

Inside:

- Manor Road Woodland news **p2** >
 - KECSAG website revamp! **p2** >
 - Keep it local: Keep it Keynsham ... **p3** >
 - McColls see sense on ATM **p3** >
- 3000 NEW HOMES FOR KEYNSHAM AREA!!
- B&NES is given the order to expand **p3** >

FREE!

Issue 11 | September 2008

Newsletter

www.kecsag.org

Delivered by CSAG volunteers to over 1700 households in the Keynsham East Area



SUPPORTED BY THE UK'S NO.1 ESTATE AGENCY*

Pleased to be a part of the local community

*Overall Best Estate Agency Award at Estate Agency Awards 2006.



Chandag Traffic & Parking

Police and Residents work together to tackle top PACT priority

Following the adoption as a priority at the last Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meeting, the Neighbourhood Police Team and local residents are working together to identify the main traffic and parking problem areas in Chandag Road.

KECSAG Chair Roy Gallop met with Neighbourhood Beat Sergeant Alison Norman and Beat Manager PC Ian Harris to discuss ways of addressing issues raised by residents at the meeting in June.

Initially, a small group of residents and PC Harris will "walk-through" the area most directly affected to identify the specific issues that raise most concern, primarily from Orwell Drive down to Derwent Grove, including the areas at the front and rear of the shops.

A comprehensive list of issues will be documented, suggestions made to ease the problems listed, and the pros and cons of these suggestions identified.

A summary of these findings will be displayed in the Community Room at Wellsway School, on the

morning of Saturday 6th September between 10am and noon. Members of KECSAG and the Neighbourhood Police Team will be present, and all residents are welcome to join in the consultation, and express their opinions.

[Free tea, coffee and biscuits will be available!]

There are also plans to discuss these issues more formally with the owners of the rank of shops in Chandag Road, and representatives of the local schools.

This process will assist the PACT panel to form a strategy that will help to address these specific problems.

If you are unable to attend the "consultation morning" and wish to express an opinion, you can contact the KECSAG via the usual channels.



An uncharacteristically clear view of Chandag Road (near the shop area)



So, where is the Community Building at Wellsway School?

The building can be approached from the slip road which leads down towards the Infants/Junior school and is a large 'Terrapin' style hut with a ramp for disabled access in front of it.

Date for your Diary

KECSAG consultation morning:
Saturday 6th September | 10am
Community Building, Wellsway School

PACT

5th PACT meeting

UPDATE ON PROGRESS

The Keynsham Residents Group reports back on progressive talks with Redland Housing whilst our own B&NES Traffic Department remain tight lipped on the traffic issues we face on the Wellsway.

Find out more on page 2 >>

MANOR ROAD COMMUNITY WOODLAND

While it hasn't been a particularly good summer the Woodland seems to have had a growth spurt and it has been difficult to stop paths disappearing in undergrowth. There has also been more than the usual amount of mud and some paths, particularly around the pond on the northern edge of the woodland's wild flower meadow, have been bad.

The Friends of Manor Road Community Woodland have been planning a project involving a board walk around this area for some time and they expect to start this during autumn. It includes bridging the water course and volunteers are welcome to help with clearance and preparatory work. There will also be a wetland area. Information regarding volunteer support for this will appear on the woodland notice boards soon.

We are waiting for a spell of dry weather to allow a local farmer to cut the meadow, which will then give us better access to the pond area to start.

During this autumn the Group will also be installing a woodland species sign board which will indicate most of the plant and animal species that can be found in and around the woodland.

The Friends Group holds regular meetings in Wellsway School in every odd numbered month and Task days in the woodland on one Sunday morning every month. Notices of these activities are posted around the woodland and all are welcome.

KECSAG WEBSITE GETS EVEN BETTER!

The KECSAG website has recently undergone a face lift to introduce a few new features, give you better access to the information you need and continue to offer you the ability to discuss the issues that concern you with fellow residents. It also features safety information videos and you can subscribe to be sent articles as we add them to the site so you never miss out! Please go and have a click...



