

Friends of Meadowside Newsletter March 2018



Projects:

It is coming up **6 years** since our play area launch party in April 2012. We continue our work in this area and are again working with a playground design / supply company to get ideas for enhancement. Play equipment does not come cheap so we will then have to begin the long process of **applying for grants** from various organisations to install any new equipment. If anybody is willing to assist us with form filling, seeking funding opportunities or similar we would be delighted to hear from you.



In addition we continue our **research** in to the origins of the pack horse bridge which crosses the stream under the concrete bridge and sincerely hope to have enough evidence to secure funding for its restoration before too long.

In Bloom:

For those who are not aware Friends of Meadowside were delighted to receive a **Silver Gilt** in last year's South & South East in Bloom's competition category "**Our Community**" - an improvement on our Silver award in 2016. We also received a Thriving award in the RHS "**It's Your Neighbourhood**" competition for the second year running.

This year we will be taking a break from the competition in order to dedicate more time to the above projects and further improvements.

Spring Working Party:

However, as part of our commitment to Horsham District Council we continue to organise work parties. Our Spring work party takes place during Keep Britain Tidy's **Great British Spring Clean** campaign. Please do join us if you can and help us clear the meadow and free up the new shrubs ahead of the spring growth. Our Meadow tidy up event takes place on **Saturday 24th March from 10-12**. Everyone is welcome, refreshments are available and tools can be provided.

New bins:

Thank you for making use of the new bins in the meadow area, we have seen a **noticeable improvement** in the amount of litter in the area. However we have heard from Horsham District Council that complaints are being made that the bins are not being emptied. Please be reminded that neither the parish or district councils were able to provide the resources to empty them so you are **relying on your neighbours**, who like you are very busy. **Thank you** to those volunteers that are emptying them. Should you be willing to lend a hand in order to avoid us losing these bins then please do get in touch.

Upcoming Events:

Our next **Annual General Meeting** will be held in the lounge at Foxmead Court on **Wednesday 25th April** at 6.30pm. All residents who receive this newsletter are welcome to join us. Please look out for posters in the neighbourhood or follow our Facebook page for updates.

We will again be running a tombola stall at Storrington **Duck Race** this year. The event takes place on Sunday 13th May. Any **donations of prizes** suitable for adults or children would be very much appreciated. Prizes may be delivered to 2 or 35 Meadowside or 73 Ravenscroft ideally before the end of April. Last year we raised over £120, which we put towards the costs of insurances and refreshments for our work parties.



We plan to organise an **event to include a BBQ** during the summer holidays, further details will be available nearer the time.

Neighbourhood wardens:

We were delighted to learn that the Parish Council have agreed to **give the public a say** about whether Neighbourhood Wardens are introduced here. Some may argue that the work wardens would undertake should be done by the Police. However, we all know that since our PCSO left to become a warden in Pulborough we see a police officer very rarely. We feel the work of Neighbourhood Wardens is important and would **benefit our area in many ways** and encourage you to attend the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 2nd May to understand more about their valuable work (as detailed in a previous newsletter).



Sue: 01903 742300

Rachel: 01903 741041

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Tony & Ann: 01903 742251

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TRAFFIC PROBLEMS – Browns Lane, Church Street, School Lane, Fern Road

The Parish Council held two residents' meetings last year to discuss ways to prevent drivers from using our roads as a rat run to avoid traffic in the High Street. The meetings highlighted people's concerns and explored options to overcome the issues associated with both the congestion and the rat run.

During the last meeting on 29th November it was agreed that an application for a Community Highways Scheme would be made and that one spokesperson from each road would be nominated to form a group to undertake this process.

The roads in question are Browns Lane, Church Street, School Lane and Fern Road. We feel that residents in Meadowside, Manor Close, Hanover Walk, Ravenscroft, Post View, Abbey Court, Abbey Walk, Bishops House and Foxmead Court are also affected by the use of the rat run.

The Parish Council have said that whilst they will take the lead on the project it must be a community driven initiative and the support of the local residents is of paramount importance to the success of the application.

With this in mind, representatives from Friends of Meadowside would be willing to represent the above streets at the proposed meetings. These representatives would attend meetings to progress the Community Highways Scheme and keep you informed of the process.

Some of you may not be aware that everyone living in Meadowside, Browns Lane, Manor Close, Hanover Walk, Ravenscroft, Post View, Abbey Walk and Foxmead Court is automatically given membership of Friends of Meadowside. As a Community Group we are not obliged to seek permission from all of our members to speak for them, therefore by default, Friends of Meadowside are authorised to represent you at these meetings. However you are entitled to opt out.

We understand that the application will propose the introduction of a "No Through Road" at Browns Lane as a measure to stop the area being used as a rat run. It is important that we know your feelings about this.

To keep our costs down we need to be able to keep you informed by email. It would be appreciated if you could take the time to ensure we have an email address for yourself (or a family member willing to pass on messages to you) for this purpose.

Please either: email us at friendsofmeadowside1@hotmail.co.uk; call Sue on 01903 742300; or complete and return the below form to give us this information. Please also use this opportunity to share any comments that you wish to make regarding the proposed introduction of the "No Through Road" on Browns Lane.

Browns Lane / Church Street / School Lane / Fern Road Traffic problems

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Email Address _____

I am happy to receive email correspondence from Friends of Meadowside relating to the application for Community Highways Scheme

I wish to make the following comments about the proposal for Browns Lane becoming a 'No Through Road'

I DO NOT wish to be represented by Friends of Meadowside in regards to the Community Highways Scheme

I am happy to receive email updates regarding other matters as discussed by the Friends of Meadowside committee

I would also like to be included in the local Neighbourhood Watch Communications

PLEASE COMPLETE AND PUT THROUGH THE DOOR OF EITHER: 2, 31 or 35 Meadowside, 73 Ravenscroft or send an email with the information as requested above as worded above to friendsofmeadowside1@hotmail.co.uk