



Hurstpierpoint Tenants & Residents Association

ANOTHER FIRE

All of you will know that another part of the Willow Gardens flats had a serious fire, and 9 tenants had to leave their homes. Two of these tenants were able to return after a clear up and the other 7 tenants have all been re-housed, but in at least 2 cases, without any furniture or possessions of their own as they lost everything. The HTRA have immediately raised cash in the form of grants from various village charities. Downland Housing gave a small amount of money to each tenant for immediate expenses. Downland didn't have to give this money, but we were extremely upset to find out that certain members of Downland staff were using this money to act as a bribe to make people accept their new temporary accommodation. The HTRA must point out that Downland's legal obligation is only to provide emergency temporary ac-

commodation, which could, in fact, be bed & breakfast in a hostel, and they have NO obligation to re-house people other than through the normal waiting list. When something like this happens Downland are required to get special dispensation from the appropriate government office to provide houses from the social housing list instead of just bed & breakfast. It must also be remembered that every time something like this happens other peoples housing needs are delayed by the need of temporary housing of the people involved in the disaster.

The charity shop in the village donated £1,500.00 that will be placed in an account held by Downland for the purpose of buying essential furniture and replacing what can be replaced for the tenants. Because of the delays in the setting up of this account the HTRA immediately loaned £500.00 to the account so that immediate essentials

could be provided. Unfortunately our chairman had booked a weeks holiday and on his return he found that, due to the reluctance of the departments in Downland dealing with this NOTHING had been done. The HTRA will now take over and get things moving again. Our representative who was left in charge of liaison with Downland found that she was being deliberately obstructed every time she tried to get something done.

Finally on this subject, the HTRA now has to ask questions about the safety of the flats themselves. Whilst the flats are fairly well appointed, with the exception of the single persons flats which fall below the European standards, our question must be about the lack of fire escape facilities from the first floor. If this fire had been on the ground floor it would not only be slight injury that we would worry about, and then comes the fact that

only ONE fire alarm at the immediate site of the fire went off. None of the others operated.

DO YOU HAVE CONTENTS INSURANCE. IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Only one of the tenants involved in this fire was covered by household insurance, and as we refuse to make a difference between tenants, that tenant will finish up better off because of the insurance, and we cannot expect the village to keep paying, and giving donations to help replace items lost that should have been insured. For as little as £10.00 per month adequate contents cover can be gained. This, over a year is just £2.30 a week, SURELY worth your peace of mind when a disaster like this happens.

DOWNLAND ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR BELONGINGS. YOU ARE!!!!!!!

SERVICE CHARGES



Caption describing picture or graphic.

As described in the last newsletter the HTRA have secured a full grant for £49,500.00, it is secure, but we don't get it unless we can jump through all the paperwork hoops that they have set in front of us as conditions. Firstly there has to be a representative belonging to the RA committee but also a tenant in the houses affected, Naomi Sanders has agreed to fill this position. Secondly we have to find another tenant who is independent of the HTRA willing to put some time in on this project. We have already managed to comply with the other paperwork conditions of written agreement from Downland for the work to be done. The next stage, I am given to understand, is that Downland have to prove that they own the property. Having been on Downlands board, I know that could be difficult. However, before we can move to this we have to complete all the conditions above, and if no one comes forward that is the end of that and you throw £49,500.00 away and end up paying whatever service charge Downland wish to charge. There is only so much that the HTRA can do without support from Tenants.

POLICE BEAT SWEEP

With this newsletter you will find a copy of the beat sweep information leaflet. Please read it carefully, and if you have any worries or problems, or confidential information that you feel that the police could use, or

problems that they can solve, fill in the attached piece of paper, with or without your name and address, as you prefer, and give it back in to the police who call round. There will be no come back. This is an opportu-

nity for us to get them to help us, so please join in.

The more that do, the more secure we can be.

We are still looking for people to sit on the police panel. If you wish to take part, add this to your beat sweep sheet.

