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FREE!

Issue 12 | December 2008

www.kecsag.org

Newsletter

Delivered by CSAG volunteers to over 2500 households in the Keynsham East Area



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Spotlight on Chandag Rd

Residents, schools, businesses and Police meet to tackle top PACT priority

The traffic and parking issues in Chandag Road aren't going to be resolved over night but following a meeting of key representatives on 26th November, the matter has taken a positive step forward.

Hosted by PC Ian Harris, the meeting brought together, for the first time, representatives of those directly involved to discuss the traffic and parking issues that had been identified, documented and displayed by KECSAG.

Those present included the Keynsham Neighbourhood Police Team, KECSAG, Local councillors, Wellsway School, Chandag Junior School, Duo Hair & Beauty Salon, P&H/Symonds delivery manager and B&NES representatives from the traffic and parking departments.

Unfortunately, there was no representation from McColls which, considering the issues, was disappointing to say the least.

Alison Creech, head teacher at Chandag Juniors, gave a view of what the school is trying to achieve by encouraging the pupils and parents to walk to school - using an incentive scheme with badges for successful pupils to collect.

Liz Palfrey from Duo explained the need for her staff and clients to park near the salon but highlighted that safety at night and a lost key was a reason that they don't utilise the area behind the shops.

Richard Brimble, Premises Manager for Wellsway School, offered statistics on the current parking and possible overspill into the surrounding area and speculated about what the school could look at, in order to ease this situation.

Discussing the issues, Steffen Chiffers and Mike Weston, from the Traffic and Parking

PARKING RESTRICTIONS EXTENDED

As result of discussions between PC Ian Harris and B&NES Parking Officer Mike Weston, two white lines have been extended on the bends in Chandag Road around the entrance to Wellsway School - as these two photos show.

This should ease some of the parking problems in that particular area during the school rush hour and particularly with road flow for larger vehicles such as buses.



departments of B&NES respectively, gave their expert view on a number of alternatives proposed by KECSAG after the much publicised consultation with Keynsham East residents.

A number of key areas are now to be examined further by the B&NES team of officers and PC Harris and include:

- * A designated loading bay on Chandag Road outside the shop area.
- * Re-assess and endorse the road markings around the shop area.
- * Investigate the repositioning of the bus-stops and a drop-off zone for the schools.
- * Explore extending the current onsite parking at Wellsway School.
- * Ensure easy access to the area behind the shops to encourage more use by the owners.

For further information and an update make sure you're at the next PACT meeting

Date for your Diary Next PACT meeting:
Monday 15th December | 7pm
Wellsway School

PACT

6th PACT meeting UPDATE ON PROGRESS

News of the Regional Spatial Strategy plans to build 3,000 homes in Keynsham brings concern and disbelief whilst dominating the meeting of residents, local authority reps and Police.

Find out more on **page 2 >>**

All change in Keynsham East

As reported to the right, at the last PACT meeting Roy Gallop announced that he would be standing down as PACT chair and was pleased to be passing the role to local resident Paul Sims.

Paul is keen to become fully involved with the PACT process in this area.

Roy commented that he hoped that together, those committed to the PACT process, could work more effectively with KECSAG to continue to develop the PACT process into an effective and successful method of engaging with the Keynsham East community.

At the KECSAG AGM held in October, Treasurer Mary Sutton announced that she would be standing down from this position. Mary was thanked for maintaining meticulously accurate records!!

KECSAG is delighted to announce that another local resident, Clive Fricker, has agreed to take up the vacancy. Many of you will know that Clive has, for many years, been a key member of the Chandag and District Residents Association (CADRA), and is now looking forward to being more fully involved in the good work being undertaken by KECSAG.



NEW APPLICATION FOR SUPERMARKET PROPOSAL PLANS

Developers Deeley Freed Estates have announced they will be submitting a planning application for the development of a 20,000 square foot foodstore on the existing car park site just off Charlton Road.

At this stage there is no mention of who the store may be occupied by but there has been speculation for many years that Tesco are a prime candidate.

As well as the store, 191 car parking spaces will be provided, 'enhanced pedestrian links' and improved vehicular access.

