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FREE!

Issue 13 | March 2009 | www.kecsag.org

Newsletter

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

Distraction burglary alert!

Be vigilant of doorstep scams BUT no need to panic - just follow this sensible advice!

The police are asking all Keynsham East residents to be extra vigilant following a spate of distraction burglaries in the area.

At approximately 12.30pm on 12 February a burglary occurred on Bristol Road. Two men claiming to be from the water board gained entry to the property and then stole some items. They left the property when the occupier challenged them and it is thought that they left in a white pick up style Ford Transit van, they are described as a white male with a white T shirt and the other, again a white male, with a dark jacket.

This is the fifth distraction-type burglary in recent weeks in the BANES area and if you know any information on this incident then please contact the police.

All employees of the Water, Gas & Telephone companies carry identification badges which will be shown to you on request. If in any doubt contact the company by phone from a number found in the telephone directory **not** their ID badge and explain your enquiry.

Our advice to everyone is to follow the DOORSTEP Code:

- D**on't open the door without using the Doorstep Code
- O**bserve first - always look through a window or door viewer
- O**nly open the door after connecting a chain or limiter
- R**efuse entry if you are not satisfied
- S**witch on outside lights when it's dark to see who's there
- T**hink 'thief' - ask to see an identity card and check it closely
- E**nsure strangers are not left alone in your home
- P**rotect yourself - if you are worried ring the police.

If you are still not happy, phone the police - dial 999 - and tell them what's happened. And tell your neighbours.

If you have any questions then please contact PC Ian Harris. His details can be found on the backpage of this newsletter.

CALLING RESIDENTS OF 'NORTH' KEYNSHAM EAST!

Although KECSAG has been active in Keynsham East for a number of years, most of the work carried out on behalf of residents, has taken place in the south side of the ward, based around Chandag Rd, the school, the Teviot and Minsmere Rd areas, Community Woodland and Manor Rd.

KECSAG has worked successfully with the Police and the Town Council and B&NES, to address a variety of issues, including antisocial behaviour, underage drinking, graffiti, fencing, parking and traffic issues – and last Summer, was instrumental in setting up a consultation process to question and consider the Town Council's plan to build a new skateboard park in Memorial Park near Avon Mill Lane.

Whilst KECSAG is quite happy to be called upon to assist residents with any of these "single-interest" issues, its strength comes from the regular involvement of residents who attend our open meetings in the area and where they are invited to contribute to discussion, and action, over issues affecting residents' quality of life.



KECSAG has worked hard to try to engage with as many sections of the area as possible through this newsletter and the website www.kecsag.org and KECSAG is keen to continue to deliver newsletters for the benefit of residents in the whole of the area – but we would welcome a little more support from people on the "North" side.

If you can spare just ONE HOUR, EVERY THREE MONTHS to deliver some newsletters to residents who live close to you then KECSAG would very much appreciate your help!!

...OR IS THIS THE LAST NEWSLETTER?

After two unsuccessful bids for funding, the future of this newsletter is now at risk.

This newsletter, delivered quarterly by volunteers (all residents) to over 2500 households in the Keynsham East Ward, has been heralded throughout B&NES as an example of what can be achieved by a small group of volunteers. The quality of the production is admired, and envied.

KECSAG were fortunate to have had financial support from Andrews Estate Agents up until last year, but this support has now come to end.

Bids for funding from the Safer Stonger Neighbourhoods Fund and the Grassroots Grants have both been rejected.

The grounds for the latter rejection was that, "The panel did not feel there was clear evidence that the group was meeting a wide geographical area".

It would seem that our efforts in reaching almost half of the Keynsham population is not enough to secure a small amount of funding for our activities to continue and our options for funding are becoming increasingly limited.

Manor Road Community Woodland **update**

Winter in the woodland has, after a spell of dry frosty weather, reverted to the more normal wet and muddy conditions and paths becoming badly worn mud slides. Controlled grass cutting of these paths in the autumn should help next year!