Come and join the discussion at
www.kecsag.org

PACT

Partners And
Communities
Together **No.5**

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

About 60 residents were present at the fifth PACT meeting on Monday June 14th.

PACT panel: Roy Gallop (Chair), PC Ian Harris (Neighbourhood Beat Manager), Cllr Bryan Organ, Wayne Honey (West Neighbourhood Manager B&NES Environmental Services), Louise Swain (Managing Director, Redland Housing Association) and David Clarke (Head of Customer Services, RHA).

Here is a summary of feedback on priorities from the 4th meeting (March 17th 2008) and, of course, more detailed information is available at www.kecsag.org

1. Keynsham Residents' Group (KRG)

Kathleen Hovland (spokesperson for the KRG) gave a report outlining both the problems that were still ongoing with Redland Housing Association (RHA), and issues that had been addressed since the last meeting. Following an open and frank discussion between the panel and residents present, Louise Swain (RHA) offered to meet Kathleen to discuss communication issues further, and suggested that a series of monthly meetings between KRG and RHA might help to progress these issues further.

2. Wellsway Traffic Management

Chair, Roy Gallop informed the meeting that communication with the B&NES Council Traffic Department had been poor. He had been advised that Mike Weston (Highways Engineer) would be dealing with the issues and would be in touch, but no contact had been made. Paul Sims, who had coordinated the meetings of the residents sub-group, also stated that he had received no communication from the Council on these issues.

PC Harris (Neighbourhood Beat Manager) stated that he understood there are plans to install a solar powered speed reminder sign on the Wellsway. He also stated that the Community Safety Partnership had carried out speed checks on the Wellsway in the last three months and had identified a number of people speeding in the 30mph zone.

3. Traffic and parking in Chandag Road

PC Harris gave a presentation to clarify the very complex situation of road markings on Chandag Road and explained what he and PCSO Chis Purvey had been doing to minimise difficulties in this area.

Residents stated that the situation had worsened in the last six months, and it was noted that since there are now no plans to build a new school on the Wellsway School site until at least 2014, it was unlikely there would be changes to the road layout providing access to the school before that date.

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

NEW PRIORITIES:

These were established as priorities to be pursued before the next meeting:

1. Chandag Road Traffic and Parking
2. KRG issues with RHA
3. HGVs exceeding the weight limit on the Wellsway
4. The plans to relocate the skatepark to the corner of Avon Mill Lane.

Originally, priorities 2, 3 and 4 were separated by one vote, but due to some confusion over the voting procedure, it was agreed on this occasion that four priorities should be carried forward to the next meeting.

Date
for your
Diary

Next PACT meeting:
Monday 15th Sept | 7pm
Wellsway School

KEEP IT LOCAL: KEEP IT KEYNSHAM

Saturday 13th September will see the launch of 'Keep it Local: Keep it Keynsham,' a campaign to highlight the facilities, organisations, activities and businesses which thrive in Keynsham, and to encourage people to get involved in their local community.

Plans for the day include:

- Special offers, raffles and fun in local shops & eateries
- Keynsham Farmers Market – visit the Keep it Keynsham stall for free goodies
- A display on regional plans, **plus** come and visit the KECSAG information stall in the Fear Institute
- The Roundabout Arts Trail
- A drop-in art workshop in the Fear Hall
- An afternoon art workshop at CreateXchange, Unit 1, 196 Park Road
- Live music in the town centre
- A climbing wall in the High Street
- Fun at Keynsham Library
- Sports taster sessions at Keynsham Leisure Centre including Badminton, Swimming, Wutan Kick Boxing and Adult Health Checks
- Keynsham Multisports Pitches (in the Park, next to the Bowls Club) includes Basketball, Five-a-side football and hockey

Lynn Young, Chair of Keynsham Business Association, and owner of Perfect Fit in Keynsham, said, 'It is great to see everyone working together on this. We don't often shout about what's good about Keynsham, but there are two hundred businesses in the town centre, and lots of community groups offering something for everyone.'

