



# NEWSLETTER

## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Fellow Residents

With Christmas just around the corner, it seems an age since we held our sixth Picnic in The Park.

But I still feel it worthy of mention here, because, for the first time, the event was organised and run by Oak Family Entertainment and I congratulate them for continuing to build on the achievements of the Events Group, who supported Oak on the day, and who still run the popular monthly Film Club. I hope those of you that managed to join us that day had a fantastic time with your families and friends.

I especially loved watching people get over their fears of holding a snake or Tarantula, so well done if that was you! This, and all the other events, don't just happen without the dedication of a few residents and the groups are always looking for new members. If you're interested in giving up just a few hours of your time for the benefit of the community, please contact The Trust office who will forward on your details.

But if attendance is more your style, please do keep an eye on lamp posts, notice boards, The Trust's website and social media for further updates.

Many of you will have noticed the No Cold Calling Zone (NCCZ) signs that have been erected across the development. Their installation is controlled by Lincs County Council, and further signs will be rolled out in due course. We received fantastic support from residents wanting to see the zone being implemented and hope the message gets across!

Due to the great success of the first two Defibrillator & Basic Life Support training sessions

organised by The Trust, we are holding further courses. The next one is planned for Saturday 10th November, and as I write this, there are a few places still available. I believe this training is invaluable for the benefit of residents and the wider community, and we'll continue to host courses as long as interest remains. Further courses will be widely publicised, but please do register your interest with the Trust office for priority enrolment.

The Annual General Meeting was set for 7th November @ 1900hrs. We're aware that this time isn't convenient for some residents and we have discussed alternative dates and timings, but in all honesty, there isn't a date or time that will suit everyone and we believe this provides the greatest scope for those wishing to attend. Rest assured that the presentation and the minutes of the AGM will be published on The Trust website in due course.

As always, we look to introduce ways of improving our services for residents and users of the Centre. The beginning of September saw The Trust amend the office opening hours and having assessed this over a number of weeks I'd like to remind everyone that we open at 8am Monday to Friday, and are open until 6pm on Wednesday evenings for phone calls or walk in visits.

Don't forget to keep up to date with all the latest developments and information on The Trust's website ([www.elseapark.co.uk](http://www.elseapark.co.uk)) and the official Facebook page (@elseaparkcommunitytrust).

I look forward to seeing you all in the near future.

**Jono Brough**  
**Chairman**

# School Eco Status Update

Owing to the extremely hot weather conditions earlier this year, it was not possible to start work on the conservation area within the Elsea Park school grounds. However, progress has still been made by the school achieving the Eco Schools Silver Award. To attain the silver award, the school has set up an Eco - committee with the children as Eco warriors to monitor the use of energy and water.

Part of the Eco award is to also encourage closer links between schools and their communities. Earlier this year, Peter Ellis (The Trust's Groundsman and conservation expert) visited the school to advise on the wild flower bund and the space ring-fenced for the conservation area. Originally it was thought that The Trust might need to supply the seed but it became apparent that the bund had already been sown with a wide variety of wild flowers when the school opened and, after several years of cutting, was this year producing a dazzling array. Peter was very impressed to see many varieties including teasel, oxeye (moon) daisies, poppies, buttercups, bladder campion, asters, knapweed, bristly ox-tongue and musk mallows.

Some of the children have also been participating in a weekly gardening club where they have grown enough raspberries and strawberries this year to share with the whole school! They have also produced beans, peas and sunflowers along with houseplants to sell at the school summer fete in addition to growing a selection of herbs. These have all been watered with the waste water saved daily by each year group.



Definitely the next generation of gardeners!

A path was cut through the wild flower meadow prior to it being completely mown and it was lovely to take the children in gardening club up onto the bund and along the cut path and show them all the beautiful flowers. We also walked around the grounds where the conservation area is being formed and Mrs Simpson, teacher of Year One, and Eco Schools coordinator told the children about the existing nature already in the area.

Peter had spotted badger and fox trails, and The Trust have supplied a number of bird boxes to the school to site in the conservation area. We look forward to closer links with The Trust and more of Peter's expert advice as we move into next year.

The target is for the school to now obtain the ultimate Eco Schools Green Flag award... further updates will follow as we progress towards this goal.

