

PURLEY BEECHES RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2008

BOUNDARY WALL

You will no doubt have noticed that the wall has once again been knocked down. The accident occurred on 24th November, and while the driver of the vehicle was apprehended by the police and subsequently treated in hospital for lacerations to the face, the vehicle was stolen and therefore he was not insured. Due to the sturdy nature of the wall, which was rebuilt in 2003, the damage to the wall is not too extensive.

Your committee discussed several available options:

- Repair the wall and once again ask residents to pay
- Form a working party of residents to repair the wall in the Spring
- Remove the damaged section, replacing it with a fence, such as palisade fencing
- Alternatively knock the wall down and fence the whole area

Whatever was decided it was agreed that the damage could not be left indefinitely otherwise it would eventually attract tipping and provide general access to the woods and then directly onto the estate.

We decided to explore the possibility of getting the wall repaired within current funds, which stand at less than £1000, after meeting the cost of last year's rebuild, even with the increased subscriptions and the repayments being made for that repair. We have received a very competitive quote from the same builder who carried out the first repair and he is able to repair the wall within our budget. This will, however, leave the Association with no funds to cover any tree maintenance or any further damage to the wall. **Residents should note that**, as agreed at the AGM on 13th November 2007, the annual subscription will be increased to £15.00 to enable us to establish sufficient funds maintain the overall appearance of the estate, and protect the value of our houses.

We are still waiting for information about the driver of the vehicle from the police, however, it is our understanding that he is a student and therefore we do not hold out much hope of reparation, although we will continue to explore the reparation option. If this fails, we may be able to recoup a very small part of the cost for the work from the Motor Insurance Bureau.

During the past three months your committee have been working on the solution to this problem. We have been in correspondence with Martin Salter MP who is anxious to improve safety along that stretch of road; correspondence has also been exchanged between the Highways Departments of Reading Borough Council, (as the bend on the A329 is within their boundary) and West Berkshire Council. Reading BC does not consider any action is required. West Berks Council has stated that crash barriers are only installed to protect such structures as bridges and in this instance would reduce the footway width; rumble strips would not be an option due to the noise of vehicles passing over them. However, marker posts **have** been reinstalled. If you wish to lobby the council in this connection please e-mail agarratt@westberks.gov.uk or write to Mr A Garratt at the Council offices in Newbury

Committee members

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