

NEWGATE ACTION GROUP

The Community Forum of the Newgate Lane Urban Renewal Scheme
website: www.the-nag.org.uk e-mail: community.spirit@the-nag.org.uk

Dear resident,

Please find enclosed the agenda for the next meeting. Your support at the next meeting would be most welcome, however, if you cannot attend, the minutes will be available to view and/or download from the NAG website.

Invitation to attend the next meeting

Date: 6.30pm Tue Jan 14th 2003

Venue: 110 Newgate Lane

AGENDA

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies
2. Reports and updates
 - a. Housing Renewal Update
 - b. Jackson's Park
3. Any other business
4. Date and time of next meeting

I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Yours sincerely

Michelle Ward

Chairperson, Newgate Action Group

Have a question for the next meeting?

Use the space below to remind yourself of questions or comments you wish to raise at the next meeting.

If you can't make it to the next meeting you can submit questions from the 'Contact Us' page on our website or you can leave comments in our online forum.

www.the-nag.org.uk

Minutes of the meeting of the
Newgate Action Group
held 6.30pm on Tuesday 26th November 2002 at 110 Newgate Lane

1. Attendees

Michele Ward (Chair)	Resident
Ian Lilliman (Secretary)	Resident
Gary Jones (Vice Chairman)	Resident
John Pickering (Treasurer)	Resident
Samatha Raggart	Mansfield District Council
D Edwards	De-Signs, Newgate Lane
S Edwards	De-Signs, Newgate Lane
Andy Sissons	Resident
Barbara Miller	Resident
Pat Gallagher	Resident
Margaret Wheat	Resident
J Gunn	Resident
M Gunn	Resident
Janet Smith	Resident
Councillor Malcolm Sage	Mansfield District Council
Courtney Nangle	Mansfield CVS (Council for Voluntary Services)

2. Apologies

Councillor Barbara Nestor	Mansfield District Council
Ann Norman	Resident
Caroline Beastall	Resident

3. Introductions

3.1. The meeting began at 6.30pm and all were welcomed by Michelle Ward.

4. Previous Minutes

4.1. Minutes of the meeting of 15th October 2002 were agreed to be a true record.

5. Reports & Updates

5.1. Jackson's Park Signage (No Dog Fouling) – Samantha Raggart stated that these were still 'in progress' **despite having asked for them over 4 months ago!** NAG expressed their disappointment at the lackadaisical attitude being taken in this matter, as this should have been addressed when the park first opened.

Also, it was mentioned that the 'no through road' sign had been removed from the access road at the end of Mill St. This apparently has been done because the sign was moved to a new location and was re-installed in a slap dash fashion, causing it to be a danger to the public. Samantha Raggart said that it would be replaced ASAP.

5.2. Jackson's Park Waste Bins – At the meeting several residents reported to Samantha Raggart that not all of the waste bins were being emptied. Council workmen had been seen emptying only a few of the bins closest to where they were parked. And leaving the others still full.
Action – Samantha Raggart (MDC)

5.3. Jackson's Park Vandalised Trees – It was reported that two of the newly planted trees had been snapped in two, with a third (top of King St) having its support strap broken. Several comments were raised as to why these were not given better protection against vandalism or why were more mature trees planted. **Action – Samantha Raggart (MDC).**

5.4. Jackson's Park Play Arena Flooding – Reports of the play arena flooding during bouts of heavy rain were raised. Residents voiced their concerns over the quality of its construction. Several drainage holes are reported to be incorporated into the play surface and we were told that these now include filters to prevent blockage. Residents asked if the play arena could/should be resurfaced. The group as a whole agreed that if things do not improve; a request shall be placed for the whole surface to be renewed under guarantee. **Action – Samantha Raggart (MDC).**

5.5. Jackson's Park Play Arena Cleaning – Several residents reported that cleaning of the play arena was very much hit and miss with much of the litter under the arena fencing left uncollected. This has led to weeds growing under the fence in the dirt and rubbish and if not tackled soon could lead to long-term damage to the arena surface. **Action – Samantha Raggart (MDC).**

5.6. Jackson's Park Children's Playground – At the last meeting, Samantha Raggart brought along large colour 3D plans of the proposed new children's playground for the group to review. The children's playground is to be replaced, using funding from an organisation called WREN, who utilise funding acquired from the business landfill tax to support environmental projects. The funding available amounts to £38,000. After consultations, it was decided to opt for the plans submitted by Wicksteed Leisure.

Since then, the monies have been acquired and work should be in progress before Christmas.