The bridges and boardwalk on the muddiest stretches around the pond have been completed and the Friends Group hope to extend the boardwalk to cover the remaining areas. There are plans to hold a fund raising event in the early summer so watch for notices advertising this event!

The Group hopes that the planting of a wetland area around the pond will make this an attractive natural feature of the woodland and provide a more diverse habitat. The success of this will, however, depend on the co-operation of dog owners controlling their animals.

The Group aim to design another species board for the meadow similar to that near the Manor Road entrance in Hurn Lane. This will illustrate many of the wild flower species to be found in this meadow as well as birds and butterflies.

Inevitably the popularity of the woodland, particularly with dog walkers, has led to some users experiencing problems with out of control dogs. In order to monitor this problem it is asked that anyone encountering such a problem inform the BANES Dog Wardens service on 01225 396633.

The Friends Group holds regular meetings in Wellsway School and notices of these activities are posted around the woodland.

WELLSWAY GETS FUNDING FOR NEW SPORTS HALL

Wellsway School have been successful in bidding for government funding towards the cost of a new sports hall and awarded £400k.

This money, alongside their Specialist School Capital Project grant, will enable them to erect an aluminium framed sports hall on the site that will be 4 badminton courts in size.

Headteacher Andrea Arlidge said, "This will be a fantastic resource for the school and for the community and it will enable us to realise the exciting plans we have for developing as a Specialist Sports College."

Dates for new councillor vote



The election for a new councillor for the Keynsham East Ward will be held on Thursday 26th March 2009.

Nominations of candidates ended on Friday February 27th, and the publication of those persons nominated is available to view on the KECSAG website - www.kecsag.org

After a number of enquiries, we can confirm the vacancy is due to the fact that Mr Rodney Carter deselected himself because he did not attend any meetings for a period of 6 months.

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



The RSS sees huge response and the Wellsway traffic issue gets B&NES action

The meeting started with a welcome from new chair Paul Sims and was attended by many representatives from the local authority and over 30 residents from Keynsham East.

In response to a wide concern from residents in September, this meeting opened with a presentation by Cleo Newcombe-Jones, Planning Officer B&NES, to outline the R.S.S (Regional Spatial Strategy) and she informed us that there had been an unprecedented 35,000 responses to the proposals from the South West alone, and for this reason, the Government had advised that their response would possibly not be made until the Spring.

PC Harris advised that there had been a rise in reported crime over the last 3 months and mentioned that there had been a spate of thefts from Vehicles in Ashton Way and St Johns Car Parks and appealed to the Public not to leave anything on view in their parked vehicles.

REVIEW OF ISSUES FROM DECEMBER

Open Sewer on the Wellsway.

Wayne Honey (B&NES) reported that Inspectors had been out to the location several times, and there are no Sewage pipes in that area. They believed it to be due to surface water gathering.

Parking Issues/ traffic congestion Wellsway area;

Mr Paul Sims reported on the Wellsway traffic issues and PC Harris confirmed that a 'vehicle actuated sign giving traffic calming advice' is to be installed and B&NES had moved the project forward by planning a pedestrian crossing outside no's 65/67 Wellsway - which would also help temper speeding issues.

Chandag Road area

A map was displayed, showing draft proposals for this area. Roy Gallop commented at this stage on the hard work that PC Harris had put into this particular issue, this was acknowledged by other members of the public.

H.G.V'S Exceeding the weight restrictions on the Wellsway

B&NES highways engineers had confirmed that the signage relating to this was poor, and that when funds were available, they would be changed.

OTHER UPDATES

Keynsham Residents Group's concerns relating to issues on the estate were adopted as a PACT priority a year ago. The association wishes to express thanks for greater progress and to acknowledge the help and expertise offered by Paul Sims and Roy Gallop, and the practical insight from B&NES councillors. Residents have welcomed positive action in particular from Dan Norris MP, Wessex Water and from Ian Gough, Occupational Therapy, who has progressed all stages of the installation of a stair lift provided by B&NES. The estate is benefiting from advice provided without charge by Graham Poulter of Whittuck Taylor and Caines, Keynsham High Street. Residents are grateful for time and on-going support from David Clarke, Head of Customer Services RHA and Louise Swain Managing Director RHA, who said after the PACT meeting in June 2008 that "By working together we can achieve more."

