



APPRA news

APPRA exists to help retain the unique character of the Avenues and Pearson Park conservation area and to support the neighbourhood's strong community spirit

APROPOS

Westbourne East NW

Achieved prestigious Duke of York Community Initiative award. Tai Chi trail on Westbourne Avenue (East end), opening in May.

Want to sing?

Contact The Avenues Singers. Telephone Alan on 442758.

Dorothy Sayers plaque

Ceremony on 6 August 2006, 80 Westbourne Avenue. Also Joseph Boxall plaque. Details tba

Garden Fete to celebrate St Cuthbert's Centenary

10 June 2-4 pm, in St Cuthbert's Hall and Gardens. Lots of stalls with fun and games for all, teas/coffee.

Carol singing

£281 was raised for charity. Ian and Christine Colquhoun's hospitality much appreciated!

Rights of Way

Notice served in Nov 05 to open the "cut-through" from Pearson Park to Grove Street. Other cases pending.



The state they're in

Sally Walker brings you up to date on APPRA's fight against verge abuse (*page 2*)

Chair's Report: Spring 2006

Stephanie Wilson.

The Committee is divided on the subject of tree-felling in the Avenues; we need to know what residents think, and hope at the AGM to get a feeling of whether we should organize a special meeting to discuss the trees. A sub-committee is currently talking to officers, hoping to review the thirty-year programme of felling and replacing trees that was agreed in 1991 (and then accelerated due to subsidence and insurance claims). Others on the Committee are content to remain bound by that agreement, and to continue to replant steadily, in order that future residents inherit well-grown trees. There is a further issue, about the species planted—the City inclines to

smaller types of tree in the verges, to avoid the damage and debate associated with subsidence. Many residents love the forest trees and their green canopy; we have suggested that the wide verge of Westbourne Avenue keep its big, old trees and has the same types to replace them when the time comes. Your opinions, please!

Appropriate consultation on planning applications continues to be disputed; I seem still not to have got it right. A resident rang to point out rather sadly that I hadn't consulted him when he made an application, although I had sought the opinions of his neighbours. He was right, and I could only apologise. Sometimes I don't feel the need to contact the applicants, since their plans make their intentions clear; but I feel I do need to establish the neighbours' reaction, so as to inform the Committee when we

APPRA AGM
Wednesday, 10 May 2006
7-9 pm
St Cuthbert's Church Hall
Marlborough Avenue

discuss the plans. Sometimes this leads to an odd situation, in which we express an opposition to plans on behalf of a neighbour, who doesn't want to mar good neighbourly relations. We got quite contorted when we discussed this in committee, until Councillor Butterworth suggested a solution: that councillors should be asked to manage objections between neighbours, leaving us as a committee out of any potential dispute. In future, I will solicit opinions as before; if there is disagreement, I will refer it to our councillors.

There are three appeals at the moment against local planning

decisions: 5 St Ninian's Walk (the plan is for a house to be built on this strip of land adjacent to the railway, see *Helen Thomas, page 2*), 224 Victoria Avenue and 58 Marlborough Avenue (both wanting replacement UPVC windows).

The Article 4 direction was originally supported by sufficient numbers of residents to bring it into force; we hoped thereby to prevent the installation of windows which are out of keeping with individual properties and with the Conservation Area—you only have to go as far as Ella Street to see how jarring the proliferation of different styles, materials and proportions can be: and to appreciate the dignity of the original windows still in situ.

There are whispers of movement on Sanderson's field—come to the AGM to hear more!

Preserving the verges—what can we do?

Sally Walker

End of winter is always the sorriest time for them as, having been in a soft state from September onwards, they are easily and deeply rutted when driven over. All it takes is one vehicle to cause ruin which will be with us for a very long time. I am not alone in thinking that the verges are in a worse state than ever; and that much of the damage is beyond natural regeneration.

Several factors are combining to cause the terrible state of the verges:

Spraying by the Council, rather than strimming or mowing round trees and street furniture, has killed the grass. It no longer regrows, but weeds flourish in the bare soil. The verge edges are thus made immediately vulnerable to ruts and erosion by uncaring/oblivious motorists. When there was grass, at least it took a longer time before heavy damage was caused.

How can we combat this?

About a year ago, APPRA requested a change of policy

from the Council. We have had no success but we are still committed to changing the policy; and have asked for help from our local councillors.

