

Environmental Warden Update

Now, instead of just one warden you have two!

Our names are Peter Groom & Rob Smith. We have been the Environmental Wardens for Acocks Green Ward since Christmas and we now cover Stockfield. This neighbourhood is possibly the cleanest on our patch and that is down to the hard work of residents taking genuine pride in their local area. However, there are still a few issues to address:

Bulky waste. If you have large items of rubbish that need removing, the Council has a free collection service. Call them on **0121 303 1112**. Please don't dump rubbish, make use of this **free** service: fly-tipping risks a fine of up to **£1000**.

Bag Advancement. The day for bin collections in Stockfield is **Thursday**, so please don't put out bin bags too early—they can look unsightly and messy, and also attract vermin such as rats and mice.

Persistent offenders risk fines of up to **£1000** for putting bin bags out too early.

Littering. Please make use of the litter bins around the area. No one likes to see crisp packets, and cans and beer bottles blowing around the park. Rather than dropping cigarette butt ends, ask us for a cigarette butt bin which you can carry around in your pocket.

Graffiti. We report all graffiti so it can be removed ASAP.

These are all things we can be doing to improve the area and the environment for those around us. Working together we can keep Stockfield the nicest and cleanest area in Acocks Green.

If you have any concerns or issues please feel free to contact us on **0121 303 9800**.

Pete Groom & Rob Smith (Environmental Wardens)

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH



One of the key themes we want to address is helping ensure that you and your property are safe in Stockfield. One suggestion we want to explore is to establish a neighbourhood watch scheme, but we need your help. If you are interested in finding out more, or want to get involved, please call in to 2a Alexander Rd, or contact Georgina Johnstone, Community Partnerships Officer, at Acocks Green Police Station on **0121 606 7815**.

Contacts and Useful Telephone Numbers

Car to dispose of? There's no charge!	0121 303 1112
Birmingham City Council Environmental Team	0121 303 9800
The Council's help and advice line, open 8am to 8pm on weekdays.	0121 303 1112
If the bin men have missed some rubbish, or left mess.	0121 303 1112
Bromford Housing Group	771 2220
Andy Lane, Housing Officer for Stockfield Community Association	303 0736; or e-mail him on: andy.lane@birmingham.gov.uk
Stockfield Community Association (website is www.stockfield.org)	07866 702 363
Acocks Green Police Station, open from 10am to 6pm (with hour over lunch)	0845 113 5000, 999 in emergency
For free quote on window cleaning services, call Randell & Son:	0121 608 4155 or 07979 377717

This newsletter will be published regularly, with the next issue planned for December 2005. If there are any events you want included, or other suggestions for the newsletter, please contact us on **07866 702 363** by November 11th.

Stockfield Village News



Issue 4
Autumn 2005

Your Local Community Newsletter for Stockfield

Stockfield Summer Fun Day



The first Stockfield Community Fun Day was held on August 13th in the park, a great time for people to meet and enjoy themselves.

The bouncy castle, face painting, balloon man and glass painting were very popular, and the stalls had a lot of interest, offering information on energy efficiency, road safety, environmental services and more, or serving good food and drink (cakes from the Baptist Church were particularly popular!).

Competition winners: Prize certificates were also presented to the winners of the recent gardening competition - congratulations to Mr Goode (Gardening 1st Prize) and Mr Leatherbarrow (fruit and veg 1st Prize), and thanks to all who took part.

Thanks: Lots of effort went into organising the day, so thank you to everyone who played a part

either beforehand or on the day, including the young people (the Pod was much appreciated, given the rain!), the stallholders and everyone who donated competition prizes.

Thanks also to the children at Cottesbrooke Infant and Junior schools for their great designs for the flyers and posters, particularly Laura and Josephine for their winning entries. Our thanks also go to the Police and St John's Ambulance for helping to ensure everyone was safe, and to Mike Wheale (Area Parks Manager) for all his help.

Future events: This was the first of a regular programme of community events. We're already planning next year's events, so if you have any suggestions or would like to help, please let us know on **07866 702 363**.

We'd also like to thank the following for contributing prizes for the funday:

Imperial Shoes; C.J.F Meat Centre; Motorist Discount Store; Bodylines; R&J Jeffries Limited; Poundbase; Supercigs; PoundStretcher; Megazone; Impact Martial Arts; Stevie B's; Youth Pod; Bromford Housing Association; Alexandra Theatre; Birmingham Hippodrome; Washland; Deo's Wines; Shampoo; Progress Children's Services

WORKING TOGETHER FOR STOCKFIELD—SERVING YOUR COMMUNITY

Who are Stockfield Community Association, and what do they do?

