

Chairman's Report, AGM 2010

Directors

J L Hill
J E Shead
I E Marshall
D P Bannerjee
A E Maynard
M L Quinnell-Scott

Secretary J Maber

East Grinstead Lawns

We have a gem of a gardener in ZAC of EAST GRINSTEAD LAWNS. He takes great pride in his work and has achieved much in making the estate look good. I will leave the rest to John in his report.

FENCE on Western Border of Gardenwood estate

We have made some progress with regard to the fencing that runs down the estate from Austen Close to the Princess Diana tree at the bottom of the hill. I must admit it is not a great breakthrough after many years of trying to get an answer from Persimmons, the present owners of Waites the builders who built Gardenwood estate. However, at long last, we have a name and admission that they will now investigate. They do say in mitigation that they had never received any letters from us until we sent the last letter by registered post, then they had to answer. We have now sent them all the past correspondence and asked to be kept informed of what action is to be taken. Please don't hold your breath.

STEALING DAFFODILS

I have had reports of some people stealing the daffodils from the estate. Please if you ever see this in the future please try and stop them. It is your estate and we are trying to get it looking nice. I have had several compliments from people passing through the estate on what a lovely condition it is in. Let us keep it that way.

FLY-TIPPING

We have had several occasions where fly-tipping has occurred. Please let us know if you see anything of this kind..

I would like to thank people like SHELAGH FOWLER who has tried, with some success, to get the council to remove rubbish from the estate she had noticed. You will all have noticed the damage caused at the dell where originally our tree surgeon's (Madgwicks') lorry became stuck in the soft grass during the winter. They did repair the damage but it was reported to be still there. On investigation we found that someone later put a vehicle on this same grass. We noted that the Madgwicks lorry was at right angles to the path, these new tyre marks being lengthways to the path. Zak is giving us a price to repair the damage. As you can see someone thoughtlessly drove onto the area and now we the residents have to pay.

BLUEBELL RAILWAY & RAIL NETWORK

I would like to thank ROBIN YETMAN of The Christies who has been waging war against RAIL NETWORK and BLUEBELL RAILWAY who have been working at all hours of the evening and well into the night. We all know the work has to be done but it does not need to be late at night. He has achieved some success and I am being kept informed on the progress.

MAINTENANCE FEES

I am still upset that it takes so long for people to pay the maintenance fees. We all signed up to them when we signed our deeds. I and the directors have worked diligently to keep the costs therefore you fees down. The fees have remained the same now for five years which has been an achievement considering the rise in cost of living.

It is therefore depressing when we have to chase up some 35 people who just ignore the letters. We have this year taken two people to court. Why they wait I have no clue.

They have to pay the court fees on top of the £40 originally asked for AND they get a CCJ which is a blight when looking for credit. Not to mention the time and effort running after these people and the admin required for the Courts.

CONTACT BY THE RESIDENTS

I am please by the number of residents who have emailed us. This has helped us keep in touch with you and, when necessary, quickly sort out problems. News relevant to the estate is placed (and archived) on our website.

GARDENWOOD DIRECTOR

As you can see from the list of directors we need new blood to join us. We have six directors and need at least one more to achieve voting rights. We meet approximately four to five times per year. I have been disappointed that nobody again has stepped forward. Please remember if we step down then we shall be forced to go to a management company and then we will have a moan on the maintenance fees !

I hope this report has helped an understanding of the activities on the estate.

Jack Hill

After the AGM, the chairman gave a small “Where are we today” talk on the PRC, summarised as follows:

HOUSING

I am still fighting the building of large quantities of housing in the area. Gardenwood residents voted to joint the **PRC** Post Referendum Campaign to carry out this fight. Many of you think that this threat has gone away but it has not. Just the other day, a new estate was proposed for Imberhorne lane on the west side of the lane. We are fighting this development because, if we lose, a precedent will have been forged and large-scale housing will creep into the area.

The red arrow is the land that is under review for 100 houses



Since I have been on the management committee of the PRC I have attended many council meetings at Haywards Heath. In many cases the right hand does not seem to know what the left hand is doing. We have tried many times to get consultation with the council to ensure that a Core Strategy reflects the local requirements, not those of Haywards Heath.

The **PRC** has always recognised that some housing is needed but we want affordable houses not luxury houses. We are also fighting for the infrastructure to be upgraded

(sewage, water, electrical, health, schools, roads, etc). Until this is done, we oppose anymore houses. We are now in meetings with Nicholas Soames, MP, who has similar concerns. We are also concerned at the dwindling number of employment positions in East Grinstead. Which begs the question - Why are we building so many houses so that more people will need to travel to London and Crawley? - which of course increases carbon emissions that many people in government claim to be concerned about.

The government has for many years talked about affordable houses, where are they?