



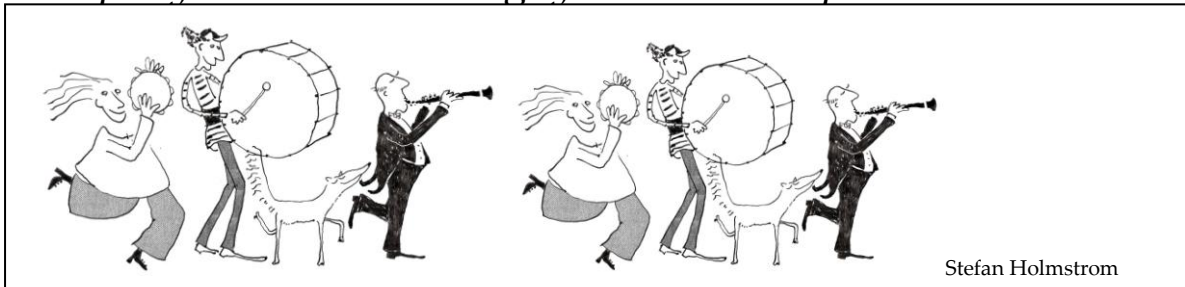
The Round Hill Reporter

Issue 41
September 2010

The Annual General Meeting *carbon footprints – page 3*

On the road again

Street party takes over D'Aubigny Road on 11 September



Get ready for this year's street party with more market stalls, children's fun, and food and music to enjoy!

Since the success of last year's party, the Round Hill Society have been busy planning the 2010 event. Many people who attended last year suggested that we should try to make it a more regular event and given this is the tenth anniversary of the Society, it seemed a good way to celebrate.

The party will be held in D'Aubigny Road for the second time with the popular market stalls and food and drink including a hog roast, meat and veggie burgers and curries. This

year we're also planning more music from Beatles tribute and bluesy jazz through to rousing samba and quiet acoustic.

Events are due to get underway from around 2pm with food, drink and a street market. The varied music bill will start at 4pm and run through to 10pm with quiet acoustic music later on.

The road will be closed from 8am on Saturday morning until late evening under a road closure agreed by the City Council and supported by the residents of D'Aubigny Road. Turn to page 4 for more details.

View from the hill

Green Deane, Level funding, Cycle parking, Carelet 6, CPZ

●Lizzie Deane was chosen as the new Councillor for St Peter's and North Laine in July's by-election. She fills the seat vacated by Keith Taylor who is now representing the South East in the European Parliament. Lizzie, along with the Labour candidate Tom French and Rob Buckwell, standing for the conservatives, answered a series of questions on Round Hill issues. The views of the three main candidates were published on the Round Hill website in the run-up to the by-election and are still available to read.

●Plans for development of the Level moved a step forward in July when it was announced that the bid for the first stage of Heritage Lottery funding had been successful. The 'Parks for People' grant of £1.8million includes a development pot which will be used to secure the remaining funds. The project includes the restoration of the 1920s layout of the park and is expected to cost a total of £2.5million.

●Carelet's sixth application for the plot of land between Princes Road and the railway embankment was refused by the City Council in July. The Planning Committee cited three reasons: the lack of available parking for new residents, the proximity of the waste transfer station and the potential overdevelopment of the site. Carelet have appealed to the Planning Inspector who are expected to publish a decision in September.

●Residents on the western side of Round Hill are bracing themselves for the arrival of a new controlled parking area in September. The streets from Ditchling Rise over to Viaduct Road will be included into the Area J Controlled Parking Zone after the consultation in 2009 showed residents in those streets were in favour of the idea. The Round Hill area was firmly against the idea, although it is likely that there will be a knock-on effect from the scheme as it is just over the Ditchling Road from us.

●The Triangle Community group have been meeting with city councillors and officials to investigate the feasibility of installing new cycle parking facilities in the area. Bike parking is a problem in streets with narrow pavements where cycles secured to lampposts and railings can obstruct the way for pedestrians. The paved area on Round Hill Crescent, opposite Bradley's stores, is one site under consideration for a new parking site. The City Council is aiming to increase the number of "Sheffield stands" by at least eighty a year. Improving security for bike owners is one of the strategies for promoting cycle use in the city.



Bumper edition

To celebrate ten years of the Round Hill Society, we've collected the first forty editions of the Round Hill Reporter into a single, bound edition.

The 244-page omnibus can be ordered online from lulu.com for £6.45 plus postage and packaging – see the website for details of how to obtain this slice of Round Hill history.



Community Parking

Residents complete parking survey to test claims of developers

One of the recurring debates in the planning applications for land off Princes Road has been the availability of parking in the area.

Developers Carelet have not included off-street parking in the most recent proposals, instead arguing there is plenty of available space on Round Hill's streets. They included, in their recent plans, a parking survey which purported to support their claim. By counting the availability of parking spaces during midweek slots, they were able to demonstrate sufficient availability to support their proposals to extend their plans for a strip of land on the northern edge of Round Hill.

