

## Blacksnape Residents' Meeting held at the Red Lion 15/09/09

**Chaired by:** Martyn Skipper

**Present:** Jayne Beckingham-Burgess, Sylvia Berry, Gillian Booth, Jane Cook, Susan Holden, Jackie Livesey, Christine Neville, David Neville, Emily Jane Oddie, Clare Ormerod, George Ormerod, Alisha Rayson, Christine Robinson, David Robinson, Dawn Robinson-Walsh, Imogen Skipper, Olivia Skipper, Martyn Skipper, Sue Skipper, Joan Taylor, Martin Wilshaw

**Apologies:** PC Hambley, T. Thomas, Andrew Walsh, Cath & Keith Holmes

- 1) Martyn welcomed everyone and apologised for missing the AGM of the East Rural Network. He explained that the ERN is a group of rural communities who meet bi-monthly at Rosins, chaired by Gwen Kinloch, and providing a forum for issues affecting East Rural. They chase up local and national funding opportunities for small capital projects, such as the recent footpaths map. Everyone is free to attend meetings which are publicised on the Blacksnape website.
- 2) Whether a formal Blacksnape Residents' meeting is needed was discussed. A basic committee structure is needed for accessing funding mechanisms. Martyn prefers the idea of a community organisation but feels this needs some formalisation. Could key roles be taken on a rota basis? Sue suggested leaving this issue until the next meeting.
- 3) Martyn has received an email from a resident which expressed concern over website links to martial arts and road safety issues. A new resident (here from July) said she enjoyed the website and values it. Martyn is currently overseeing the website but is happy for anyone to take on this rôle, or to grant write access to anyone who asks for it. It is also possible to contribute to the website via email. Anyone can have a Blacksnape.co.uk address. Imogen suggested an email address for the village which could be routed to everyone (currently these go to Martyn) **Action: anyone who wishes write access or a Blacksnape email address to inform Martyn**
- 4) Campaigns: Concerns expressed that the interactive road speed sign in Blacksnape never changes, is in a poor situation and faces in the wrong direction so it is not effective. **Action: Martyn agreed to place a contact email for Peter Van Eijdsen on the website for local residents to contact him direct.** The sign appears to have had little effect on the real racers with speeds of 82 and 74 noted by residents. Query whether a camera could be sited above it. The group felt that a dialogue should begin with the local police about the siting of mobile speed cameras. Currently, they are sighted outside Tower View which is fairly obvious. A higher success rate would be had if they parked in the lay by near the playing fields or indeed, further up the village where much of the speeding occurs. Could hand held cameras be used? Different agents, such as the police, to be invited to the next meeting.

- 5) Dawn R-W mentioned that half of the road is in Marsh ward and half in East Rural which provides an anomalous boundary. Discussion ensued about whether Blacksnape should fall into one ward. No conclusions reached.
- 6) There was a discussion about road markings on the Moorview side of the village and whether this issue needs pursuing. No conclusions reached.
- 7) Traffic calming. Residents were against rumble strips because of noise pollution. Chicanes and humps were thought likely to affect residents' parking, and had previously been rejected by Peter van Eijsden. A campaign for a permanent speed camera was felt to be the most effective way forward.
- 8) Neighbourhood Watch – there was enthusiasm to set up a scheme quickly due to increasing levels of crime in the area. To discuss to Phil Hambley. A number of people have had flagstones removed, and there was a serious sexual crime near the Hoddlesden roundabout last year. All residents keen to support each other and remain alert. **Action: Dawn agreed to look into setting up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.**
- 9) The village pub should be at the centre of the community and Shaun is trying to organise events. He is keen to organise a carol singing this year and knows of a possible brass band that can assist. He also has plans for a bonfire on Nov 5th and is awaiting council approval. **Formal thanks were given to Shaun Buck, the Red Lion's convivial landlord, for providing sandwiches for the meeting and for being enthusiastic about helping to build community links.**
- 10) Britain in Bloom mentioned – no real time to formally organise this.
- 11) It was requested that positive comments about local services could be posted on the website. **Action: Martyn to provide a section for this on the website, alongside a Neighbourhood Watch section to provide a reporting area for incidents.**
- 12) Dry stone walls are an issue. In general, the responsibility for these lies with the owner. The ERN has told some farmers about the problems relating to walls and cows escaping into gardens and on roads. **Action: Alisha Rayson offered to write a polite residents' letter about the cow problem.**
- 13) Query about the ground at the Hoddlesden roundabout end of the road. Currently, this is used for storing logs but there is a concern about future development.
- 14) Jayne offered to deliver any leaflets.
- 15) A walk was arranged for **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October**, meeting at 1pm at the Red Lion, route to be taken from the ERN booklet.

Next Meeting: Tuesday October 20<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm. Attendees encouraged to invite other residents.