

ELMER SANDS NEWS

Issue Number Twenty-four March 2010

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Community Spirit (Noun)

Definition: friendliness and understanding between local people

The other day I watching the TV evening news and perhaps not surprisingly I was exposed to a report concerning people who could not leave their homes for fear of violence, intimidation and abuse and they constantly lived in fear. These days we daily receive up to the minute (live) news reports in the press, radio and TV of appalling and horrendous incidents in cities and rural areas alike, it seems like no corner of society has been untouched by the alleged degradation of neighbourhoods and communities. I was struck by the incredible contrast with our own environment and community here in Elmer Sands and so I began to interrogate our own community direction.....

On our web site an interesting question is posed 'How many places are there left where you're on first name terms with your neighbours, the postman and the milkman, where children can still play in the street and you can see the stars at night?'

Not many it would seem, if you base the answer on the statistics and news reports we see and hear every day. According to a number of national surveys the reason for community erosion and

dysfunction is that the number of community spirited residents who play an active role in their local areas is dwindling. Statistically reports indicate that over the last 20 years communities have dynamically changed and the proportion of people who once helped and contributed to their local communities has reduced significantly.

I believe we are fortunate to have maintained a sense of neighbourliness and community over the years 'and we are fortunate to live in a place where you can be safe, you know and speak with your neighbours, children can play safely in the street and you can see the stars at night'. These are possibly all important to us and no doubt often the reasons we chose to live here, but we should take heed of what is around us, as unless we each act and take responsibility to protect and preserve the community which we all enjoy, in the future it may well be eroded or worse lost.

ESL tries to create an environment in which Community Spirit is at the heart of everything we do, and it is without doubt that we need community-spirited residents to play an active role in the future so as we approach the 74th AGM of Elmer Sands I would like you to ask yourself the following question:

1. What elements of living in Elmer Sands are important to you and your family?
2. What can we all do to preserve and maintain our community in the future?

If we continue to work together to ensure that we maintain our community spirit then it is within our power to maintain the environment which we all enjoy, a safe and secure place to live and by definition sustain our community spirit...

'friendliness and understanding between local people'.

Ian McCarthney, ESL Chairman

The Elmer Sands Limited

Annual General Meeting
will be held at
The Jubilee Hall
Middleton-on-Sea
on Monday evening
26th April 2010
doors open 5.45pm
6.15 prompt start

Diary Dates 2010

Beach Clean 3rd April 10 am
Plant Swap 10th April
Raft race & BBQ 19th June

Message from OFWAT – the government’s water regulator

Ofwat was asked by Elmer Sands Limited to investigate Southern Water’s actions in line with their statutory duties under Section 94 of the Water Industry Act 1991 to provide 'effectual drainage'.

Southern Water are responsible for maintaining the foul sewage system which takes away sewage from properties and transports it to treatment works through pumping stations. Elmer Sands Limited are responsible for maintaining the surface water drainage system which flows into the sea.

There is overloading of the pumping station as it is dealing with more flows than it was designed to do or would be accounted for by the number of houses. The company has been required to identify the cause of the sewerage failures and review solutions and answer the question of where the extra flows were coming from. As part of our investigations, Ofwat has commissioned an independent engineering consultant to consider the approach Southern Water has taken. Key residents Linda Smith and Geoff Matcham will be meeting our consultant to make sure that he is aware of local views.

Part of our investigation is to check that Southern Water has full details of the flooding problems at Elmer Sands. We expect companies to take account of the location, severity and frequency of

flooding and for that the company does need good information. In other words, knowing that there is a history of flooding is not the same as having specific reports from residents of how the sewerage system is failing from blockages to flooding and the dates. The company is required to investigate each incident. Residents will know that this is on formal records as each incident has its own reference number (CCMS numbers).

