Bownham Park Rodborough Residents' Association Ltd Newsletter October 2011

Dear Residents,

1. New Residents

We welcome to Bownham Park:

Mrs Sue Tyrer 27 (Brindley House) and wish her many happy years in Bownham Park

2. Save pounds on your water bill with Severn Trent

Many of you will be on metered water, but some may be paying a charge based on the rateable value of the property. If there is only one or two people in your property, you may well be able to halve you water bill if you change over to metered water. (So long as you are not watering the lawn on a daily basis!) Installation of the meter is free. There is a water use calculator on the web site.

http://www.stwater.co.uk/server.php?show=nav.5621

Part of the water bill is for surface water - i.e. rainfall that drains from the roof or garden. Sometimes this water is directed in the foul sewer. However the majority of the surface water in Bownham Park goes into soakaways. If you can prove to Severn Trent that all, (and it must be all), of your surface water does not go to the foul sewer, one does not have to pay this charge. On a two person, metered water household, that might be a saving £50 per year.

Apply via http://www.stwater.co.uk/upload/pdf/B5154_-_SWD_web_pdf.pdf

If you do apply, Severn Trent will visit and check things out.

Judy Kelsey at 57, and Keith Eyles at 23, have both been recently successful in getting this charge removed from their bills. No 23 forms part of Phase 3 - the "Bovis" development.

Keith sent Severn Trent a copy of the original Bovis development surface water drains drawing, which shows that the surface water for all these houses goes into a separate system, (to soakaways), and not to the ST foul sewer. Attached to this email are copies of the sewers around the Park.

Following Keith's application, Severn Trent surveyed all of the Phase 3 surface water drains in case another Bovis property wants to make an application, so a lot of the groundwork has been done.

For those residents without access to a computer, please contact Keith who will provide the necessary forms.

3. Council Meetings

Many of you who have yet to serve on the BPRRA Council may wonder what we do at our meetings.

Like all committee meetings, we have a formal agenda approving the last meetings minutes and dealing with any actions from those minutes.

Maintenance of the Park is high on the agenda as it is the main reason for our existence.

Finally, in the normal items, we cover property transfers, neighbourhood watch, and finally "Any other business" which often brings up one-off topics which are generally not ongoing.

At our last Council meeting we discussed our finances, in particular what effect the transfer of the sewers to Severn Trent might have and what we could propose to our members. Various suggestions were made and these will be considered before the next Council meeting before making a final decision. We also looked at what we could do to get the best interest possible on our account. Sadly there are few accounts for association's such as ours which give any real return.

On the subject of estate maintenance we discussed the cost of road sweeping. We have to order the road sweeper several months in advance and however we plan the right date, almost always either the leaves have not dropped, it snows or some other thing occurs which means that the sweeping is not being done at the most appropriate time. It costs about £600 a year to have the roads swept and it is not always effective due to the sweeper being unable to get to the edge of the haunching in places because of overhanging hedges etc. (Can you look at yours and please try to cut them back to be in line with the haunching.)

The committee therefore thinks that we could save this money by having working parties as we did last year to do the work round the Park coupled followed by a social gathering to thank those who participated. We will send out details later this year of when we propose to have the first session so that we can get as many of you to help as possible.

As we are now entering the season when bonfires are occasionally necessary, please remember that some of the residents have respiratory problems and be considerate when lighting them. Also please consider the wind direction so the smoke does not blow into neighbours gardens.

On the subject of estate maintenance, several cracks have appeared in the roads around the Park and we hope to fill these in before the frost makes them worse.

If it is not raining, we are going to put new road markings at the top entrance on Tuesday 25th October at about 9:30am. The top entrance will be closed for about 2 hours on that day so if you need to leave the Park please use the bottom entrance during this time. I will issue a reminder nearer to the date as well.

Martin Clements Secretary BPPRA



