

Hello everyone

June 2008

Birch Hill Shopping Centre - Cleaning & Tidying Up

At the recent NAG Chairs meeting we met David Steeds of the council's Environmental Services Dept. I subsequently sent him the list of issues raised by residents around the neighbourhood and he's looking through it to see which ones he can deal with and/or pass on to the relevant sections of his dept.

As a result I had a call from Steve McKenna of BFBC Landscaping Section last week. He explained that the various teams in the Environmental Services dept - e.g. mowing, street cleansing, landscaping - are now regularly meeting to look at how they can work together to keep the neighbourhoods looking good. He was very positive about the way in which the NAGs can help, which is nice to hear. The great news for Birch Hill is that the shopping centre is scheduled to have a "deep clean" starting on or around Monday 7th July. This is part of a process of cleaning up all the borough's small shopping centres, and it's great news that we are to be tidied up sooner rather than later. Great Hollands has already been done.

He tells me that it will include cleaning the paving, brickwork, tidying up the planting and bushes. The hanging baskets near the phone box have already been put up (I had asked if they were coming back this year). I also asked about the white fascia boarding above the flats with the BH Shopping Centre sign. This would be the responsibility of another dept. but he said he will ask if it can be done as it looks a bit tatty. One area in particular that needs some work is the verge between the Aldi building and the business units. That will receive attention.

The plot of land by the doctors' surgery is privately owned and the council can't mow it. I'll see if Steve will get in touch with the owner to tidy it up.

Regarding mowing in the area, Steve explained that the "mowing map" has been redrawn now that Bracknell Homes has taken over the housing stock from the council and they are now responsible for mowing the grass around these houses. This has resulted in some grass areas being mowed by the council whilst other areas have been left long, e.g. around Ladybank.

Next NAG Meeting

A reminder to put our next NAG meeting in your diary for **Wednesday 23 July at 6pm** at the Birch Hill Community Centre. We expect it to last about an hour.

New NAG Members

We're very pleased to welcome two new members to this NAG:

Christopher Mathews, a manager at Sainsbury's Bagshot Road and Trevor Baker, Cub Scout leader at 9th Bracknell Scout Group.

Birch Hill & Hanworth Community Web Pages

Trevor (of 9th Bracknell Scouts) is co-ordinating the community pages at

<http://www.9thbracknellscouts.org.uk/community/index.html>

Please contact Trevor via the community pages if you have anything to put on the site.

Aldi

PCSO Michelle Noone has been in touch with Aldi a few times recently because the panel at the south-east corner has been removed more than once and it's a concern that people are getting into the premises. Various licences are now being applied for by Aldi, so we're looking forward to seeing signs of life in the shop in the not too distant future.

Regards

Jo

Jo Legg
Chair, Birch Hill & Hanworth NAG