

WINDMILL ESTATE newsletter

For residents living on the Windmill Estate



October 2009

Chairman's Update

by Jo Cowe

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our third Annual General Meeting was held on 25th February 2009. It was attended by residents of the estate, panel members, Accent Nene staff, South Cambs District Council, Kier Homes, and Fulbourn Parish Council. The panel were re elected and at the first panel meeting after the AGM Julie Petrucci was re elected Secretary and Owner Occupier representative on the Steering Group and Tina Lockwood to represent tenants on the Steering Group. I was re elected Chairman for another year.



COME AND JOIN US

More panel members would be most welcome. As I have said before we need a voice as residents. Think about it then give me or any panel member a ring. Minimum requirement two hours a month. The timing of the meetings is currently under consideration, so please don't let this be a barrier to your involvement.



My moving experience

After living in my old house in Dunmowe Way for more than 30 years, it was with a little sadness and trepidation that I awaited the removal van.

I need not have worried, Bishopsmove were soon carefully loading my furniture and other belongings into the van.

A short trip to my new bungalow and they were now unloading with the same care and efficiency.

It was not long before I was settled in, and wondering why I had been concerned about the move.

I am more than happy living in my new bungalow, and like sitting on the patio enjoying the fresh air.

There were a couple of small problems when I first moved in, for example a damp patch in the bathroom which turned out to be a leak from the toilet. I was delighted with the speed and efficiency that this and any other minor problems were dealt with.

All I can say is that the experience was less stressful than I had anticipated, and that Accent Nene and all other parties concerned have been most helpful.

Allan Lanfear

Build update

The handover of Phase 1A is now complete and many residents have already moved into their new homes.

Moves have gone well and feedback from residents about both the move and their new homes has been very positive. We feel we have achieved a good outcome working as a team on site with the residents. I would like to extend our thanks to the Residents Panel members and all the residents for their patience where necessary and their good humour throughout the process.

The Parish Council Meeting Rooms & Library handed over in early May and is already busy and a growing resource for the entire community of Fulbourn village. The Fulbourn Ph 1A Opening was held there on June 9th and was a great success.

Most residents will be aware that Phase 1A took longer than expected for a variety of reasons, not least the 8-10 week delay from EDF regarding the electricity sub station. Despite our best efforts in conjunction with SCDC Ecologists' advice on nest blocking out of swift season, the swifts returned in great numbers and found alternative and not predicted nest sites on the blocks due for demolition. However in late August ecologists confirmed that all the swifts had flown back to sunnier climes and demolition was able to start.



A programme for phase 1B has been devised which shows a completion of the final home in this phase as October 2010.

Plans for phase 1B were shown at an open day on 2 September at The Swifts. It was well attended by residents and other interested parties from Fulbourn and hopefully was able to provide useful information.

Gill Anderton
Accent Nene Project Manager

The Swifts' rock

Our rock began as dust erupted from a volcano in the Lake District 450 million years ago. The dust landed in the sea or a lake and built up layers with different colours. This original layering can be seen on the front going from bottom left to top right. Most of the rock started as mud but there is a band with dark glassy pebbles across the middle.

Eventually the volcanoes and their piles of muddy sediment were heated and squeezed as Europe and North America collided. This turned the mud into hard rock and gave it a cleavage – that is, there are planes along which the rock will easily break. The front face of our rock is a cleavage plane. More planes can be seen on the back but not so clearly. Also on the back are a few yellow crystals of pyrite 'fools gold'.

Steve Laurie
Resident Panel Member



Swifts on film

On Wednesday 24 June the BBC descended on Fulbourn to do some filming for a forthcoming programme on swifts. Did you know that our village has one of the largest swift colonies in the area? Well Aunty did and a group of Windmill estate residents were asked for their views on why these beautiful, versatile and amazing birds are so special to us. The main point of the feature is the fact that although the birds' homes are being lost due to the redevelopment of the estate, their needs are still being catered for by the people responsible for providing us with our new dwellings.

The film crew along with the presenter of Inside Out, Richard Daniels, spent from around 10.00a.m talking to locals, filming (from lots of different angles) the various nest sites both old and new and indeed were still to be seen well after 9.00p.m. pointing the camera skywards in the hope of that all important memorable shot. It was a very interesting experience, culminating for me in a brilliant moment when, in mid interview, a flock of swifts noisily swooped over us with perfect timing. I think we all learned a lot that day, the results of which is scheduled to be on our screens on 19 October.

