



# ORRA NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019

## Dear residents

Summer is now well and truly upon us and I hope you have been enjoying the beautiful weather we've been experiencing. I would like to welcome those of you who may be reading the newsletter for the first time and wish you every happiness in your new home.

We held an AGM in May and I have to say the attendance was disappointing, we just managed to form a quorum which allowed us to proceed with the meeting. The AGM provides each resident with the opportunity to meet and socialise and to raise any issues or concerns. Out of the 149 properties only 30 were represented. There is an overwhelming feeling of apathy, which is difficult to accept by the individuals who contribute a lot of time and effort into the running of the estate.

There has been a changing of the guard in respect of the committee. Mark Thornton, the chairman stepped down at the AGM as did Peter Dunn. Both individuals worked tirelessly throughout their time and deserve our thanks for all their efforts. We wish them a happy retirement from the committee and hope we can rely on their support going forward. The company secretary, Phil Tong, has also resigned and we have that vacancy to fill along with a minimum of three more committee members. Phil has kindly agreed to maintain our website, a big thank you for all the time and effort you have given to ORRA it is much appreciated.

If any of you are interested in serving on the committee or feel you would like to lend your support in some way, I encourage you to get in touch with me as soon as possible. We welcome every opportunity to revitalise our committee with a cross section of the community and a diverse skill base.

There are alternatives to managing the estate, we could employ a management company to take full control of all maintenance issues, collection of fees/arrears, plus the administration required to operate the Association. This type of operation comes at an additional cost on top of the maintenance fees already in existence. Obviously the company would make a charge and I suspect any works completed may possibly be inflated. We are in the process of

obtaining quotations from potential management companies and will be considering this option if we cannot increase our members from this final appeal.

I'm sorry if it sounds all doom and gloom and I'm sure it's not what everyone was expecting to hear, but the reality is we need to act fast. In order to continue operating as a volunteer base we have to increase the numbers, so if there is interest out there please contact me. If you feel you have something to offer but are unsure of making a definite commitment, please get in touch. It is not an onerous task, the more numbers we have the easier it becomes.

## ROADS

It has been agreed we would seek professional help with the assessment of the roads on the estate. Works of this nature are extremely expensive therefore it's important to have an independent report and get things right first time.

## TRAFFIC CALMING

The speed monitor is currently out of commission as the two experts on the system are no longer on the committee. Our next meeting is in September when the issue will be up for discussion. An Extraordinary meeting will be required to discuss results and possible solutions.

## DRAINS

We are experiencing many problems in trying to obtain a definitive plan of the flow of the drains/sewers throughout the estate. We very much need each resident to check their deed documents for any information or drawings that would help us in this endeavour. If you have anything that would be useful please contact or photograph and forward to either myself or Sandy Boyce Sharpe our email addresses are chairman@orra.online and sandy.boycesharpe@orra.online.

## FINANCES

Maintenance letters have been delivered and I am pleased to confirm the majority of residents have paid promptly. Unfortunately there are late payers and those who feel they don't have to pay at all, I would ask you all to fulfil your financial commitment and forward your cheques to Angela Potter without delay, alternatively payments can be accepted online. We are in the process of seeking legal advice on ways to recover the outstanding debts.

## **SLICE OF SUMMER TEA PARTY**

The tea party was an amazing success and I thought it would be difficult to improve on last year's event but oh my goodness we cracked it. Thank you to all those who came along and made it such a lovely way to spend an afternoon. The home made cakes and savouries would certainly give 'Bake Off' a run for its money, we really do have some very talented cooks in our midst.

The generosity of the local community was very much in evidence, the electricity courtesy of Linda in Manor Way, the beautiful china and all the flower arrangements were provided by Claudia in Ratton Drive and the wall of sound was produced by our very own DJs Neal and Phil. A big thank you to you all.

Of course, the idea of a street party is to make it look completely effortless and that requires a talent for organisation which Angela Potter has in spades. Angela and the other committee members 'pressed ganged' their other halves and everyone worked tirelessly to ensure we were ready on time. Carol Fage and Christine Dunn very kindly assisted with the table settings, thank you so much ladies. Initially we had a problem with the tea urn but no one really noticed as Penny and Greg from Walnut Tree Walk were serving Kir Royales, they went down an absolute treat.

Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone who brought along the delicious savouries and wonderful cakes, we were overcome by the amount and variety on offer. Please all give yourselves a pat on the back you were truly incredible.

## **Happy scenes from the Slice of Summer**

## **BONFIRES**

Unfortunately there have been a few bonfires recently, the association actively discourages the burning of rubbish on site as it is anti-social and causes problems to close neighbours and others further afield. The preferred means of disposal are the bins provided by the council or transporting the rubbish to the tip in St Philips Avenue. If anyone is considering lighting a bonfire in future please, as a courtesy, have a word with your neighbours and also try to avoid the hot days and the summer evenings when families are enjoying time outside and windows/doors are open.

## **AND FINALLY**

This is very much a new role for me. The team are more than capable of running the day to day business of the estate if everyone plays ball, but the endless chasing and follow ups can be demoralising and are completely unnecessary. So if I can urge the minority of residents who don't conform to embrace our community spirit, life would be almost perfect.

We live in a beautiful part of Eastbourne, it remains that way because there are rules in place to ensure that it is unique and special. We all benefit as a direct result, properties increase in value and Old Ratton is a much sort after area to live and long may it be so.

We, on the committee, are hoping that some of you will join us in our efforts and help us to help you.

**Rose Kiley**  
Chairman

