

Winter 2016 NEWSLETTER

Manor Park and Hempstead Fields Residents' Association



With the clocks changing we now have to accept that winter is here and Christmas is not far away! However, it has been a memorable summer with a lot of good weather, including a heat wave in September, and wonderful success in the Rio Olympics. This summer has also been notable for Uckfield with the High Street road works and one way traffic but we now have a very attractive and pleasant High Street so please support our local traders, not forgetting to use your membership card to get discounts - please see our website for full details.

We are always looking for ways to improve our community spirit, so if you have any ideas for events or projects then please let me know. We are aware that the footpaths (twittens) continue to be a major concern and we are exploring ways of trying to improve them. We know it is a long running and difficult issue but we are determined to find a solution - more in the article on page 2. Enjoy the changing seasons in our lovely neighbourhood. Paul Sparks, Chairman

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Good news – life saving defibrillator planned for Browns Lane shops



Have you ever passed a box marked 'Defibrillator' and wondered "Just what is a defibrillator?"

They're appearing in public places all over the UK, with the intention of making it easier to prevent deaths from cardiac arrests.

It's a simple device that anyone can use to deliver an electric shock into a patient's chest to start their heart pumping normally.

The Residents' Association is joining with the Lions Club and the Town Council to share the cost of getting one installed at the Browns Lane shops.

We hope to install it quite soon and when we do we will make sure everyone is made aware just how easy it is to use.

Our Park and Stride Initiative

Inconsiderate parking and congestion in Downsview Crescent, at school drop-off and pick-up times, and road safety generally are topics that residents often complain to us about.

We have listened to your concerns and hope to launch a 'Park and Stride' initiative around Easter time next year. This will aim to encourage parents and carers to park well away from the schools in Downsview Crescent and walk the last hundred yards or so.

An important element of the project will be to get drivers to park considerately and safely. We also plan to support road safety training for younger pupils.



Twittens and Paths Update



More good news - we are making progress with our project to address the poor state of many of the twittens that criss-cross Manor Park.

With the help of feedback from residents after the item in the Spring newsletter and also at the AGM, our working group has identified several key routes that deserve be priority.

We are now drawing up a condition survey and talking to ESCC regarding the specification they require before these paths can be adopted.

We are also in the process of getting some idea of costs from local contractors.

The next and very important step will be to apply for grant funding to finance the work.

Fed up with Cold Callers?



We seem to be getting more and more warnings about rogue traders and other scams and so the Association looked into the pros and cons of creating a No Cold Calling Zone.

However having spoken to Trading Standards it seems that these zones are not actually enforceable but displaying a copy of the sticker (shown on the left) on your property has the effect of creating a mini 'no cold calling zone' for that one residence.

Because the sticker is an instruction to leave and not return it can be legally enforced and it is an offence under Consumer Protection Unfair Trading Regulations 2008 not to do so.

The Association has a supply of these bright yellow stickers, if you would like one for your home then please contact our Secretary, Peter, to arrange collection – please see 'Contact Us' on page 4.

Welcome Pack



It occurred to us that people moving onto Manor Park and Hempstead Fields might benefit from some information about local services etc. and so we have put together a 'welcome pack'.

This comprises a greetings card, the official Town Guide (courtesy of the Town Council), details of the Surgery Car Service and the Shoppers Discount Scheme and other useful information plus of course an application form to join the Association.

If you have new neighbours then please let us know and we will pop a welcome pack through their letterbox.

Other News

The Dene – following our application to Wealden District Council The Dene is now officially listed as a 'community asset'. This means if the land is ever put on the market then local community groups will have an opportunity to make a bid to buy it on the open market.

The Big Lunch 2016 – this went ahead as usual in June. Unfortunately this year, for the first time, the weather was very unkind to us. Even so we managed to raise over £100 for Demelza. Keep the second Sunday in June next year free for the 2017 Big Lunch.

The AGM – the formal part of the AGM was followed by an extremely interesting talk by Mick Harker about the Bridge Cottage Project.

Other events – whilst the Big Lunch has a history of being well supported other events such as the Wine Tasting evening and the Christmas Quiz Night do not attract the same level of interest and so I am afraid we are not planning to organise any other social events for the time being.

Easy fund Raising – the Association is registered with the Easy Fund Raising organisation, which makes a donation to us each time you make a purchase online. Many of the big stores support the scheme – Amazon, Tesco, Debenhams, John Lewis etc.

You do not pay any extra for your purchases but the Association automatically receives a small percentage payment each time you buy something.

You just need to follow a simple registration process to participate at www.easyfundraising.org.uk



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STOP PRESS!

The Safer Wealden Partnership has awarded the Association a grant of £1192 to support our Park and Stride initiative to discourage inconsiderate parking in the roads around the schools in Downsview Crescent – more news about this next year.

Support Our Shops

It's been a tough summer for our High Street and we can continue to do our bit by shopping locally. Don't forget Association members also have the advantage of some significant discounts in 24 shops and businesses trading in the town.

These include, a solicitor, financial adviser, car repairer and valeting, hairdresser, gift shop, a pub restaurant and many more.

If you would like to join the Association then just get in touch with Peter our Secretary – see 'Contact Us' elsewhere on this page.

The subscription is still just £5 per calendar year.

Rest those tired legs and enjoy the view

The Association will soon be installing a park bench on the grassy area that fronts the shops in Browns Lane. This will give weary shoppers and walkers an opportunity to catch their breath and enjoy the magnificent views across The Dene towards Buxted.

We have just gained the landowner's permission to site the bench on the land and so, all being well, come the New Year the bench will be in situ.

We are also looking to see whether it will be possible to provide a handrail on the steeply sloping path that runs down to the shops from Downsview Crescent.