

## The Willowhayne Residents' Association

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The Willowhayne Residents' Association's AGM will take place on 17th July 2019 at 7pm, and will be held at **East Preston Infant School, Lashmar Road, East Preston, BN16 1EZ**. This hall has seating for 200 residents, so should relieve the congestion we have had in the last few years.



Please don't be put off by the change of venue – the Infant School is only a little further than our previous venue and has plenty of parking and excellent facilities. The main entrance to the school can be accessed via Lashmar Road, where there is on-site parking, and also via St Mary's Road, where there is additional parking for attendees. If you park on the roads, please be considerate towards residents by not blocking driveways.

AGM papers will be with residents by 26<sup>th</sup> June. There are a number of Special Resolutions which are to be proposed and put to a vote at the meeting. Please see your AGM papers for more details. It is important that all members contribute to the decisions, either by voting at the meeting in person or using their proxy vote.

Please remember 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, wish to propose any member's resolution or propose the election of a director, details must be made in writing and received at least six weeks prior to the date of the AGM. Please send any details to Hobdens by **6th June**.

Any questions relating to the 2018 Accounts or the Finance report should be submitted to Hobdens, no later than **3rd July**, to ensure your questions can be answered with clarity.

Further detailed information regarding the AGM protocols can be found on our website (<http://willowhayne.org>).

After the formal meeting, there will be an opportunity for informal discussion, which will not be minuted. In order for as many people as possible to take part in the discussion in the time available, we would ask you to let Hobdens know, in advance of the meeting, if there are any specific topics you would like raised.

After the meeting, prosecco, soft drinks and nibbles will be available. We hope that as many of you as possible will stay on and enjoy the chance to socialise with other residents.

## Wheelchair access at the AGM venue:

All attendees will be directed to the hall via a side door, which is located by walking past the main entrance of the school as you enter from Lashmar Road and turning right. The entrance door will be signposted clearly on arrival. This entrance is accessible for wheelchairs.

## WRA Board Update - Your help is needed!

Yet again we are putting out an urgent request for volunteers to join the WRA Board. We are currently in need of at least three new directors to ensure that all our responsibilities can be carried out. Some of our directors are having to double up on workload to ensure things get done and the Estate can run smoothly. However, this is not sustainable in the long term, and, in spite of their considerable efforts, the lack of Board members is beginning to impact on what we are able to do and is putting at risk our ability to maintain the Estate to the high standard we have come to expect.

All Board members work as part of a team but are also given individual responsibilities according to interest and skills. However, we are always willing to be flexible to ensure any new members can be involved in their particular area of experience and interest.

### At the moment, our specific vacancies are in the areas of:

- Communications, which includes keeping the website information up to date with the help of our website designer, writing the newsletter and meeting and greeting new residents;
- Planning and Development, which includes monitoring the standards set for the Estate;
- Greensward and Grass Cutting, which involves liaising with contractors to ensure our shared areas are maintained;
- Security;
- Health and Safety.

Please don't feel that you have to be a long-standing resident to volunteer. Some of our most enthusiastic

directors have been those who are fairly new to the Estate and so bring with them fresh ideas. We are also keen to attract more women to the Board to ensure a balance of views and representation. So, if you have enthusiasm and some spare time, we would love to hear from you. Contact us via Hobdens and they will arrange for you to meet us for an informal chat.



## Overdue Estate Rates

As stated on numerous previous occasions, all Estate Rates are due in January every year. Despite a reminder in the last Newsletter, and a first chase letter being sent, there are still 14 properties which have yet to make any payment for 2019. These will be chased again if payment is not received very soon. If necessary, further action will be taken to ensure ALL Estate Rates are collected as it is not acceptable for anyone not to pay. If you really do have difficulties, or have a specific problem, PLEASE contact Hobdens urgently and we will try to agree a solution.

## Gate closures

Following the recent vote by residents, the weekend gate closures commenced in early April. So, just to remind residents, The Ridings gate (leading on to Sea Lane) is closed each Saturday, between 8am and 6pm, and the Angmering Lane gate is closed each Sunday, between 8am and 6pm. A team of volunteers is responsible for the closures and we thank them for their efforts to date. If you would like to be part of this team, please contact Hobdens.

Unfortunately, we have had reports of vehicles speeding between the gates, presumably in frustration at coming up against a closed gate. To avoid any incidents occurring, we would respectfully ask all residents to ensure that they observe our **20mph** speed limit **at all times**.



## Grass verges

A reminder that residents have a right of way to walk on grass verges as the Estate does not have pavements. Please ensure that verges are kept clear and that trees, shrubs and bushes are cut back so that they are not blocking the verge and road vision. There are some properties on the Estate where trees have been allowed to overhang the road and bushes are encroaching on the verge. We would ask the owners of these properties to kindly trim these back.



## Vehicular access to the Greensward

Please note that vehicular access to the Greensward is not permitted without authority from Hobdens. If such access is required for maintenance or other purposes, at least three working days' notice should be given and arrangements will be made for the bollards to be removed. Residents should ensure the bollards are replaced whilst any work is carried out and should leave the site clean and tidy. Residents will be responsible for any damage caused by vehicular access. Please note that the Greensward does get very wet at times and access will not be granted during these periods, other than in an emergency.

