

DEEPDENE VALE PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION

Newsletter August 2010

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Firstly we would like to **welcome** those residents who have moved into the Vale since our last Newsletter. Should you have any questions about the Vale or Dorking itself, you will find any member of the committee and the other residents very approachable and willing to help.

The **Deepdene Vale Property Owners Association** was formed in 1931 and indirectly owns the road itself and the verges alongside through Trustees who are residents of the road.

The Association is run by a committee which concerns itself with matters affecting the residents as a whole such as road maintenance (including gritting when needed), speeding, parking, road lighting, planning applications affecting the area and the Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

General Meeting and New Committee Members

The Trustees are currently Tom Smail, Dave Merrikin, Howard Chick and Dennis Strudwick (53) but, sadly Dave Merrikin died during the past year and Howard Chick has recently left the Vale. The Committee now consists of the three office-bearers listed at the head of this newsletter along with Barbara Witts (59) and Alec Dewdney (25). Verity Nicholls wishes to stand down as Neighbourhood Watch representative. In view of the need to appoint new Trustees and Committee members, it would seem appropriate to hold a General Meeting to which all property owners are invited to attend. This will be held at 7.30pm on Friday 8th October at St. Mary's Church in Pixham Lane. It would be appreciated if anyone willing to become a Trustee and/or a member of the Committee could inform the Chairman, Tom Smail, by the middle of September. A Notice and Agenda for the meeting will be sent out nearer the date of the meeting.

David Merrikin

The Committee was saddened by the untimely death of Dave Merrikin after a short illness last October. Dave was Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Association over many years and his contribution will be greatly missed. We are grateful for all he did for the Vale and our sympathies go out to Cathy and the family.

State of the road

The road surface has held up quite well over the past year compared to many other roads in the area despite the very hard winter. The Committee are very grateful to Sean Flynn for his help in gritting the top of the road and Paul Daubney for his help both with gritting and filling in the potholes.

Annual Subscription

The **annual subscription** for 2010 will be £37. The subscriptions are used to build up a 'sinking fund' so that the next time the road needs to be resurfaced, there will hopefully be funds available. The fund is used for the maintenance of the road, including signage, etc., administrative costs and public liability insurance. Subscriptions are due by 30th September and a copy of the Accounts and a request for payment will be sent out in the near future.

Parking

Inconsiderate parking continues to be a problem. Please impress on all visitors and workmen that it is a nuisance to the residents of the Vale and a danger to us all if access for the emergency services and to private driveways is blocked. Every effort should be made to keep the 'Turning Circle' at the bottom of the road and the area at the entrance to the road clear of parked vehicles.

Verges

Although the verges are part of the road and owned collectively, each property owner is responsible for the upkeep of the grass verges and hedges/fences bordering their property. It is very important that they be kept clear for pedestrians (particularly children) as the traffic in the Vale is certainly not decreasing. The grass verges are an important part of the attraction of the Vale and any work involving alteration to the verges must be referred to the Trustees in advance of any such work being undertaken.

Dangerous Driving

Concern has been expressed to the Committee about increased incidences of speeding and dangerous driving in the Vale. With pedestrians, including young children, having to walk on the roadway in the absence of pavements, it is imperative that everyone is made fully aware of the dangers of driving too fast in our road.

Neighbourhood Watch

The police have alerted us to an increased number of burglaries and thefts from cars in the area and residents are asked to be especially vigilant and to report any suspicious behaviour.

Tom Smail
(Chairman)