B&NES will carry out a consultation on the planning application in due course and a drop-in session kick-started on 10th December. Keynsham & Saltford Times reported that, included in the outline plans, there will be £250k of funding towards improvements and 'community facilities' within the town.

We will watch out for this news to develop.

The PACT meetings continue to push forward your priorities...



Concern over Government threats to the Green Belt motivates new PACT priority

In addition to the Chandag Traffic issues already highlighted on the front page, residents voted for two other priorities, one of which was "Concerns about the Regional Spatial Strategy".

As part of the recently revised Regional Spatial Strategy, residents were informed that B&NES had been told to increase the number of new houses being built in the B&NES area to 21,300, with 3,000 of those being built in the Keynsham area. That would mean a build of more houses than currently exists in the whole of the Keynsham East ward – without any guaranteed or currently planned improvements to the infrastructure to support this kind of growth – and no additional jobs either!

The plans would also directly threaten the Green Belt, both between Bristol and Keynsham, and Keynsham and Saltford. There is concern that this development could eventually lead to the absorption of Keynsham and possibly even Saltford into an ever-expanding Greater Bristol.

In response to concerns over these developments being voted as a priority, KECSAG identified a lack of co-ordinated action to challenge the RSS, and contacted the Keynsham East Town Councillors and asked the question:

"What is "Keynsham" actually doing to voice its concerns about the implications of the RSS"

This was subsequently discussed at a Town Council meeting where it was agreed that amongst other things, a leaflet would be produced and delivered to each household in the area. It appears however, that many of these leaflets did not get delivered.

Did you receive one of these leaflets?

Other priorities chosen:

Chandag Traffic and Parking problems – this issue continues to be the main area of concern regarding problems caused by traffic in the area. PC Ian Harris and KECSAG will jointly pursue this matter.

Poor drainage on the Wellsway around the Rockhill Estate/Gooseberry Lane area – reports were received that problems with the drains in this area had resulted in flooding, and had caused the presence of raw sewage on the road. It was felt that this may also be a contributory factor to the reports of flooding lower down the Wellsway towards the Bath Road. B&NES Neighbourhood Manager Wayne Honey was tasked with following up this matter on behalf of the PACT meeting.

Other issues raised at the meeting included:

- Overgrown hedges along Manor Road towards Saltford.
- Excessive numbers of learner drivers in the area of Hurn Lane and Manor Road. (Residents were asked to provide more specific information on this matter and pass it onto the Neighbourhood Police Team who would follow up this issue).

At the close of the meeting, Mr Roy Gallop (Chair) announced his intention to stand down as Chair of Keynsham East PACT. However, as Chair of KECSAG he advised those present that both he and KECSAG would continue to support and work closely with PACT in order to continue to build on the early success of this initiative.

As his successor, he nominated Mr Paul Sims, who had already played an active part in establishing the residents sub-group who contributed to one of the early PACT priorities, the management of traffic on the Wellsway.

A member of public and Inspector Tim Stuckes wished to express their appreciation for the amount of work that Roy Gallop had undertaken, and his commitment to the community.

The meetings are open to ALL residents in the Keynsham East area and there is also the opportunity for anyone present to ask for a new priority for the local authority and partners to address or evaluate. Have you a viewpoint on this matter or on any others raised at the meeting... if so, please add a comment or suggestions on the KECSAG website at www.kecsag.org

Date for your Diary Next PACT meeting:
Monday 15th Dec | 7pm
Wellsway School

The Keynsham East Community Safety Action Group (KECSAG) met for it's Annual General Meeting on 20th October 2008.

The following officers were re-elected:

- Roy Gallop (Chair)
- Duncan Mitchell (Vice chair)
- Pat Morrison (Group Coordinator)
- Margaret Jacks (Minutes Secretary)

Under a new constitution, KECSAG meetings have become "open" meetings and dovetailed between PACT meetings, this would offer residents eight open meetings a year.

The result of this development has seen:

More willingness of residents to attend meetings and express concerns and a wide range of new issues have been raised.

BUT...