Cllr Gill Hellier confirmed that the Skate Park would remain in its current location and that funding was being sought for a new design which is viewable on the B&NES website.

Pavement Parking - PC Harris confirmed that this was illegal. Warning notices were used to educate motorists in the first instance, but where a vehicle was causing an obstruction, or repeatedly ignored warnings, fixed penalty notices could be issued.

Cherwell Road - Cars had been parking at the back of the shops, close to the junction of Windrush, PC Harris and PCSO Purvey will be dealing with this issue.

Cllr Longstaff reported that older youths and adults had been observed purchasing cigarettes and alcohol for underage children in the area.

A request had also been made to Cllr Longstaff for consideration to be given to covered shelters at the bus stops in the Lambourn Road area.

PC Harris advised that Keynsham was due to have its own dedicated Traffic Warden and it was hoped that this would help to alleviate some of the parking issues in the area.

NEW PRIORITIES AGREED

- 1 REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY
- 2 CHANDAG ROAD AREA TRAFFIC ISSUES
- 3 ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR AROUND CHANDAG ROAD SHOPS AREA

Date for your Diary

Next PACT meeting:
Monday 16th March | 7pm
Mendip Hall, Wellsway School

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.

New waste 'recovery' site to be built in Keynsham

Did you know that a "West of England Waste Consultation" took place in Keynsham on Tuesday 10th February with the primary issue being the probability of a new and enlarged waste site being developed in an "undeveloped site in Broadmead Lane"?

The West of England Partnership (WOEP) – consisting of the four unitary authorities of B&NES, Bristol, North Somerset, and South Gloucs – explains in its leaflet that can be downloaded from the KECSAG website that the policy of managing waste identifies a process whereby "Reduction" and "Re-use" takes priority over other methods of waste management with "Disposal to landfill" being the last option.

The WOEP, breaks its Waste Development Plan down into four areas:

- 1. Waste minimisation:** this includes reducing waste in the first place.
- 2. Recycling and Composting:** more facilities for this to take place.
- 3. Recovery:** Rubbish treated to recover further value from it (eg. energy)
- 4. Landfill:** unfortunately necessary for certain types of waste.

