



WELCOMES & UPLANDS ROAD ASSOCIATION

Summer Newsletter 2004

It does not seem possible that the longest day of the year is upon us which means that the days start getting shorter in the run-up to Christmas. Where does time go?

The Committee thought it a good idea to compose this letter to accompany the minutes of the AGM and expand upon points brought up at the meeting as well as other matters.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS: As mentioned in the Winter Newsletter, the Committee consider all applications, large or small, referred to them by the Council and try to take adjacent neighbours' views into account when replying. It would be helpful and less time consuming if affected residents could contact a Committee member stating their view so that we can balance our response accordingly. We do not object to every application on principle and feel that the onus is on you to approach us. Obviously we cannot please all of the people all of the time but be assured that due consideration will be given to all. We are endeavouring to be more responsive to projects that are given the go-ahead by the Council in that we will be contacting residents proposing substantial work with a letter setting out suggestions on the storing of materials, parking of vehicles off road, cleansing of the road surface etc together with a letter of agreement for the contractor concerning any damage to the road, the requirement that delivery lorries only use the nearest access to the project and, on larger projects, the lodging of a sum of money to cover any damage. It would help us if residents contact us with information on envisaged work.

ROAD LEVY: This remains at the current level although it is felt that the fund of around £100,000 is sufficient to cover most eventualities, an eventual complete resurfacing would use up most of the money and probably more especially when Uplands and Pine Close are put into the equation. A current estimate is being sought for this work that would also entail the cambering of the road in one or two areas of Welcomes as a means of controlling the flow of excessive rainwater- this is not with the view that the roads need resurfacing at present but it acts as a current reminder of what may be required in the future. Our treasurer, Bill Tolman, wishes to thank all residents (except the usual one or two that for some reason best known to themselves refuse to pay on time!) for their prompt payments and asks that you give due consideration to the standing order alternative.

REFUSE BOXES: The appearance of green boxes for fortnightly collection by the Council is to be applauded but will all residents please ensure that the lids are firmly shut otherwise the foxes and such wild life will have a field day and strew the contents in an unsightly mess.

RELOCATING RESIDENTS: Several requests from solicitors acting for vendors are received each year requesting information concerning rights of way over our roads. Do remember that we hold a Statutory Declaration sworn by a resident of many years occupancy that appears to satisfy the legal requirements and a copy of this is available on request from the Secretary or Chairman.

ROAD SWEEPING: The Chairman hopes that there is not a repeat of last year's protracted problems and will endeavour to ensure that the roads are swept at least twice during the autumn. Many telephone calls and letters were exchanged before we finally succeeded last autumn together with many long and lengthy breakdowns in communication - Colin has no intention or wish to go through that again! If anyone knows of or has a contact with a suitable firm please do let one of us know. The Secretary has acquired the name of a possible alternative contractor who may be more amenable than the Council's.

HEDGE CUTTING: We have had several requests to ask residents whose hedges and trees border the roads to ensure that they are kept cut back and overhanging branches kept to a reasonable height from the roads. If you are unable to carry out this work we do have the use of a person who, for a reasonable sum, will do the job.

POSTS: In the intervening time since the AGM the posts at the top of Welcomes Road have been refurbished although it has to be reported that the wood of the posts, which is oak, is deteriorating badly in parts. Hopefully they will suffice for a few years yet, although constant damage from lorries and such like does not help.

TRAFFIC: Several residents have voiced concern that, upon completion of the estate at the far end of the airfield, the new residents may try to use Welcomes as a cut-through to the Godstone Road thus avoiding the level-crossing and usual jams. Also there appears to be an increase in the number of lorries using our roads. Our Secretary is contacting the relevant Council department setting out these concerns and enquiring what avenues are open to us to discourage said usage.

It only remains for us to wish you a happy, sunny summer and request that if you have any suggestions, comments or criticisms please do not hesitate to contact one of us as without these we assume that all are happy with our efforts. The Chairman would like to echo the vote of thanks given at the AGM to all Committee members who give their time freely (except for two well-earned honoraria) and who all contribute, in no small way, to the smooth running of the Association and giving the necessary time and effort needed to ensure that your interests are safeguarded.

COMMITTEE NAMES & NUMBERS:

Colin Brown.	8668 2101.	Bill Tolman.	8660 1130.
Irene Prosser.	8660 7723.	Dave Barrell.	8668 9555.
Robin McCallum.	8763 2738.	Peter Runacres.	8660 4542.
Brian Clinton.	8668 4700.	Liz Copeland.	8763 8947.
Doug Haigh.	8668 1741.		

For those with computers our web-site is www.wurc.info. The site is regularly updated.

We can be contacted by email as follows :
chairman@wurc.info
secretary@wurc.info
treasurer@wurc.info