THE NEW BENCH

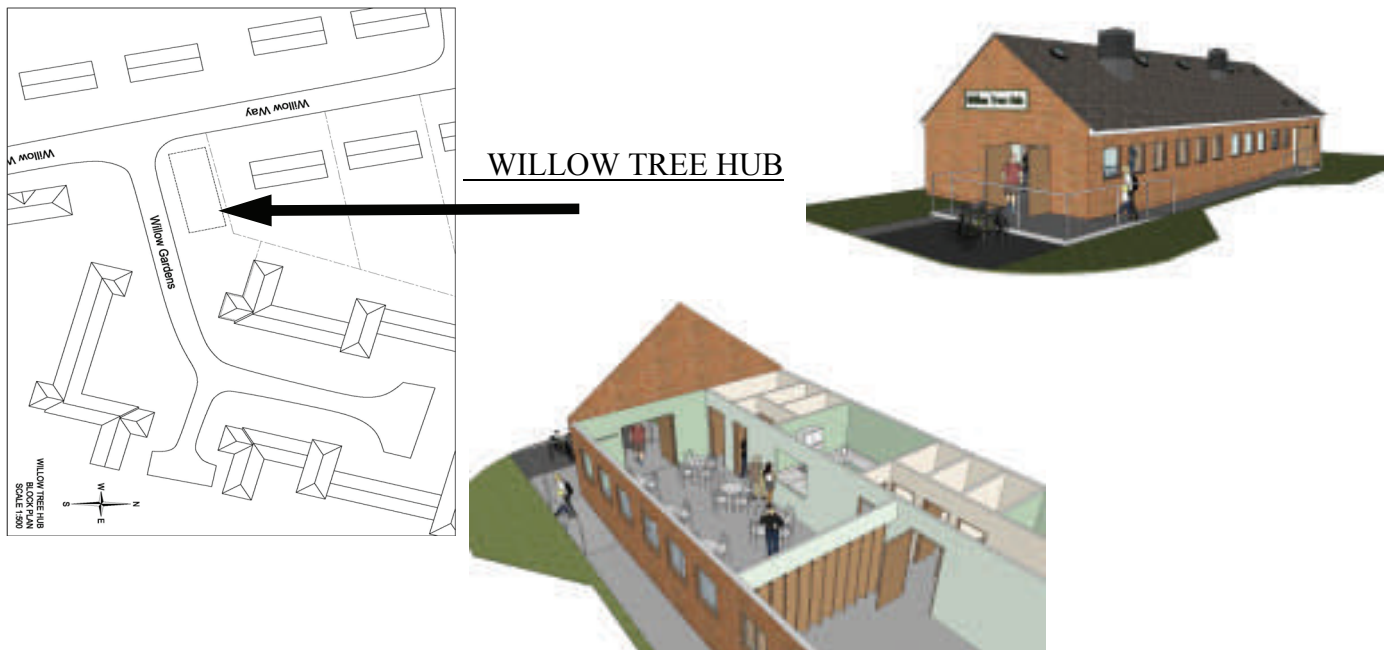
You will see that the bench now has its plaque on it, as a method of saying thank you to O2, and I am pleased to announce that the bench has been used by many different people, who have gone out of their way to say



thank you, and if the drunk who uses it late at night would desist, we would be very happy. As you see from the service charge paragraph we are still working hard to get the rest of the area sorted out.

WILLOW TREE HUB

The Community Partnership recently tried to secure the Kave building on Western Road to make it the Willow Tree Hub, unfortunately at the end of the day the structural survey showed faults that would have been too expensive to put right for it to be used as a public building, so reluctantly the Community Partnership had to drop the idea and return to the original site in Willow Gardens. We are now at the stage where planning permission can be sort ad this newsletter gives you the outline of where the building will be sited and 3D pictures of what the outside of the building will look like and some impression about what the building will contain.



The building as you see it is a 3D impression taken from the architects drawings. The planning department may or may not require some adjustment to this but this is our initial plan arrived at after an awful lot of work and discussion with various different parties.

Now is your last chance to have some input, if you have got anything at all to say, now is the time, because once planning permission is granted there can be no further adjustments. To remind you, listed below are the facilities that we are hoping to provide.

- Café,
- Internet , free to users
- Play school
- Meeting rooms
- Police room

And from this it is intended that the advice services should work and be available by arranged appointment with the manager sited in the café. This will include:

- CAB
- Benefit department
- Job Centre
- Family centre
- Debt Advice
- Credit Union

And supplying before & After school clubs for children, pensioners lunch clubs and a meeting place.

St. Lawrence Fair

The HTRA will be having a stall again this year at the St. Lawrence Fair and any money that we raise will be going towards a coach trip to Eastbourne later in the year providing that we can get enough participants.

Please come along and support us, we will be running a lucky dip, a tombola and we will have some delicious cakes.

Fire info Continued.

The Parish Council offices in the Village Centre have agreed to act as a collection point for monies donated to help those affected by the fire. They will pass this onto Downland Fire account. They will also take information about donations of furniture and other items that anyone may have that would help.

The WI have already donated furniture and soft furnishings, which we would like to say thank you very much for, they have been extremely useful, and we would like to thank, in advance, the Methodist Church for their kind donation, and most importantly of all the village Charity shop for their substantial and quick financial help.

RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION AREA

The Tenants & Residents Association have been operating within the Downland Housing area of Hurstpierpoint, but lately we have found that three other Housing Associations now have housing in Hurstpierpoint, namely, Home Housing Association, Hyde Housing Association and Raglan Housing Association, these are all included in our remit for the HTRA and this will be added to our constitution at our next AGM, in the meantime it will be assumed that these Housing Associations are all part of the HTRA, together with the private houses which are in these areas. It would be very useful to know where these Association houses are, so if you are in another housing association other than Downland please can you let us know, either by telephoning 01273 835718 or emailing:
hurstra@toucansurf.com.