Stockfield Community Association was set up to implement, with Birmingham City Council, the redevelopment of the Stockfield estate.



The Association aims to benefit the residents of the Stockfield area with regard to issues such as housing provision, amenities, education and relieving poverty. Reflecting these aims, the mission statement of the Association is to "work with the residents of the Stockfield Estate to achieve a self-supporting community living in high quality homes in a pleasant and safe environment".

Local residents

Local residents are at the heart of what Stockfield Community Association do, and the organisation could not operate without the (voluntary) hard work and effort that they put into working for the benefit of their local community.

Registered charity

The Association is a company and registered charity, with 12 directors, at least half of whom must be democratically elected representatives of the local community, helping to ensure that the Association's decisions are to the benefit of the residents of Stockfield (the next elections are in summer 2006). Other directors represent key stakeholders involved in the work of the Association, including Bromford Housing and Birmingham City Council.

So what does the Association actually do?

Stockfield Community Association manages 119 properties in Stockfield, working closely with Birmingham City Council and Bromford to benefit the

wider estate. Management of these properties includes repairs and maintenance, the latest figures showing that 98% of all repairs have been completed on time.

Maintenance programme

Maintenance is not just about repairs when things go wrong, which is why we have a rolling maintenance programme for all our properties, with the next phase of work starting shortly, including external painting, due for completion by the end of November. We are working with Bromford to ensure that all tenants benefit from such maintenance. We have set aside funds for future repairs, replacements and



Cypress Square: planting to be renewed

maintenance. The Association has established a fund to finance adaptations to its properties based on medical needs, so

that these can be done promptly without hardship caused by delays.

Improving Stockfield

We work with the City Council to keep the estate clean and well maintained, and ensure the upkeep of the park and other planted areas. This autumn should see the renewal of the central planting of Cypress Square, with work also planned for the park. We have helped fund the environmental wardens over the past year to tackle issues of graffiti and litter, which have also caused concern.

We are working on an action plan to identify and address other priorities for repair or cleaning. Please contact us with any concerns or queries.

Community Flat



We have long been aware of the need for a community meeting point, providing contact with the Community Association and space

for information and services to support local people. The first step towards achieving this is the Community Resource Centre at 2a Alexander Road, due to be up and running by the start of November.

Help and advice: The centre is there to provide you with help and support, as well as a Community Association office. Organisations such as Lee Collier (debt advice) and the Police are expected to use the centre to provide regular surgery sessions, and you will also be able to see your Housing Officer at the centre. Opening times will depend on the availability of volunteers to staff the centre, so if you want help or advice, please check the noticeboards for updates on the times and dates for available sessions.

For more information, please call **07866 702 363**.

What do you think?

How you feel about Stockfield? Is the area clean and safe? Do you feel that Stockfield is a safe place to live? Is there a strong sense of community here? We asked people at the fun day to complete a short questionnaire about these issues, and got some useful and interesting answers.

The questionnaires will be available at the Community Resource Centre, and we are looking for other opportunities to ask for your views—please fill one in and let us know what you think.

Cops Corner—Sgt 5378 Danny Cooke

Crime Update for the Stockfield neighbourhood since June: One vehicle crime, two house burglaries and one attempted burglary: both gained access via INSECURE back doors. PLEASE lock your doors when you are inside your houses. For the same period last year, (and March - May 2005) we had no burglaries!

Support and Due Process: Charity begins at home, and so does solving crime! It starts with each one of you. If you chose not to report it, not to 'see' it, make a statement, challenge or act appropriately, then your neighbourhood suffers. Please help us to help you.

Thank you to those of you who do get involved, putting time and effort into making our area a safer, more dynamic and vibrant place to live. New faces are always needed, so please get involved!

And finally, crime is still at a very low level in the Stockfield area, so, be vigilant, but sleep easy! Crime levels are now at levels they were **25 years ago**.

Thank You!

We want to say a big thank you to Donna Walsh for her massive contribution to Stockfield. As well as her work at the youth Pod, she has arranged several trips that many on the estate have enjoyed, including visits to Blackpool, the safari park, and Drayton Manor.

Weston Trip: Donna also supported John and Becki, two young people, who



On the way to Weston!

arranged the over-50's trip to Weston-Super-Mare. A great day out, this brought the generations together, giving time to get to know each other better (and enjoy fish & chips by the sea!). On behalf of all who went, thank you to John and Becki too!