A consequence of this has been a lack of continuity between meetings, a lack of focus on seeing certain issues through to a conclusion, and a larger proportion of the work required to achieve our objectives falling on the shoulders of a smaller number of people.

As KECSAG addresses wider issues, most responsibility has fallen on to the Chair, and he's found himself unable to pursue some of the issues to a satisfactory conclusion. Pat Morrison has contributed a great deal to the success of day-to-day activities and to the coffee mornings in particular. They have been well supported by Vice Chair Duncan Mitchell, and by treasurer Mary Sutton.

The KECSAG Newsletter and website, envied by many in the B&NES area, has been down to the enthusiasm of Jez Bridgeman, and we are grateful to him. However the newsletter wouldn't be much use if it didn't get delivered by those volunteers who have delivered about 8500 newsletters during the last 12 months!!

We are always grateful for the contributions of our Councillors and our local Neighbourhood Police Team. Unfortunately, the presence of some of our councillors at KECSAG meetings has been variable this year, but it would be wrong not to mention the constant contributions made by Cllr Gill Hellier. Thanks also to Andy Wait who has again audited the KECSAG accounts.

Inspector Stuckes and Sergeant Norman have proved to be staunch supporters of the Community Safety Action Group

ethos. PC Ian Harris took over the Neighbourhood Beat Manager role from PC Chris Greaves and there are signs that working effectively together, we can achieve a great deal to benefit Keynsham East. PCSO Chris Purvey is praised for his welcoming presence during all winds and weather, and for the work he does during school opening and closing times.

Many thanks to those residents who have contributed to the debates that have taken place. Without their regular presence and involvement, KECSAG would not continue to function as effectively as it does.

Once again, in spite of some of the difficulties, much success has been achieved this year.

A more detailed account of the group's activities on a month-by-month basis can be found from the KECSAG website at : www.kecsag.org/latest/?p=468 or by contacting KECSAG by any of the methods shown on the back page and copy can be delivered to your door or sent to you via email.



Next KECSAG meeting:
Monday 19th January | 7pm
Community Building, Wellsway School

A big thank you to Andrews!

Andrews Estate Agents pride themselves on being a community focused business as well as an award-winning estate agents in the area.

Over 2 years ago, KECSAG were very pleased to receive their sponsorship of the newsletter and since then over 16,000 have been delivered to Keynsham East, keeping the residents up to date with the issues that KECSAG are tackling all year.

We believe the baton of sponsorship can now be confidently passed on to a business of equal reputation.



CONTACT US NOW!

CALLING ALL LOCAL BUSINESSES

If you feel you can sponsor the newsletter over the next 12 months contact us at contact@kecsag.org

Greater powers for PCSOs?

Residents from across the Keynsham, Salford and Chew Valley area met on Thursday 27th November to discuss with a consultant working for the Home Office, whether they were aware of, and satisfied with, the powers that PCSOs currently have in the community.

The purpose of the group was to consider whether the powers available for PCSOs was appropriate. The aim overall is to make sure that PCSOs can make the best possible contribution to safety in our communities.

All PCSOs in England and Wales now have a number of standard powers, some of which are listed to the right. However, because PCSOs work in very different neighbourhoods, there are a number of discretionary powers.

These powers may be given to PCSOs by the local Chief Constable. This depends on the operational needs of where they work and the priorities that local Neighbourhood Policing Teams have agreed with their communities.

A summary of both the standard and discretionary powers can be found on the kecsag website at www.kecsag.org/latest/?p=510, where you are invited to tell us whether you are satisfied with the powers that PCSOs now have or whether you would like them to have more powers.

The consultations will be completed and the final report produced in January next year and, of course, KECSAG will publish the main points on the website at www.kecsag.org

PCSO Standard Powers:

- Issue fixed penalty notices for littering, dog control orders and cycling on a footpath.
- Require name and address where they have reason to believe person has committed a relevant offence or relevant licensing offence, for antisocial behaviour, road traffic offences, possession of drugs.
- Confiscate alcohol from persons in designated places and from under 18s.
- Seize tobacco from under 16s.
- Seize drugs.
- Seize vehicles used to cause alarm.
- Stop and search in an authorised area under the Terrorism Act 2000

Example Discretionary Powers:

- Issue fixed penalty notices for disorder, truancy, dog fouling, graffiti and flyposting.
- Detain a person (if awaiting an officer).
- Enforce bylaws.
- Search people for dangerous items.
- Disperse groups.
- Search for alcohol and tobacco.
- Stop vehicles for testing.



