



Royale Dunton Court Residents Association

www.duntoncourtresidents.org.uk

Issue 2

25 June 2022

Message from the Chair

Hi all,

We formed the association back in March and the next step was to get formal recognition from Royale. Unfortunately this is taking some time because Royale have had some of their key staff unavailable. The good news is we have now secured a date for our first meeting on **18 July 2022**. This will be a platform for committee members to discuss the points members raised at our general meeting in March.

We also welcome the opportunity to discuss entertainment in the clubhouse. As you know, Royale advertise 'weekly entertainment and frequent events' but unfortunately - initially due to covid and then Dunton staff leaving the company - events have tailed off. The Association is more than happy to help on this front (and has some cracking ideas) but before this can happen we would need to talk to Royale about their vision for the club going forward. Hopefully now we have a date we can start a dialogue that will benefit residents and Royale as well. Most of us are here for the long term so want to make this the best place we can for all residents old or new. Let's look forward to a positive joint meeting in July.

Also, just an update on Royale's planning application for 85 new homes to be sited on the old touring caravan field. Following our meeting in March, members voted to object to the application. Most people are not against new homes in principle. However, residents have real concerns over access to and from the new site which will use the already crumbling infrastructure of narrow roads and limited paths. Furthermore, residents weren't consulted over the new plans - something Royale was advised to do by Basildon Council at the pre-planning stage.

Anyhow, as of 23 June, the planning case officer hadn't made a decision but hoped to have the matter before the planning committee towards the end of July.

Gary - Chair of Residents' Association

Chair - Gary Peckham
Secretary/Vice Chair - Pat Stapleton
Treasurer - Sheila Hobman

Other Council members -
Lynda Gould - Helping Hands Coordinator
Mick Hilton - Entertainment
Julie Raby - Entertainment
Pat Moore - Communications
James Hailes - Communications
Denise Rayner - Disability & Equality
Laurie Gould - Minutes Secretary
Pat Smith
Terry Rose

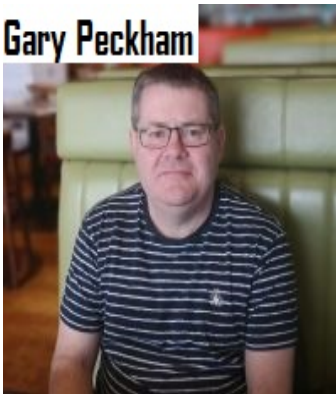


(Laurie and James are both co-opted members. They were invited by the committee to help with specialist roles but have no voting rights.)

A Little More About Some of the Team

Every newsletter we'll shine a spotlight on some of the committee. Last month it was Lynda, this month it's the turn of Gary the chairman and Pat Moore who helps James with Communication.

Gary Peckham



Gary grew up in Tunbridge Wells and went to work at the Inland Revenue straight from school. He stayed with the revenue for 35 years but took early retirement in 2020 due to office closures. Gary moved to Dunton in May 2021. Hobby wise, he was one of the youngest qualified football referees at the age of 12! He was also a Gamesmaker at the 2012 Olympics. He's been a supporter of Crystal Palace all his life and has keen interest in cinema, theatre and the arts. He's also known to enjoy eating out and the occasional drink!

Pat Moore



Pat grew up in SE London where she served a hairdressing apprenticeship. She moved to Gidea Park, Essex in 1965 with her husband and son, then to Dunton Park in 1986 where she's been ever since. Pat's big passion is horses. She's owned, bred and even competed with youngstock at various shows over the years and she served on the committee of the Upminster Riding Club until it disbanded in 2009. Since then, Pat's enjoyed organising horse shows for an equestrian centre and the Orsett show in September. Pat's had many jobs over the years, hairdresser, groom, driver, secretary- but horses have always been there.

Helping Hands

Our team of 7 volunteers are here to help those less able with small tasks such as collecting prescriptions, driving to GP appointments, trips to the barbers/hairdresser and picking up bits from Tesco.

In the home we can change lightbulbs, change beds, curtains or any other small tasks.

We can even just call in for a chat and cup of tea.

Call Lynda 07951 660115

New Website

We're pleased to say we now have a website. You can keep up to date with all our news, see minutes and agendas of meetings and meet the committee members. There's also a button to click to join the residents association and soon we'll be publishing our full accounts to meet our commitment to full transparency.

Just visit -

www.duntoncourtresidents.org.uk

We also have a Facebook page with 81 active members and growing.

