

Badger Hill Residents Community Group



www.badgerhill.org.uk



Badgerhill.rcgroup@gmail.com



Badger Hill Residents

Newsletter June 2023

Annual General Meeting - 28th June 2023

Some change is good, but some is not. Lots of us in Badger Hill are worried about past, present and potential changes to local houses and parking. If you'd like to have your say on these and other matters and to hear other local people's points of view please come to the local Residents Group's Annual General Meeting.

It will take place on Wednesday 28th June from 19:30 to 21:00 at Heslington Church - the first 'live' meeting for three years and we hope to see lots of you again. If possible, we will also broadcast the event over the Internet. The Group's Committee and our newly elected Councillors will be there to discuss questions and field your questions. It will be interesting to hear about the new CYC Council and their plans for York.

Points of View

I feel like I've spent most of my Residents' Group time recently on the phone, particularly in Council IVR and Voicemail systems. I spent a week trying to contact someone finishing off a secondment at the Council and another lady coming back from maternity leave but never got beyond their voicemail messages and accompanying 'beeps'. This may be one of the reasons dealings with Councils are so protracted.

Interestingly I think I deal with more media now than I did while at work for IT companies. The residents group makes use of meetings, newsletters, emails, and websites. We organise an AGM. We have in the last year started using Social Media - Facebook and Nextdoor. Then there is the phone and voicemail and the visit to a friend in the next road to canvass their opinion.

The most successful venture in the last year was our petition concerning 'Permitted Development' (see below). Thank you for providing 350 signatures, 70 electronically and 280 from door to door canvassing, which provided the chance for one-to-one discussion of this important issue. Council officers could not ignore such a large response.

We are now exploring other online enquiry options which offer ways of requesting information and obtaining a quicker response. The 'Freedom of Information Enquiry' looks especially useful.

We anticipate using various methods as we look to influence discussions on the key issues for 2023 and 2024, such as the new traffic contract, and hope you will support us over the next year.

It would be really useful to have your email address so we can canvass opinion and send important updates through the year. We only have about 50 for the Estate. Please post it to 9 Kimberlow Woods Hill or email it to badgerhill.rcgroup@gmail.com

Parking Issues

We've been discussing road safety and Parking for years and the saga is not yet finished. A new contract is due in 2024 for Residents Parking in this area. The new Council will probably have a different approach to York traffic from the old one so we would be well advised to express our thoughts in positive and timely fashion..

Most residents think the current scheme has improved safety and privacy but they are equally concerned about likely future costs.

AGM discussions on Parking will cover: presence of wardens; parking outside schools, especially problems with aggressive behaviour by drivers; waiting times; pot holes.

Housing Issues

There are still requests to extend houses on the Estate, both residential properties and HMOs (students and other). The Group sends in queries about most of these, especially questions on neighbours' privacy, noise levels and waste volumes. The Estate has reached its legal threshold (20%) for HMOs so we expected the number of issues to decrease until

Permitted Development

A couple of summers ago builders started to develop four houses on the Estate without planning permission. When we approached the Council about this they said it was legal to extend some properties under 'Permitted Development'. As we questioned further this was described as exploiting a loophole in the law. We felt certain parts of the law were ambiguous and morally dubious - what if people built over others' properties or created excessive noise.

We co-opted a couple of local residents with planning and council experience onto our committee and with their guidance we have produced two lengthy reports - one of which the Council 'lost' for three months - and a petition. We may experience another delay in

resolving the issue due to the change of Council. We will go into more detail on this matter at the AGM.

Environment

A few residents have asked me why we do not just concentrate on housing and parking problems and leave the other issues alone. We do prioritise and specialise but progress is often slow and we are therefore currently able to pick up other issues.

We keep an eye on the field and have been involved in planting trees and establishing a small allotment. We have a litter picking team.

We monitor the infamous Badger Hill pot holes, the level of rubbish and overgrown hedges which block footpaths.

We are currently updating our website and plan to build a list of contacts who can help with key social issues (eg noise, parking, untidy entities, like aged ambulances!)

If you would like to get involved in this work please come to the AGM or email us at

badgerhill.rcgroup@gmail.com

Badger Hill Residents' Community Group

Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 28th June 2023 - 7-30pm Heslington Church

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome
- 2) Approval of 2022 Minutes
- 3) Chairman's Report
- 4) Secretary's Report
- 5) Treasurer's Report
- 6) Election of Committee
- 7) Amendments to the BHRCG Constitution
- 8) Councillors' Issues - Local Plan, Blue Badge
- 9) Campus Developments
- 10) Questions
- 11) AOB - please raise with the chair in advance of the meeting

The meeting will be followed by refreshments.