More information including timings of events can be found on our website at www.kecsag.org



NEW ISSUES – NEW ALLIANCE

KECSAG and Chandag & District Residents Association (CADRA) have formed a partnership to meet the challenges facing our area and are jointly continuing to work closely with the police, schools and councils whilst creating the opportunity to react to wider issues in Keynsham such as green belt, housing and economic development and by working together with other groups in the Keynsham area. CADRA's treasurer Clive Fricker says, "the new partnership recognises the close working relationship that has developed between the two organisations. The excellent progress made by KECSAG in recent years will now also have the advantage of CADRA's resource and experience gained in working for local residents over the last forty years"

Date
for your
Diary

CADRA Annual General Meeting:
Tuesday 23rd September | 7:30pm
Wellsway School

3,000 NEW HOMES FOR KEYNSHAM!

At a meeting of the Chew Valley Area Partnership held on 11th August, the main topic of discussion was the announcement from the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on her recommendations for increased housing targets for the Keynsham and Whitchurch areas.

The Proposals for the Keynsham area can be seen in the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South West linked from our website at www.kecsag.org

Some of the main points are:

- Housing requirement for B&NES for the period 2006 to 2026 increased from 15,500 new homes to 21,300
- Expansion of Keynsham by the provision of 3,000 additional homes
- 9,500 new homes in S E Bristol (8,000 of these in the Whitchurch area)
- A plan for employment growth of 20,200 extra jobs in the Bath Travel to Work Area (TTWA), which does not include Keynsham

At first glance you might feel that this doesn't affect you – BUT -

- B&NES Council could be required to build new houses at a rate of 1,000 per year
- The proposed changes do not specify infrastructure proposals to support these developments – the implications of this could be the absence of new roads, employment opportunities, improved utility supplies, sewerage or transport links, and community facilities or schools
- The level of growth expected to take place is unprecedented. Keynsham could grow by almost 40% in less than 20 years!

- It is unclear whether the green belt between Bristol and Keynsham, and Keynsham and Salford would be preserved
- In the document, Keynsham is linked with "Bristol" more than with "Bath"
- Keynsham could be absorbed into a "Greater Bristol" area in the future and lose its own unique identity for ever.

B&NES Council encourages residents to write directly to the Government to give their views. Details for responding to the changes made by the Secretary of State are as follows: The Government Office requests that wherever possible comments are submitted on-line at http://gosw.limehouse.co.uk/portal/regional_strategies/drss?pointid=1206445417954

Comments can be submitted by using the form which can also be downloaded from the website and sent:

By post to: Regional Planning Team, Government Office for the South West, 2 Rivergate, Temple Quay, Bristol, BS1 6ED

By E-Mail to: rssconsult@gosw.gsi.gov.uk

By Fax to: 0117 900 1914

This is the best way for Government Ministers to understand the concerns of local communities and the objections people may have. The Council will be discussing its response to the proposed changes at a council meeting in September.

Full information on this can be found on the KECSAG website at www.kecsag.org

McCOLLS AGREE TO OBEY ATM PLANNING CONDITIONS AT LAST...

Thanks largely to the hard work of KECSAG Vice Chair Duncan Mitchell and Cllr Gill Hellier, McColls have now agreed that the ATM in the shop's window will only be available during shop opening hours – well, it only took 12 months!!

This comes after a lengthy campaign by KECSAG on behalf of residents who opposed the installation in the first place, back in June 2007.

KECSAG has pursued this matter for several reasons...

1. The the issue of principle: planning conditions should be obeyed and Smiles & McColls have both clearly been flouting the rules.
2. Co-operation from McColls over issues surrounding the shop has become almost non-existent, and they should accept that they should work with the local community to help to resolve issues
3. This particular condition was imposed to protect people living nearby from the disruption caused by cars parking outside the shops at all hours of the night, just so they can grab some cash.