The argument did not sway members of the Planning Committee however, who cited the lack of parking as one of the reasons for refusing the revised plans. But now that Carelet are taking their appeal to the Planning Inspector, a group of local residents used empirical methods to dispute Carelet's argument.

The team conducted their own survey, using a rigorous approach and assessing availability in the late evenings when parking problems are most evident. Car owners living



The community parking survey showed that the lack of available spaces led car owners to seek unsuitable locations and highlighted the pressure on parking in the late evening.

in Round Hill will not be surprised to learn that the resulting report soundly contradicted the developer's claims. Not only were there very few free places within five minutes' walk (400m) of the site entrance, but the team also recorded high numbers of cars left in unsuitable places, such as on junctions, double-yellow lines or pulled up on the pavement, cited as evidence of the lack of more ideal locations.

The report has been submitted to the Planning Inspector for consideration as part of Carelet's appeal and the full text is available in PDF format on the Round Hill website.

Round Hill Annual General Meeting

7.30pm Wednesday 15th Sept – Downs Infants' School

The more alert of our readers will notice that the AGM has moved two months earlier. This is to encourage more of you to come out in what will still be daylight, and have a drink with us, join in the brief procedures that an AGM requires and participate in the discussions around this year's theme – **Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation.**

We have invited the Sustainability Officer and Energy Conservation Officer from the Council, as well as representatives from two community energy reduction groups – Steyning

10:10 and Hollingdean 10:10. Both these groups have pledged to reduce their carbon footprints by 10% in 2010.

In these times of low interest rates Photovoltaics and solar hot water may offer a better place for some of your pension pot than traditional savings. A 7% return for the next 25 years, plus an improved selling price on your home – is there a downside? Attend and learn.

And if you are gaining some free time please consider volunteering for the Committee, to help respond to events and plan others.



Street party – Sat 11th Sept

From 2pm to 10pm, stalls, food and drink, music and fun

This will be the fifth Round Hill Street party, and we hope one of the best.

There will be plenty of tables available for folk to set up their own stalls. Cakes or toys, childrens clothes or books and DVDs, plants or your own fruit and vegetables. Join up with a neighbour or friend to sell, or even give away, all those things in the loft.

Book a table now by contacting Rob Stephenson (rob.stephenson51@gmail.com) or phone on back page.

There will be a Bouncy Castle, big enough for some adult sessions. You know you want to. Or try Circus Skills, there will be an expert on hand with equipment for all to use. Or bring your bike for Getafix Cycles to check it over for you.

Failing those options, there will be a bar and lots of food options, from roast pork and burgers to vegetable and meaty curries.

From 4pm there will be music. About six hours in all. Plan to spend the evening with us, with quieter music from 8 to 10pm.

VOLUNTEERS: we will need help to set up and take down. If you can spare an hour or so please contact Rob Stephenson and add yourself to the list. We will be clearing the street and setting up from early on Saturday, and the street will have to be cleared after 10 on Saturday. Many hands make light work.



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Illustration by Stefan Holmstrom

Waste measurement

Neighbours of the Hollingdean depot face official disarray

Residents downwind of the Hollingdean waste processing plant have endured a smelly summer. Locals are still reporting problems to the Environment Agency but news in July that the City Council's Environmental Health office was closing its case file on the plant was met with anger in the community.

In past months, Council officials have repeatedly made it clear that complaints should be referred directly to the Environment Agency. Now that locals have done exactly that, City officers seem to be suggesting that the drop in calls locally means that there is no ongoing concern about the facility.

This announcement appears cynical and disingenuous and highlights the lack of official coordination on the issue. The Environment Agency continue to receive several calls a week relating to odour, noise and particulate problems of which officers in Brighton and Hove seem to be unaware.

There is also frustration from neighbours of the facility that they are required to perform their own monitoring of activity at the depot. After months of reporting problems to various bodies, residents have received no indication of impending action on the issues with which they are faced.

The City Council appears to have no independent programme of assessment. Nor is there any appetite to hold the plant's management to the conditions on which planning permission has been granted.

In the absence of planning enforcement, official requirements seem to be routinely flouted at the facility. The most visible evidence of this is the practice of leaving the large entry doors open at the Materials Recovery Facility allowing noise and dust to escape into the environment.

Councillors Ian Davey and Pete West have been supportive of residents, witnessing many of the problems for themselves in the gardens neighbouring the plant. Conditions in proximity to the plant were also cited as one of the reasons for

refusal for the most recent planning application for the land between Princes Road and the railway embankment. This is the first time the issue has been officially recognised in the planning process and highlights the worsening problems for residents on this side of the hill.

One happier product of the problems at Hollingdean is the news from residents in Edinburgh who successfully resisted plans to build a similar facility in the Portobello region of the city. Locals cited the experiences of Brighton inhabitants in their campaign against the establishment of a waste processing plant so close to residential accommodation. They won their argument and the local authority are rethinking the location of the facility.