The large amount of renovation work is vastly increasing damage to whole patches of verge. Builders just do not seem to care. They routinely drive heavy machinery and vehicles onto the grass, leave heavy items standing for so long that the grass withers totally and leave rubble and concrete behind. Every time I am informed of damage by such activities I report to Highways so that the financial cost of repairing the verge can be taken from the culprit. However, this is no longer enough, as it is the Council (Parks Dept) who has to find the time to repair them, although it is private contractors who have caused the problem. The repairs themselves can be unsatisfactory as new soil and seed is even more vulnerable than the original grass. Once a swathe of verge is completely gone, it is impossible to put it back to its pristine state.

How to combat this?

Stop the damage being done in the first place. Residents should endeavour to use only those companies who are prepared not to damage the verges and emphasise to builders that they should not come onto the verges. It is legal, for instance, to park skips on the road and Highways Dept prefer it.

If you see any builder damaging the verge, please send their details to me (contact information in APPRA contacts, page 4) and I will inform Highways.

Motorists are increasingly eroding the edges of the verges by their regular mounting of the kerbs. While low kerbs do not help, much of the kerb mounting is deliberate—rolling forwards up over the kerb, rather than bothering to parallel park.

How to combat this?

The only way is to be as vigilant as possible and to tell the offending motorists at the time how damaging it is. I have

leaflets for putting on cars which you find actually parked on the verges. Two wheels up, seems to be the preferred mode and it is causing erosion and ruts all along the edges in many places.

Private driveways across verges are becoming much eroded at edges, both at road edge and further in.

How to combat this?

I have no idea! One of the problems seems to be that motorists use them as turning points but they are too narrow for this purpose.

Is there any good news?

1) Last year Wyke Area Committee gave us a grant of £19,159 to:

► widen the street openings to badly overridden tenfoots (17 in all). This work should be carried out in late Spring and should hopefully prevent future overriding because access and egress will be easier. It will

continued on page 3



Your column—your say

Don't axe St Ninian's trees

Early on the morning of Sunday 4 Dec a jogger spotted a gang with chain saws clear felling the trees of St Ninian's Walk. The owner had previously applied for Planning Permission to build here but had been turned down on the grounds, primarily of access, but also on a number of habitat, wildlife and amenity issues. Some tree management could usefully have been carried out here but there was no follow-up on offers to discuss this with local residents.

Word quickly went round Ella Street. Some 50 people, of all ages and walks of life, spontaneously hurried along to St Ninian's Walk to prevent further loss of trees

and undergrowth. Some 24 ash, sycamore and hawthorn were already lost. Also the single perfect specimen of wych elm had been felled at its base. About 21 trees remained. Some tree stumps showed 45 years growth.

Local officials, the police and the media were contacted. There was prompt action from the city arborealist and Councillors Butterworth and Robinson.

A good natured group of residents, already organising shifts and refreshments, were prepared to stay to protect the remaining habitat for as long as it took but by Monday 5 Dec Emergency Tree Preservation Orders had been secured, so they hesitantly went home. (*Write to Ian Brown, Planning Dept, Kingston House, Bond Street, by May 2006 if you want this order to become permanent.*)

As well as providing a pleasant woodland walk, especially for the elderly, the St Ninian's woodland is at the very centre of a much bigger area of important habitat. Amongst the creatures recorded here are: barn owl and tawny owl, dragonfly and lacewing, the speckled wood

butterfly, pippistrelle bat, roe deer, hedgehog, rabbit, squirrel, woodcock live in the brambles every winter, fox breed here, birds include blackcap, bluetit, great tit, coal tit, long-tailed tit, goldfinch, greenfinch, chaffinch, sparrow, dunnock, redpoll, goldcrest, songthrush, winter visiting thrushes, collared dove, wood pigeon, robin and wren.

Helen Thomas

(The views expressed in this column are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent APPRA policy. Ed)

Tree sculptures admired by residents & visitors

Votes via email and the poll on the hullsangel web site are in favour of continuing the sculptures: 27 "yes" and 7 "no".

No one who voted "no" made any comment, but there were several comments from the people in favour. Here they are:

"Definitely! What a good idea it is, puts Hull on the map too."

"Superb work, good use of dead tree trunks. Would like to see this continued in other towns and cities."