Chris Shinn
Resident

Energy efficient light bulbs

As residents who have already moved into one of the new properties will know, 75% of the light fittings in the home will only take low energy light bulbs. This is because Accent Nene are required by Building Regulations and our funding standards to provide energy efficient housing and to use this type of fitting.

A 15watt 3 pin energy efficient bulb is equivalent to a 75watt old style bulb and as well as using 80% less energy than a 75 watt bulb, it will last approx. 8 times longer.

Although you will have been provided with appropriate energy efficient bulbs for fittings when you moved in, and should not need new ones for some time, we are aware that replacements are not easily available.

So where can I buy them?

It is mainly electrical wholesalers who are selling these bulbs at present. The majority of these wholesalers however do allow individual purchases. The bulbs are also available from a number of web sites, such as www.litebulbs.co.uk – but we would suggest looking around on the internet to get the best price.



Alternatively, Accent Nene has made a bulk purchase of the bulbs which they are happy to sell to you at cost – at present £7.00 for a Memlite BC3 3 pin 15 watt bulb.

To purchase a bulb direct from Accent Nene or for further assistance on where you can buy replacements locally, either call into the Community House at 4 Dunmowe Way, or contact the Accent Nene customer services team on **0800 393 890**.

Windmill Estate web site

Don't forget that there is a web site just for the Windmill Estate which will provide you with up to date information on the building process, what the panel is up to and lots of other useful information. The web site can be found at www.windmillestate.co.uk



Plaques on show



The ceramic plaques made by residents at an event organised by the panel last year now have pride of place in the entrance hall of The Swifts Meeting Rooms and Library in Haggis Gap. Everyone who has seen the plaques so far think they look brilliant – *do pop in a take a look when you have the chance.*

Frequently asked questions

Will we have a water meter?

Yes all new properties are now fitted with a water meter.

Will there be an outside tap?

Yes at the rear of the property.

Will there be outside lights?

Yes.

How many spaces for white goods will there be in the kitchen?

In the main there are 2 spaces in the kitchen for white goods – washing machine and fridge.

Fulbourn Good Neighbour Scheme

Residents, Accent Nene and community development organisation Can Do Communities are working up plans for a good neighbour scheme for Fulbourn. A good number of volunteer residents have already come forward and there is significant interest from Fulbourn residents who would like to make use of the scheme once it is up and running.

Funding to start the scheme off has been received from both Accent Nene and a successful application to the Grassroots fund. Details for the scheme are being worked on, along with CRB checks and identity badges for those who will be volunteering and we will keep you informed of progress.

Volunteers are still needed – an hour of your time could make a big difference to somebody so why not come forward and offer to help. For further information on how you can get involved or just to find out more contact Jill Jackson from Accent Nene on **0800 393 890**.



Local charity benefits from Feast

The Windmill Estate Residents' Panel again hosted a stall at the Fulbourn Feast with three activities for people to get involved in, including a find the hidden treasure map and a hook a duck for the kids.

Although no more than 20p or 50p to take part there were some great prizes on offer and the panel managed to raise £63 for the Cambridgeshire charity – Camsight.

The winner of the £10 Tesco voucher for guessing which house on the Windmill Estate was hiding the treasure was Helen Dellar from Fulbourn.



Walkabout

Several people expressed concern about the untidy litter strewn state of the Windmill Estate, so on 23 February panel members walked round the estate with representatives of Accent Nene, South Cambs District Council and Councillor Neil Scarr. Noted were holes in the ground, overgrown hedges obstructing paths, grass areas used as parking or turning areas, and rubbish black spots. Since the walk about we are pleased to say things have improved. We will continue to keep an eye on these problems as we remember that although new homes are being built many people still have to live on the present estate while waiting for their new homes.

Welcoming new residents

The panel have been popping in to see all the new residents after they have moved in and delivering a small bag of useful goodies, a book of discount vouchers from local shops and services and an information guide to Fulbourn. The welcome bags have been very well received and it has been great for the panel to be able to meet the new residents and welcome them to their new homes.

Some residents have asked about having a get together to help them to get to know their new neighbours and the panel are hoping to arrange something in the next couple of months.



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