



## The Willowhayne Residents' Association

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## Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2018 – save the date!

A date has now been set for the Willowhayne Residents' Association's AGM. The meeting will take place on **Wednesday 25 July at 7pm**, at the Conservative Hall, Sea Road, East Preston. We hope that as many of you as possible will come along. We will be offering prosecco, soft drinks and nibbles after the formal meeting to give residents an opportunity to meet and chat.

We remind residents that you need to be a fully paid up member of the WRA to attend and have your say. If you wish to have any subject included at the AGM, or wish to propose any member's resolution, details must be made in writing and received by Hobdens at least six weeks prior to the date of the AGM. Further detailed information regarding the AGM protocols can be found on our website (<http://willowhayne.org>).



Any questions relating to the audited financial accounts should be submitted to Hobdens, no later than **Wednesday 18 July**, to ensure we can answer your questions with clarity at the AGM.



### Wheelchair access at the AGM venue

Please note that there is a fire door at the north of the building, which is used for wheelchair access. A path runs down the side of the hall.

# WRA Board - UPDATE

Following our plea in the previous newsletter for new directors, we are pleased to announce that Mike Chambers and Mike Dunne have been co-opted onto the Board and will be seeking election at the AGM in July.

Mike Chambers moved to the Willowhayne Estate, from South London, in July 2010. Before his retirement, he worked in Telecommunications & IT, working for a number of large international Industrial and Utility Companies. He ended his career as a Senior Technical Consultant. Since 2012, Mike has assisted the WRA by checking planning applications made to Arun District Council. As a director on the WRA Board, Mike's responsibilities will include planning and development.

Mike Dunne moved to the Willowhayne Estate in 2013. Mike's responsibilities on the WRA Board will include Security, Health and Safety and chairing of the Road Safety Working Group.



## Your help is still needed!

We are still in need of a volunteer to take on the responsibilities of roads, drains and signage on the Estate. If you feel you have the relevant skills and would like to discuss the role further, please get in touch with us, via Hobdens. We would love to hear from you.



## East Preston Village Festival 2018 (1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> June)

Preparations for the 2018 East Preston Village Festival are well underway and programmes listing all the activities can be purchased from local shops and businesses. Please note that during the carnival procession on Saturday 9th June, the gates at The Ridings will be closed for a brief period between 13.15 – 13.45 to assist with safety of the event.

Two of our Willowhayne residents, Fiona Champion and Lesley-Ann Gotts, will be taking part in the East Preston Festival Art and Garden Trail, on Saturday 2nd and Monday 4th June. Fiona is opening her studio in Michel Grove. Refreshments will be available, the proceeds from which will go to Chestnut Tree House.

## General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

The GDPR come into force on 25th May 2018. The data that the WRA and Hobdens holds on residents of the Estate is covered by the new regulations and we shall be putting more details on the website under Stop Press. Please check there for further updates.

# Overdue Estate Rates

At the end of April 2018, there were fifty four properties that had not fully paid this year's Estate Rates. This amounts to just over £13,200, or 13%, of the expected total. If you are unsure how much you owe, or you have difficulty in paying, please contact Hobdens.

## Road Safety Group Update

Following concerns raised at the AGM in 2016 and again in 2017, the Road Safety Group was set up to consider a number of issues and to investigate feasible solutions. Broadly those issues were:

- Is there a speeding problem on the Estate?
- Are traders the worst 'offenders'?
- Is the Estate being used as a 'rat-run'?
- Is there a safety risk on the Estate?
- Is the Estate privacy being compromised by 'tourism', driving instructors, and others?

Between October 2017 and April 2018, traffic flow and speed check surveys were carried out at five different locations, between the hours of 8am and 6pm, during the working week in school term times. The surveys were conducted on 15 separate days and some were repeated to ensure the data collected was robust. The total number of vehicles surveyed was 2,901 and results indicated:

- 13% of traffic use the Estate as a 'rat-run'.
- 50% of all traffic using The Ridings exceed the 20 mph limit.
- 52% of all traffic using Myrtle Grove exceed the 20 mph limit.
- 65% of all traffic using Michel Grove exceed the 20 mph limit.
- 70% of all traffic using Angmering Lane exceed the 20 mph speed limit.
- 20-30% of all traffic using other roads on the Estate exceed 25 mph.
- The worst 'offenders' are residents and other car drivers.
- There is no evidence that driving schools regularly use the roads.
- There is evidence that there are a small number of dog walkers and cyclists who use the Estate roads as 'tourists'.



The group is now working on solutions to begin to tackle these issues and will prepare a more detailed report for the AGM.

# Tree and hedge maintenance

In addition to the ongoing work of removing dead trees and broken branches on the Estate, the Board decided this year to tackle the problem of a row of massively overgrown Leylandii trees on the verge in Pigeonhouse Lane. These trees had become a hazard to passing vehicles and were also impeding the passage of pedestrians. The trees and their stumps have been removed by Barker Tree Surgery of Worthing. We will now carry out the necessary repairs to the verge.



