



NEWS

**Number 1
November 2008**

Rossall Beach Residents Association was formed this summer after a number of residents had been attending the PACT meetings, and the police suggested that issues on the prom could be better resolved if we had a collective voice.

A Residents Association will also be in a position to gain funding for improvements and projects which the local authority and police etc wouldn't be able to access – although they will help in submitting applications and getting information together.

The area that is covered includes all the houses from Durban Court at the end of Thornton Gate on North Promenade, right down Rossall Promenade and through the Five Bar Gate to the last house on the front.

A committee has been formed and a constitution put in place and in the future charitable status will probably be sought. We have a website which is www.rossallbeach.org.uk and minutes of each meeting will be posted there. Members will need to get a password and id from the Secretary to access this area (available through the website). If

you don't have internet access you can get a copy of any of the minutes from Dave Hewitt, Secretary or Jane Littlewood, Chair. There will be open meetings for everyone to attend throughout the year, but members and residents are welcome to come to any of the committee meetings which are held every four weeks at the Frank Townend Centre – dates on the back of this newsletter. We are always on the look-out for willing volunteers and if you would like to be co-opted onto the Committee please ring 854145 and have a chat.

The original issues of concern – the littering/litter bins, dog fouling, speeding cars, shabby state of the prom – have been referred to Wyre Borough Council and they are very supportive in either helping us to find a solution or sorting out the problems themselves – more of which you'll read later in the newsletter. Everyone is keen to have the environmental problems sorted out but we also need to think about what we can do in the long term to improve the prom for residents and visitors alike, so we have drawn up a survey which is enclosed and we'd like everyone to fill it in and then their opinions can

be taken into consideration. Janice has already been out on the beach canvassing opinion from visitors – which was interesting!

Residents Associations are membership organisations, and we have also attached yet another form for you to fill in which registers your membership – although we are going to call our members 'Voices'. We'd like everyone to be involved and their thoughts taken into consideration – everyone's opinion counts even if we can't exactly carry out your wishes!

Rossall Beach is a very nice place and the Residents Association is aiming to make sure it stays that way for the future, and in the meanwhile make improvements for everyone along the way!

In the very short time that the Residents Association has been active we have already achieved quite a lot in setting up the team, the Constitution, a website, and managing the first batch of issues, and it's thanks to the enthusiasm and interest of the residents that so much progress has been achieved, so well done everybody!



**Rossall Beach Residents Association and Neighbourhood Watch
'Working together to improve the area for residents and visitors'.**

Environmental Issues

It was the state of the litter bins, signage, boy racers etc that kicked all this off! We have been talking to various people from the council and police, and most of the problems are being addressed (albeit over a period of time) but they are in the system and will eventually be resolved one way or another. Some issues may be resolved with funding applications from the Residents Association, and some through the usual channels. The first success story that the Residents Association has achieved is the replacement of the steps down onto the beach – the old ones were too steep with dangerous handrails and were quite hazardous. Cleaning of the sea wall is to follow soon and it is to be jet-washed initially, so watch this space!

Incidentally (and reassuringly!) the beach and sea defences on our stretch of the promenade are considered to be the best ones in the Wyre and to be more than adequate in taking the energy out of the tide to prevent flooding – thank goodness! Still talking about the beach, the perennial subject of dog-poo is always high on the list, and we are going to try various things to get dog owners to be responsible and clean up. A Wyre Borough Council dog ban on Rossall Beach is going out for consultation, so let's see if we can try and sort the problem out between us without having to go that far. If you don't want to confront people yourself, there is an officer at the council who will contact serial offenders and explain why they should clear up, and you can get her details from any of the committee members. We are going to try to get an article in the Gazette about what we are doing down here, and to the effect that 80 houses are watching – so hopefully that will make the serial perpetrators think twice!

The police are trying to resolve the boy racers, although it is an awkward problem to address. Our main concern is that either a pedestrian will be injured, or a car will spin out of control with terrible consequences.



CCTV

Following a number of years of various types of anti-social behaviour on the prom, the police, Wyre Borough Council and the Residents Association are keen to secure funding for another CCTV camera to cover our end of the promenade. The preferred option would be another camera like the one on Jubilee Gardens which is monitored from Cleveleys police station, the direction of the camera can be changed remotely by the operator, and the images it collects are stored for 31 days.

This is a fairly costly option and we are looking into different funding streams to enable us to be able to go down this route. The Police and Council are right behind us and can provide some funding. The cheaper option is an independent, fixed camera which can't be monitored at the police station – the downside being that crime needs to happen right in front of it!

If we can secure funding, the installation of the camera will be subject to the usual process of planning permission and we hope that everybody will be supportive of the scheme. The proposed spot for it is where the hump is in the road at the start of the car parking. The cameras have a very good range of vision and this would give complete coverage of the promenade right up to the five bar gate and the other way to the cafe (where the Jubilee Gardens camera then picks up the view).