"The carvings are a great asset to Hull and one of the best

things about the place. They are of great interest to visitors and help to dispel the bad image of the city."

"Very special and should continue

"We never miss it when we are in Hull. What a neighbourly and artistic contribution to the Avenues."

"All these tree sculptures brighten & liven up our environment..."

"... we would wish to see more tree sculptures as they add to the appearance of the area.

We particularly like those of Jackie Ward Lomax."

"We have found the tree sculptures an excellent addition to the Avenues 'scene'—they enhance the area and are a source of interest to visitors."

"...They are a wonderful addition to the Avenues character and are always featured in the Open Gardens programme. I know from talking to our many visitors that the sculpture trail is much appreciated."

"...they are very interesting as well as improving the quality of the environment they make the area more attractive."

clear up some of our current unsightly ruts.

► repair the deep ruts on verge edges. Given the totally uncaring attitudes of what I presume are non-resident drivers and delivery vans, I am now very worried that mending these with just soil and seed will make things worse, not better. Although I was very keen to get this work carried out this Spring, I am asking Highways to put it on hold while we look for a more robust way of repairing edges. This will be more expensive, but better to do it gradually and have it stronger, than have a whole set of new ruts.

► replace 100 metres of low kerb. This work was carried out on Westbourne Avenue on the south side going west from the NHS building. Sad to say that people have already deliberately driven up over the higher kerb and are rutting the new verge before the grass has even had a chance to establish itself.

2) APPRA have made another bid for public money (about £15,500) to Wyke Area Committee) to raise the kerbs on Salisbury Street on the side of the George Gilbert Scott houses. If we are successful, the kerbs will be the Yorkstone: ones already salvaged from Westbourne (about half were re-usable) and ones to be salvaged from Salisbury Street itself. We are immensely grateful to Mike McWilliams of Parks Dept for storing the stone for us at short notice.

3) Parks Dept have listened to residents' concerns about heavy machinery for tree planting damaging the verges. This year they coned the road so that they would be able to access the planting sites without going on the verges.

4) There are a number of residents who regularly leaflet vehicles parked on verges. Without them, matters would be even worse.

5) Thanks to residents who have ensured skips are put on the road.

The way forward

1) I am hoping to form a sub-committee wider than the current APPRA committee with a view to being much more pro-active. We need to have discussions with officers and councillors about how to protect the heritage of the Avenues from the continuing abuse by drivers of vehicles before the damage is irreparable.

Volunteers for verges sub-committee, please contact Sally Walker

As the Kingston-upon-Hull Act of 1984, which prohibits the driving of a vehicle onto the verge is clearly not preventing such driving (despite notices displayed on verges), we need something which will impinge on the motorist who acts illegally.

2) Hull becomes a Decriminalised Parking Authority on 30 April 2006. This transfers parking enforcement from the Police to the Local Authority. The consequence—and possible benefits of the change—will need to be explored by the sub-committee with the Council. Highways inform us that parking on verges and pavements is a city-wide problem.

3) Continue reporting to me if you have any information on damage to verges by builders, Utilities etc. I report at once to Highways. I keep a record. I am in the process of contacting residents who have so reported, to check if work has been carried out and if it has been effective. Please feel free to check things out with me.



This year we celebrate thirty years of Avenues Open Gardens; the first was in 1976 when supporters of the North Humberside Hospice project were looking for ways of raising money. The project became a reality and Open Gardens has continued to support Dove House and many other charities, local, national and international.

Last year we gave away **£9,250**, our best ever total. This year we are hoping that we can persuade even more visitors to walk around the Avenues, or take the free hail-n-ride bus, and see the wide variety of gardens. It is not only garden visiting, of course. There will be home made refreshments; plants to take away; free concerts to suit most tastes, and special events for the young at heart such as a traditional Punch & Judy show.

Open Gardens 2006

**Sundays 2 & 9 July
1pm to 5pm**

Over the years Avenues Open Gardens has developed a community festival spirit and as the organizers we are keen to encourage that. We are always on the lookout for more gardens willing to open—there are no style checks. We also would be pleased to hear from individuals or organisations that would like to join in the Sunday afternoon celebration. For example, Friends of the Earth have had a tabletop stall for several years and this year Fairtrade items will be promoted by St Ninian's church.

The money we raise will be divided between Dove House (50%); St John Ambulance; Barnardos; HERIB, and a third world charity. Nothing is withheld for administration expenses, all running costs are met from grants and advertising.

