

# *THE MOORPOOL DUCK*

Residents' Newsletter

Issue No. 28

September 2007

**MOORPOOL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MONDAY 1st October 2007**

in the  
**MOORPOOL HALL THE CIRCLE**

**7.15 pm for 7.30 pm**

**DEVELOPMENT ON THE ESTATE?**

**ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR!**

Life on our estate has changed over the years and changes are again underway. The AGM is a chance for you to hear what is happening, what is being planned and what may be planned. The Residents' Committee represents all residents - freeholders, leaseholders and tenants - and it invites your attendance to elect a committee for 2006-7 and also to add your voice to the developing situation on the estate.

**PLEASE ATTEND THE MEETING AS WE NEED TO HAVE YOUR SUPPORT TO KEEP THE INTERESTS OF ALL RESIDENTS IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE MANY DECISIONS BEING MADE AT THE MOMENT**

All Residents welcome

# AGENDA FOR AGM

1. Apologies
2. Amendment to Constitution
3. Election of Officers / Committee
4. Minutes of last AGM
5. Matters Arising
6. Chair's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Reports re Grainger proposals:
  - 1) Regeneration Group
  - 2) Allotment Association
9. Anti-social Behaviour
10. Centenary Plans
11. AOB

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## **AGM : Further Information.**

Tea and biscuits will be served from 7.15 - 7.30 pm and again at the close of the meeting.

At the moment there are vacancies on the committee. Anyone wishing to stand for election to the committee, either for the "office" roles (chair, treasurer etc.) or the General Committee places, please contact the Chair (Mike Frost at either 1, Carless Avenue or c/o Moorpool News and Wines, The Circle ) via the Association letter box which Raj has very kindly offered to have in the newspaper shop.

This year we are specifically looking for a new Chair and Secretary as the present incumbents are unable to offer themselves for re-election to these posts. Particularly, at this present time with so much under debate about the future of the estate, it is very important that the MRA has a strong committee and we would urge anyone who has the long term interests of the estate at heart and can give some time and effort to stand for the committee.

We would be delighted to see new members coming to join the committee. At the moment the main committee aims to meet about once every two months, the sub committees meeting a little less frequently.

Subscriptions to help fund our activities are due again and can be paid at the AGM. The rates are £3 for an individual or £5 per household.

## **REGENERATION GROUP REPORT**

**From Andrew Hackett (Chair MRG)**

When asked to do a short piece for the Duck on the Regeneration Group, my first thought was: What on earth can I say? We are, I feel, very much in the eye of the hurricane.

Grainger has now ticked the necessary consultation boxes and, despite the less than enthusiastic reception of their plans, appear determined to press forward and will be submitting a planning application in the near future. When they choose to do this, and the exact form it will take, is in their control.

There have, of course, been some changes since their May Masterplan. The tennis courts and houses have been shuffled around on the Valley Site, they have introduced the provocative eco-hutch designs, squeezed in a small play area, and some houses now have fewer bedrooms, but the overall impact on the estate in terms of the sites and number of houses has changed little. They have also made it clear that their plans may change yet again between now and a formal application, but have made no commitment to make these known in advance. We have, therefore, decided to postpone a further opinion survey until we can, at least, have some certainty of their final proposals.

Meanwhile, we have focus groups looking at the impact of any development they may be permitted to carry out from a number of perspectives. The ecology group is busy examining the impact on trees and hedgerows, and the wildlife that depend on them. A small team is looking at the recreational/play area idea in greater detail to see where that could be sited, and the costs and management issues surrounding it. We are trying to gather the various groups and societies that use the Hall and other communal areas together for their views. The Allotment Association is active as always and, finally, we are trying to come to grips with exactly what Grainger is proposing through the residents' trust.

When Grainger do submit their planning application, there will only be a short time of 21 days to submit objections. The MRG will, of course, be submitting a central document, but letters from individual residents are also vitally important, so please be prepared to write or e-mail the planning department at short notice. We will be happy to assist and give indications of the main issues that they will consider.

