

ROMAN WAY FORUM HELD 15th JANUARY 2011

HELD AT ST PAULS CHURCH HALL SMANNELL ROAD ANDOVER

Present: Chairman –Len Gates - TVBC Councillor

Andover Town Councillors - Barbara Carpenter and Kevin Hughes

PC Simon Merritt – Hampshire Police

PCSO Becka Williams – Hampshire Police

Alice Underhill – Testway Housing

Residents from Hadrian Road, Caesar Close, Trajan Walk, Turin Court,

Roman Way, Vespasian Road and Tiberius Road

John Cockaday - secretary Alamein Community Association, non executive director of Testway House

Janet Whiteley - TVBC Councillor

Apologies Mike Jones - Neighbourhood Watch, Phil North - TVBC Councillor

Copies of previous meeting notes and an agenda for this meeting were distributed.

Councillor Gates opened the meeting at 15.05

Items outstanding from the meeting held on 4 September were discussed as follows:-

Councillor Gates stated that the community notice board has now been delivered but planning permission is required before it can be erected.

The missing kerb stone on the corner of Roman Way and Hadrian Road has still not been replaced. The surface in Hadrian Road is generally in poor condition with many holes and cracks.. The foot path between the Newbury Road and Trajan Walk is deteriorating and was reported to HH on 9th July and nothing further has been heard.

Concern was expressed that many of the overhanging trees and foot path defects mentioned at the last meeting have still not be rectified. Len Gates and Barbara Carpenter are to follow up with HH.

Again, it was asked if the foot paths in the area could be swept clean of leaves by the motorised cleaning machine. Barbara Carpenter is to follow up.

This covered the outstanding matters from the previous meeting. Councillor Gates moved to the next item on the agenda.

Police Report

Youths gathering at the Tesco's store in Smannell road are still a nuisance. Some residents have stated that they feel intimidated. The police are monitoring the situation and would like further information regarding names of youths involved. PC Simon Merritt reported that the Police are seeking additional powers from the Council to be able to more effectively deal with this problem.

PCSO Becka Williams said that overall, residents seem quite happy with the low level of problems being experienced at the moment.

A resident stated that a motor bike has been seen driving on Hadrian Road with a rider not wearing a helmet. A very clear description was given of the rider and this description immediately struck a chord with both Police Officers present. Despite this, we were told that the rider, probably backed up by parents or friends, will deny being there and that other than a warning, it is likely that no further action will be possible. PC Merritt said that photos of such incidents will greatly help but residents must not put themselves in danger.

Complaints were made about vehicles speeding between the Smannell Road and Roman Road roundabouts. PC Merritt said that he will pass this information to the Traffic Police. He said that it may be possible to site a speed camera to catch offenders. A resident asked that if drivers flashed a warning to other drivers of a nearby speed camera, would this be an offence, the answer was yes and a recently published prosecution was given as an example.

A resident referred to the regularly reported damage to vehicles in the King Arthurs estate. PC Merritt said that the majority of cases were as a result of domestic altercations. However he and PCSO Williams stressed that all incidents of damage or bad behaviour should be reported to the Police. (The Police can be contacted three ways – dial 101 or 0845 045 45 45 to report vandalism, bad behaviour, speeding, suspicious behaviour and the like. ONLY use 999 for emergency situations such as serious vehicle accidents, assaults and crimes in progress, (ie, situations where immediate deployment of police resources is necessary).

It was reported that there have been instances of milk being stolen from doorsteps. PC Merritt said that in most cases, it is the actions of late night revellers returning from town.

Neighbourhood Watch

Mike Jones was unable to attend the meeting. PC Merritt stated that there is much information given on the police website that can be read by anyone with internet access. He stated that due to cut backs, there is no longer a NW Co-ordinator.

Neighbourhood Warden

Wardens have been successful in dealing with kids in Hadrian road but they may be dispensed with in the near future again due to cut backs. Councillor Gates asked if these Wardens should be kept on. There was general agreement that they should and though no promises of success were made Cllr Gates said that he would present our views at Council

Hampshire Highways

It is planned to close Icknield Way to through traffic which will mean extra traffic using Viking Way and Roman Way. Additional traffic calming will be installed at the junction of Viking Way and Roman Way before the closure of Icknield Way takes place. It is also planned to add an additional lane and install traffic lights on the Tesco roundabout; to put a link road between Homebase and Wickes and make changes to the traffic lights between River Way and Homebase. There is also a plan to re-route the Star 1 bus through the railway arch adjacent to the old Sheppards Spring pre-school, to River Way. Apparently Tesco is to close for one week in February for some of the access work to be carried out.

Len Gates is going to ask a representative of the Traffic Planning department to make a presentation at a meeting to be arranged as soon as possible. It was also suggested that a County Councillor attend the same meeting to be made aware of all the many concerns about the awful state of our local roads, footpaths, street lighting and overhanging trees, salt/grit bins, etc.

A resident stated that a wheel on her husband's car has been irreparably damaged by driving over a snow covered pothole. Expert opinion was sought from a local tyre company who confirmed that the damage was on the inside of the wheel and was consistent with driving across a pothole. Cllr Gates said that he has been told that Hampshire Highways are waiting for better weather before they act to repair the roads.

There is still a street light not working in Tiberius Road, despite being reported several months ago and a road sign has disappeared in Swallowfields.

A resident asked why according to a published list, there was no plan to put grit/salt bins anywhere in the Roman Way Estate? He stated that the steep footpaths either side of the footbridge across the Newbury Road had not been cleared of the autumn leaves nor had been gritted during the recent snowy and icy weather.

He asked why the Council was not doing its job. It was also suggested that in addition to a salt/grit bin being sited adjacent to either side of the bridge, approaches to the Roman Way underpass should also have a similar bin.

Cllr Gates is to press Hampshire CC and Hampshire Highways to attend a special meeting as soon as possible to address the concerns of the state of the roads and footpaths and what action is planned.

And explain the current plans regarding the Tesco Roundabout, Icknield Way, access to Wickes and Homebase

Housing Issues

Nothing was raised at the meeting.

Any Other Business

Endorsed by PC Merritt a resident reported on the disgraceful state of the shopping area at Atholl Court. The Canopy is festooned by moss hanging from the gutter, the glass is filthy, the 'takeaway' shop front is dour, when the general level of light is gloomy, the stairs that lead down to the car park are dim and dangerous and the whole place needs a good clean-up and a repaint. It is understood that a budget has been set aside for some time to improve this area, when will it be spent? The problem of rubbish at the bottom of the stairs is creeping back.

A question was asked – how many times are the roads swept. Answer next meeting

Future Meetings

Len Gates stated that he would be happy to chair the next meeting but suggested that the chair and note taking should be rotated. Town Councillor Barbara Carpenter has volunteered to take on the chair and this was agreed. No volunteers came forward to take notes.

Cllr Gates is to investigate the proposal to hold future meetings in the evenings during the week.

The meeting closed at 16.40. The date, time and venue of the next meeting will be published when known.

To assist in ensuring that future meetings address your concerns, a tear off slip is provided below. If you have any suggestions to make about future meetings, or questions about local housing, environmental issues, or are worried about local anti-social behaviour and vandalism, please fill in the section below and put it through the letter box at 61 Trajan Walk. Please give as much information as possible. All returns will be passed to the Chairman and no names, addresses or phone numbers will be published.

Nature of problem/concern-----

Please continue on the reverse if you need more room.

NAME ----- ADDRESS -----

TEL NO (will only be used to contact you if necessary) -----