



## VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Fellow Residents,

I do hope that 2017 got off to a good start for you and your family.

Last year was another challenging one for The Trust but we were successful in completing several planned projects and this year is looking like continuing in the same vein.

For those of you who are not yet aware, Rebecca Jones, our Finance and Administration Officer for more than five years moved on to pastures new last September. The valuable contribution Rebecca made during her time here made a real difference to the way The Trust operates in terms of financial procedures and practices, and we all wish her the very best for the future.

I am pleased to announce that Bea Laidler has joined us to fill the gap left by Rebecca and brings a wealth of experience (but I'm not saying Bea is old!). This will undoubtedly be to our advantage as Elsea Park continues to grow.

In November, our new Articles of Association were lodged with Companies House, which represents a major milestone for The Trust. This means we are no longer financially underwritten by Kier and their controlling vote over Trust business has been relinquished. Our excellent relationship with Kier will continue, whilst ensuring that the best interests of The Trust are controlled by its owner members rather than by a major housebuilder.

The development of the sports pitches is progressing in an extremely positive manner and whilst I cannot provide specific details of the facilities, I can assure you that we are working hard with Kier to guarantee the best possible outcome.

Further improvements to the development will see Taylor Wimpey equipping their first play area on Oak Spring Gardens (at a date to be confirmed) whilst work on the extension to the tarmac area serving the

basketball hoop and goal adjacent to the Centre started in late February and should be largely complete by the time you read this.

Towards the close of the year, The Events group pulled out all the stops to organise Elsea Park's third Christmas Market and the ever popular Christmas Party for children living on the development. I hope those of you who attended enjoyed the festivities and were able to pick up a gift or two at the market, and that our younger residents received a nice gift from Santa!

Please keep an eye on The Trust's Facebook page and the website for further updates and news items.

So until the next time.....

Jono Brough  
Chairman

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Elsea Park  
Community Trust

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**KILL YOUR SPEED  
NOT A CHILD**

Just before Christmas a number of residents suggested that we should plant some Christmas trees at all entrances to Elsea Park. The first two trees have now been planted on Tilia Way and The Gables, and further trees will be planted once the land at the remaining two entrances transfers to The Trust.



We're pleased to report that David Wilson Homes have recently undertaken the drainage work required on Little Garth (the open space between The Ridings and their former show homes) to prevent standing water collecting after heavy rainfall. We were insistent that this expensive but necessary work was carried out before we accept the transfer of the land to The Trust ensuring that the area can be used and enjoyed by everyone throughout the year. We'd been advised that the work would be carried out last summer, however, it's been a case of better late than never!

Unfortunately, the expectation that we had from Taylor Wimpey for the equipping and handing over the new play area at Oak Spring Gardens (adjacent to Market Rasen Drive and Hexham Avenue) early this year has also not been realised, but we've recently met with one of their surveyors to discuss the design and layout once again. As soon as we get a start date we will share it with you via social media and the website.

On a more positive note, we have met with Kier to commence the process of the transfer of multiple areas of amenity land and public open space to The Trust, and an initial inspection of the areas in question was carried out by a team comprising of Michael

## NEWSbeat....NEWSbeat....NEWSbeat.....

Marren, Peter Ellis, and Barry Cook. This first stage was undertaken to assess the extent of the remedial work required, ensuring that any land that is transferred is in a suitable condition; under the provisions of the Section 106 agreement, the land should be fit for purpose at handover and The Trust should not have to 'make good' areas that have suffered from lack of maintenance in the past. For example, whilst we don't require the verges that border Raymond Mays Way to be of bowling green standard, we do expect the ditches that drain that area to be free of trees, debris, and silt. This is particularly important because ditch maintenance is a major cost to The Trust, and plays a vital part in the mitigation of flood risk.

We have suggested to Kier that once a discrete area is brought up to the required standard, The Trust will take on the responsibility for and the cost of maintenance of that area ahead of legal transfer. We feel this approach should enable the work to progress more quickly, there being some areas that we would like to take on as soon as possible, while others are less critical.

We have stressed that we are keen to take on the strip of land that runs from the end of Salisbury Gardens to South Road as soon as possible and are working with Kier so that a safe and suitable pedestrian link can be established at the north-eastern edge of Elsea Park.

We are hoping for a "hoggin path" to be laid, of the same construction as the one that runs down the side of the Setts Green Conservation Area linking Badger Lane to Water Lane. This type of all weather path is relatively quick to construct, easy to maintain, cost effective, and more sound absorbent than a tarmac path. This should make it more acceptable to the residents of the homes that will border it. We intend to plant low level, high density ground cover between the edges of the new path and the neighbouring properties in the hope of encouraging people to stay on the path itself.