Bob & Rose Sandham
Debbie Cook & Paul Dodsworth

Email us at opengardens@avenuesonline.org.uk, or go to www.avenuesonline.org.uk
www.avenuesonline.org.uk for photographs and more information

Doing house repairs or improvements? Is planning permission required? Is building regulations approval required?



Always ask before you build or do alterations. Hull City Council will give you advice. Write to

**Planning Services
Kingston House
Bond Street
Hull HU1 3ER**

with your proposals. They will let you know in writing if you need planning permission or not. Informal advice can be given by telephone: **612345**.

In the Avenues and Pearson Park Conservation Area **specific planning permission (under an Article 4 Direction of 1995)** is required for:

- the construction of a *driveway* across a pavement or verge;

- the removal or alteration of a *window or bay* facing the highway.

The Planning Department exercises particular control over replacement windows. Their detailing and proportions should be as close as possible to the original timber windows, they should be set back correctly in the reveal and should open in the traditional way. The Planning Department advise that this is often difficult to achieve in UPVC and the use of double-glazed timber units is usually considered more appropriate.

There is no fee for an application resulting from an Article 4 Direction.

In addition to controls over drives and windows, there are also tighter planning controls in a conservation area for:

- alterations, additions and extensions to houses (this includes new dormer windows);
- erection of separate buildings;

- cladding the outside of buildings;
- erection of gates, fences, and walls;
- demolition work;
- new development;
- tree pruning and felling;
- erection of satellite dishes, if to be located on a chimney, on a roof or wall fronting a road or path, or on a building over 15 metres high.

Detailed information is available from the Council in leaflet and other forms; and on the website:

www.hullcc.gov.uk/planning

For tree work: Urban Forestry Officers can give advice on works (tel 612337) but applications for consent must be made in advance to Planning Services (address as above). Show the location of the tree(s) in question on a plan and give full details of the work you want to do and why you wish to do it.

Why are they called 'The Dukeries'?

"Why do you call where you live 'The Dukeries'?"

asked a student recently, when in an introduction to a new local history class I said I live in Clumber Street in The Dukeries, off Prince's Avenue.

Well, here is my view of why the following streets: **Blenheim, Belvoir, Clumber, Thoresby, Welbeck**, together with **Chatsworth** and **Hardwick** are known colloquially by locals as 'The Dukeries'. Let us start with the southernmost of the four "Avenues", Marlborough Avenue; this is named after developer David Parkinson Garbutt's own house Marlborough House on Anlaby Road—site of the EYMS bus garage, just east of the Anlaby Road flyover. Quite why this house had that name is not known and is immaterial to the present question. When The Avenues, and Prince's Avenue were developed by Garbutt from 1875, the location of the later Dukeries was of course a greenfield site. Whoever later developed the streets and houses on land formerly the property of William Watson Wilkinson, historically of course on the Newland Tofts of Cottingham, must have realised the link between the name 'Marlborough' and 'Blenheim' and named the northernmost of the new streets Blenheim. Cook's 1899 directory records much "Building Land" and "24 Houses Building" in the new street. But what is the historical link between Marlborough and Blenheim? The name Blenheim derives from the decisive battle which took place on 13 August 1704 on the north bank of the river Danube, near the small village of Blindheim (anglicised to Blenheim) Here John Churchill [1650–722], the first Duke of Marlborough won a great allied victory over the forces of Louis

XIV thus saving Europe from French domination. In reward for his services in defending Holland and Austria from invasion by the French a grateful Queen Anne granted to Marlborough the Royal Manor of Woodstock and promised to build him at her own expense a house called Blenheim (designed by Sir John Vanbrugh)—now Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire. There is a further link between the two names in that the Duke's town house, Marlborough House (by Sir Christopher Wren) completed in 1711 includes, on the saloon wall a painting by Louis Laguerre of the Battle of Blenheim.

