

STAG

Stoughton Action Group

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Working for the good of all residents.

15 April 2002

UPDATE April 2002

To:

First a thank you to all who have sent messages of support recently, it is much appreciated.

An apology to anyone who contacted me from March 20th to 24th and did not get a response for some time, this was due to my being struck down by some bug. This seems to be happening to us all over the last couple of weeks, roll on summer! I normally try to respond or pass on any comments or enquiries within 24 hours, though this is not always possible due to business or family commitments

We understand that there is a feeling that STAG is too close to the developers and therefore not representing the views of local residents. This is, to some degree, understandable as we are trying to work together with the developers towards achieving the best benefits we can for Stoughton. It was the developers who first approached us for discussions. Much more can be achieved by cooperation rather than by confrontation. Remember the developers are under no obligation to liaise with us or any other body outside of the local councils. It is not always possible to support every resident's point of view, there are too many and varied aspirations, STAG can only try to present a balanced view.

The biggest problems in communication with residents are the lack of suitable venues and the frequent need for rapid action. Another major problem has been physically producing these updates. I have in the past tried to distribute email and printed Updates at the same time. This policy is not working well, tending to delay publication and I now intend to try to produce email Updates every week or two. In return it would be greatly appreciated if members with email could print and distribute to members with out email. We have about the same number of members with and without email, so this should not be an onerous chore. If you can help please email stag@allfordata.freemove.co.uk including the name of the member/s you intend circulating to. If you do not include a name I will allocate your nearest neighbour on our list (this will be sent to all email user members). *This is important if communications are to be improved.*

Maureen Bell, Peter Gunner and a number of others have done a great job in communicating with the developers and, I know, always tried to consider the common good of Stoughton residents. If you feel your point of view is not being expressed, please contact us; we cannot represent you if we do not know your opinions. There is no need to wait for a meeting.

Village Hall, Community Hall, Community Centre.

A Heart for Stoughton

It is the hope of many that the development will put the heart into Stoughton, which has been missing, due to the physical separation of the Grange Road and Tile House areas. We hope that the Community Hall will provide be the adrenalin that keeps it beating.

The developers are prepared to give land and provide funding for a building, with a footprint of one hundred and fifty square metres. We feel that a larger facility will be required, but will need to provide additional cash if this is to be achieved. We have already investigated a number of avenues for this, but there remains much to do if the plans are to be realised. Maureen Bell is leading this project and would be delighted to hear from all who would like to be involved. A solicitor and an accountant need to be appointed to work on this project and we shall require members with fund raising skills. If you can provide any of these skills, or are able to recommend somebody, please contact Maureen, by either writing to 270 Grange Road or emailing mbhbell@Talk21.com

It is intended to hold an open meeting during mid to late May, hopefully at Northmead School, to ascertain what Stoughton residents want in such a building and which facilities and activities are required. A steering committee will be appointed at the meeting. We will show you what is currently being offered. The date time and venue will be confirmed as soon as arrangements are finalised.

Meeting at Holiday Inn 27th. February

Unfortunately for the second time a number of residents of Tylehost, Saffron Platt, Johnston Walk and Johnston Green had not received notice of the meeting. Laing Homes and Linden Homes stated that next time they would deliver invitations by hand.

It was stated that the existing boundary with houses in Saffron Platt would be reinforced.

The Health and Fitness Centre, will be relocated further into the site and now be orientated so that the entrance faces Grange Road, thus improving security in the car park area. Existing trees will be retained and additional ones planted, which together with a 1.5 metre drop and then a down slope to the building will help to reduce any noise nuisance to residents of Grange Road who back on to the site. The developers promised to supply section drawings to show this.

Concern was expressed about the air raid shelters in the woodland near Pig Alley. If these cannot be moved, because of the need to keep existing trees, then they will be blocked so that they do not become a magnet for and danger to local children.

The 15-metre easement adjoining Saffron Platt will be retained. The nearest new building to existing properties and will be 22 metre from the boundary at the closest point.

Andreas Markides, of Colin Buchanan & Partners, the traffic engineers, explained that it was intended to continue with the plan to allow traffic via the commercial area and Tylehost, as it was felt that not to do so would put additional traffic strain on other roads in the area. Also the operators of the commercial area feel that not to have such a route would present them with operational difficulties.

To avoid the possibility of rat running the following measures are to be taken by the developers: -

1. Tylehost would be secondary route at the Johnston Walk junction.
2. The route would loop through the commercial area
3. The through traffic would have to give way at junctions and there will be priority one-way sections.
4. Traffic travelling east will not be able to turn right from the commercial area to access the southern exit on to Grange Road, instead having to take the road through the development to the northern exit.

At the time of writing we are not aware of any date for the next meeting with the developers, you will be informed when we know more.

There is much more information, concerning recent events. I will endeavour to produce a further update shortly.

Sincerely,

John Allford

Chairman