



SPRING 2014 NEWSLETTER

WOOLLEY GRANGE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

WGRA welcome residents old and new to the first newsletter of the new committee.

The NEW face of WGRA

NEW Website

NEW Social Events

Keeping YOU informed

www.woolleygrange.org.uk



Woolley Grange Residents
Association

woolley.grange@googlemail.com

THE NEW FACE OF WGRA

Dear Residents,

It gives me great pleasure to announce the 2014 WGRA committee. We are a group of volunteers, who offer their free time to represent the views of local residents and promote a healthy and happy environment for all of us living in Woolley Grange. The committee has a diverse skill set, which will bring a wealth of experience to help achieve the following aims:

- Inform residents through a variety of media about local events and hot topics for the area, supporting those that will benefit the area and preserve where we live.
- Support and promote local charities.
- Work with the Rural Policing team to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour within the wider community.
- Source and apply for additional funding to improve the quality of for residents of Woolley Grange.
- Communicate with residents regularly via newsletters, Facebook and the website.

Over the last few years WGRA has held a number of seasonal social events and a brilliant Jubilee street party. They have worked closely with the management company to address poor maintenance of the public open spaces and communicated with Bovis to encourage them to complete the site and handover to WMDC for adoption. Worked with parish councilors to clarify the various changes to our leasehold arrangements as one company went into bankruptcy and Hastoe Housing took over. Worked closely with Woolley Parish and local councilors to encourage WMDC to address outstanding planning consents with regards to the original 106 agreement. In addition to the above they have also arranged a library and school bus service to come to the estate and raised awareness of local concerns including amongst others, parking and dog fouling.

New committee members are always welcome, if you are available the fourth Wednesday of the month from 7:30-9:30 please get in touch. We generally meet at either a committee member's homes or a local pub.

Thank you to all residents for your support and I hope to meet you at one of our upcoming social events.

Darren Grimbley

Chair of WGRA

THE COMMITTEE



Darren – Chairperson

Moved in to the first Strata House in December 2006, just in time for Christmas. I have worked in banking for the last 10 years and I am currently at Santander, working as a Technology Risk Specialist. I'm married with children who are 15 and 20!!!

My main aims for my time working with WGRA is to increase the overall community feeling through both resident support and social events.



Charlotte – Vice Chairperson

My work life is as an Assistant Head in a Primary school in Leeds, where I am also a governor. We moved on to the old Elite bit of Woolley Grange nearly seven years ago and have since had two children who are both under 4. I have thoroughly enjoyed supporting the organisation of social events and tackling the bigger issues over the years as a Woolley Parish councilor and hope to continue to do so, for a few more years yet as part of this new committee.



Laura – Treasurer

Currently enjoying a second stint of maternity leave from my role as an expatriate tax advisor at Deloitte. I have two children both under two that is both manic and incredibly rewarding! I've lived on Woolley Grange for 4 years this summer in the Taylor Wimpey development. My aims as a committee member is to help to continue the fantastic work WGRA have achieved over the years & increase the number of social events.



John – Secretary

Currently working as Head of Scientific Support Operations across the Yorkshire and Humber region. I have lived in Woolley Grange in the former Elite Homes Development, with my wife Tracey since June 2006. We have 5 children aged 36, 28, 27, 26, and 25 and have three grandchildren aged 12, 10 and 2 weeks old. I feel I would like to offer my help to assist in building upon the excellent work already carried out by WGRA.



Matt – ICT

Currently working in Leeds at Town Centre Securities PLC as an IT Manager. I live with my partner and 3 children (16, 5 and 2) and I have lived on Woolley Grange since May 2006. By volunteering my time and skill set to WGRA I hope to help WGRA benefit all residents and build on the sense of community and keep Woolley Grange a great place to live.

We also have other committee members who work with us on Social Events and the community hall project – alas they are a little camera shy!

WEBSITE LAUNCH

We are currently working on developing a new website for Woolley Grange www.woolleygrange.org and look forward to launching it soon.

The aim of the website is to complement the regular feed of information provided by our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/wgrapage) by providing a place for more static content that people can refer back to.

We are frequently being asked to recommend tradesmen, local parks, pubs or restaurants via Facebook messaging. The website will build on this and promote Woolley Grange, advertise local events and attractions, be that recommendation point for local tradesmen or businesses – with a particular focus on people who have businesses on the estate. A useful information section answering FAQ such as bin days, library bus visits, family meet ups. The site will also publicise information from WGRA such as next events, meeting dates, agendas and minutes for you to download.