Join us at -

www.facebook.com/groups/royaleduntoncourt

£400 Energy Grant

Just to clarify the position regarding the government scheme to give every household £400 off their winter energy bills. This is called the Energy Bills Support Scheme (different to the government's winter fuel payment which is still sent to eligible households automatically). Currently, park home owners aren't included in this scheme because we don't have a contract with an energy company ourselves. However, the energy minister has acknowledged some people do fall through the net and has promised to fix it. The government's committee on fuel poverty has urged MP Greg Hands to legislate to require site owners to pass on the reduction. They also think Ofgem should have a special phone number so park home owners can seek redress if that doesn't happen.

The government says it's continuing to come up with the best plan and will make an announcement by the end of summer (before the £400 is due to be paid).

Park Homes Warm Home Scheme

The £400 grant (above) is for everyone whereas the Park Homes Warm Home scheme is means tested (generally only those with low incomes are eligible). You can register an interest at this website www.parkhomeswhd.com and they will contact you nearer launch date (expected to be September). Exact eligibility will be set out at the time. This scheme is funded by energy suppliers and is on a first come first served basis. Last year the scheme ran out of cash quickly so make sure you register now to be at the front of the queue for 2022.



Despite its infancy, the Helping Hands Team have already carried out dozens of missions so we'd like to thank Lynda, Laurie, Julie, Paul, Patrick, Dixi and Denise for all your hard work. If you'd like to be a volunteer-helper, get in touch with Lynda on 07951 660115.

Sorry To See You Go

Jayne Finch has sadly had to leave her role on the committee. We'd like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work in the last 3 months.



Defibrillator Update

When we formed the association, residents asked why we don't have a defib on site. Defibrillators are life-saving so we prioritised looking into this.

First off, we contacted the Health and Safety Executive for official guidance. They recommend that businesses get defibrillators where there's a higher risk of cardiac arrest. They went on to say that, although there's no legal obligation for businesses to provide defibs, they should consider them as part of their overall health and safety obligations.

We asked Royale about this but they replied to say the company's policy is not to supply defibrillators. However, they did offer to install one if we supply it. Bearing in mind the age demographic of the park, the remoteness and the poor response times within our ambulance trust - we think a defibrillator is essential. So, we had to look elsewhere.

We found a charity called London Hearts. They buy defibs in bulk then sell them on to higher-risk settings like ours with a discount. We applied for a discount and London Hearts have awarded us £300 off. So, that's a brand new defibrillator and external cabinet at a discounted price of £1195.00. Next up was raising the funds!

We're delighted to say we've already received £181.38 from park resident Chris who ran a raffle at her Jubilee street party and £50 of donations for work carried out by the Helping Hands team. We've also had a £500 donation from Unite Union, kindly facilitated by park resident Denise Rayner. This leaves us just under £500 to go.

In a final push to reach our target, some residents are putting on a fundraising karaoke/disco night in the clubhouse on **Saturday 30 July**, so thanks to everyone involved.

We also invited local Councillor Jeff Henry to our committee meeting on 23 June. Jeff agrees that defibrillators are essential on our site. So, he's offered to try and get hold of another one at no cost to us. Having two will ensure all residents have close access. I'm sure you'll all agree, this is amazing news. We'll crack on with purchasing the first unit after the fundraising event in July. Then we'll ask Royale to arrange installation. Finally, although modern defibs are foolproof and designed to be used without any training, we think it will be helpful to arrange for someone to come to the site to give residents a demo.



Queen's Platinum Jubilee



Dunton Park rallied together to throw a huge street party to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

First off, Kim put on a lovely event in the clubhouse during the day. Residents have said how much they appreciated her efforts on this special day.

Later on, residents got together and partied in the streets. There was music, food, drinks and even a raffle to raise funds for a defibrillator on the park.

Thanks to Chris Bennett for £181.38!

Amazing to see so many people turn out across the park to commemorate Her Majesty's 70-year reign, especially bearing in mind the poor weather.

Thanks to everyone who made this happen.

(Credit to resident Kevin Mead for these smashing photos).



Date For Your Diary

Our annual general meeting will be on **Thursday 6 October 2022**. This is an opportunity for members to vote on things and elect the committee for the next year. If anyone fancies being on the committee please drop the Chairman a line and he'll explain what it involves. Please email rdprc2022@gmail.com or speak to a committee member.