I think that has established the link between the Duke of Marlborough and Blenheim. But what of the rest of The Dukeries' names? The district of the East Midlands (Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Leicestershire) known as The Dukeries is historically part of Sherwood Forest and arises from the fact that within the boundaries of the forest were once the homes of the Dukes of Portland, Newcastle, Norfolk, Leeds and Kingston. So should not our Dukeries' streets be so named? No, the Duke of Portland's house is Welbeck; the Duke of Newcastle's is Clumber; Earl Mansvers' is at Thoresby; and near Mansfield are Hardwick Hall and Belvoir Castle. Chatsworth House in Derbyshire was built in the late 17thC for the first Duke of Devonshire. Newstead Abbey is also in the vicinity of the Dukeries, but as that would lead us on to a discussion of the derivation of street names off Chanterlands Avenue (Newstead Street), we had better let the matter rest here. So our Dukeries are stately homes! Are we agreed?

However Mr Lammiman who lived at No 7 Thoresby Street and had seen the deeds of the house once told me that the first

three houses on the south side of the street were built by a 'Miss Thoresby' and that "a Thoresby later married a Duesbery"—hence Duesbery Street on the east side of Prince's Avenue, but that is another story!

Christopher Ketchell

Local History Unit, Hull College
James Reckitt Library, Holderness Road, Hull

Windows: wood cheaper than UPVC

One of the 'hard sell' points made by UPVC companies is that timber windows are expensive and that UPVC is a good buy. It is becoming clear that this is not the case. Mr Norman Smith of Park Avenue found that his quotations from UPVC companies to make a French window (with 2 side windows and three top transoms) for the rear of his house were between £1,200 and £1,400, but Dairycoates Builders made him one in timber for £500, excluding installation.

Mr Smith says his new window will not be subject to rot as mastic was placed around the edge of the reveal (window

aperture) before the fitting of the window frame. (This helps draught proofing also). Further mastic was placed along the edges of the glass; and timber beading put on top of that. This prevents water getting in.

For those who do not want the chore of repainting wooden frames, Mr Smith points out that there are many reasonably priced decorators around.

Using timber gives you the freedom to paint your windows in the colour of your choice. Using timber means you do not lose the original pretty mouldings inside your house.

You may, of course, not need to go to the expense of replacing your whole window. Good joiners will cut out and repair rotten patches.

Note from APPRA

UPVC companies may fail to tell you that planning permission is required for replacement windows facing a highway (see item on planning permission in this newsletter) but **it is the resident**, not the UPVC company who is liable to prosecution if planning permission has not been granted.

Repair & Renovation Services

Total Window Repair and Renovation
Period Windows Elloughton: tel 669553
Ventrolla Ltd: tel: 01423 859323

Total Window Replacement
Dairycoates Timber Supply Ltd
602 Hessle Road 329570
P & J Timbers: tel 07717 2810233
(Ash Grove, off Beverley Road, 1st tenfoot on left)
Paragon Joinery: tel 585205
Cottingham Joinery: tel 868145
Brian Fawcett: tel 01964 670818
G E Rice Joinery Ltd: tel 01964 551402
Jubilee Joinery: tel 224275
Get quotations as prices can vary quite a lot.

Ironmongery, including sash weights
King & Co: tel 589989

'K' Glass
Bennett Glass: tel 820820

Secondary Double Glazing
Granada Secondary Glazing Ltd
Units 1 & 2, Carrwood Trading Estate
Chesterfield, Derbyshire
tel: 01246 261262

Boiler Replacement
Martin Ainley Plumbing: tel 445492
British Gas

Building Services
Stubbs Brothers Building Services Ltd
(builders, joiners, plumbers & roofing contractors) specialise in all types of joinery manufacturing incl hardwood and softwood windows, doors, staircases and mouldings.
Free advice + quotations
tel: 01482 449195/473149

APPRA Contacts		Tel	Fax	Email	Post
Chair	Stephanie Wilson	493037		chair@avenuesonline.org.uk	48 Marlborough Avenue HU5 3JS
Secretary	Adrian Crummay	445272	445272	secretary@avenuesonline.org.uk	66 Westbourne Avenue HU5 3HS
Newsletter	Chrys Bavey	471349	471349	news@hullangel.org	50 Marlborough Avenue HU5 3JS
Verges	Sally Walker	447588		sally@lobster.karoo.co.uk	214 Westbourne Avenue HU5 3JB

WEBSITES

APPRA online	www.avenuesonline.org.uk	news + pictures of all Avenues events incl Open Gardens; info on Conservation, planning matters; APPRA committee minutes; back issues of APPRA newsletters, and much more...
Art in the Avenues	www.hullangel.org	complete record of tree sculptures; fountain rescue; Advent Calendars