**Joanne Derrick**

Chair of Governors  
Director Elsea Park Community Trust





## Completion of Major Works on Elsea Park Meadows

If you've crossed Raymond Mays Way recently and taken a walk in the conservation area owned by Elsea Park residents, you may have spotted some major works that have been carried out during the last couple of months.

Back in September, Fen Ditching were on site to fit two new tilting weirs between the Habitat Ponds.

The bespoke weirs had been manufactured to order in The Netherlands and took four days to install and commission.



The weirs are designed to better control the water levels in the

conservation area to both mitigate flood risk and maintain the best possible habitat for the flora and fauna that is found on the meadows; more importantly, it is now much safer for Peter to

adjust the height of the weirs without having to stand in raging water and drop in or lift out heavy wooden boards.



Not long after the weir work had been completed, we noticed that some of the timbers forming the footbridge across the watercourse were badly rotten. It was decided to stress-test the structure, and in doing so, it was discovered that the situation was

far worse than we thought, and the only option was to replace every piece of timber except for eight uprights and rebuild the concrete ramps at either end of the bridge.



Unfortunately, the work took longer than expected, and access via the bridge had to be closed off for several weeks. The bridge finally reopened on 29th October and should have a lifespan of around fifteen years.

The cost of these jobs? Roughly fifteen thousand pounds or, to put it another way, the Annual Charge from fifty-one properties.

## No Cold Calling Zone - have you stuck your sticker up?

If the answer's no, then you might just want to dig out the information pack that the Police Cadets from The Bourne and Billingborough Neighbourhood Policing Team delivered to homes across Elsea Park towards the end of September and find the little yellow sticker that was enclosed in the pack.

In the hope of encouraging residents to display the sticker, we're inviting anyone who is displaying one on or near their front door to email a photo showing it in situ and giving your name and address to [ncc@elseapark.co.uk](mailto:ncc@elseapark.co.uk) or, if you don't have access to email or a smartphone to take the photo, drop your name and address on a piece of paper in the grey letterbox near the front of The Centre.

Mid December, we'll draw three entries at random and then go to the address to see if we can see a sticker. If we can, each of the three winners will receive a £20.00 gift voucher.

If you didn't receive a pack, then please get in touch with us at the office, but if you binned it without reading the letter or leaflets enclosed, then don't sell your soul for £20.00.....

## What's the plan?

Since the debacle over the missing footway / cycle link at Bourne Heights, the planners at SKDC are maintaining a much closer liaison with The Trust, and we are now invited to comment on major planning applications relating to Elsea Park, sometimes even at the Pre-Planning Advice stage.

This new policy, coupled with increased cooperation between the planners and ourselves has resulted in our issuing a number of challenges to recent applications. We now scrutinise all applications extremely carefully to confirm that all pedestrian and cycle links shown on the original Masterplan and General Site Layout drawings are provided by the developer, and, if possible, ask that additional links are provided.

We've recently :

Pointed out that a primary distributor road that would have been fronted by thirty five homes was planned as a shared surface (ie having no pavements) and that we felt this was unacceptable.

Suggested additional parking instead of shared visitors parking spaces.

Requested that where homes front on to public open space or paths / cycleways designed for general (rather than for private) use that the developers include appropriate fencing to separate private and public areas.

Asked that appropriate signage indicating private drives and private parking areas be provided by developers and be indicated on the plans.

Highlighted where ditches, hedgerows, or shelter belts would be difficult for us to access and maintain when we eventually take them over.

**A warm welcome to Mark Underwood,** who recently joined The Board as an Owner Director. The path for anyone interested in doing the same is well trodden and relatively straightforward. So If you think you can bring something to the table, then please drop an email to either [admin@elseapark.co.uk](mailto:admin@elseapark.co.uk) or to our Chair at [jono.brough@elseapark.co.uk](mailto:jono.brough@elseapark.co.uk).

Directors must undertake the following seven duties in accordance with the Companies Act 2006:

**Follow the company's constitution and its Articles of Association** - these are written rules about running the company, agreed by the members, directors and the company secretary.

**Promote the success of the company** - by acting in the company's best interests.

**Demonstrate independent judgement** - and not allow other people to control your powers as a director. You can accept advice, but you must use your own independent judgement to make final decisions.

**Exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence** - by performing to the best of their ability. The more qualified or experienced a Director is, the greater the standard expected of them.

