

# MOOR POOL *DUCK*

Newsletter of Moor Pool Residents' Association

Issue No 8

FEBRUARY 1998

## HELP GET 'NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH' WORKING AGAIN

Having an effective Neighbourhood Watch is a great comfort to all Residents. In recent years the organisation has not been strong, but changes in policy by West Midlands Police mean that they are now working to help re-invigorate NW.

We have a local organiser, Jackie Holder, who is also on your Committee. At Rose Road Police Station, West Midlands Police have allocated PC Couch and WPC Sarah Rawson as community police officers. One of their tasks is to work with local groups such as Moor Pool Residents' Association help re-build the NW organisation.

In particular, they are planning two pilot schemes in their area, which is roughly that bounded by Hagley Road, Lordswood Road Harborne High Street and Harborne Road.

What we need is more people to work with NW. It is not very onerous nor is it time consuming. Anyone can help. Particularly helpful would be people who regularly walk around the estate, maybe exercising a dog.

If you'd like to help, just drop a brief note to Jackie Holder, MPRA, leaving it with Phil at the Post Office.

You'll see below some phone numbers. The Police view incidents at three levels and ask you to use your best judgement to act accordingly:

If the incident is serious and needs immediate action, dial 999

If you have seen something suspicious, dial 428 6030. That is the front office at Rose Road.

If you have some general information which the police might find useful then dial 428 6195. That is a direct line to the office of PC Couch and WPC Rawson.

### WILL YOU EVER NEED A FIRE ENGINE AT YOUR HOUSE ?

WPC Rawson is very keen to help us keep the Estate safe and secure. One thing which increasingly worries her and her colleagues is the car parking on the roads of the Estate. The roads are

famous for their generally haphazard parking, which does discourage commuters from passing through.

However, some people parking cars now do so in a way that is both selfish and dangerous. In recent times the bus has been seen driving round The Circle on the pavement as selfish parking has left a gap too small for it to pass through on the road. On another occasion on Moorpool Avenue at the traditional 'changeover' point, cars had been parked so that no car could pass through.

The Police view is that if cars are parked in such a way that a fire engine, travelling at reasonable speed to an incident, cannot pass through easily, then those cars are causing an obstruction.

They are sure that many residents do not realise the risk associated with obstructing fire engines so are not going to take any action for a few weeks, in the hope that the situation will improve. If not, they warn that some drivers may find Penalty Tickets on their windscreens.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription to the Moor Pool Residents Association is £2. This runs from the AGM in June through to the following year. You can pay this by putting the money in an envelope with your name and address on the outside, and the words 'MPRA Subscription' and give it to Phil at the Post Office. He also holds a list of current paid-up members so you can easily check whether you have paid. Some people have inadvertently paid their subs twice, so this has been returned.

Your subscription goes towards producing 'The DUCK' and a contingency fund has been built up. Suggestions from members for any other uses of funds are welcomed by the Committee.

Your committee has booked the Hall for a Millennium Party. That is now just under two years away - so your ideas for that are invited.

## ALLOTMENTS

The allotments are a special feature of the Moor Pool Estate. Many residents enjoy tending their own plot. Most are in use, but from time to time some become vacant. The rent for a plot is £4-50 per year.

Harborne Tenants Ltd are in discussion with MPRA about the possibility of the management of the allotments being taken over by a sub-committee of MPRA. This might encourage some improvements, such as the provision of a water tap.

## HEDGE TRIMMING

Harborne Tenants Ltd did a good job in trimming many of the hedges in the Autumn, although in most cases this trimming is not their responsibility. Residents are reminded that it is generally their own responsibility to trim hedges around their property and prevent them from overhanging or obstructing paths and walkways.

Your committee keeps in contact with HT Ltd on this issue, which seems to arouse strong feelings amongst some residents.

## HOUSEHOLD & GARDEN REFUSE

Household refuse is collected once a week from the Moor Pool Estate. It is served by three different depots and each collects on a different day - Tuesday, Wednesday or Friday. They expect to collect 1 or 2 bags per household each week. If you regularly produce more than 2 bags, please let them know on the hotline number below.

They will also collect up to 2 bags of burnable garden rubbish each week. This need not be in green bags but the bags must be light. If they suspect bricks, household waste or similar, the extra bags will not be collected.

One black bag is delivered to each house each week, or more if justified. Sometimes errors are made simply because the workforce changes regularly.

If you have any enquiries or a problem with rubbish collection, phone 303 6789. This is often very busy, so call in the afternoons or leave a message at night.

**Larger Items Of Refuse** - if you have larger items and you cannot take them to the tip at Kings Norton (Lifford Lane), it is sometimes possible to arrange a special free collection by ringing the Hotline on 303 6789.

## NOTICE BOARD

The MPRA has a Notice Board which is by the unused doorway to the Post Office. A committee member has kindly agreed to refurbish it.

## GARAGE SITES

A committee member now has the special task of collecting thoughts and ideas for better and safer usage of the garage areas. The lighting is proving to be most effective and welcome but there is a possibility that it may have made it easier for vandals.

## TRAFFIC CALMING

At a recent committee meeting Alan Ross, Principal Engineer, Traffic Management, kindly gave up his evening to show us the revised plans for proposed traffic calming measures on and around the Estate.

There have been some slight changes following the extensive public consultation last year. The programme of work has recently started in Harborne High Street. Work on the Estate may not begin for 2/3 years.

Your committee do not agree with all the plans. There is little provision to encourage people to walk to Station Road school - no pedestrian crossings are on the plan. There is also no recognition of the effect of parked cars as an effective traffic slowing device. However, there will be further consultation in the future.

It was agreed that during the extensive roadworks in Broad Street, the anticipated rise in traffic through the Estate did not occur - in fact many members of the Committee considered that the amount of traffic was reduced.

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