had been to buy a gazebo/marquee type structure for social events. However it was subsequently found that these can be hired locally at very reasonable cost, and so buying one may not be best value for money.
- 3.2 Gill proposed that the funding could be used to erect a notice board to keep everybody informed of what was going on locally. There are a number of issues to be addressed namely;
- ❖ Costs: could be £500 - £600 for a modern type, or nearer £1000 for a wooden one;
 - ❖ Planning permission;
 - ❖ Highways permission;
 - ❖ Location;
 - ❖ Maintenance/Insurance.
- 3.3 Shirley Cozens undertook to check with Steve Cozens whether he would be able to help with the fixing of the notice board.
- 3.4 Dave Durdan suggested contacting Nobby Clark to ascertain whether any funding would be available from Somerset County Council.
- 3.5 There was general agreement that a notice board would be beneficial and is an appropriate use of the grant. Gill Ellis undertook to progress the matter Gill Ellis

4 OTHER INITIATIVES

- 4.1 Paul Stroner and Jacqueline Cairns proposed that there could be a swap and share system amongst local residents. For example if you are going to get rid of something you no longer need there may be somebody who could put it to good use. Paul was particularly interested in seed and cuttings swaps.
- 4.2 Following discussion it was agreed that this may have potential but the arrangements would be agreed between interested parties.
- 4.3 It was further suggested that there could be specific days when unwanted goods could be displayed.

5 TRAFFIC

- 5.1 Following discussion of this perennial problem it was agreed that whilst a by-pass or dual carriageway may be attractive to some it was not universally supported by all local residents.
- 5.2 In the short to medium term the problem needs to be managed and it was agreed to continue to press the Highways Agency to undertake a site visit. Jacqueline Cairns
- 5.3 The figures from the traffic count carried out in May 2008 were presented to the meeting. Of concern were the average speeds of 33, 37 and 41 mph. Kelly Durdan requested that these figures be sent to her. Gill Ellis
- 5.4 Jacqueline Cairns reported that there is a particular issue with regard to the safety of children who are picked up by the school bus.
- 5.5 Jacqueline also reported that Somerset Highways indicated to her that there was no traffic problem in this area and that the electronic speed sign mentioned in the September Parish Council notes, when finally allocated to this area, would be for one week only.
- 5.6 Mike Westlake reported that the previous initiative of parking cars on the road undertaken in March 2008 had proved a success, and proposed a repeat.
- 5.7 It was agreed that those who felt able to do so would park their cars in the road on Tuesday 21 October 2008 and Thursday 23 October 2008, where possible during the morning and afternoon rush hours. All

6 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Neighbourhood Watch

- 6.1 Mike Westlake reported that there were no particular issues and we enjoy a low crime rate. However we should remain vigilant and ensure that doors, windows, garages, outbuildings are locked as necessary.

Affordable Housing

- 6.2 It was reported that the Highways Authority had concerns about the scheme for 48 affordable houses, although no decision had yet been made by Taunton Deane Borough Council. The consensus view was that another application would be made at some point in the future

Street Lights

- 6.3 It was reported that a number of street lights on Stoke Road were in need of repair.
- 6.4 Shirley Cozens reported that Lower Henlade had been selected as a pilot scheme for the dimming of street lights

Field adjacent to Stoke Road

- 6.5 It was reported that the field adjacent to Stoke Road had now been tilled and there was concern that the site would be used by travellers if the entrance were not blocked. David Sweet said he

would speak to the owner again.

Broadband speed

- 6.6 Shirley Cozens reported that the distance from the exchange and the number of users between the exchange and any particular residence were the major factors causing slow broadband connections. This means that even when the exchange is updated, as expected at some point in the future, there may be no improvement.

Sat Nav

- 6.7 It was reported that if residents wanted to lobby for removal of routes from Sat Nav devices this needs to be done direct to the manufacturers.

Barrow Corner

- 6.8 Gill Ellis reported that retrospective planning permission for the wall at Barrow Corner had been refused on two grounds;

- ❖ It is not in keeping with the area
- ❖ It reduces visibility for vehicles

- 6.9 All were in agreement that the wall had improved visibility; nobody felt that the design was so intrusive it should be taken down.

- 6.10 There was unanimous agreement to support Mr and Mrs Groves in this matter and to write to Taunton Deane Borough Council.

- 6.11 Gill Ellis undertook to write on behalf of the Association and urged others to do so individually. Gill will find out whom to write to and make this information available.

Gill Ellis

7 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- 7.1 The next meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday 23 April 2009 at the Mount Somerset Hotel. *Chairman's note: this date may be changed.*