## Household Waste

As this can be a busy time for gardeners, you may be interested to know that, as from 1 April this year, the opening hours for the Littlehampton Household Waste Recycling Site have changed. The site is now open from 8.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Monday, Thursday and Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

## Grass verges

There have been incidents reported where grass verges on the Estate have been driven on by vehicles, when roads have been partially blocked. Please avoid driving over and damaging the verges.



## Security on the Estate

In February, we were notified of an attempted break-in at a home in Angmering Lane. The owners returned from their holiday to discover there had been an attempt to force open a door. This incident was reported to the police, to the security guards and to Hobdens. Our thanks to the resident for notifying us of this incident and a request to all residents to please let us know, via Security and Hobdens, of any security issues residents need to be aware of.

## A reminder of Greensward restrictions

We have been informed of someone using a motorised go-cart on the Greensward. Not only is this potentially dangerous, but residents are reminded that use of the Greensward is restricted by the legal covenants on the land that limit the use to "on foot only with or without dogs". Any other use, such as cycling, horses, go-carts etc., is prohibited.

# Seagulls

## Nuisance or Victim?

In our previous newsletter, we asked residents to avoid feeding seagulls, as it encourages them to view people as a source of food and can make them aggressive. One of our residents has written in with additional useful information:

- Feeding gulls in residential areas discourages the gulls from returning to the sea and the coastal margins to take more of their natural food, although they have always been opportunist feeders.
- Nearly all our gulls are now listed as in need of protection, especially on the south coast where there is little unspoiled land for the gulls to nest on. Before the coast was built up, a species like the Herring Gull happily nested on the ground. However, this is no longer possible. Therefore they seek to nest on rooftops where there are no cliff ledges, thereby exposing themselves to persecution and poor breeding success in coastal counties like Sussex.
- Only about 100 or so Herring Gull pairs successfully bred in West Sussex last year, an alarmingly small number for a bird which, 100 years ago, was very numerous indeed.
- Gulls may be noisy, but they are a vital part of our coastal ecosystem, including scavenging fish carcasses before they reach the beaches. Well-fed, unstressed gulls normally don't invade human space to snatch ice-cream cones, but when under threat they can make good use of their strength and intelligence.



Another resident has a juvenile gull that started visiting his garden last year and has become a real pest. The resident does not encourage or put food out for it. However....

- The gull steals the bird food from the feeders put out for the small birds and damages the feeders.
- It gets into the green house and decimates the potted plants.
- It steals the bird food from the lidded tubs in the greenhouse.
- It takes the food put into the pond for the koi and, at over £11/kg, that is not popular. The pond is netted but it just walks on the net pushing it down.
- It has pecked and damaged the double-glazing seals on the patio doors.
- If the patio doors are open it comes in and takes the cat's toys.
- It ignores bird repellent tape, a model falcon and an ultrasonic bird scarer.
- It sits on the roof ridge with its feet astride the bird repellent spikes.
- It has now brought its mate to join it!

There is no doubt that these are intelligent birds, but they can be a menace in a residential environment. Please do not encourage them by feeding them and do all you can to discourage them from nesting on roofs or in gardens. This resident would love some advice on other humane tips to deter these visitors!

# The Willowhayne Residents' Association Website

Have you had a chance to look at our website? This is updated regularly and can be found at <http://willowhayne.org>. Information includes Stop Press, general Estate information, planning processes, security, rules and regulations, finance, past and current newsletters, and links to other websites. There is a section for residents' use only. Please contact Hobdens if you need the password. For security reasons, we don't publish this information in the newsletter.

We welcome your feedback on the website so do let us know if there is additional information you think might be useful to both existing and potential residents.

## Newsletter

Our thanks once again to Sam Harris for giving his time to work on the design and layout of the newsletter. We welcome items for inclusion in the newsletter although articles may need to be edited due to relevance and space available.

We rely heavily on our team of volunteers to deliver the newsletter door to door. If you think you may have the time to join this team, we would love to hear from you.

### Useful Numbers:

Police Non-Emergency Number:  
**101** or **0845 60 70 999**

Advance Guarding Ltd Control Room  
(Security) **01903 277345**

Contact us by either writing c/o  
Hobdens, 41a Beach Road,  
Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17  
5JA

Telephone: **01903 724040**

Or send a message using the website:  
<http://willowhayne.org>

### Board of Directors

The Estate is managed by a Board of Directors, who are all volunteers and who make decisions on behalf of residents on the running of the Estate.

The current Board includes Malcolm Barnett (Chairman), Ray Churcher (Vice Chairman), Tony Morris, Jane Burke, Arthur St John Simpson, David Charles, Sue McMain, Mike Chambers (Co-opted) and Mike Dunne (Co-opted). The specific responsibilities of each of the directors can be found on the website.

As mentioned previously, we are always looking for new volunteers to fill vacancies now or in the future. Contact us via Hobdens if you would like to find out more!

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[eastpreston@grahambutt.co.uk](mailto:eastpreston@grahambutt.co.uk)

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