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Student hill

Will new strategy create harmony between town and gown?

New concerns are emerging in Round Hill over the changing nature of the neighbourhood. With a growing student population, and reports of professionals moving away in search of quieter environments, is the area about to become the next student quarter?

Concerns over studentification have been growing in Brighton and Hove since the 1970s as student numbers have swelled. The city hosts one of the highest concentrations of students in the UK. At 13% of the population, only Oxford and Cambridge maintain a higher proportion. Residents in Round Hill will be familiar with the problems that are traditionally associated with "student ghettos": noisy late-night parties, poorly maintained properties, increased pressure on parking during term-time and refuse abandoned on the streets.

But many will also recognise the other side of the story. The student population is a vital part of the city's mix, contributing considerably to the young and vibrant culture of the area. The universities play an important role in the local economy, creating a versatile and skilled labour pool. The demand for accommodation has been good news for homeowners in the city, sustaining house prices and boosting the buy-to-let market. Brighton and Hove has also been cited as a case study in how to effectively balance the interests of town and gown. Thanks to the work of Dr Darren Smith of Brighton University, the issue of "studentification" in parts of the city has been studied closely and a series of approaches have been adopted to encourage harmony between students and long-term residents. The accommodation offices at Brighton and Sussex Universities have encouraged a wide distribution of student housing in the city. This work over many years has meant that Brighton does not face the same problems as some areas of Birmingham or Manchester for example, where the proportion of student housing exceeds 80% in some streets.

But growing differentiation in house prices across areas of the city and the need for self-funding students to control transport and

accommodation costs threatens to create greater concentrations of student housing in the Lewes Road corridor. The danger is recognised by the City Council who, earlier this year, endorsed a new five-year strategy to meet the increasing demand for student accommodation.

So what can be done to address the issue? The most important components of the strategy are to increase the availability of purpose-built University accommodation in the city and at the same time, manage the distribution of student housing within the private sector.

Just under one fifth of students in the city are housed in University accommodation and both Sussex and Brighton are planning to increase provision for housing. City planners have indicated that part of the Preston Barracks site will include a new student village of 500 and they are also considering proposals to redevelop Varley Halls on Coldean Lane, which will double the accommodation to 564 rooms. Building is underway on a new complex for more than 600 rooms on the Sussex campus.

The theory promoted by the strategy is that increasing purpose-built accommodation will help the Council to manage the demand on the private sector. But there is scepticism over whether enough can be done to make a significant impact. Prospects for Preston Barracks have not left the drawing board despite years of aspirations and the current economic climate is not encouraging for large-scale developments. The Universities are also limited in their plans by the need to redevelop older accommodation which no longer meets the needs of a modern institution. Individual developments are likely to face hurdles too. Coldean residents are resistant to the level of growth proposed for Varley Halls and last year two applications for a 182-room student residence on the site of the dilapidated Saunders Glassworks were refused by planners.

The other significant component of the strategy is to control the distribution of student housing across the city. Houses in multiple

occupation, or HMOs, have to be licenced by the Council if they are over two storeys high or accommodate five or more residents and this gives the authority the chance to manage the distribution of housing across the city. But the licencing requirement applies only to new developments and Brighton already has 15,000 HMOs - the highest total in the country. Much of the housing stock in Brighton is also too small to qualify for the definition. In many parts of Round Hill, houses would escape the licencing requirement.

The implementation of HMO licencing is now the most important prospect for maintaining a healthy balance between the interests of short and longer-term residents and eleventh hour changes by the outgoing Labour government cleared the way for local authorities to impose licencing on smaller properties. This could also help to ensure that all residents of areas such as Round Hill continue to enjoy a mixed and lively community well into the future.

We can all play a constructive part in the mixed community that is Round Hill. New residents will not necessarily know what day the refuse is collected or the damage gulls can inflict on plastic sacks during the day. The recycling vehicle appears fortnightly, and will only take specific types of packaging and paper. Talk to your new neighbours so that they know what to put out and when. If there is a front

garden perhaps you can ask the landlord to provide a dustbin and lid to reduce the gull problem, thus allowing the rubbish to be put out rather than be stored indoors.

During the summer change-over landlords are busy clearing and refurbishing their properties for the next group of students. It can be a stressful time for neighbours as heaps of trash are put out, hopefully for arranged removal at some time. Too often absentee landlords seem happy to turn our home area into a temporary tip they do not have to live with.



Above: The slow and messy process of clearing student houses in Brighton

Below: Planned student accommodation at Coldean





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	Mandy Jones	81 Princes Crescent	
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The Round Hill Reporter is published by the Round Hill Society to keep residents in the area in touch with local news, events and each other. We try to present a fair and balanced view but the opinions expressed in this paper are not necessarily shared by all.

Please send your recommendations or warnings to the editor. Letters or ideas for articles are welcome – please contact the editor at the address shown above.

Deadline for the December edition
14th November