**Avoid conflicts of interest**

**Not accept third party benefits**

**Declare any interests in a transaction**

**So if you like a challenge then please do get in touch**

## Your Ward Councillors..... Making A Difference

Anyone familiar with the composition of the Board of Directors of Elsea Park Community Trust will know that South Kesteven District Council appoint a councillor as a Director as a conduit between The Trust and the Council and to look after the interests of residents. The current SKDC appointee is Cllr Robert Reid, who, along with Councillors Duncan Ashwell and Jane Kingman represents the Bourne Austerby Ward.

Duncan and Jane have also previously served as Directors of The Trust, and we were extremely grateful that all three councillors gave generous donations of £333 each from the Ward Member Grant Scheme to help fund an assistant Youth Worker, Chloe Pagan, to support the delivery of summer holiday activities at The Centre.



Councillors Robert Reid, Jane Kingman, and Duncan Ashwell along with Trust staff Bea Laidler, Chloe Pagan, and Niki Szwed (Photo Courtesy of SKDC)

Under the guidance of our Youth Worker, Niki Szwed, Chloe has also implemented an outreach programme that has led to a large increase in the number of older children attending the Youth Group.



Photo shows the Fibrefall all-weather safety surfacing with the new climbing wall and net between the "Tricky Stick" and "Play 4 All"

The icing on the cake came when Robert decided to use the balance of his grant (a further £667) to help fund the upgrade of the safety surface at the Oak Spring Gardens play area from the original Grassmat to all-weather Fibrefall. This work was undertaken alongside the installation of a new piece of multi-play equipment which comprises of a net climbing wall, with the total cost of the improvement works coming in at a touch over £6,000.

### ***Please, please, please (well, four pleas to be precise)***

As well as the usual reminder pleading with drivers to park with consideration for pedestrians and other road users and asking people to pick up any mess left by their pets come two new requests. Firstly, dog owners are reminded that dogs must be kept under control when in a public place. It's the law. There has been a recent incident where a dog that was off the lead attacked and bit another dog, and the rule is quite simple; if you cannot control your dog, then you MUST keep it on a lead.

Secondly, there's been a rise in residents using the litter bins that are sited around Elsea Park as overflow bins for their domestic rubbish. If you can't get it in your own bin, then please take it to the tip.



## **Elsa Park welcomes the short arms of the law .....**

If you've noticed the 'Mini Police School' poster attached to the school fence, and have pupils in year 4, 5, or 6 I'm sure you will have been updated by your son or daughter about Mini Police! But for everyone else, what is Mini Police all about?

Initially rolled out in the County Durham area, it has been taken onboard by many other Policing areas. Since Lincolnshire Police introduced it to two schools in the Boston area last year, there has been so much interest that we are now introducing it into another one hundred and twenty schools this year and both sites of the Bourne Abbey School Academy have been selected.



The scheme aims to provide children with a positive experience of policing and allow them to get involved in the local community. This is a two-year project for pupils in year 5 and 6 with a number of pupils in each year being elected by a democratic process, so pupils have to want to stand for election and then give an election speech in front of their peers.

Once elected, the programme will cover many topics ranging from Crime Scene Investigation, Internet Safety, Anti bullying, The Fatal Four (Speeding, Seat Belts, Drink Driving and Mobile Phones), parking outside schools plus many more subjects. Some of these events will involve everyone in the school, some will just be for the Mini Police Officers, but the Officers will always be expected to take the lead with whole school / year projects.

So If you see them out and about on Elsa Park then please do come and say hello to your Local Mini Police.

***PCSO Graeme Parrott***  
***Bourne and Billingborough NPT***

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## **Christmas and New Year's Eve Parties at The Centre**

Christmas is coming.....and Oak Family Entertainment will be holding not one but THREE Christmas parties this year to try and accommodate everyone! Two parties are planned for children who have not yet started secondary school (one has a later time to accommodate parents who can't get home from work early) while the other party is for older children. Full details can be found on Oak's Facebook page, on posters on the notice boards at The Centre, Tilia Way, and the Coop, and on the posters dotted around the development.

Tickets for the NYE party, costing £10.00 per family (maximum of five people) will be on sale on Wednesday evenings at The Centre during December. On the night, the ticket will be exchanged for a £10 voucher to spend behind the bar, so why not come along and enjoy the disco and party games?