



March 2007

Feeding back to the Community

Stanmer Heights, Birch Grove Crescent & Rodmell Place

Together



The Trust for Developing Communities working with Hollingbury Together Group

SURVEY WORK BRINGS RESULTS

WHERE WAS THE SURVEY?

- **Stanmer Heights:** the blocks of flats off Cuckmere Way, it consists of Bramble Way, Orchard View & Chelwood Close
- **Birch Grove Crescent:** off Denton Drive backs on to Rodmell Place
- **Rodmell Place:** above garages on Denton Drive in front of Birch Grove Crescent

As a result of all the issues you raised, the project has been funded for a further year—for details see the back page.

Finding out more about peoples experiences of living in the Stanmer Heights, Birch Grove Crescent and Rodmell Place flats, has been the main aim of a small local project running in Hollingbury for the past six months. This project was delivered by The Trust for Developing Communities, a voluntary agency with 15 full and part-time staff, who also have workers in nearby Coldean and Bevendean. Hollingbury Together Group, who run daily 'Tots' sessions for parents and toddlers at the Old Boat Community Centre, have also been involved in every stage of the funding and or-

ganising of this work. Funded by the Council's Community Development Commissioning process, the project has brought together a Hollingbury Steering Group made up of local residents, workers and Patcham Ward Councillors who have supported the work through monthly meetings, several events and helping to analyse the results of the survey.

From the results of this work, it is clear that many enjoy living in their flats and mention their local views, neighbours, shops and school as important reasons. But lots of people find problems with their particular location, with other residents and what

they see as inadequate facilities for themselves and their families. People are fed up with overflowing rubbish, little or no recycling services, litter and overgrown areas. They feel that mobility problems can be made worse by numerous steps, communal bins, lack of lighting, poor footpaths and dangerous surfaces.



For more of what you said about each area, turn to the middle pages...

BIG THANK YOU

To everyone who has taken part in the survey, been part of the Steering Group, come to the events or generally supported the project this year.

WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HERE?

On the back page we have taken the opportunity to publicise any useful contact numbers, new activities and

group details that we can fit in. But don't worry, if you have a group you would like to let people know about, drop us a line for future issues by contacting: **Ellen or Linda on 262220 or Email: lindasaltwell@trustdevcom.org.uk**

WHO ARE WE & WHAT ARE WE DOING?

45%

of total householders completed the survey

Thanks to local survey volunteers:
Bernie Madden, Lucy Madden & Graham Burgess

During November and December 2006 an independent door-to-door survey was undertaken by The Trust for Developing Communities (TDC), along with three local volunteers. Linda Saltwell, Community Development Worker for TDC and Ellen Robinson, Volunteer Trainee, talk about their findings...

Lots of people really like living in Hollingbury but this survey tells us that many people feel there are issues to be tackled. There are 256 households in Stanmer Heights, Birch Grove

Crescent and Rodmell Place flats combined and altogether we spoke to 113 householders (45%) after visiting every flat twice, gathering information on 290 adults and children across the three areas - 184 adults and 106 children: aged under one year to 60+. 20% people identified themselves as of minority ethnic origin (many with language needs), 26% identified themselves as disabled. We found that residents have lived in the blocks anywhere from a few months to over 50 years! What follows is information on each area surveyed.

WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT STANMER HEIGHTS...

Top 4 best things in order of preference:

- Views
- Quiet
- Neighbours
- Local School

Top 5 worst things:

- Noisy flats
- Steep hills
- Bored teens
- Rubbish overflowing
- Footpaths/lighting

Over 50% of householders in the Stanmer Heights flats were surveyed and this is the largest area, so a great deal of information was collected.

Respondents were asked to give their opinion about the best and worst things about living in Bramble Way, Orchid

View and Chelwood Close but to begin with, we asked a general question about people's use of local community facilities.

In terms of the local community room, the Gathering Place (found next to the launderette on Orchid View), **61%** told us they would use it if it was open or felt it

should be used to host activities for young and older people.

Of 51 comments about the Old Boat Community Centre, 19 (37%) said its 'cliquey', membership is a put off or they don't want to pay.

For more info on the Old Boat Community Assn and Social Club, see

93%

had comments to make about facilities for children & young people

88% of those who commented on parks and playgrounds want to see improvements, with complaints about inadequate equipment, glass and litter and the need for modernisation. **37%** want to see more of their local police officer [see back page for details] and over **10%** see young people hanging around the estate with nothing to do as a problem. Altogether, 80 people (93%) commented on facilities for children and young people:

- 11.25% want an after school club
- 30% want things specifically for older children
- 18.75% want more organised sport [see back page for contact no.s]

45% of respondents had issues with the parking situation with specific comments about parking on the grass and areas taken up by the new bin system.

Of **13%** negative comments about the refuse, most concentrated on the over-flowing bins and older people or parents of under 5's battling in

all weathers to take their rubbish to the communal bins. Of **34.5%** comments about recycling, half think it is now good, but **50%** want more categories like cardboard/plastic. **37%** respondents refer to maintenance/repair issues in the flats specifically mentioning the door systems, damp and

much needed updates. Of those who indicated they would like to attend Adult Education, IT instruction and internet café came out highest with languages next.