We have asked about issues of privacy and what can be seen by the cameras – they have privacy settings so that the operators wouldn't be able to see into our houses, but we would have the reassurance of knowing that the gardens and our front doors were covered, along with the road/promenade and public areas.



The committee of the Residents Association:

Jane Littlewood – Chair
Dave Hewitt – Secretary
Emma Norris – Treasurer
Janice Pickup – Press Officer

Stephen Pickup
Tony Greenwood
David Yule
Beryl Hancock
Val Pounder
Freda Tomlinson

Jim Bolton –
Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator

Meeting Dates:

Committee Meetings
Every four weeks on Weds night,
6.30pm at the Frank Townend Centre

19 November, 17 December
14 January, 11 February, 11 March,
8 April, 6 May, 3 June

The next Open Meeting to which all
Members are Welcome:

11 March, 6.30pm,
Frank Townend Centre

*Rossall Beach Residents Association
and Neighbourhood Watch
is a not for profit, and non political
organisation.*

*Telephone 829390 or 854145
for further information.*

Have a look at www.rossallbeach.org.uk to see what we are doing.

Neighbourhood Watch

Thanks go to all of you who completed and sent in your recent Neighbourhood Watch forms – over 50% of you asked for the scheme and it's now been granted, and you should by now have received your pack of leaflets, stickers and an invisible pen to mark all your valuables. Jim Bolton is the Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator and if you have any concerns about minor issues Jim can refer them back to the Police. Anything of a more serious nature should of course be phoned straight through to the Police. We are the only area in Wyre to have both a Neighbourhood Watch and a Residents Association. The Neighbourhood Watch means that we can have signs on the lampposts which tell opportunists or criminals that we are all careful and switched on and that alone should be a deterrent. Membership of a Neighbourhood Watch can entitle you to a saving of 5-10% off your house insurance so be sure to mention it when you renew.

We have to pay for the signs and think that four would be enough for our stretch, and that a donation from each house of £2 would be fair – the pen alone is worth more

than that and you should also save far more than £2 on your house insurance, and everyone will benefit from the increased security that the Neighbourhood Watch brings to the area. All the money that is collected will be spent on signs – the more that we collect, the more signs we can have.

It's not that crime is a large problem in Cleveleys generally, but this is a dark dead end in winter, and we all have to be careful with security in a seaside place with lots of visiting traffic that could bring opportunist criminals.

Follow a few simple rules to keep yourself safe:

- Keep your doors and windows locked – including your doors in the daytime.
- Stop people who might call at your front door and don't let anyone in you don't know.
- Ask callers for their ID and read it properly – anyone who is legitimate won't have a problem with that.
- Report anything strange to the police on the non-emergency number.

If you do have a problem, you can also get in touch with Jim who is the Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator.

We are very lucky in Wyre not only to have a very low crime rate, but also a very pro-active Police force who are dedicated to keeping it a safe place, and they do a very good job and are very helpful. Once all the signs are in place we will invite everyone who has made a donation to an evening meeting at the Frank Townend Centre and get the Crime Prevention Officer from Fleetwood Police and our local Police and Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to give us advice on how to keep our homes safe and secure and also how to get the most out of your Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.

Useful contact numbers you might need are:

Jim Bolton,
Neighbourhood Watch
Co-ordinator - tel 864908

Emergencies - 999

Police - non emergencies -
0845 125 3545

PCSOs - Cleveleys -
876611

Crimestoppers (anonymous) -
0800 555 111



Be a Rossall Beach Voice!

All monies raised by Rossall Beach Residents Association and Neighbourhood Watch will be used solely for the furtherance of our Aims and Objectives. Full accounts will be available for public scrutiny at our AGM or from the Treasurer on request.

Application for Membership

Rossall Beach Residents Association is a membership organisation – it's just a formality that you have to want to be a member rather than having it foisted on you!

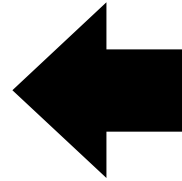
You don't have to do anything (if you don't want to) and it doesn't mean any commitment on your time or money as membership this year is FREE. It's just a way of showing an interest in what's happening locally and makes sure you are kept informed of what's coming next!

Membership entitles you to attend meetings, vote at the AGM on who the committee members are and the Officers (Chair, Treasurer and Secretary), you'll also get a copy of the minutes after each monthly committee meeting, and all newsletters that are published, so you will know what's going on even if you can't or don't want to attend meetings.

All the members of your household can and should be members, although we'll only send one piece of correspondence to each house for you all to share! Ideally, we'd like everyone who lives here to sign up – we are all going to benefit from the improvements to security, a better environment on the prom, and a stronger local community, so it would be nice to think that all the residents are behind the scheme.

If you don't register as a member we won't keep sending you information – although you can register your details at a later date should you wish to.

You should all have received your Neighbourhood Watch packs - in order for the scheme to work we need to see the window labels displayed - this is the only way we can show 'undesirables' that we mean business. The labels peel of the paper backing and stick to your window by static - they will not damage anything!



