



# BLUSTERETTE

The Watermead Village Newsletter

Summer 1994

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## The Chairman's Brief

Hello again! Life for the new committee has been fairly hectic and there is much to report.

**Development** I have had discussions with the planning officer for Watermead, with the new owner of 'Slopes and Sails' and with the Watermead Companies. As many of you will know there is a large 102 home development going ahead on the south side of the estate, so far as I know unopposed. Planning application has also been put in for a garden centre near the A4 13 roundabout, opposite the hotel. These developments, coupled with further building at the north end, behind the new lakeside homes, must in my view stretch to the limit the road access into the estate. The problem as I see it is density - the original concept has long been departed from in terms of the number of homes. Whether planning applications can continue to be nodded through remains to be seen. Concern has been passed on to the committee re safety of the main estate road and representations have been made to the planning authority. We are keeping a close eye on proposals for Slopes and Sails and I am pleased to say that our early discussions with the new owner have been encouraging.

**Crime** This quite simply got out of hand, with cars being broken into, particularly in the pub car park, on a job lot basis. Arrests were made and the level of car-crime and vandalism seems to have steadied. Just as well. I cannot say that the level of policing on Watermead is adequate, although that is no reflection on our popular beat officer, PC Isaacs, who cannot be everywhere at once. I would encourage everybody in the village to support Neighbourhood Watch.

**Common Areas** As many of you will know the main Royco company has gone into administrative receivership, threatening future maintenance provision for the ornamental lake and common areas. Royco in fact deserve credit for keeping the maintenance up in difficult trading conditions but the fact remains that planning for the long term needs to be done. There have been proposals we take over responsibility ourselves but we could not possibly find the resources for this - it is a thousand pities that a modest annual service charge was not levied on each household from the beginning. Aside from considerations of community and the environment if the upkeep of the village is not maintained there will be a knock-on effect on house values.

**Village Hall** This is a priority. The source of the damp problem has been identified and will require expensive rectification. The work will be done but realistically the hall will not be refurbished before the autumn. Once the damp has been cured we aim to install central heating and redecorate. We hope to put the management of the hall on a proper footing - the present arrangement is somewhat *ad hoc*.

**Community Concerns** Two areas of concern, judging by the number of complaints, are

- (1) control of animals, especially dogs and
- (2) insensitive siting of satellite dishes.

Unrestrained dogs can be a nuisance and have even attacked the wildlife. Satellite dishes are best sited discreetly! I am told that the village is scheduled for cabling in two years in any event.

*Michael Shrimpton*