## Security

With the longer, warmer days upon us, please be extra vigilant about the security surrounding your home. An excellent list of advice can be found on the Police website [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk) where they advise that taking just a few steps can make a big difference in keeping your home safe from burglary. This includes locking doors and windows when you leave the house and even when you're just out in the garden; hiding all keys out of sight; installing a visual burglar alarm and good outside lighting; leaving radios or lights on a timer to make the property appear occupied; storing ladders and tools away where they can't be used to break into your home; locking side gates to prevent rear access and perhaps asking your neighbour to keep an eye on your property when you are away. Further measures can be found on the website above to help you to keep your home as safe as possible.

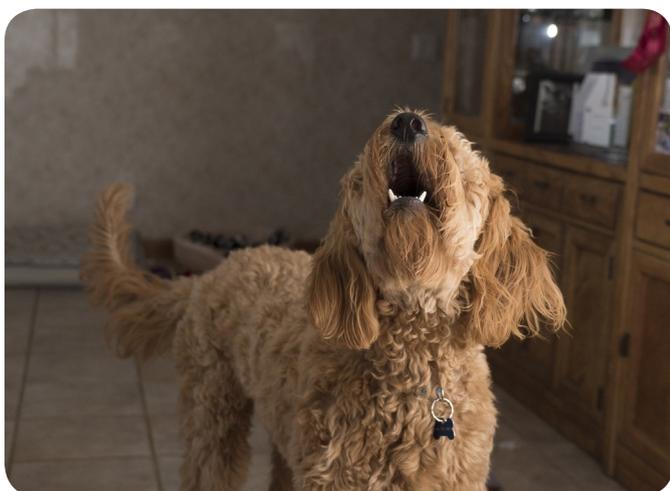
If there are any incidents involving the security of your property, please let Hobdens know so that our security guards and other residents can be alerted.

## Calling all dog owners!

Out of courtesy to verge owners on the Estate, we would ask dog owners to do their best to ensure their dogs do not foul the grass verges. Where they do, please scoop up afterwards. There are plenty of poo bins on the Estate and on the Greensward.

From time to time, we receive complaints from residents about barking dogs. Although all dogs bark, persistent barking over long periods can greatly disturb a peaceful neighbourhood and may be classed as a nuisance under the covenants to your properties. These covenants cover all properties on the Estate and state that you must not do anything that would cause a nuisance to your neighbours. It is you, as neighbours, who benefit from these covenants, not the WRA, therefore the WRA is unable to be of any assistance in neighbour disputes.

If you find yourself in the situation of being bothered by noise, such as dogs barking incessantly, then it is always best to communicate with your neighbour first. They may after all be oblivious to the fact that their dog's barking is creating a disturbance. If the problem continues, then Arun District Council may be able to assist and its leaflet entitled 'Noisy Neighbours', which covers all types of noise nuisance and can be found on its website, might be useful.



## East Preston Festival 2019

The East Preston Festival takes place between Friday 7th June and Sunday 16th June. The theme for the parade and Scarecrows is **Space Travellers – fact or fiction.**

Three of the Willowhayne's talented artists, Fiona Champion, Lesley-Ann Gotts and Paul Witton, will be exhibiting their art work, together with the Arundel Art Society, in Saint Mary's Church, East Preston, from Friday 7th until Friday 14th June. Entry to the exhibition (which is part of the East Preston Festival) is free. Opening times are from 10.00am until 5.00pm daily.

On Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th June, 10am – 5pm, East Preston Floral Club will be holding a show of flower arrangements to take you through a lifetime! This will take place at the Conservative Hall, Sea Road, East Preston and a donation will be made to the Sussex Kidney Trust. For more information visit **[www.epfloralclub.co.uk](http://www.epfloralclub.co.uk)**

Programmes listing all the activities can be purchased from local shops and businesses.



# Help the hedgehogs!

Hedgehogs have been spotted out and around the Estate in the evenings. Please keep a careful look out for them and help to provide them with a safe and supportive environment.

This includes:

- Driving carefully at dusk and nightfall to prevent running them over - even more reason to observe the 20mph (or less) speed limit;
- Providing easy access into and out of gardens, for example, by digging small holes under fences;
- Supplementing their natural diet with cat or dog food (wet or dry) or specialist hedgehog food. Note that dried mealworms, some seeds, bread and milk can be extremely harmful to hedgehogs;
- Leaving shallow dishes of fresh water dotted around the garden.

If you see a hoglet/hedgehog in the daytime, it may be because it is sick. If you can catch it (always wear gloves), please call the British Hedgehog Preservation Society on 01584 890801 for advice on what to do. They will probably put you in touch with a local carer. WADAR is an excellent local charity that can give advice and information. If you find an injured hedgehog, Fitzalan vets' Littlehampton branch and Grove Lodge in Worthing will treat free of charge.



## Antisocial behaviour

We have been notified of an incident which took place on the evening of Sunday 31st March in Angmering Lane. One of a group of four young men was seen riding his motorbike at great speed up and down Angmering Lane. When confronted by a resident, one of the young men claimed to live on the Estate, although no name or address was obtained. We know that antisocial behaviour such as this can be very intimidating for residents. Unfortunately, the WRA does not have investigative powers to follow up on incidents if full details of the perpetrators are not obtained. Our advice is for residents to call 101 and report the incident to the police if they feel threatened or intimidated in any situation.



### What speed do you drive on the Estate?

Please remember there is a 20mph limit for ALL vehicles.

# 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**

Residents are advised that the misuse of the security service will result in a recharge of the WRA expenses incurred.

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), Mike Chambers, Sue McMMain, Arthur St John Simpson, Terry Burke (co-opted) and Brian Daley (co-opted). Their individual responsibilities can be found on the website.

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, we are in urgent need of new volunteers to fill vacancies now. 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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