Stop Press

Have you seen the new beach steps? - the first success of the Association - more in the next edition

New Year, New Finances

Did you know that each year there are vast amounts of benefit that aren't claimed, but should be?

Could you be entitled to claim extra money to top up your income or pension? It's what you are entitled to, so you should have it!

The manager of the Citizens Advice Bureau at Cleveleys is going to be coming to the meeting in January to talk about how to claim benefits, what you are due to, and how to deal with debt and the rising cost of living.

Make a date for your diary -
14th January 2008 at 6.30pm Frank Townend Centre.

You can make your own appointment to go to the Citizens Advice to discuss any problems you might have.

On Monday there is a drop in session and appointments are available on Weds, Thurs and Friday each week. Opening times are 10am to 4pm

The CAB is also on the look out for volunteers, so if you have a few hours to spare each week and want to get out and meet people and have another interest, then I am sure there is something that you could do. Give them a ring and get involved!

Advice telephone line: 01253 308400
Appointment telephone line: 01253 866520
www.advice.org.uk

Be safe at home

Did you know?

Through the Care and Repair Scheme, Wyre Borough Council will fit a safety chain free of charge for people over 60?

Did you know?

That the local fire prevention department will do a free fire check on your home and fit you a battery operated smoke alarm free of charge?

Just ring Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service on 0800 169 1125 and they will make an appointment to come out and see you.



YES please, I'd like to be a Rossall Beach Voice

Address

Names

Email address (if available)

An email address would keep our costs down as all correspondence, minutes of meetings etc can be sent to you electronically and would avoid printing costs.

Any information you supply will only be used by Rossall Beach Residents Association and/or other statutory bodies and won't be published or passed into the public domain.

Members must be at least 18 years of age.

Survey

Survey of Residents Wishes

It's really important that the views of all the residents of Rossall Beach are listened to and taken into account in the planning of what the Residents Association is going to do.

It's also important that the Residents Association makes a positive difference to the quality of life of the people and visitors in our area, so we have drawn up a survey to canvas opinion on the issues that affect people's day to day lives and what they would like to see changed in order to improve it.

We'd like you to be as honest as possible and tell us what you really think, and we'd like to know the good and bad! You don't have to give your name and address if you don't want to – the results will only be used by the Residents Association and individual answers won't be published anywhere. Please have a think about these questions – and let's make Rossall Beach a fantastic place to live!

Just fill the survey and pop it through the letterbox of your nearest committee member – their names are on page 2 of this newsletter and I'm sure you'll all know at least one of them.

Or you can telephone 829390 and we'll get it collected from you.

Support the Residents Association

We will be seeking grant funding for most of the large improvements, but we'd like to be able to raise funds ourselves for some projects, along with the small amount of money we'll need to run the Association. At the moment we are getting by on a wing and a prayer, but we need to start raising funds quickly. If you would like to make a donation – no matter how small - you can make a cheque payable to Rossall Beach Residents Association and enclose it with your survey and membership form.

Name and address (optional)

It would help if you gave an indication of roughly where in the stretch that you live

Thornton Gate end
Middle
Five Bar Gate end

Do you have access to the internet?

Yes

No

Do you have email?

Yes

No

Would you like to give your email address as a way of sending you information?

Yes

No

Email address:

How often do you walk along the promenade and/or use the beach?

What is your opinion of the sea front (beach, promenade, road and pavement) from the new cafe to the Five Bar Gate?

We have been successful in getting a Neighbourhood Watch. What do you feel about general crime and your safety in the Rossall Beach area?

Do you experience any problems at the front or back of your property?

Do you feel safe going out at night?

What do you think to the proposed CCTV camera? Are you happy with the position that has been suggested near the hump in the road?

It's been getting busier on Rossall Beach since the new promenade opened. Are you experiencing any problems as a result of the increase in foot and road traffic?

Are you facing any particular issues that affect your quality of life?

Do you struggle to cope with how the weather affects you and your property?

Do you find it difficult to get out and about when the weather is bad?

Would you like to see more people and have a better network of friends?

Yes

No

Would you like to see more organised water sports on the beach like kite surfing etc?

Yes

No

What about street art and competitions, like pavement drawing etc?

Would you join in with nature rambles on the beach with rangers/experts who could tell you about the beach and local history?

Yes

No

Would you like to join in with a community beach clean?

Yes

No

Would you like to see a strong community and have you got any ideas about how this might be done?

What do you think to jumble sales, coffee mornings, and other similar events, to raise funds and build a community spirit?

Are you a holiday-homer?
Even if you don't have the time to get involved with the Residents Association, it would still be in your interests to support our work, as in the long term this will give you the added security of knowing that your neighbours are protecting your interests.

Yes

No

Are there any problems or issues you would like to raise? Would you like to register your home phone number with the Residents Association so that you can be contacted in the event of a problem with your house?

www.rossallbeach.org.uk

Rossall Beach Residents Association

