



Hockley Residents Association

www.hockleyresidents.co.uk

Community Update August 2010

ARE YOU RECEIVING US?

The HRA works hard to try and keep our residents informed on events affecting Hockley, using a variety of methods:

- Our website news page - <http://www.hockleyresidents.co.uk/news.htm>
- Regular emails to our distribution list
- Periodic newsletters delivered across Hockley
- A Facebook page – “Hockley Residents” – where you can post comments and join discussions
- Posters on council noticeboards and in shop windows
- Articles in local newsletters and radio (although we cannot control if and what they publish)

However, despite our best efforts, we still get told “Nobody told us!”

We would welcome suggestions on how we can reach more people more effectively but if you would like to receive our news update emails (usually around one per month and no ‘spam’), please send a blank email to brian.guyett@hockleyresidents.co.uk with the heading “News Updates Please”

Planning

Local MP, Mark Francois, will be speaking at a special meeting of the HRA at 8:00pm on Friday 10 September in Kilnfield House. He will be addressing residents' concerns regarding plans for thousands of extra houses in the District and the council's proposals to redevelop Hockley Village Centre.

Council censures residents' consultation responses! About 460 residents responded to the recent consultation (on how RDC (Rochford District Council) propose to allocate housing, gypsy sites etc across the district) using a common form of wording. The council entered these apart from comments on Eldon Way, which they have repeatedly refused to enter. Suppressing these comments is undemocratic; totally unacceptable and will undermine future consultations. The HRA has made a formal complaint to the council and expects to take this to the Local Government Ombudsman so that confidence in the system can be restored.

Hockley Area Action Plan - RDC have kicked off the next stage but appear to still be ignoring resident's wishes. As mentioned above, about 460 people submitted their views in response to the council's last consultation and they unanimously stated they want to keep the village atmosphere and do not want major redevelopment. This latest consultation totally reflects the findings of the HRA survey completed last October but local councillor and planning supremo, Keith Hudson, is still pushing for Eldon Way to be redeveloped. We are promised a public meeting in the autumn but the council will not give us a date. Watch the HRA web-site for updates.

Core Strategy – Until recently RDC have been consistently blaming the Labour government for imposing extra houses on the area but, although the new coalition government has changed the rules, the council is sticking to its proposals, including use of greenbelt land. It is very disappointing that the council have once again ignored the wishes of its residents and have agreed to build 190 houses a year for 20 years i.e. 3,800 extra houses. Hockley is down for 200/250 extra homes. We await the report due in the autumn, from the Government Inspector, on the soundness of the council's strategy but the Inspector has recently hinted that she wants a further 6 week consultation following recent rule changes by the Government. Ironically, RDC recently turned down a similar request submitted by independent councillors John Mason and Michael Hoy.

New bobby for Hockley

PC Steve Joynes is being promoted to supervise Rochford's Neighbourhood Policing Teams. Whilst we are delighted at this well deserved recognition of his efforts, we are disappointed to be losing him. Many thanks Steve for everything you have done for us. Steve is being replaced by PC Gary Tween and PCSOs Laura Merrell and Kelly Bowen will ably assist him. A warm welcome to Gary!

New cycle track?

The 'MUD' group presented their plans for a new cycle park near Hambro Hill, at July's HRA meeting. Local residents voiced a number of concerns:

- the number of users (unclear but estimated at max. 200 on event days) and traffic volumes
- noise from tannoys on event days (estimated at 15 Sundays per year)
- security for neighbouring properties
- concerns that the land owners may have other plans.

The meeting acknowledged the voluntary efforts that MUD are making to consult residents and the MUD team undertook to produce further information on the above issues.

The Hockley Parish Plan – volunteers required

The Hockley Parish Plan Group has reviewed the Parish Plan and is well satisfied with the progress achieved in the last five years. We now have more buses, more bus shelters and speed warning signs. Recycling has been revolutionised, litter collection is much improved. Drugs misuse is now being monitored and treated by new agencies. Youth issues are being addressed by the Massive Youth Centre project. Crime and anti-social behaviour is being handled by the Neighbourhood Action Panel.

The current HPPG team have decided it is time to stand down and will produce a final newsletter and updated Action Plan in October. Many of the members will continue to work for the community within the HRA and it is hoped that concerned residents will form a new group and produce a new plan in the near future.

Why have a new Parish Plan? There are still many threats to our community and the environment, principally the extra housing demanded by the Government. To answer this we need to have evidence of the resident's wishes. A Parish Plan provides a powerful weapon for community groups and local authorities to fight proposals made by Westminster and its quangos which would irreparably damage our district. It is a statement of how the community sees itself evolving over the next few years, and reflects the views of all sections of the community. It sets out a vision for the future of the parish and identifies the actions needed to achieve that vision. It is a local, action-based plan which identifies the features and characteristics of the parish that residents value, but also identifies and addresses a range of issues and opportunities affecting rural communities.

A Parish Plan is based on information provided through survey, research, consultation and community participation, and identifies the needs, aspirations and priorities of residents and local businesses. It includes a plan of action to achieve identified objectives. It is principally for your parish but may also be able to influence statutory planning processes.

Please let the HRA know if you are interested in joining a new team.

Fire station needs old cars

If you have an old car that you would like to dispose of without cost, Hawkwell Fire Station needs it to practice cutting techniques on. Please note that it is essential you have the logbook of any vehicle being donated. To donate your vehicles please ring 01702 614433 or pop into Hawkwell Fire Station in Main Road.

New dentist to open in October

Local health bosses have told us that the new NHS dentist will open in early October in new premises a few yards from the library. This will replace the temporary NHS capacity which used to be provided by the White Hart Lane surgery. Watch the HRA website for further updates.

Forthcoming HRA meetings

- **Friday 10 September:** Mark Francois MP will be answering questions on planning issues.
- **Tuesday 12 October:** AGM -

All meetings start at 7.30pm in Kilnfield House next to Hockley Station – hope you can join us.