MESSAGE FROM INSPECTOR TIM STUCKES

Safer Stronger Neighbourhoods (SSN) is something that is actually happening in your area! Whilst many other areas are struggling to get the community interested and engaged in local issues, Keynsham East is held up as a benchmark for others to follow.

Earlier this month I organised a development event at the Guildhall in Bath attended by PACT chairs from across the district, Police Authority and Chief Officers from the police and local authority. KECSAG Chair Roy Gallop spoke at the event which has inspired other districts to follow your lead... well done!

The Chandag Road traffic consultation meeting held on November 26th, is another good example where there has been a real willingness by residents, community groups, agencies, schools, businesses and the police to get together and discuss a problem identified as a priority at the September Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meeting - I will be interested to see the ideas that emerge from that meeting.

OK ... crime wise - I am pleased to say that all is calm on your area. On the other side of the River in Keynsham we have had an upsurge in shoplifting over the last couple of months, probably inspired by the economic times we are living in. There is a spate of burglaries in the Chew Valley, daytime, during the week at the moment and whilst we have suspects - we still need evidence so we are working on that. I also have a campaign running to get changes made at Temple Street car park. We often have boy racers gathering there at night in the covered floors causing a nuisance, and I am looking at this with the council at the moment.

That's all for now.

Inspector Tim Stuckes

Keynsham East

More info can be found on the police website at www.avonandsomerset.police.uk or via the KECSAG website at www.kecsag.org

Contact

The Keynsham Police and the KECSAG are keen to build a true picture of all incidents affecting Residents' quality of life and try to address these issues. Incidents can be reported (anonymously if desired) directly to the Police by telephone or by email or to the KECSAG, preferably by email.

REMEMBER IF YOU DON'T REPORT IT, IT WON'T GET LOGGED AND WON'T GET DEALT WITH!

Please be assured that your report will be logged and that the Police will take action as and when they feel appropriate and are able to do so.

There are a number of ways you can contact the Police.

Officers will respond to calls when on duty – details for the neighbourhood policing team based at Keynsham Police Station are:

	OFFICE	MOBILE	EMAIL
PC Ian Harris	01225 842 779	TBA	ian.harris@avonandsomerset.police.uk
PCSO Chris Purvey	01225 842 779	0791 752 9435	chris.purvey@avonandsomerset.police.uk
PCSO Sarah Hewlett	01225 842 779	0782 528 0033	sarah.hewlett@avonandsomerset.police.uk

For a permanently manned service for non-emergency calls at Avon and Somerset Police HQ

Call 0845 456 7000

To contact a member of the KECSAG committee:
 Email: contact@kecsag.org Roy Gallop (Chair)
 Or by telephone: 07794 132 720 (Co-ordinator)

KCA looking for fresh leadership & input

Formed in 1994, the Keynsham Community Association was an alliance of community leaders charged with seeking funding and a location for a community building for the area.

Whilst pursuing this primary objective the group has assisted and funded several projects such as creative writing sessions, a community play with music and assisted in the Millenium Mosaics project now on display around the town centre.

Sadly, 15 years on, they feel they are no nearer to achieving the original objective of a community centre worthy of Keynsham.

The management committee no longer have the time and energy to continue the group and will be proposing a motion to disband in April 2009 unless a new collective of Keynsham representatives can come forward and drive forward on the new issues facing the area.

Contact Sheila Crocombe for more information email sheila@crocombe96.freeseerve.co.uk



NEW YEAR

WINE TASTING

Sunday
25 January 2009

at Keynsham Cricket Club

2pm to 5pm

Featuring an informal afternoon of wine tasting with a local wine expert and an opportunity to find out a little more and purchase different wines from around the world



Tickets only £5
 Available from KECSAG