The additional link from Salisbury Gardens should complement the cycle path that has been laid (but has yet to be completed) to the west of Wherry's Spinney. The path will eventually run all the way to the cottages at the end of Manor Lane, forming the primary route for residents of Elsea Park who want to make the best of a pleasant walk or cycle ride in to the centre of Bourne and enjoy all that the fresh air will offer.

**Elsea Park Events Group.** We're grateful as ever to the members of The Elsea Park Events Group who work so hard on behalf of residents. As well as looking after the major events, they run regular activities such as the monthly Film Club, the Wednesday morning Drop In sessions, and the occasional Quiz Nights. If you've not been along before, why not give it a try.

If you're also the sort of person who likes to get involved, why not join them.? They would appreciate more support, and welcome you with open arms, particularly for such things like Picnic in The park and the kids Christmas Party.

## DIARY Dates.....

### Friday 31 March: Childrens' Film Club

Doors open at 5:00 pm with **Trolls** showing at 5:20 pm.

### Friday 7th April: Quiz Night

**7pm start** to include a Fish and Chip Supper. Keep an eye out for the posters!

### Easter Holidays (date TBC): Easter Egg Hunt

Niki will be running an Easter Egg Hunt for the children. Details will follow

### Saturday 24th June: Picnic In The Park 2017

Our annual Residents Only party with a mix of music, entertainment, activities, and all round fun. Details to follow nearer the time.

### Friday 1st December: Christmas Carols

Join us for the first "official switch on" of our Christmas lights at The Centre with carol singing, mince pies, and mulled wine

### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December: Children's Christmas Party

Residents Only - we expect a reappearance of Wondro The Wizard and Santa!



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## Moan, Moan, Moan

We get lots of complaints (and frequent posts on social media) relating to the mess that's left by some irresponsible owners whilst walking their dogs. It's both illegal and antisocial, and quite frankly, no one should have to put up with it. Many residents think a contributing factor is that so many dogs are out of sight of their owners when they are off the lead, and we implore owners who let their dogs run free to keep a careful eye on them and clear up anything they leave behind. Please bag it and bin it, and if there's not a bin on your route, then please take it home!

If it's not dogs, its parking. We receive just as many complaints from residents about poor parking as we do about dog excrement, and once again, we can't wave a magic wand and make the problem just disappear. Please remember that if you can't park your car on your drive, allocated parking space, or in your garage, you should think of others when you park elsewhere. The emergency services, bin lorries, and delivery vans need to be able to get through, and perhaps more importantly, no one else should be forced to walk in the road because you have decided to block half the pavement just so you can park right outside your own front door.



Though the days are now getting longer, our winter visitors in the form of fieldfares, redwings and waxwings have long since stripped the bushes and trees of berries and still rely on us to supplement their food. By supplying food to help the birds survive they repay us by bringing pleasure and fascination to our gardens.

With the trees now being so bare of leaves, it's very easy to see the wealth of ivy that grows

images captured by our wildlife camera on the meadows

on some of them. You may think 'dig it up', 'cut it down' or 'poison it', but from a conservation view point, ivy is indispensable. Sometimes known as bindweed or lovestone (because of its habit of clinging to everything), ivy is a haven for wildlife and is one the last flowering plants of late summer and early autumn.

The clusters of flowers are rich in nectar and pollen, and used by a host of insects, bees and bugs to refuel before winter. Holly blue and brimstone butterflies lay their eggs in the ivy and during

cold months will hibernate as chrysalises. On the first sunny days of spring (which aren't too far away now), the butterflies will appear and those who first see a brimstone butterfly might even spot it emerging from the ivy. Come the spring, the ivy provides ideal nesting sites for robins, wrens, blackbirds and tits.

Make sure you make the most of the great outdoors; we have so much to see right on our own doorstep, and remember, it's all FREE.

## Please don't let the fish have their chips.....

If you cast your minds back to the late summer you might recall that there was a problem with fish dying in the Wake Pond on Quaysides East and West.

Kier engaged Mainstream Fisheries to investigate the problem and their final report indicated that the fish were suffering from a stress related disease and a physiological response to extremely poor water quality, largely as a result of overfeeding. Once the fish are in this poor condition they generally suffer a secondary infection such as white spot which normally wouldn't affect them.

A maintenance regime has now been put in place by Kier which includes applying a champagne chalk treatment and netting and removal of as many fish as possible (for relocation) on an annual basis, and water testing every three months.

But we need to ask you to play your part too, and politely request that everyone stops feeding the fish (popular a pastime as it is). This should help prevent the problem recurring, keep the fish happy and healthy, and hopefully, keep the numbers down a little. Kier are sourcing some appropriate signs which will be installed around the edges of the ponds in the very near future.