"The refuse issue is really important—I saw an older woman walking across in a gale last night to put out her rubbish" -Local resident

People agreed these are the main changes needed:

1. More for kids to do
2. Improve footpaths/lighting
3. Improved community spirit
4. Residents to take pride in the area
5. More use of Old Boat Community Centre

...BIRCH GROVE CRESCENT

88% feel there is **nothing for young people to do**, saying they are 'hanging about' and 'annoying residents' in the area. 58% referred to community safety, people wanting a greater police presence and **50%** raising drug-related issues. 17.5% mentioned vehicles parked on pavements and grass verges and the parking outside Carden

school was of concern to residents of both Rodmell Place and Birch Grove Crescent. Of 20 recorded environmental issues, including lighting problems and unkempt grounds, **the top 3** are: 1. No recycling 2. Setting bins alight 3. Graffiti

76% responded to housing questions, wanting improvements for their flats with the highest call for entrance

doors and notice boards.

Just under **40%** identified themselves as having a disability, with **29%** feeling that access to their flats, specifically managing the steps, was an issue.

Main changes needed:

29% felt that cleaner streets and changing the attitudes of fellow residents would make the biggest positive changes to the area. **11%** wanted play areas and to enhance local safety.

Top 4 best things in order of preference:

- Quiet
- Good Neighbours
- Views
- Near Shops

Top 5 worst things:

- Drugs
- Nothing gets done
- Parking
- Dog Poo

AND RODMELL PLACE.

70%

of those surveyed identified themselves as disabled

Of those surveyed, equal numbers felt that no recycling, noise, police presence, rubbish and hills are the worst things about living in Rodmell Place.

A third of respondents told us they use the Old Boat Social Club and **35%** of them referred to the need for bet-

ter facilities for young people in the area. **70%** of respondents felt they would like more police presence and 35% raised drug-related issues in and around the flats.

100% response to the environmental questions, **the top 3** are:

- Lack of recycling
- Slippery paving on the patio
- Poor lighting

55% of respondents gave a view about changes that could be positive for Rodmell Place:

1. cleaner streets
2. sort out the steps up to the building
3. build a local surgery
4. greater community involvement

The council's Community Development Commissioning Team are funding TDC to deliver another year's work from April 07 based on the following recommendations:

- Discussions regarding under 5's provision and improved facilities for children and young people
- Form a newsletter organising group
- Promote use of Gathering Place – eg. base workers and groups

SO WHAT'S HAPPENING IN HOLLINGBURY?

- there
Involve the Old Boat Community Centre Assn and Social Club in local work and improve information flow
- Highlight the issues around housing repairs, parks & play, parking, lighting, Cityclean, Community Safety Team & Police, Adult Edu-

cation, minority ethnic issues, disability and Public Health

Linda and Ellen will be working 12 hours per week and also servicing the Hollingbury Steering Group which continues meeting to support the project. If you would like to come along or join the mailing list please get in

Hollingbury Steering Group are:

Bernie Madden, Graham Burgess - (local residents Stanmer Heights)
Helen Clift (Hollingbury Together & local resident)
John Horseman (Chair of OBCCA & local resident)
John Bain & Don Goora (Housing dept)
PCSO Helen Singleton
Kim Breaks (Youth & Connexions)
Carol Newman (libraries 290800)
Cllr Brian Pidgeon 291190
Cllrs Carol & Geoffrey Theobald 291195

Local Cllr Surgery:

2nd Fri of the month 6-7pm at Patcham Community Centre

Wider mailing list for information & occasional attendance:

Richard Fennel, (OBCC Social Club)
Sarah Taylor, Julie Chapman, Mary Woolvern, Mr Goble, Mr Gunn, Maria Kiasoalou, (local residents Birch Grove Crescent)
Nicholas Morris, (local resident Rodmell Place)
Tim Huntley, (Housing Dept)
Alice Edwards & Donna Scott-Allen, (SHTA)
Emma Fincham (YSS)
Roger Simmons (DoE Award)
Diana Atkinson, (Carden School)
Sam Warren & Penny Barnard, (Hollingdean Programme)

OLD BOAT COMMUNITY CENTRE

Old Boat Corner Community Association - 540779

The Community Centre is available for hire call Yvette for bookings and rates. Anybody welcome to take part in all activities, events and groups taking place at the centre. Regular slots include Carden Tots [see below] Baby Clinic and Bowls group on Tuesdays. Other activities available are slimming club, basket ball and football groups.

A social club with darts teams, live music and quizzes operate in the evenings and require membership due to bar facility. To find out more about membership call Yvette.

Together Group—CARDEN TOTS:Old Boat Corner Community Centre, Carden Hill. DROP-IN GROUPS for parents, carers & young children 0-5yrs. Older Children Welcome During School Holidays. Open Mon/Wed/Thurs/Fri 9-3pm. Stay as long as you like. Excellent facilities—outdoor garden & play area. Free Internet Access. New for 2007, **singing & story time** on Fridays 10.30am. £1 per adult & £1 per child (babies under 1yr free). Includes drinks.

Your local police contact—PCSO Helen Singleton

(ext: 59027) DDI: 01273 859027/820544

I've been working as a Police Community Support Officer in Hollingbury since 2005. My role is to offer support, be visible and I am on foot in one of these areas on a daily basis. I am always happy to stop for a chat or offer advice. You can now contact me via the Sussex Police web pages at www.sussex.police.uk note: this is not to be used to report incidents. Please call the 0845 60 70 999 line or for emergencies 999 if you have something specific to report.

B&H Youth/Connexions Service

Patcham Youth Centre (on Patcham High School Site) Open to all 13-19 yrs Wed/Fri 7-9pm—pool, cookery, DJ decks etc. All welcome. Info: Kim Breaks 294264
Sports Training: 293919



Thanks to our funder Brighton & Hove Council Community Development Commissioning process for continued support.