

George Hall Court Newsletter

March 2008, Issue 1

Dear Residents

Following our recent meeting you raised a number of issues with me and I agreed, along with Chris Green, to take these concerns away and write to you to confirm how we might address them.

We agreed that we would provide hard copies of the monthly newsletter to the scheme and include information on these points in future editions and arrange a further meeting later in the year with you.

I hope that this newsletter reflects all the main points that you raised and what we talked about when we met; and represents the agreements we made between you, the residents of George Hall Court and Housing Services.

Mark Walker

A lack of response from the Police to phone calls about crime and anti social behaviour was a major concern that you raised to us.

We said we would raise this matter back with the Cavendish Square project board and with the local neighbourhood police team. This has been done. A meeting has recently taken place and assurances from the Police have been given that they will respond to issues.

To assist us in this process we ask that you keep a record of any concerns raised to the Police, recording the crime reference number when you phone the Police, this will help us measure complaints made and response time from the Police.

You also mentioned feeling unsafe and lack of lighting particularly in and around Royston Road entrance.

We will be improving the lighting to the front door and we will be installing additional CCTV cameras on this elevation of the building. We anticipate this to be completed by July 2008.

You also mentioned about the appearance of the building, the condition of the double glazed units, the way that they open and their cleanliness.

We will, near to completion of the regeneration works being undertaken in Cavendish Square, survey the block to assess its overall condition. This will include the windows in the block, with a view that we undertake an improvement programme to the block to uplift from its current condition. We will be in contact nearer the time to let you know when we will need access to your homes.



You also mentioned concerns over parking and if any garages in Royston Road are going to be used by local residents. I can confirm one garage will be returned to Housing for General allocations.

We will ask the Council to vary its current garage allocations policy to reflect this request, once we have this confirmed we will write and let you know what is the agreed criteria.



You raised concerns over the front and rear entrance doors, how heavy they are and that sometimes it is difficult either to gain access or close the doors.

We will replace the front door this coming financial year and anticipate this being completed October 2008.



You also raised concerns over the timings relating to the closure of the new shopping centre central arcade. This would mean a restriction on the usage of the rear entrance/exit; as well as wanting to see the elevation of the canopy on the new centre.

We're still looking into these possibilities and time schedules. We hope to give you a more informative answer in the next newsletter. However we do know that the rear exit is not within the covered walkway so there will be no restriction.



If you have any queries relating to this information please contact Mark Walker on 01793 464605 or email mwalker@swindon.gov.uk

If you have any concerns relating to any other issues please contact Mark Barnett on 01793 464428 or email mbarnet@swindon.gov.uk