

# Wivenhoe Old Quay Residents' Association (WOQRA)

2013 Annual Report

## Roads/Parking

Despite being informed by Persimmon in March 2013 that the roads would be adopted by Essex County Council (ECC) at the end of April 2013, the roads were not finally adopted until the end of November 2013. Persimmon have been in negotiation with ECC since summer 2013 for them to also adopt West Quay (Colchester Borough Council have already refused). The Residents' Association supports Persimmon's request for ECC to adopt West Quay as it is a shared resource available to the public. We have also asked Cllr Julie Young to support Persimmon's request.

In August 2013, the North Essex Parking Partnership decided that they were not prepared to consider parking restrictions on newly adopted housing estates within five years of formal adoption. This decision was taken without any consideration for the Persimmon site, which had been waiting for 13 years to be adopted. This decision also undermined the advice they had given to the Residents' Association in 2012, which was to wait for the roads to be adopted before seeking parking restrictions. The result of this decision means that NEPP will not consider any parking scheme until 2018.

As a result, Cllr Julie Young has been working on our behalf to persuade the NEPP that the Persimmon site is a special case. She tabled an item of urgent business at the 6<sup>th</sup> March meeting of the NEPP in which she requested that it investigate parking restrictions on the site. We hope to hear from her about the results of the meeting in the next week or so.

No consensus was reached regarding parking proposals at the 2012 Residents' Association AGM. However since then some residents on Old Ferry Road and Admiral's Walk have been in discussion regarding possible options. We understand that the most likely option is a combination of double-yellow lines at junctions in addition to time-limited parking (such as 'parking limited to one hour, no return within two hours'). This would seem to present a way in which restrictions could be enforced but without the need for all residents to buy permits, or visitor permits.

## Site maintenance

It is not clear who is now responsible for maintenance of the site, as the highways have been handed over to ECC. In particular, it is not clear who is responsible for the streetlamps. We have asked Persimmon and their consultants (TDS) to clarify the issue, and they in turn have asked ECC. As of March 2014, we have not had a response from anyone.

Some minor (mostly highway) remedial maintenance was undertaken by Persimmon during summer 2013 as required by ECC prior to the adoption of the roads. This included the painting of streetlamps and fitting them with sensors.

Other (non-highway) areas of the site remain the responsibility of Persimmon, although we have had little success in persuading them to respond to maintenance requests. For example, in Autumn 2012 we requested that a dead tree (next to the

water feature) be replaced and despite their assurances over the past 12 months, no progress has been made. Furthermore, the street furniture requires maintenance.

There has been no real progress with the water feature since September 2012. One of the aquasonic devices was replaced during 2012, but algae continues to form. Persimmon indicate that they are considering the creation of a one-course brick barrier (for example with bullnose header bricks) around the water feature to prevent grit and other debris entering the water. The filters are currently not working properly (the sand needs replacing) and the. We were told by Persimmon that the water feature would be drained and cleaned in Spring 2013, but no work has been undertaken. According to the Adoptions Manager at Persimmon, no work is likely until ECC have reached a decision regarding the adoption of West Quay.

## **Accounts**

The current balance of WOQRA's account is £1150.88. There have been no transactions over the past 12 months.

## **Web Site & Email**

<http://woqra.wordpress.com/>  
drydock@mac.com

*WOQRA Executive Committee: Aulay Mackenzie, Robert Taylor, Sandra Ellesley, Bernard Horan; non-executive members: Keith Baker, John Forrest, Simon Page.*

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**9th March 2014**