

Minutes – Fusion Residents Meeting

Date of Meeting: Thursday 23rd February 2023 at 7:30pm
Held at: Newhall Projects Office
Present: Laura Dinnage – Property Manager from SHW (LD)
Dominic Brownlee – Estate Manager at Newhall (DB)
Marco Devereux – Project Engineer for Newhall Projects (MD)
Derek Hamilton – Communication and Community Development Coordinator (DH)

Plus 10 homeowners (names & addresses omitted due to GDPR Regs)

1. **Introduction to the SHW Team:** LD welcomed residents to the meeting and introduced MD, DH and DB.
2. **Information and Updates:** Residents were provided with written updates following the 2022 residents meeting and an information sheet on current things going on at Newhall.
 - a. **Dog Waste Bins:** It was queried why the Thistle Mead Lane dog waste bin had been removed. DB advised that it had been removed due to complaints from surrounding properties. DB had knocked on all properties in the area to check for objections and none were raised, but after it was installed there was a complaint. Dominic and Marco are now trying to find a new suitable location.
 - b. **Manhole Leakage:** It was raised that there had recently been a manhole leaking sewage at Roman Mews but when it was reported no action was taken. MD advised that this was reported to Bellway's Technical Director, but the resident advised that e hadn't heard from him and in the end Thames Water attended and resolved the issue. MD apologised and advised that unfortunately, it sounded like Bellway's had gotten the drains adopted by Thames Water and not passed this information on to us. It was advised that there are now dead plants as a result of this. DB will have a look at these with a view to getting quotes to replace them.
 - c. **Frozen Pavement - Great Auger Street:** It was raised that the corner on the pavement of Great Auger Street freezes over when temperatures drop and becomes very slippery. DB advised that a grit box is due to be placed here. DH explained that 12 grit bins had been ordered as well as a towable gritter and a push along gritter. Gritting will be taking place when the temperature drops to below -1. A cold weather plan had been formulated and this is on the website and social media for residents to view. A map will also be edited showing all the grit bin locations, so residents know where their nearest grit bin is. We will be asking for residents' input on the best locations for the grit bins too. Residents queried if 12 grit bins would be enough, and DB answered that if not then more can be ordered.
 - d. **Crime Prevention:** DH advised residents present that the police had been able to attend a couple of the other resident's meetings and had advised crime statistics were lowest at Newhall out of the local area.
 - e. **Traffic Calming:** MD explained the concept of junctions at Newhall. The tabletops are designed to slow drivers down and encourage them to communicate with each other.

Pedestrians should be prioritised, and vehicles should slow down, so give way lines should not be needed. Newhall is a 20mph pedestrianised zone, which is why there is no give way signage at the junctions. Speed enforcement can only take place when the roads are adopted. There was much discussion on what could be done to improve the issues of speeding, giving way at junctions and parking concerns. Suggestions included signage outside schools asking drivers to slow down, illuminated signage with red and green faces, going to the school to approach the new head teacher to discuss different options such as walk to school days and installing road markings. It was suggested that NHP is approached to ask if it's possible to trial some of these suggestions on one junction.

- f. **Car Crime and Speed Awareness:** DH advised those present that there are new initiatives at Newhall, such as car crime and speed awareness. As speed enforcement can only take place on adopted roads, the police will also be stopping vehicles for other offences. MD advised that Newhall is still being developed and the High Chase will eventually loop around and join Barnfield Way. Once this happens, speed can be enforced/ monitored. In the meantime, the aim is to try and slow vehicles down through urban design.
- g. **Community Ambassadors:** DH explained to those present about the new Community Ambassador Initiative to encourage resident involvement in advance of the Residents Association being established. More information will be provided online about this. Derek's role had also been founded by NHP to encourage better communication at Newhall and community development.
- h. **Signage Woodland Way:** DB confirmed that there will be signage on Woodland Way to direct school pick up/drop off to Forge Lane. Postcards regarding parking will also help with parking concerns.
- i. **Food Growing Project:** It was queried if it would be possible for residents to grow food at Newhall, possibly on Woodland Way, as this would be a nice way to bring the community together and it would be practical. DH will raise this with NHP and will feedback to residents.
- j. **New Play Areas:** Residents asked if the playground was still due to be installed. MD advised that this is with Harlow Council still as NHP had been advised that planning permission was not likely to be granted. They have not advised why yet but we can feedback when we hear. The high turnover of staff in the planning department doesn't help. Also, the forest style of the playground is not normally requested/approved.

It was also asked if there will be a play area adjacent to the school. MD confirmed this and advised that it is likely to be for older children and may be a skate park.

- k. **Bollards Bunting Street:** It was queried if the bollards on Bunting Street will be removed. MD confirmed this and residents expressed concerns. MD advised that representation would need to be made to the council in this regard.
- l. **Planting Outside Newhall Primary School:** It was asked if fences can be installed to protect the planting outside the school. DB answered that this will be looked into.

With no further business to be discussed, LD thanked residents for attending and closed the meeting at 8:40pm.