

**Notes of the Meeting of the  
Lower Henlade and Stoke Road Residents Association  
held on Thursday 7 April 2011 at The Mount Somerset Hotel**



Present: Gill Ellis (Chair)  
Mike Westlake (Treasurer)  
Paul Stroner (Vice Chair)  
Lisa Ashbaugh (Committee Member)  
Keith Hammond (Committee Member)  
8 residents of Lower Henlade, Stoke Road and Presidents Court  
Cllr David Durdan  
Cllr Kelly Durdan

Apologies: Cllr David Fothergill  
Jacqueline Cairns (Committee Member)

**ACTION**

**1. PLANNING**

- 1.1 Gill Ellis reported that the Taunton Deane Core Strategy had not been dropped, as previously surmised, but had been amended and was due to be published and then ratified by the full Council. Gill further reported that the plans were concentrating on development at Monkton Heathfield and the plans for industrial development east of the M5 are not included in the current proposals.
- 1.2 There is no further information currently available on the affordable housing development in Stoke Road, though there have been rumours of a pedestrian crossing on the A358 which could have a knock on effect - if it makes turning right from Stoke Road onto the A358 easier, more traffic will be willing to use the "rat run" in the evenings.
- 1.3 No major work is scheduled for Junction 25 of the motorway until 2016 at the earliest

**2. NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH**

- 2.1 Mike Westlake reported that any issues relating to Neighbourhood Watch are posted on the web site as this is the most efficient means of communicating.
- 2.2 This is an important time of the year for thieves who will make the most of any opportunity. People should remain vigilant, close windows, gates, sheds when you are out. Keep sheds locked with a good quality lock.
- 2.3 Be aware that some thieves are posing as Census Officers asking for details about returned forms. If a Census form has been completed and returned there should be no reason for a Census Officer to visit. If in any doubt please close the door and inform the police.

### 3 GRIT BIN FOR THE AREA

- 3.1 Gill reported that following this winter's heavy snow and prolonged cold spell it would be prudent to have a grit bin sited in the neighbourhood. All agreed that this was a good idea.
- 3.2 Gill has approached the Parish Council who have agreed to pay for the bin, which Highways are obliged keep stocked with grit, at their cost.
- 3.3 It was agreed to purchase a lockable bin, to prevent people leaving any unwanted "gifts", rather than to prevent theft of the grit, but that the bin could be left unlocked at times of necessity.
- 3.4 In the interests of accident prevention and for the protection of the Parish Council and volunteers alike, it is desirable to have a plan of action for ice/snow clearing and gritting. Gill Ellis
- 3.5 Paul and Tracy Stroner volunteered. Gill to approach others seeking their commitment to help when the need arises. Gill Ellis
- 3.6 It was agreed to concentrate on three main areas:
- ❖ The hill on Stoke Road;
  - ❖ Junction of Stoke Road and Greenway Lane;
  - ❖ The bends at Arundels Cottages

### 4 SOCIAL

- 4.1 Paul Stroner reported that social events continued to be well supported. The date for the main event of the year, the summer barbecue and picnic, will be Saturday 18 June 2011 from 2 pm. Mike & Gloria Westlake
- 4.2 Mike and Gloria Westlake agreed to coordinate a bowls evening, most likely to be held in September/October. Mike & Gloria Westlake
- 4.3 There is a possibility of a Summer walk – to be confirmed. Gill Ellis
- 4.4 It was agreed that there would be another pub games night towards the end of January 2012. Gill Ellis
- 4.5 Kelly Durdan reported that she was organising an Easter Egg Hunt in Creech St Michael centred around the canal, the boat and local history. The event to start at 2pm on Easter Sunday. It was agreed to publicise the event via the notice board and web site.

## 5 ANY OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

5.1 Gill Ellis reported that Devon and Somerset County Councils are developing a joint bid to secure funding for fast broadband for rural areas. They are seeking support from businesses and private individuals and anyone who would like access to faster broadband is urged to complete their online questionnaire at <http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk>.

5.2 Gill reported and Kelly Durdan confirmed that the Community Speedwatch camera no longer requires calibration as drivers are not actually prosecuted on the basis of its recordings, thus there will be no call on our funds for this purpose.

5.3 A number of residents noted that there is an increasing problem with car parking at the top of Stoke Road, with vehicles causing an obstruction. Keith Hammond undertook to take this up with the Police on the next occasion.

Keith  
Hammond

## 6 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

6.1 The next meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday 13 October 2011, 7.30 pm at the Mount Somerset Hotel.