

STOKE D'ABERNON & DISTRICT RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

HALF YEARLY MEETING 22nd MAY 2008

The meeting was opened by Ian Nelson, Chairman at 8.00pm with approximately 50 residents present.

Ian Nelson welcomed County Councillor Dorothy Mitchell, Councillor Roger Whitaker, Ken Purssey and John Stevens from Cobham, Rev. Rosemary Mason and Hannah Farquharson from the News and Mail.

Apologies were received from Councillors James Vickers and Jan Fuller, Jenny Vickers, Heather Lee and Rosemary Shapley.

Ian Nelson commenced by outlining what had happened in the area and what the committee had achieved since the AGM in October 2007. There has been enthusiastic support over the Christmas tree lights and the 'switching on' ceremony and although the lead up to 1st December, when the lights were switched on, was thwarted with problems it all "went well on the night". As it was such a success it is hoped it will continue for many years to come and the lighting up will take place on December 6th this year.

County Councillor Dorothy Mitchell next addressed the meeting and talked about the street lighting along the Stoke Road at the moment there is a row of lights along one side of the road only. There is some drainage work planned for the road and when this is done the lights will be re-sited. Evidently on 'A roads' the lights are placed on one side only and she assured us that they would not be higher than the lights in Vincent Road. EDF are the contractors involved but unfortunately there is no installation date and so there is still no date for the work to commence. Dorothy Mitchell informed us that 'refuges' will be built along the Stoke Road to help residents to cross and also to slow the traffic – this work should be finished by the end of the year.

Bray Road – The footpath at the back of Bray Road and the alley will be cleared and the brambles cut back.

Tilt Road - The problems of parking on Tilt Road will go to the June sub-committee but Elmbridge have to sort out the road before Surrey County Council (S.C.C.) can put down the lines. Elmbridge have indicated that they will pay S.C.C. for lining the road but before any of the work can commence the plans must be advertised for 4 weeks to allow residents to object. Then 4 tenders have to be obtained (this is set by law). The contract will then be agreed and work can start. Hopefully this will all happen in the summer.

Pot holes – The large potholes that have appeared from Bray Road to Korea Cottages in Tilt Road, which is common land, will be repaired by S.C.C.

County Councillor Dorothy Mitchell has offered £600 for our 'tree' fund. This offer will be taken up as soon as possible.

Ian Nelson thanked Dorothy Mitchell for attending and for her offer of funds. She had to rush off to another meeting.

PROPOSED M25 SERVICE STATION:

Ken Purssey and John Stevens attended the meeting to give us an up date on the preparations for the motorway service station. 60 acres have been earmarked but as there are still problems to overcome no start date is available. A few of the problems that have to be sorted out are security (illegal immigrants have been dropped off at Downside where they then walk to Bookham station) – surface water (proving a big problem) – no access to the site other than from the motorway (in the early stages heavy vehicles will have to be brought in from Downside) – what to do with the large amount of soil after excavating the motorway underpass – hopefully more soil will be placed around the new roundabout that will be build. At the moment the soil surround will be to 2 ½ metres. All of these problems, ideas and possibilities will have to go to council for approval. Once the initial work gets underway a 'hotline' will be set up.

POLICING:

An open meeting was held on 15th May with PC Lee Fabry, PCSOs Sandra Treadgold and Eugene Terblanche in attendance. About 30 people attended and further meetings will be arranged for the future when residents can speak directly to the police about any problems etc. they might have.

GUEST SPEAKER - REV. ROSEMARY MASON:

Rev. Rosemary Mason gave an interesting insight into the history of St. Mary's church and an update on current events and happenings and future plans. Rev. Rosemary Mason kindly brought along postcards of St. Mary's, pencils and leather bookmarks and bookmarks depicting the famous brass of Sir John D'Abernon The Elder, 1277. Ian Nelson thanked Rev. Rosemary Mason for the very interesting talk which everyone seemed to have enjoyed.

PLANNING:

Ian Nelson introduced David Lewis who monitors the planning applications that are likely to concern Stoke D'Abernon residents. The committee have decided that we cannot as a Residents' Association take up the mantle against all applications but will vigilantly monitor and object to those we feel will have an impact on the amenities of Stoke D'Abernon. David Lewis informed the meeting that 152 Tilt Road had gone to appeal – no outcome as yet. Work has started on one of the plots on the Inglenook Bungalow site (the one with access to Stoke Road). There was a problem concerning the size of the dwelling to be erected on the

other Inglenook plot and the developer has re-applied. The proposed development in D'Abernon Drive has been refused – the Association objected at appeal. We, the Association, also lodged an objection to the proposed development of Skilton's Yard, as although it is strictly out of our area of concern it was felt that, not only was the development out of keeping but Skilton's Yard has historic significance.

ENVIRONMENT:

Warwick Hutchinson, the committee member who looks after 'environmental issues' gave a short talk about Oxshott Heath and its importance in the area. The Heath receives no public funding and is maintained and managed by donations from local residents. Information was available on the conservator's plans and how to make donations. Warwick Hutchinson also emphasised the importance of trees to our area and the environment as a whole and expressed the regret of us all at the loss of the large oak tree in the grounds of the house adjacent to The Plough which sadly was a potential danger and too rotten to save. Ian Nelson then took over once more and told the meeting that the committee plan to plant more trees in our area and will continue with the daffodil planting regime. The meeting was asked to monitor the footpaths, which continue to be a problem and also to let a committee member know of any areas of ground that need tidying up. Hopefully the council are about to tidy up some of the overgrowth on Woodlands Lane. Councillor Roger Whittaker has promised some more money for the 'tree planting' project and this will be followed up as soon as possible.

Ian Nelson thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 9:45pm.