You'll be able to participate in surveys, polls and sign up to our electronic newsletter.

The website core focus is on residents and we would love for residents to constantly contribute to the site. One way is through our photo gallery section, asking residents to post their photos of Woolley Grange and you'll be able to browse these along with photos from our events etc.

Another way to contribute, is if you have photos of Woolley Grange during the development phase which we can add to our History Section.

If you have ideas of what you would want to see on the website or want from the website, please do get in touch as the more suggestions and feedback we receive the better it will be.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

RMG AGM – Wednesday 21st May 2014, 6pm at Woolley Village Hall

Do you have issues with the maintenance of the public open spaces? Do you want to know how your service charge is managed and spent each year?

If so please come along to the AGM as it is your opportunity to meet our representative Colin Clifford, ask your questions and discuss any concerns you have. If you cannot make it and would like us to pose any questions on your behalf please get in touch via the usual route.

Next WGRA Residents Meeting – Wednesday 21st April

Following RMG AGM – hope to start at approximately 7:30pm



DARTON BREWERY TRIP – Friday 4th July

We are organising a trip to the Two Roses Brewery in Darton on Friday 11th July. The Two Roses Brewery is a small family owned brewery, which opened in March 2011. Producing specialist beers from malted barley, hops and Yorkshire water. They offer brewery tours giving those attending a chance to see the inner workings of their brew house.

Costing £20 per person, the tour comprises of a coach pick up and drop off from the estate, pie and pea supper at the Talbot Inn - in Mapplewell, a tour of the brew house at the Two Roses Brewery and 4 pints of their ale.

If you are interesting in purchasing a ticket please get in touch via the usual routes. Places are limited so book early - as with all our events family and friends welcome (Over 18's only). We have had a recce of The Talbot and would say this has a recent external face lift and new management and had warm, welcoming, friendly staff.

SUMMER EVENT – Saturday 30th August 2014

A family event on the estate, including children's entertainment, competitions, raffle prizes, food and bar. This will be similar in style to the Jubilee event held a couple of years ago. Keep the date in your diary and watch this space for updates!



EASTER EVENT - The Great Woolley Grange Easter Egg Hunt

We hosted the annual Easter Egg Hunt on Monday 21st April. The successful event saw 35 entrants scour the estate in the sunshine searching for our 10 cunningly hidden Easter egg pictures before returning to the playground to claim their prize. The children had a wonderful time playing in the sunshine rounded off with some lovely Easter chocolate.

LAND AT DARTON END OF THE ESTATE UPDATE

The land that is currently wasteland at the Darton end of the estate, where WGRA have been exploring the possibility of purchase and building a community facility, has proved to be too costly for us to move forward with the outright purchase of the land. We have tried to apply for a number of large grants including the Big Lottery but are thwarted by the fact that the postcode of the land is not in a deprived enough area. We are still continuing to investigate other options and in the meantime are keeping an open line of communication with the Land Agent (who is acting on behalf of the landowner) to keep abreast of any ideas he has with regards to planning applications he is considering putting in, so that the first we hear of any plans is not via a public notice. As soon as we hear anything, we will pass on the information.

PLANNING

Shop – permission has been granted for the shop to be built as per the original planning consent passed by WMDC. This was passed in January and will be sited just as you exit the estate at the Darton end on the patch of grass set back from the path prior to the wasteland area. We understand the shop is going to be a showcase for green energy solutions for small businesses and homeowners. The shop will have a flat above and after one year they hope to rent the shop to a local business. The planning application to change its usage was withdrawn after a number of objections.

Wind anemometer – permission has been granted for the mast to be erected to record the level of wind speed up on the spoil tip. It is understood the company applying for this will use this to gather data to decide whether or not to apply for a wind turbine to be sited in its place in the future.

Solar panels – a local farmer off Woolley Edge Lane has started to investigate the possibility of converting one of his fields to a solar farm. WMDC have insisted they complete an Environmental Impact Survey before applying for permission.