It would also be most useful if you could retain copies of letters, or forward copies of e-mails to us, so we can judge the response. It is important to understand that, once Grainger get planning permission, there is no realistic possibility of appeal.

## HELP WANTED

You can help us in a couple of ways. Could you take a picture from the back of your house then e-mail it to us or drop a print through one of the addresses below? We want to illustrate our environment and how we value the outlook. Secondly, could you help us with a wildlife survey? Details of the ten 'Most Wanted' will be available on our web site, the notice board, and we hope to also circulate the list with some illustrations. If you see any of these animals (or anything not on the list that is interesting) over the next few weeks, just make a note of the species, location and date, and either e-mail it to us, or drop a note through one of the letterboxes at 60 Margaret Grove, 101 Ravenhurst Road, 2 Carless Avenue or the MRA post box. We'd like all your sightings by the first week in October if possible.

Finally, a reminder of our web site at [www.moorpool.org.uk](http://www.moorpool.org.uk), which is regularly updated with the latest news, and our e-mail address: [contact@moorpool.org.uk](mailto:contact@moorpool.org.uk).

And a big thank you to everyone for their help and support over the last few months.

Andrew Hackett  
Moorpool Regeneration Group

*The Duck is as we often point out very happy to print points of view from individual residents. Rob Sutton, of Margaret Grove sent in his view of the current situation.*

Dear Residents,

We are approaching a critical time for the Estate. Grainger have shown us their revised plans and whilst there are some changes, these plans are a long way off being acceptable. Grainger seem determined to put in planning applications. Objections will presumably be lodged and the next 6 - 12 months will be spent having a (very) public battle. If objections are sustained

and Planning permission refused, then Grainger may appeal and so it will go on. In the meantime we have been given notice to quit on our allotments and so they will fall into further disrepair, becoming overgrown and unsightly. At the end of the day Grainger could be left with some kind of watered down development short of their financial expectations and residents will be left with derelict garage sites and allotments.

It is perhaps time for Grainger and those that are in a position to represent us to decide if this is really what they want to see happen. They have a responsibility to sit down and at least discuss these issues.

Rob Sutton. Resident

## A MOORPOOL ESTATE TRUST ?

Part of the plans being put forward by Grainger in the package of changes they are presenting is an intention to hand over to a "Trust" some of the public land and facilities on the estate. These would include the Moorpool Hall, the Bowling Green, both Tennis Courts, the Pool, the Allotments, and the green open spaces of the Spinney and the top of East Pathway. The creation of a trust would put control of these assets in the hands of a Residents Trust in perpetuity and would keep these areas and buildings safe from 'rogue' developers. Grainger would not include the Circle shops, the current offices or the Snooker Club in such a trust, these they would continue to own and rent out as at present. ( It should be remembered that the setting up of a Trust has no bearing on any application for planning permission.)

For a Trust to work it must be properly set up and financed. The Residents Association is well aware that it does not have the expertise to evaluate such a project, but realises that we, the Residents, need advice and **independent** advice on which we can form our opinions about this possible development.

To further this end, the Residents' Association and the Regeneration Group, represented by Mike Frost and Rob Sutton respectively, had a meeting earlier this week with Grainger, held under the auspices of the Bournville Village Trust.

Peter Roach, Chief Executive of the Bournville Trust, chaired the meeting in which the Moorpool representatives put to Grainger a series of questions about the nature of such a Trust. How it might be financed, the responsibilities and liabilities which would be applicable and the viability of such an enterprise.

The outcome of the discussion between the parties accompanying these questions was the realisation that for a Trust to be properly considered by the Residents it would be essential that a Business Plan be produced which would look at all the financial implications and address the concerns of the Residents as well as the position of Grainger. It was stressed by the Residents representatives that it was essential that such a plan must be both professionally and independently produced to have credibility with the residents.

Peter Roach of Bournville said that if Grainger approached Bournville Village Trust to produce a business plan they would be prepared to consider taking on such a commission. Both Mike Frost and Rob Sutton felt that the Bournville Trust has all the necessary expertise and experience to produce such a plan. The reputation of the Bournville Village Trust would ensure that a plan produced by them would be considered to be impartial and would be well received by Residents rather than an in-house production from Grainger. We await further progress.

