

**Summer
2016**



Hawkwell Voice

From Your Hawkwell Residents Association
Established 1994 **Serving Hawkwell Residents for Twenty Two Years**

Police Meetings

We attended the monthly Hawkwell West and Rochford (including Hawkwell North) police meetings for something approaching ten years. There used to be a separate meeting for Hawkwell West but that was amalgamated with the Hockley meeting a couple of years ago. About a year ago they changed to having meetings every two months and now they are around every 3 months in various locations due to police cut backs. Normally there has been a local PC / Sargent in attendance that was able to answer local issues but now there may be no one from the police in attendance and they have decided call them a "Community Meeting" not a "Police Meeting". We have decided that we will no longer attend these meetings, as the Hawkwell and Hockley Residents Associations already have monthly meetings that the community may attend and we believe we do not need an additional three monthly community meeting. We will however continue to post Essex Community Messaging (ECM) information including police items on our website and on Streetlife.

Another Bank Closure

As you know the last bank in Hockley, the Spa Road branch of Barclays, closed on the 9 October 2015 even after one of the Hockley Residents Association members Shirley James made considerable efforts to stop it. Now NatWest in Rochford, used by many Hawkwell residents, have announced that they will be closing on the 14 July 2016. The Rochford Barclays only opens 4 days a week at the moment but unless they get a lot more business from ex-NatWest customers, it's doubtful they will increase their opening days. It's probably just a matter of time that Rochford Barclays goes the same way as Hockley's did. At least most

of our banking can now be done at any Post Office.

* You can pay cash and cheques in for 96% of UK banks with a 'paying in' slip free of charge.

* You can withdraw cash using a debit card up to a daily limit pre agreed with your bank - most are set at £300 a day but this may be increased.

* You can pay most bills in a post office, including utilities, telephone bills for free except £3.02 charge for water bills. Best to check for any charges before paying.

* The Post Office ATMs can be used for all UK banks, to draw pensions and benefits. Some

ATMs are external and available 24/7.

The Post Offices also supply the following services:

Mail, Drop & Go, Parcel Force Express Services, Foreign Currency, Travel Insurance, National Express Tickets, Savings Accounts, Lotto Tickets and Lotto Prize Payments. In larger Post Offices they also have Passport Check and Send and you can pay your Vehicle Road Tax. My thanks to Hawkwell Residents Association committee member Nick Astdon who runs the Hawkwell Parade Post Office for supplying this Post Office information.

Local Developments

The 176 new homes on the Clements Gate development is nearly complete and they have now started building 36 new homes on the demolished Auto-Plas site. Although we will have 212 new homes the only road infrastructure improvement that has been made is an additional lane on Rectory Road at the approach to Nursery Corner mini roundabout, even though we will be badly effected by the 600 additional homes now being built in Hall Road Rochford. In Eldon Way Hockley Rochford District Council (RDC) has granted planning permission to replace units 27, 28 and 29 with 20 aesthetically unattractive flats above 5 shops in Eldon Way with the possible additional replacement of units 23, 24 25 and 26 with 30 flats above 8 shops. We believe this is not what was proposed in the RDC 'Hockley Area Action Plan' or in keeping with the residents 'Hockley Parish Plan'. These units appear to be in full use at the moment, which would mean relocating these businesses or losing these businesses and associated jobs completely. These flats and shops will be in the wrong location surrounded by existing industrial units and a lack of sufficient parking facilities. Hockley that has bucked the trend of mass closures now has a Costa Coffee Shop, which we believe can only be a good thing for the village. People say that shop and food outlet chains turn shopping centres into clones but people also like to know they are going to get a certain standard that they have experienced in other locations. Domino's was probably the turning point in Hockley and hopefully will lead to attracting a restaurant chain and maybe a shop chain with all the additional visitors and customers they attract.