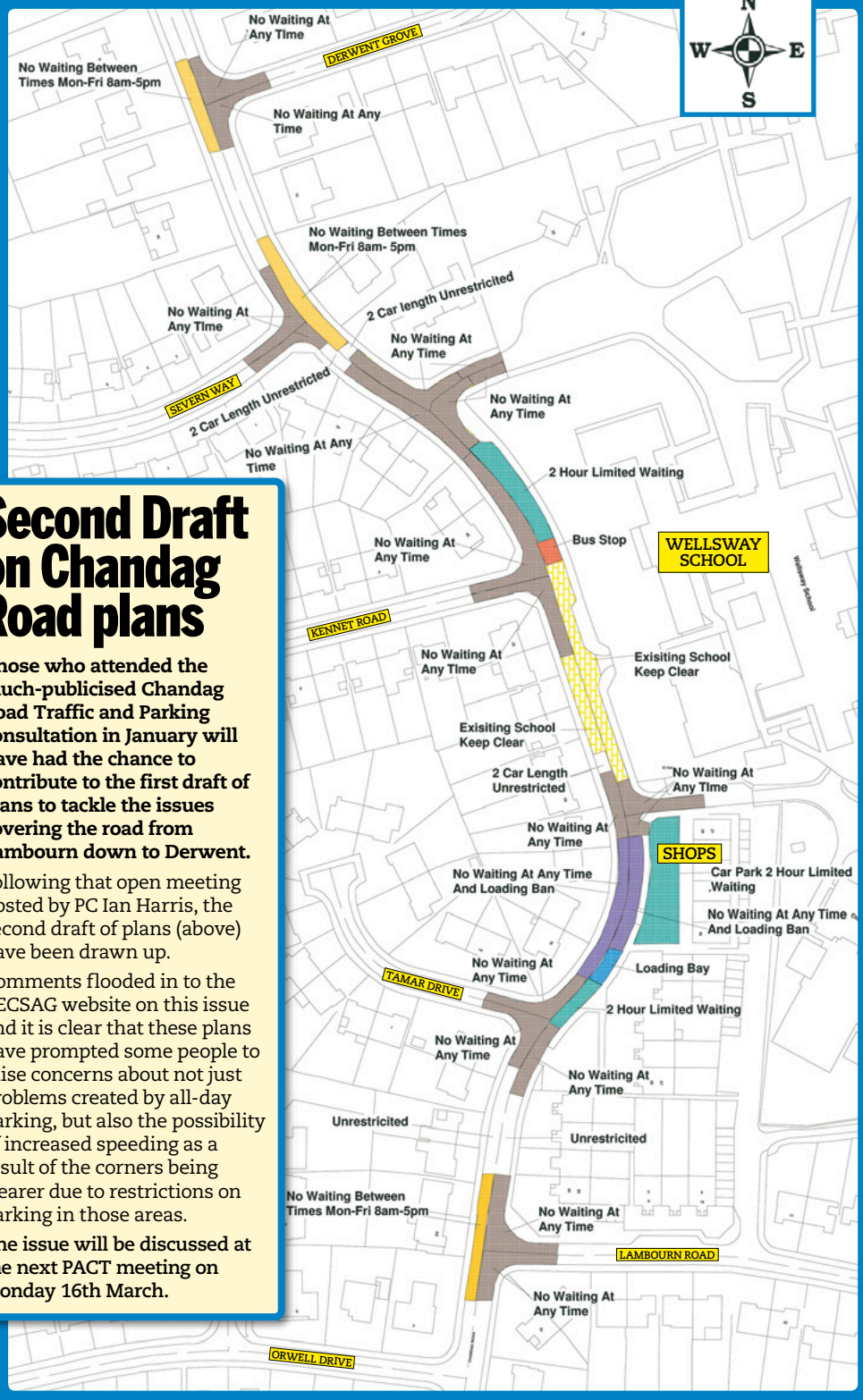
It is within the 3rd area that the Broadmead Lane site features prominently as a potential location for a "Strategic Waste Management Site for Recovery Facilities".

WOEP would prefer to divide the region into FIVE sections with Keynsham being required to handle 150,000 tonnes annually of the overall 800,000 tonnes per year expected within the region by 2026.

This consultation specifically relates to WHERE an appropriate site might be located, rather than WHAT might be built there once the location has been approved and it also does not mean that all other waste disposal or recycling sites throughout B&NES will close.

Some residents have expressed concern over increased traffic and environmental impact.

More information on this along with residents comments can be found on the KECSAG website at www.kecsag.org



Second Draft on Chandag Road plans

Those who attended the much-publicised Chandag Road Traffic and Parking consultation in January will have had the chance to contribute to the first draft of plans to tackle the issues covering the road from Lambourn down to Derwent.

Following that open meeting hosted by PC Ian Harris, the second draft of plans (above) have been drawn up.

Comments flooded in to the KECSAG website on this issue and it is clear that these plans have prompted some people to raise concerns about not just problems created by all-day parking, but also the possibility of increased speeding as a result of the corners being clearer due to restrictions on parking in those areas.

The issue will be discussed at the next PACT meeting on Monday 16th March.

Sweet (or dry) taste of success! ...and introducing Nicky Burston

A turn-out of 60 residents at the Keynsham Cricket Club on Sunday 25th January contributed to a wonderfully enjoyable afternoon of wine-tasting in support of KECSAG.

Hosted by local resident Nicky Burston, those present were offered the opportunity to "taste" a selection of five wines and using Nicky's tips on noting appearance, smell and taste they became confident that they could distinguish between a Merlot and a Cabernet, or a Pinot Grigio and a Chardonnay!