In July this year, KECSAG finally received confirmation from John Dando, B&NES Enforcement Officer, that the shop's agent had confirmed that the ATM machine was now on a timer and would cease to function after 9pm when the shop closes.

...OR HAVE THEY?

Evidence has since been received that suggests otherwise but we will be presenting this to the Enforcement Officer. If you have any evidence or information to suggest that the ATM has been on outside opening hours, then please let us know.



MESSAGE FROM INSPECTOR TIM STUCKES

Overall, crime continues to fall in Keynsham with a low number of calls to your Keynsham East area.

Our focus at the moment for our area is on violent offences. We get around 14 a month and ours are almost entirely minor assaults at home (domestic) with a very small number occurring on the street. We detect the majority (over 50%) but there is room for improvement and speed is of the essence when dealing with assaults, so we are getting better at this.

The other 'volume' crime for us is minor criminal damage, from graffiti to broken windows to damaged cars etc.

We need information when dealing with these offences as they are spread out across our area and they don't happen every day, so please, if you see anything suspicious, give us a call and let us know what you have seen.

In order to provide a forum for interaction with young people in Keynsham East, Sgt Norman helped organise a pizza and cola evening on Fri 18th July. It took place in the Community Room at Wellsway School and about 30 youngsters attended aged between 11 and 15yrs. The youngsters really appreciated us providing such an activity and, without exception, were all polite and pleasant. The most common theme from the discussions was that they were keen to have a permanent place to go. Sgt Norman has been approached twice since, in the street, by youngsters who attended asking when the next one will be!

Your PCSO, Chris Purvey, has been doing his usual good work with coffee mornings and beat surgeries at Gossips and Wellsway School. I have had many good reports from the community regarding Chris and his high visibility which I am pleased about. Chris has recently been on his annual holiday - camping on the Isles of Scilly!! Sadly the weather has not been kind - to any of us!

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: Pat Morrison (Co-ordinator) **0117 907 9433**

or Mary Sutton (Treasurer) **0117 986 4472**

This newsletter is printed and supported by Thru The Blu • www.thruthelblu.co.uk

The KECSAG meeting on July 14th included one B&NES and three Town Councillors, the Police Beat Manager, representatives from the Chandag and District Residents Association, the Keynsham Residents Group, the Keynsham Community Association, the Community Woodland and approximately twenty residents.

The main agenda item related to the revised Plans submitted for a Tesco Express store at Chandag Service Station.

A range of concerns were raised, including information presented by those residents in close proximity to the site who will be directly affected by the development and whilst there is still some confusion over the details of the plans, there was a clear consensus of well-founded concerns.

It was noted that the Town Council Planning Committee had recently opposed the development, and the Police Traffic Management and Road Safety Unit had submitted a lengthy and detailed document, stating that "...there are areas of the development which cause concern from a road safety/public safety perspective."

Documents related to this proposal can be accessed and viewed via the KECSAG website at www.kecsag.org (just look for the recent Tesco/Esso article) If you have an opinion you wish to express, please do pass it onto the planning department via the B&NES website - and do it soon!

KECSAG have sent a letter to them outlining the views of the meeting.

KECSAG were recently granted the sum of £500 from the Town Council to fund improvements to the Community Room to make the room more flexible for both youth activities and other activities for the community as a whole. Keynsham Community Association have also pledged £500 and work will hopefully get underway as soon as possible. Willing volunteers are very welcome - particularly from people who have skills related to design, planning, building or construction work of any kind.

Progress is also being made - very slowly - on plans to spend £4000 of grant money from the Community Safety and Drugs Partnership to purchase "media" related equipment to generate activities for young people and the wider community.

Date for your Diary KECSAG Annual General Meeting: **Monday 20th October** | 7pm
Wellsway School

All Keynsham East residents are welcome to attend.