



Newsletter 2, January 2011

Meeting to Agree a Constitution and elect BHRCG Committee

A meeting to formally agree a constitution for the BHRCG will take place in **Heslington Church on Friday 11th February at 7.00pm**, to be co-ordinated by Harry Telfer. Other Committee members will provide brief presentations on the work of the BHRCG so far.

All long-term residents of Badger Hill are warmly invited to attend. Please make every effort to come along as the larger the membership the group has the more influence it will have. Please consider any important issues you have that can be discussed at the meeting following elections. Nominations for the positions of **Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Member (East), Committee Member (West) and Committee Member (South)** will be requested and voted on at the meeting. **Please record your nominations on a piece of paper** and bring them along to the meeting in order to speed up proceedings.

Before elections, a brief summary of concurrent work on HMOs/Article 4 Directions and parking/planning issues will be presented (see overleaf for currently-available information). The final item on the agenda will be to discuss the aims and future work of the BHRCG. **Those wishing to address the meeting at this point will be given a two-minute speaking slot.** There is much good work to be done so please **put the date in your diary** and start thinking about the issues that are important to you, and how they can be addressed.

Article 4 Direction Recommended By York Council

At a meeting of the Local Development Planning Working Group on the 10th January there was a unanimous vote in favour of adopting an Article 4 Direction to cover the **whole of the City**. This recommendation, which will require planning permission for conversion to a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO), will be presented to the Council's Executive in the near future. In parallel, further consultations with other interested parties (e.g. landlords, universities and students) will be undertaken by the Council. If accepted by the Executive, the Council will need to decide on various criteria and mechanisms to exercise control of HMO concentrations and a 12-month notice period declared.

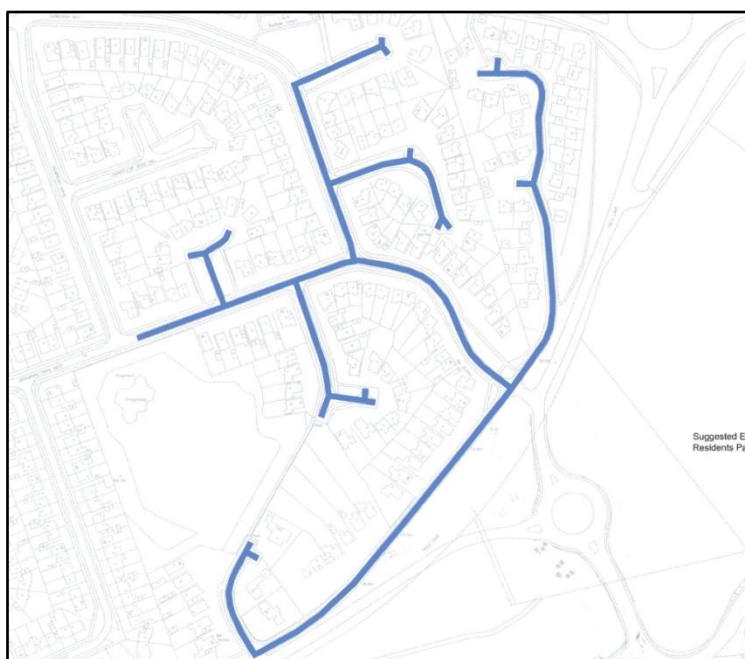
The survey evidence gathered by the BHRCG, along with the many letters residents wrote to the Council on their own behalf, were key factors in coming to this decision. The input of a wide variety of evidence, including that provided by Osbaldwick Parish Council, several other city Councils across the UK, and the Green candidate for Heslington in the forthcoming local elections (a York student), was taken fully into account by the Council. We would therefore like to thank all those who contributed to the survey. An Article 4 Direction gives hope in the aim we have of preserving the pleasing and balanced character of Badger Hill for **all** residents, and lays the foundation for more neighbourly initiatives in the future for Badger Hill residents.

Various residents and BHRCG members have also met with our MP, Hugh Bayley, and a number of Councillors from all political persuasions. They have kindly offered support in the future regarding the issues Badger Hill is facing as a result of the rapid expansion of the University of York, which places excessive demands on local areas.

Residential Parking Scheme proposed for part of Badger Hill

A recent on-street parking survey conducted by the University of York showed that the number of parked vehicles on the eastern side of Badger Hill has **increased by more than 20% since the opening of the Heslington East campus**. Remedial action is required, so the university is making a recommendation to the City of York Council that a residents-only parking scheme be introduced on the Field Lane slip road, Low Mill Close, Deramore Drive (part of) Badger Wood Walk, Pinewood Hill, Yarburgh Way (part of) Foxthorn Paddock and Hesketh Bank (see diagram below).

We have made a case for including all of Yarburgh Way and a further stretch of Deramore Drive in the scheme. The costs of the scheme will be met entirely by the university and residents will not be expected to make any payment. We have pointed out to CYC and the university that when the restrictions come into force parking will simply move to the western side of Badger Hill and on to Field Lane. It would, therefore, be sensible to introduce the res-park scheme to the whole of Badger Hill in the first instance rather than waiting for a future survey to show the required 20% increase on the western side. If the council accepts the recommendation there will have to be a period of consultation before the scheme can be introduced. **If there is a street-by-street vote please make sure that every member of your household casts a vote. (Not just a single vote per residence).**



University Power Station to be built near Badger Hill

Yes, it really is true. Without any consultation with the local community, the University of York has received planning permission from City of York Council for the construction of a heat and power centre on the south side of Kimberlow Hill, i.e. next to the new campus car park and bus stops. This is only about 300 metres away from Badger Hill. The building will be 50 metres long and is likely to be extended in the future. If you were not aware of this project and you do not agree with it write and say so to **Kersten England, Chief Executive, Guildhall, York, YO1 9QN**. You may wish to mention that you feel you have been excluded from the decision and you are concerned about the possible effects of emissions on local air quality and health. Noise nuisance and extra traffic are also worth mentioning.

For further details please contact either John Nixon, Harry Telfer, Malcolm Dewhirst or Brian Blanchard (E-mail: bhrcg@hotmail.com). See also <http://www.bhrcg.org.uk>).