For some it took more than one glass to determine it!

The event had been organised to ensure the immediate continuation of the publication of this Newsletter.

KECSAG is still actively looking to secure funding from other sources and if you feel you can help, please contact us.

With over 14 years of experience in the wine industry, two recent business awards and a successful wine club, Nicky is certainly qualified to tell us what to drink!

For further information regarding wine-tasting courses, or the wines available from Nicky and her team, contact Nicky Burston at:

World Wine Agencies (Bath) Ltd
Tel: 07764 372 229 or online at www.worldwineagencies.com





MESSAGE FROM INSPECTOR TIM STUCKES

The Policing Pledge! This is a document every police force in the country has signed up to and is well worth a look. It was launched as part of the Policing Green Paper earlier in the year and means the public now has a greater say and influence over how their communities are policed. Go to the home page of the force website to see the Pledge in detail accompanied by a joint statement from Chief Constable Colin Port and Dr. Moira Hamlin, Chair of the Police Authority. Paragraphs 7 and 8 are the areas you may recognise we have been working on in terms of PACT meetings / beat surgeries etc. If you have any thoughts on the subject please speak with your beat team or speak at the next PACT!

Chris Purvey is our District PCSO of the Year! Well done to Chris and thanks to those who were kind enough to nominate him. Most of you will know that Chris has done an excellent job in the Keynsham East community and it is nice to see his work recognised. He will go forward to the force competition as our district rep.

I have to say that the last month has been calm in the world of crime with the weather playing a significant part in deterring our offenders - many of our calls throughout January and February have been to AST (Antisocial Snowball Throwers) and the inevitable road traffic collisions / abandoned cars. I'm sure we will soon get back to normal but lets be vigilant and keep the crime at a low level - let us know if you see anything suspicious. This time of Year is the time for planning ahead and we are currently looking at plans for the Music Festival and beyond so watch this space for more news.

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

...and a message from PCSO Chris Purvey

I arrived in Bristol in Feb 2005 from the frozen north... well, Birmingham, where at the time I was working for a pest control company and, within a year, I had changed my job to work for B&NES as a community warden in Keynsham.



In March 2007 an opportunity came up to join the Avon and Somerset Constabulary as a Police Community Support Officer (PCSO), and although I was very happy working for B&NES, I was encouraged by a local PCSO to make the jump.

After a lengthy application form and an interview or two, I was delighted to be offered a job in Keynsham East, which turned out to be a great move for me, and here I am today. I feel very lucky working in an area with such a great community spirit and I am enjoying getting to know you all.

I was flattered when several of you nominated me as PCSO of the year and I was selected as PCSO of the year for the B&NES district and invited to an awards evening on March 5th, with other district winners, where they will announce the PCSO of the year for the entire Avon and Somerset area.

This is a great honour for me, so I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who took time to vote for me - **Thank You very much!**

Although this in itself is a great honour, it's an even bigger honour that the people of Keynsham East feel I am worthy of this, and have accepted me into the community.

I would like to add that at Keynsham, we have several PCSOs and Neighbourhood Beat Managers, and we all support one another, so I feel I also owe a big Thank You to them, and in particular to Sergeant Norman, who is a big support to us all - and keeps us all on our toes!

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	christopher.purvey@avonandsomerset.pnn.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)

Come and join the discussion at www.kecsag.org

KECSAG website makes it to 100!

The KECSAG website celebrated its 100th article this month bringing the latest issues and advice to over 600 households in the area.

More and more of you are joining the discussions online and offering comments and opinions on a wide variety of topics. This feedback helps to keep the attention going on issues that would otherwise be forgotten and neglected.

As an example, the recent Chandag Road Traffic & Parking issues brought up some valuable comments and the debate continues.

On the website you can find safety videos, all the latest issues concerning Keynsham East, tips on what to do during the holidays with the kids and announcements from the Police Beat team - PLUS lots more! So, why not give it a click!