



HHAG NEWSLETTER NUMBER 9 (21ST JULY 2009)

Hello Everyone,

Sorry it's been a bit quiet lately. We have been working on a lot of things behind the scenes. Firstly, behold our new logo (above)!! Again, it was the work of one of our excellent, talented volunteers. We think the idea conveys the greenbelt and AONB of our lovely countryside that we are trying to save. We hope you like it.

On the subject of creative work, we have now got our web site up and running. The address is:

www.hemleyhill.org.uk

As always with new web sites, it is still a work in progress. But we hope it gives a good background story; links to all the current news stories; some good photos, including one of the field taken a few years ago, before the current takeover; and information on how to donate to the cause.

A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Talking of donations, can we say a big thank you to those of you who have given financial support since our last "fund raiser" letter? We have had support from Mr & Mrs K., Mrs O'C. and Mr and Mrs O. If you're not on this list and have recently donated, please get back to me, so I can add your name to "the roll of honour". (By the way, we're happy to print your full name, if you're happy for us to do that. Do let me know.)

Please keep the donations coming.

RETROSPECTIVE PLANNING APPLICATION

Some of you have written, asking what's happening regarding the retrospective planning application. The short answer is: not a lot!

As you know, the period for objections closed last month. We were told that a decision would be made by WDC by or around August 4th, but we are now getting various stories, so all I can say is that you will be the first to know as soon as we do.

PETTY THEFT IN THE AREA

We can't say for sure that this relates to our "new neighbours", but vans have been seen slowly touring the area looking carefully at the houses on the street. So far, we've only heard of some pot plants stolen from a front garden in Loosely Row and a car broken into on Shootacre Lane. If you know of any other petty theft like this, please advise us.

This might be a good point to put in a plug for Neighbourhood Watch. All the local Neighbourhood Watch coordinators get a circular advising them of any local criminal activity. So, perhaps it's an idea at present to make sure you know who your local coordinator is and advise them if you have been the victim of any burglaries or petty theft.

I'd like to remind you that you should make sure you get a "unique reference number" from the police if you have to report a crime. As I have said in previous newsletters, it does seem that the people you deal with on the police "helpline" (should you succeed in getting through!!) will try to fob you off with a "thank you for reporting this. It will be noted". Apparently, this allows them to keep the crime off of the local statistics. We understand that you do have to demand a unique crime reference number.

On this subject, we have heard very informally from local police officers that they believe that crime is up in the area. Our local police superintendant Ray Wilks (the man who said that all the 350 people who turned out at the British Legion Club were just "people who don't like their new neighbours") is determined to play down the statistics. We have even heard that, although recent statistics from our area showed a rise in crime, he has now said they were wrong and that he is working on a "revised" set that will show crime going down.

Another funny story on this subject:-

Since our last newsletter there was a commotion at the travellers' camp one night, involving a violent altercation between a couple. When a local lady went up to complain about the noise and swearing, one of the women from the camp asked the lady to call the police and ambulance as it looked like the result of the row would be grim.

The local lady asked why she should make the call and was told that the police and ambulance won't come out if there's no formal postcode for the problem (!)

So, the police and ambulance were duly called, but when they arrived they would only stop at the crossroads of Shootacre Lane and Upper Icknield Way. The police said that they are not allowed to go into these camps "in case they are hurt" and the ambulance staff said they can't go in without the police to protect them!

These are our fluffy neighbours who wouldn't hurt a fly... So why don't the police even dare go near them? Funny old world.....

FUND RAISER

Finally, we're trying to get together some ideas for a fund-raising day near the end of August. I'll send more news nearer the time and when the details are looking a little clearer. It might be a chance to get together with other people locally who feel the same as you.

Well that's it for now. Sorry there's not more exciting news at present, but perhaps we should all be glad for that?

Kind regards,



BOB STREET, HHAG

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