Please visit our website: **hawkwell.org**

Summer Newsletter

We have for some time now produced and delivered two newsletters per year, one in spring and one in autumn. Unfortunately this has become too costly and we are forced to reduce to just a summer edition. This has mainly been caused by low membership and increased printing cost. This year we have also tried to avoid the spring local elections and June referendum leaflet deliveries. We do however put our newsletters online together with other local and topical information. We have been serving Hawkwell for 22 years now helping with issues such as street lights and signs, bus stops, overgrown bushes, crossings and parking. If you have not already paid your subscriptions for this year, please send it to: Hawkwell Residents Association at 2 Englefield Close, Hawkwell, SS5 4LE or 25B Belchamps Way, Hawkwell, SS5 4NT using the cut off slip below. We would like to thank our volunteer folders, distributors and deliverers that

make our newsletter possible and affordable. If you are not already a deliverer or folder and can spare an hour every year we would be very grateful. We are especially looking for deliverers that can deliver to Meesons Mead, Parklands and Stanley Road. We are also looking for new members to join our committee. If you are interested, reside in Hawkwell and are over 18 years of age please contact us at the addresses above or through the contact page on our website at hawkwell.org . In addition to our newsletter together with the Hockley Residents Association we have a short monthly article in Hockley Living that we believe most of Hawkwell receives through the door. Let us know your phone number and email address especially if you have an issue in Hawkwell that you would like us to address or help you with and we will try our best to resolve them. Unfortunately cost now prevents us contacting you by post.

Pay More Get Less

Before the local elections there were proposals from Rochford District Council to put the council tax up by 2% and charging more to use the council car parks. They also planed to close all the public toilets and to charge £40 to empty the green bins. They already charge to park at Hockley Woods now they want to start charging to park at Cherry Orchard Park. We believe we should be encouraging visitors to our towns and villages so they can spend money in our shops. Putting up parking charges and closing public toilets is not just an additional cost inconvenience for locals, it also another discouragement for visitors to our area. As for charging to empty green bins, most residents don't fill these up very often and rather than paying the extra £40, green waste will end up in the general waste bin.

Stop The Surveys

At the end of 2015 Rochford District Council (RDC) run a Budget Survey that closed on the 8 January 2016, there was an article in their newspaper Rochford District Matters. There are around 85,000 residents living in the RDC area, but from a Freedom Of Information (FOI) request, we have found out that only 344 people responded, which is just 0.4%. We don't how much RDC spent on this survey but it was probably in the thousands. It would be difficult to come up with a precise calculation, as some of this work could have been done by staff that are not being paid directly for this task but are spending time on it. Why are councils still wasting our council tax and resources on these surveys and consultations when councils are short of funds? We believe residents are not doing these surveys and consultations because of frustration with RDC who have ignored past results that do not agree with RDC plans.

Coach Trips

17/09/2016 – Wiltshire Golden Triangle.
27/10/2016 – Royal Hospital Chelsea & Eltham Palace.
Pick up points at various places between Rochford and Rayleigh. For additional information and to book please call Brian O'Shea on: 01702 204334.

AGM

Your Hawkwell Residents Association AGM will be held at 6pm in the Hawkwell Village Hall Annex on Thursday 4 August 2016.

Please Join Us - Help Us to Help You

If you would like to join us and you have not already paid your subscriptions for this year, please send it to: Hawkwell Residents Association, 2 Englefield Close, Hawkwell, SS5 4LE or 25B Belchamps Way, Hawkwell, SS5 4NT.

No cash by post please, however 1st and 2nd class stamps only or cheques payable to Hawkwell Residents Association are fine.

I enclose £..... being my / our subscription for this year (£1 per person per calendar year) together with any additional voluntary donation. In order to reduce costs a receipt will not be issued unless a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed.

If you are not already a deliverer, would you deliver the Hawkwell Residents Association Newsletter in your road or another road? (please circle) **YES / NO**. I am Interested in joining the committee (please circle) **YES / NO**. Is there an issue in Hawkwell that you would like us to address or help you with?

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Name(s).....Address.....

Phone Number.....Email Address.....

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