5.7. Jackson's Park Park Planting – The park planting has begun, with the majority of these areas being ring-fenced with wire mesh to prevent vandalism and weather damage whilst they take root. Comments were made that the bark chippings used were encroaching on to the foot paths and had been placed on the ground over the top of existing litter. Samantha Raggart told the group that Killingley's, the contractors, had been told to rectify the situation. **Action – Samantha Raggart (MDC).**

5.8. Beresford St Flower Beds – Under the Jackson's Park renewal, works were planned for the renewal of the flower beds on Beresford St. Unfortunately due to overspend on the park there are no monies available. However, the overgrown tree has been pruned back to a sensible size to prevent damage to nearby properties.

6. Housing Issues

6.1. Housing Renewal – Michelle Ward said that she will provide an update on the housing renewal programme at the January meeting.
Action – Michelle Ward (Chair – NAG)

6.2. Flooding on Newgate Lane – It was reported that flooding of Newgate Lane during heavy rain is still causing a major problem to a number of properties. Chris Winterton (Notts County Councillor) shall be invited to the next meeting to discuss this matter further.
Action – Michelle Ward (Chair – NAG)

7. Cold Callers – Electricity and Gas Sales Persons

7.1. The group welcomed the inclusion of the warning about cold callers at the back of the last minutes.

If anyone feels that they may have been deceived into signing to change their utility supplier should contact Energywatch, *the independent gas and electricity consumer watchdog* on 08459 06 07 08.

8. Any Other Business

8.1. Building Improvement Grants – Samantha Raggart gave a report on the 'Building Improvement Grant Scheme'. The scheme is administered by Samantha herself and her direct number is 01623 463151. The grants are administered on a first come, first serve basis to eligible properties.

Eligible properties are any retail, industrial and commercial properties within the Titchfield Ward. Works that are eligible for grant aid are repairs and / or improvements to the front elevation of a property. Grants are available up to 50% of the cost of eligible works.

A grant application form must be submitted, together with 3 quotes for the work, which will then be assessed. Mansfield District Council will grant aid the lowest quote, however the applicant can appoint whichever contractor they would like.

8.2. Newsletter Funding Application – NAG were pleased to announce that over £800 of funding has been acquired to produce two editions of an 8-page newsletter, delivered to all properties in the renewal scheme. It is anticipated that the first edition will be published in the new year.

8.3. General Litter Problem – Several residents raised the issue of litter on Newgate Lane, Birkland Street and the Pocket Park. This shall be reported to the PIN team to tackle when next in the area. **Action – Ian Lilliman (Secretary – NAG)**

The meeting ended at 8.00pm

Next Meeting Tue 14th January 2003, 6.30pm, 110 Newgate Lane

ALERT TO ALL RESIDENTS

A number of utilities sales persons are active in the area promoting the benefits of changing your gas and/or electricity supplier.

Please note that some unscrupulous sales persons are using fraudulent tactics to entice you to 'sign on the dotted line'. Some of these tactics are shown below.

"I'm from energywatch/Transco/Ofgem/the government and I want to tell you about special energy deals or discounts you are entitled to." **These organisations do not supply or sell gas or electricity and they do not employ sales representatives who will call at your home uninvited. Transco would only ever call at your home unannounced in the event of a gas emergency.**

"I know my I.D. card says I'm from a supplier with a different name to your own but we're all part of the same company now." **This may or may not be true. If in doubt, check with your existing supplier or energywatch.**

"I'm from your existing supplier and I'm here to give you a cheaper pre-payment meter key, token or card." **If your existing supplier wanted to issue you with a new key, token or card, they would inform you by post. If you are being offered a new key on your doorstep by a sales representative, they are probably not from your existing supplier at all.**

Tactics being used by sales representatives to trick consumers into signing include:

"I'm here to read the meter – please sign here." **There is no need to sign for a meter reading.**

"Sign here so we can send you further information about the prices we offer." **There is no need to sign for further information.**

"Sign here to say I visited you today or else I'll be in trouble with my boss." **You don't need to sign to confirm the salesperson's visit.**

"I won't get my commission unless you sign." **Sales representatives are usually only paid commission if you agree to switch supplier.**

"This deal is only available today. You'll lose out if you don't sign now." **Do not be pressurised into signing on the spot. Take plenty of time to properly consider any deal you are offered and shop around.**

If you are having problems with your current supplier, you can contact Energywatch, the independent gas and electricity consumer watchdog on 08459 06 07 08

e-mail: enquiries@energywatch.org.uk | website: www.energywatch.org.uk