## **MOORPOOL NEWS and WINE**

We would once again urge you to continue to support your local shop run by Raj and Dip. They have various special offers running, including any 3 bottles of wine for £10 from an extensive selection. There is also a fax machine available now as well as an ever widening stock of goods. It is good to see our shop looking as flourishing as it is. So many urban and rural communities are losing their local shops - let's keep ours. **Use it!**

## **INTERESTED IN AN ALLOTMENT ?**

The MAA are willing to submit an application for an allotment on behalf of anyone who is interested. You must be prepared to take on the allotment and properly use it if offered. Please contact me, Rob Sutton, Chair Moorpool Allotment Association, for a form. Tel: 0121 426 5669

## **MOORPOOL PLAYERS**

The next production by the Players is a hilarious examination of the art of Coarse Acting as prescribed by the author Michael Green. This show entitled 'Coarse Acting Strikes Back', comprises three one act plays; 'Trapped' which has been described as "A thriller that keeps you guessing" : 'Pride at Southanger Park', "Gripping Regency drama" : and 'Oedocles King of Thebes', "Greek Tragedy that tears your heartstrings".

These quotes are taken directly from a well known and internationally acclaimed Harborne Arts Critic and should be encouragement enough for you to share in this unique evening's entertainment.

The show will be directed by John Healey and runs from 21st-24th November at 7.30 with an additional performance on the 24th at 2.00.

Tickets will be available from the usual outlets; Moorpool News, The Dove Bookshop in Vivian Road and the Box Office on 0121 426 2134.

Wine and the usual range of refreshments will be available at all performances.

Additionally The Players will be presenting their Annual Charity Christmas Show at The Moorpool Hall on Wednesday 12th December. Admission at the door will be £3 which will include wine and mince pies.

## **CRIME CO-ORDINATION REPORT**

I have been asked to take over the role of Crime Co-ordinator, previously filled by Jan Scott. A very difficult act to follow.

Jan and Louise Wynne Williams have, with the help of a team of observers, presented to the Police and the City Council statistics proving the problems on the estate. Through their efforts the Police should shortly have a Dispersement Order in place. It is hoped that this will further aid the Police in preventing the mostly nocturnal gatherings and the unsocial behaviour and litter associated these groups.

It is only with the help of all the observers and residents that this work can continue. I can be contacted between 7 and 9 am behind the counter in Moorpool News and Wine or on 427 1291, for the techies, mikem0bzy@Tiscali.co.uk Mike Haywood

## **FINAL QUACK**

**Please do come to the AGM.** It is very important if we as Residents are to have some say in our future that we get a good, representative turn out. This is your estate, your environment, if we work together it can continue to be the place we want it to be.

## **THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

There is now only one month until we celebrate the first event of our Centenary programme on Sunday 28th October. To remind readers the programme of events will involve a Celebration tea, the opening of proceedings by the Lord Mayor of Birmingham, a dance display by children from the estate, a re-enactment by The Moorpool Players of the opening ceremony and then, moving to the Bowling Green, the release of 100 celebratory lanterns.

As we mentioned in the last Duck everyone is invited to the Green to see the lantern release but fire regulations mean we are limited to the numbers we can have in the Hall for tea. If you would like to come to the opening celebrations in the Hall, please fill in the attached form. Tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis.

We look forward to as many Residents as possible joining in this and future events. Fingers crossed for a fine day!!

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### **.MOORPOOL RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

**SUNDAY 28th OCTOBER 2007**

Please reserve me 1 or 2 (circle as appropriate) tickets for the opening ceremony at Moorpool Hall on Sunday 28th October 2007 at 3.45pm.

NAME/S.....

ADDRESS.....

Number of Years Resident on the estate.....

Please return replies to the MRA post box at the shop "Moorpool News and Wine" or Mike Frost, 1 Carless Avenue, by October 10th.