

**Spring
2011**



Hawkwell Voice

Formally Community Voice

From Your Hawkwell Residents Association Established 1994

AGM

Your Hawkwell Residents Association AGM will be held at 7.30pm in the Hawkwell Village Hall Annex on 11/08/11.

Pot Holes

You have probably noticed the considerable number of pot holes this winter. It has been reported that ECC Highways have now received £5.3m from the Government to tackle this work. You may report pot holes in an email to: H&TLocalism&CustomerSouth@essex.gov.uk or from the link on page one of our website.

HAAP 2

Since our last news letter a second Hockley Area Action Plan (HAAP) has been out for consultation. Residents' responses were required before the 4 February 2011 closing date. We do not have sufficient space to include our response in this newsletter but it can be found on the first page of our website (address below).

Cabinet System Cost

It has been reported that the highest single council tax increase over the past five years was made by Rochford District Council, where your councillors' allowances increased by 158% - almost ten times the rate of inflation over the same period. If you believe this is excessive you can send your views to your MP Mark Francois at House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

RDC Central Area Committee Meetings

During the last two years your residents association has been attending the Rochford District Council Central Area Committee (RDC CAC) meetings that are held around every two months rotating between Hawkwell, Hockley and Hullbridge. At these meetings the public are allowed to put questions to the committee and hopefully get answers from RDC at these meetings or in the following minutes. We have asked many questions on behalf of our members but with a mixed satisfaction in their answers. As we have said in the past this may

be the reason that so few residents attend these meetings, in fact quite often there are as many as four councillors present for every visitor. As well as our central area, there are also meetings held for the east and west areas of the district. We have now had an unconfirmed report that RDC are going to cut these meetings down to every six months and combine them with the east and west areas, holding them just in Rayleigh and Rochford town centres. We understand the need to save money but there are a couple of points that we are unhappy with. If an

issue arises just after a meeting we may need to wait six months to get a satisfactory response. If there are only two meetings per year for half of the district there could be a long list of questions to get through. Finally as a large area of Hawkwell has no bus service in the evenings, some residents would not be able to attend these meetings. We have just attended the March meeting and as residents were not informed of the date of the next meeting, this could mean we will now need to wait six months before we can ask future questions from our members.

RDC Core Strategy

Just when we thought we had won the fight to save the Christmas Tree Farm green belt area in Rectory Road from David Wilson Homes (Barrett Homes) building 330 homes there, they now intend requesting to build 175. They lost their appeal in 2010 but they have wasted no time in coming back with this new proposal. We are sure it's no coincidence that 175 is the number Rochford District Council (RDC) has reduced theirs to in its Core Strategy. We believe the Rectory Road is not a suitable place to build this number of additional homes. Apart from spoiling the character of the area, the road joins the busy B1013 at one end and has single file traffic lights at the other. This is an area prone to frequent electricity black outs and we are sure other services would require considerable updating. Even though Clements Hall is in this area, there is only a limited bus service during the day and nothing in the evenings.

Police NAM's

We attended the police Neighbourhood Action Meetings (NAM) – they have dropped the word panel from the title to attract more members of the public to these meetings. The meetings are held monthly in Hawkwell West at Clements Hall and bi-monthly in Rochford / Hawkwell East at the Rochford Parish Council Rooms. The crime figures etc are always relatively low in Hawkwell compared with Rochford and Rayleigh town centres. One of the priorities last month was cars parked on the pavement in Victor Gardens and three car owners have now been given verbal warnings.

**“Help Us to
Help You”**

Please visit our website: www.hawkwell.org

Airport Update

The new terminal is now halfway to completion. Although Stobart PLC had planning permission from RDC to build the new terminal, which is in the RDC area, it has been reported that they have only just received permission from Southend Council

who own the land. Despite the appeal still going on, Stobart are pushing ahead with the runway extension. Night flights have now been cut from 915 to 120 per month and Aer Arann who is part owned by Stobart will be running flights to Ireland from the end of March.

Hawkwell Parish Plan Group

The Hawkwell Parish Plan Group (HPPG) is an independent group that will produce a parish plan for Hawkwell. To find out just what Hawkwell residents want for the parish they are currently preparing a questionnaire for residents that is nearing completion. The Hawkwell Parish Plan Group website can be found at: www.hawkwellolan.org.uk. The Group has already undertaken one successful Heritage Walk around Hawkwell and further walks will be arranged throughout 2011 in order to stay in touch with residents in Hawkwell. Email libarratt@yahoo.co.uk or write to HPPG Chairman, Byeways, Ironwell Lane, Hawkwell SS5 4JY.

Coach trips with pickup points in Hawkwell

Hockley Residents Association has coach trips for 2011 with pickup points in Hawkwell:

- Saturday 14th May – Half a Sixpence at the Cliffs Pavilion.
- Sunday 22nd May – Bognor Regis & Ramster Garden.
- Sunday 10th July – Aldeburgh & Suffolk Punch Horse Centre.
- Thursday 11th August – The Buckinghamshire Chilterns.
- Saturday 24th September – East Anglia & Bury St. Edmunds.
- Sunday 30th October – Rutland Water & Burghley House.

For further details please visit Local Events page on our website at hawkwell.org or phone Brian O'Shea (highly commended in RDC citizen of the year awards 2010) on 01702 204334.

Thank you to our Newsletter Volunteers

We would like to thank our folders, distributors and deliverers that make our Newsletter possible and affordable. We are always looking for volunteers to deliver to every home in our area. In order for this service to continue we need more help. If you are not already a deliverer and can spare an hour every 6 months we would be very grateful.

National Health PCT

We have been informed that the NHS Primary Care Trust (PCT) will be replaced by 2013 by a number of doctors' consortiums. It is proposed to have at least five in the Southend area alone. We are very concerned by this national proposal and the economics of breaking up the PCT into smaller units. From our experience doctors have very little time to see their patients at the moment so how can it make sense that they should find the time to be involved with this exercise. No doubt the existing PCT employees would find jobs in these consortiums but we fail to see how fragmenting their work into smaller separate units could benefit patients or save money. It makes no sense that in an era of pooling resources in the private and public sectors that these proposals should be instigated. It would also mean the benefits of joined up ideas and policies would be lost.

Digital TV Switchover

that Anglia TV switchover for our local area will take place in July 2011 but some of you may be tuned into London or Meridian. For more info please visit the website: www.helpscheme.co.uk

Subscriptions Now Due

If you have not already paid your subscriptions for this year, please send it to the addresses below. We know that finances are tight at the moment but please remember that even though our subs are low, without these funds we cannot help you the residents of Hawkwell.

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.

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

I enclose £..... being my / our subscription for this year (50 pence 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**

Is there an issue in Hawkwell that you would like us to address or help you with?

I am Interested in joining the committee (please circle) **YES / NO**

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

Post Code..... Telephone Number.....