



## **WOODFIELD PARK Residents Association**

## **Chairman's Report**

### **AGM – 13 October 2018**

There was no barbecue but a good clean-up and bonfire last year on the AGM day – 28 October – with several families giving some time to help during the day.

Following the AGM decision, the compost bin and wood keep were dismantled and after much delay the Chair managed to persuade Tiphereth to remove all remaining compost. This was a one-off operation with large digger and lorry gaining access along the drive. Some of the good wood from the bin fence was used by me to reinforce the fence round the east end of the watercourse above the culverts. That is now much safer and stronger.

The area left by the compost heap was tidied and notices erected and an item posted on the web site to stop residents dumping any further garden waste at this site and asking them to use the kerbside collection instead. This initiative has been successful and has also led to less fly tipping in the Woods generally.

There is some concern that, with the new system of charging for the Tiphereth collection, fly tipping of garden rubbish will increase again but the Committee will remain vigilant.

The Catholic Church continues to look after their Cemetery through a local gardener who now takes his grass and hedge cuttings away after being advised of the removal of the compost bin. I now have his contact details and those of the Nun who contracts his work. She intends to instruct the gardener to fill in the depressions that have been appearing in the Cemetery because of collapsing coffins which will increase visitor safety and amenity.

After the expensive Council-funded work to clear one of the culverts in 2016, it is vitally important to keep it free from blockage. Intermediate dams placed along the watercourse are also helping to avoid blockage and flooding. Thanks to Jim Innes, Derek Grant, Chris Price and myself for continuing to take on this work prior to the engagement of a contractor. Thanks are also due to Tom Costello, Alastair Walker and myself for keeping the footpath clear of leaves at that end of the Woods.

The Scotts in the Lodge at No 56 Woodhall Rd have received our permission to plant two rowan trees in our land adjacent to the North boundary of their property.

Fencing: Thanks to John Sim at No 2 for repairing and maintaining the 6ft WPRA fence adjacent to his property.

Use of Woods by builders: Builders working at No 11 sited a skip in the Woods adjacent to the low wall opposite the entrance to Woodhall Bank (West). They did this without seeking permission and we decided to allow it provided no damage occurred. Sure enough, the wall was damaged during a skip lift but repaired satisfactorily by the builder. Following this bad experience, we recommend that use of the Woods by builders should not be allowed for any other proprietor in future as the danger of damage to the wall and pavement is too great – other solutions are possible.

Accidental wall damage: A section of wall quite close to the same location was damaged by a car careering down Woodhall Bank without brakes, crossing Woodhall Road and crashing into the wall. Given the narrowness of the pavement there and the pedestrian safety implications we had the wall rebuilt promptly by a professional stonemason whom we had used previously and have sent the bill to the driver of the car concerned.

Roads and pavements: We were successful in getting half our pavements resurfaced in 2017 under the Council's NEPs Scheme. The pavements outside Nos 17-31 and 22-34 were scheduled to be resurfaced in March 2018 but have been delayed until next month. I also submitted a NEPs Roads Proposal which I hope will result in permanent patching of all holes by March 2019. The worst potholes have been patched temporarily until then.

Communications: Thanks to Neil Duffy for keeping the Web site updated and Jill Simpson for organising the Facebook page. Thanks also to Pip Haydock for producing colourful newsletters and laminated weatherproof notices for the three entry points to the Woods.

Crime: I am a Colinton Community Councillor and have access to regular Police Reports. Colinton and other areas near the City By-Pass are being targeted by professional burglars at present - be vigilant and call 999 or 101 as appropriate. Police will be running public advice sessions and will also check your own house security on request.

**David Houston**  
**Chairman WPRA**