Upkeep of the Public Open Spaces – As you will have seen this week Envirocare have been on site on Wednesday for a scheduled visit to cut the grass on the maintained open spaces. The rest of the open spaces and verges are currently under the maintenance of Bovis as they have not been handed over to us yet. We have received the following email this week from Bovis and so hopefully by the time you are reading this, the rest of the estate will be up to standard.

Dear All,

My sincere apologies for the lack of maintenance within your estate on behalf of Bovis homes. I have contacted the relevant contractor to discuss why this situation has arisen. They will now be on site to rectify the matter by no later than Friday of this week or sooner if the weather allows. I have also asked them to provide a quote for the repair of the fencing during their visit to ensure this is tended to quickly and enable us to instruct them to repair.

Once again I give you my apologies and hope this is the last of this situation.

We will keep you up to date on any planning applications that have an impact on the local area as and when we hear about them.

A PLEA ON BEHALF OF YOUR NEIGHBOURS

From recent email and Facebook feedback to us, the following are the hot topics of conversation.



CHILDREN PLAYING - PLEASE DRIVE CAREFULLY

Please, please drive at an appropriate speed through the estate, especially now the summer evenings are coming and children are playing outside.

PARKING

We appreciate there isn't a lot of space on the development for people to park their cars, but we ask everyone to be both courteous and respectful to others when parking – using their driveways and parking spaces where possible and please remember that the visitors spaces are available for all to use.

DOG FOULING

Please, please, please CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR POOCH. The large amount of dog mess on the estate is unacceptable to everyone. We appreciate we live in a rural area but this does not mean it is acceptable to allow your dog to foul the footpaths, open spaces or neighbours gardens because you cannot be bothered to 'scoop that poop'. There are two dog bins on the estate – one on a lamppost on The Grange as you are leaving the estate heading towards Woolley Edge Lane and one on a post at the bottom of the steps on Silverwood Road. If you don't walk past one of these bins...take it home and put it in your own bin. We have been assured by WMDC that once the estate is adopted more bins will be delivered.

PUBLIC OPEN SPACES

The playground equipment was designed primarily for the use of children under the age of 9. The grass area is a safe place for all children to play ball games and hang out. However could we all please remind our children to respect the equipment (we all have to pay for its maintenance) and the purpose of the playground. Out of consideration to the neighbouring properties the police safescheme officers have agreed to come out occasionally and check the area for antisocial behavior now the summer evenings are approaching.

Around the estate children are free to play, especially in the public open spaces, but please encourage them to be considerate of home owners' cars and property.

PARISH PRECEPT

A number of residents expressed their surprise about the increase in the Parish Precept element of this year's Council Tax. The Parish Council have issued the following statement to explain the reasoning behind the increase:

The Parish of Woolley which incorporates Woolley Village, Woolley Grange, Haigh and outlying areas have, for the 2014 / 2015 period, chosen to set the Parish Precept at £30,000. The precept levy is shared by the households in the Parish. Over the last five years (2008 – 2013) the precept level was maintained at £16,000 which, with the increase in the number of households in the parish, primarily at Woolley Grange, resulted in a year on year decrease in the precept paid per household. During the same period the council has absorbed some costs and has additionally sought to increase the facilities provided to the parish.

Towards the end of the current financial period the council had to reduce its commitment to services in the parish in order to maintain a positive financial position. Instruction from National Government may well have limited the council's ability to increase the precept to a level that would be required to meet the enlarged commitments to the parish.

It was for these reasons that the council took the unanimous decision to increase the precept. The council acknowledges that the precept appears significant in percentage terms however it is calculated from the total precept and not the precept levied per household, (i.e. taken in context, the increase in the precept will simply re-establish similar levels to that historically paid per household). The precept is reviewed annually and may well be maintained, decreased or increased according to the Parish Council's commitments to the parish.

The council's budget and expenditure for the financial year is made available for inspection on notice boards at Woolley Village, Woolley Grange, and Haigh after each annual audit and via its web site (although this is currently awaiting upgrading).

PARISH COUNCILORS

Carol Robson, Charlotte Smith and Mark Brooks – all live on the estate and can be contacted via any of the usual routes (as we will pass the messages on) or via the Parish Council website / emails as below. They also have a notice board, which we share when there is space on the Village Green just up from the playground.

Website www.woolleypc.org.uk

Carol - crobson@woolleypc.org.uk

Charlotte - csmith@woolleypc.org.uk

Mark - mbrooks@woolleypc.org.uk