

# Norton Lees Residents' Association



## Minutes for Annual General Meeting 23 April 2009 St Paul's Church Centre 7.15 pm

### Present

Chair	Richard May (RM)
Secretary	Dave Holt (DH)
Treasurer	Pat Bradshaw (PB)
Editor	Nick Robinson (NR)
Committee	Ken Bower (KB), Lyn Bower (LB), Rachel Nicholas (RN)
Police	PCSO Rachael Graham (RG)
Councillor	Bob McCann (BM)
Guest Speaker	Trevor Haughton (TH), Sheffield City Council (Environmental)

### Local residents and interested members of the public

### Apologies

John Brown, Andrew Hogan  
Cllr Peter Moore, Cllr Ian Auckland, Cllr Frank Taylor

### Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

### Tackling Noise Nuisance

Trevor Haughton (TH) introduced himself and the work of Environmental Services at SCC who deal with domestic noise nuisance, who :

- assist with **all** domestic properties including council tenants **and** private owners.
- determine whether the noise actually is a nuisance depending on the particular circumstances, including the time of day when it occurs.
- enforce particular laws concern noise originating from *inside* a property, from all sources including loud music, raised voices, banging doors, etc.

If you are suffering from noise nuisance you should report this through the '101' service, which is available 24 hours a day. You will be provided with an informative booklet so that you know what we can and cannot assist with. The booklet includes a diary for you to log when and how noise incidents have disturbed you, and you complete this for at least two weeks. We will then install monitoring equipment in *your* property for between three and seven days, and you continue to log incidents when you have been disturbed. We then remove the monitoring equipment and analyse the noise as if *we were in your home*. If the noise only occurs occasionally we can install our monitoring equipment again and again at your property.

If we determine the noise as being a nuisance we will serve a notice on occupier of the offending property requiring the noise to stop. This remains in force indefinitely while that occupier lives at that property. Should the notice not be complied with we apply for a Magistrates Warrant allowing us to appoint bailiffs (sometimes accompanied by the Police) to seize equipment.

Q. What about dog barking?

A. Similar process with a log book but you deal with a different department in SCC.

Q. What about houses in multiple occupation (HMO's) / bedsits?

A. We do try to get names of occupiers. Can also serve a notice on the landlord - nuisance noise would usually be a breach of Tenancy Agreement.

Q. What about outside space / smoking areas / talking loudly late at night?

A. Our remit is only inside premises, however what you are describing is anti-social behaviour and

you can contact the Police SNT (safer neighbourhood team) through the '101' service, although this is a low priority for them.

Q. Don't some people know the noise limit (in dB) and play up to this level.

A. Our department determines what is a nuisance and what we will take to a court who will ultimately decide. It's not a strict limit of dB.

Q. Is there a cut-off of 11pm?

A. No. If you are experiencing noise nuisance when you are actually in the house (not down at the shops!) then we will investigate.

Q. Do you now work at weekends as well?

A. Yes, our office is staffed office hours plus Fri 7pm-2am, Sat 7pm-2am, Sun 7pm-3am.

**RM** thanked Trevor for an interesting and enlightening session.

### **Crime in the Community**

**RM** summarised crimes which have been notified to him.

These include 3 house burglaries and 2 car break-ins.

5 thefts from the local shops including a team of girls aged 15-18 plus one male taking spirits and beer.

6 anti-social behaviour incidents around Thorpe House PO. Arrests for malicious damage. Parental involvement and now all quiet.

Dennis the milk-man reports that milk is again being taken from door-steps.

Overall things are reasonably quiet, in no small part to the Police working with the local schools.

### **South Yorkshire Police**

Rachael Graham (**RG**) introduced additional PCSO Alistair Cooke to cover Norton Lees and Norton. Crime statistics were reported showing how this area has lower incident counts on all the major indicators that the SNT deal with.

Litter Pick at Mundella School on Friday.

Acknowledged that Newfield youths had been throwing items at Mundella children and patrols had been increased to prevent this.

They are now issuing questionnaires each time we contact the PCSO's / SNT. This helps identify priority areas. This month every off-road motorbike report will be responded to within 60 mins.

There is a major push on theft from vehicles. Even the sucker mark from a sat nav should be removed, for example, as cars are being broken in to just to look. Owners of vulnerable vehicles are being are to be contacted by letter, eg. coat left on a seat could contain a wallet and lead to a break-in to find out. It's not nice, try better to help yourself!

Q. Why is anti-social behaviour not on the list?

A. Unlikely to be a crime itself, and difficult to monitor. We do and will still respond.

Q. Is your targeting successful?

A. Two bikes have been caught but released with a first offence warning. We do our best to find an officer who has already warned the rider as the bike can then be seized. More signs at entrances to woodland / open spaces are needed as this warns the rider they are committing an offence.

Q. Can we report incidents direct to your office?

A. We're often out and about as you would expect, although there is an answering machine.

Remember that you must always get an incident number by contacting '101' or 2202020.

**Cllr Bob McCann (BM)** reported that the Police are working much better with the Council and most crime figures are down on last year, although the media rarely report good news such as this! PCSO's are really coming in to their own and providing a uniform on the street.

**RM** advised that people could hand in Police questionnaires to Thorpe House PO and he would ensure they get back to PCSO Rachael Graham.

### **Ann Kay from British Polio Federation**

Ann told us that Polio is still prevalent in other countries, and encouraged us to be vaccinated when travelling abroad. She thanked our newsletter for featuring her interview about the BPF telling us how they help the many ageing sufferers with activities, events and a newsletter. She encouraged meeting attendees and those reading the minutes later to contribute 1 pence for each of the BPF's 70 years, just 70p to support their excellent work.

### **Reporting Back**

**RM** briefly outlined how the Residents Association has developed during the past year. He particularly highlighted how the work of Nick means we now have a great newsletter which gets better each time. He thanked Dave who, as Secretary, is the core of the Committee. He thanked Pat for once again begging money from the Council! Just as importantly he thanked the rest of the Committee and the gathered audience, without whose support makes it all worthwhile.

**PB** thanked Mr Farmery for once again auditing our accounts. An essential job, and we are very grateful for his gift of time to do this.

Our financial situation is £526 in the bank with £170 cheques not yet presented leaving us £355 for the year. This includes the £248 grant from Sheffield City Council.

**DH** explained that our annual expenditure for four newsletter and four general meetings is over £800, much of which we raise from advertising. We are very grateful for the support of local businesses with the newsletter, and encourage our members to consider using them.

### **Election of Officers**

**RM** conducted the formal election of each officer and committee member.

Each appointment was approved by proposer, seconder and the consensus of members present.

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### **AOB**

**RM** explained the ongoing issues with Lees Hall Avenue street lights. The initial fault of on 24 hours a day for some time, and then off completely had been fixed by Yorkshire Electric. Sadly this has occurred again, and we are now waiting for the Yorkshire Electric 15 day response to repair them!

**NR** Spoke about the need for a plant swap as most gardeners will have too many of some types, but would prefer some variety. Contact Nick whose number is in the newsletter.

**RM** Closed the meeting. There followed 15 mins of informal discussion and networking.

**Next General Meeting Thu 23 July at 7.30pm**  
**(may be different room, if so it will be well signed)**