



## **Newsletter 8, January 2014**

### **Annual General Meeting of BHRCG**

All Badger Hill residents are invited to attend an open meeting of the Badger Hill Residents Community Group (BHRCG) on

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at 7.00 p.m. in Heslington Church**

Please make every effort to attend in order to provide the group with a strong voice regarding issues of concern to our community.

A new BHRCG committee will be elected for 2014 and nominations are invited for all positions. The Chairman, Treasurer and 3 Area Representatives are willing to stand for re-election if no other nominations are received. Nominations for the position of Secretary would be especially welcome.

Our Ward Councillors have been invited and will have an opportunity to respond to residents' questions and comments during the meeting.

### **Maintaining a Balanced Badger Hill Community**

Badger Hill properties are now covered by an Article 4 Direction (A4D) introduced by City of York Council (CYC). Full planning permission is required for the conversion of any family house (use class C3) into a house in multiple occupation (use class C4). The A4D is not retrospective so pre-existing HMOs are able to continue as such without needing planning approval.

The A4D has successfully restricted the further loss of family houses on the estate. However, it does not provide a means for restoring balance to neighbourhoods which became imbalanced prior to its introduction. New purchasers of existing HMOs are free to continue using them as HMOs even where the defined A4D limits (20% neighbourhood, 10% street level) have already been exceeded. This is a serious limitation.

BHRCG committee considers that a compulsory registration scheme for all HMOs could provide some control and it recommended such a scheme to CYC in a recent meeting with officers. The scheme would also uphold accommodation standards and ensure full compliance with safety regulations, which would be of benefit to tenants and other residents. Unfortunately, the Council review rejected our proposal at this stage, preferring

a voluntary scheme. However, other local authorities do operate such schemes successfully and we believe it is worth working towards a compulsory registration scheme for York.

Residents are advised to remain vigilant and ensure all future, nearby HMO conversions have planning consent.

### **On-street Parking Control**

The Residents Only Parking Scheme on Badger Hill east is well established and is a success. CYC is monitoring the section of Yarburgh Way between Hesketh Bank and the shops, which was excluded from the scheme. Any residents inconvenienced by vehicles parked on this section of road or grass verge are advised to contact CYC.

A Heslington East planning condition mandates annual surveys of on-street parking on Badger Hill west. The March 2013 survey indicated a possible issue, so the survey was repeated in November. The results of this second survey indicate that remedial measures are not required in this zone at this time.

### **Heslington East Community Forum**

Representatives from BHRCG continue as members of this forum but it has not met during 2013. Instead, members have been informed of developments by e-mail. Permission has been granted for the construction of a third college which will accommodate 615 students, a cycle circuit has been opened and the construction of an outdoor velodrome is proposed.

### **Proposed Field Lane/University Road Highway Scheme**

CYC proposals for road re-alignments and altered traffic flows near Heslington Hall and Heslington church were discussed at a public meeting in April. BHRCG members responded by letter and the group made robust representations at the meeting. The plans have been put on hold for the time being.

### **Licensing Decision**

In October, CYC Licensing sub-committee approved an application by U of Y Students' Union to hold 12 outdoor entertainment events per year on Heslington East campus. BHRCG objected both by letter and at the hearing, expressing a preference for each event to be licensed on a one-off basis, as previously. All events attended by more than 500 people must end at midnight but events for fewer than this may continue until 2.00 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Local residents must be informed in advance of each event by a letter containing telephone numbers which may be called in the event of disturbance being experienced.

Harry Telfer (Chairman) 56, Yarburgh Way. Brian Blanchard (Treasurer) 46, Deramore Drive. Cathie Odell (BH South) 65, Field Lane.	(Secretary) situation vacant Malcolm Dewhirst (BH West) 44, Crossways. Sarah Hartley (BH East) 49, Yarburgh Way.
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Badger Hill Residents Community Group - working for a balanced, safe and pleasant environment for all