We are aware that not all incidents are reported for a range of reasons and this can make it seem that the problems at Elmer are perhaps less severe than they are. This does influence decisions on how much expenditure can be justified when the company is considering costs. While it is certainly better to receive reports by telephone as they happen, Companies can add further information to their records based on new information usually on the basis of face-to-face enquiries to complete questionnaires.

Ofwat is happy to answer queries on either the investigation or concerns about reporting incidents. Phone 0121 644 7604 or e-mail enquiries@ofwat.gsi.gov.uk for the attention of Fran Ward.

*Fran Ward, Ofwat
8th February 2010*

**Workshop and Yard
To Let
Stable Field, Elmer Sands**
Enquiries: 584900

**NEW DIRECTORS
URGENTLY NEEDED
FOR THE
ELMER SANDS COUNCIL**

To ensure that all Members get the opportunity to serve on the Council and make a contribution to the Estate, ESL Council Members (Directors) retire by rotation

We can’t rely on the same people to keep giving their time for us, year in year out, so please consider getting involved yourself, particularly if you have never served on the Council

We are looking for representation from all our Members, young families and retired residents alike. There are at least **11 places** to fill this year and it is essential that we get some new Directors on board or the Management of the Estate could suffer

You do not need any special expertise or abilities, just an interest in keeping our Estate running well and a willingness to help. Council Meetings are held once per month, usually on Monday evenings at the Middleton Sports Club

Nomination forms will be sent to all Members prior to the April AGM. If you know someone who might like to be on the Council but is unlikely to come forward, you could nominate them!

If you are unsure about coming forward or have any queries about what serving on the Council involves, the ESL Secretary and the current Directors would be very happy to talk to you - just telephone:
01243 584900

A Message from Southern Water

Sewer survey investigations in the Elmer Sands Estate are scheduled to commence on Monday, February 8

Southern Water's appointed supplier, Clancy Docwra will carry out a detailed CCTV survey investigation of approximately 1.4kms of sewer and visual inspections of strategic manholes to determine the location and extent of any groundwater infiltration into the sewerage system. These surveys are scheduled to complete by the end of February.

Further survey investigations will also be carried out at the Hard pumping station where two rain gauges have already been installed to monitor the performance of the sewerage system and pumping station in wet and dry weather conditions. These gauges are scheduled to remain in place until March 2010.

It is important that the situation is fully understood by all parties involved, and once the survey work is completed, our Engineers will be in a better position to identify solutions.

Details and recommendations contained in the recently issued Atkins report, which was commissioned to look into the problems experienced by the Elmer Sands Estate, is currently being considered by all relevant stakeholders.

Press Office 01903 272321
www.southernwater.co.uk

PARKING

A huge thank you to all residents who have complied with the Estate parking rules throughout the year and been supportive of the EPM parking management scheme which is to be reviewed at this year's AGM.

A large proportion of the Membership funds go to maintaining the roadways and drainage system, so it is vital that we all continue to observe the rules to ensure that ESL is able to keep the Estate infrastructure in good order for years to come.

Details of the Estate parking policy and general rules can be found on the Company website www.elmersands.co.uk or can be obtained from the ESL Secretary tel: 01243 584900.

Under the current rules, non-members (those few who do not contribute to the maintenance of the Estate) are not permitted to park vehicles on the Estate verges or roadways at any time.

Please would Members continue to report cases of non-compliance to support the success of the scheme. Reports can be made in writing or via the ESL website.

Thank you for your co-operation.

Problem with flooding/drains/toilets? Beacon light flashing?

Please take photos and log the event with **Southern Water on 0845 278 0845 – and make sure you are given a CSMS NO.** (Customer Services Management Action Number) Surfers Against Sewage advise that if you know of sewage discharging into the sea contact the **EA pollution hotline 0800 80 70 60** and call them on **01872 555950.**

Reminder

The Estate fees were due by 31st January 2010. Thank you to everyone who has paid so promptly. Members are reminded that the fee will be subject to an additional administration charge for payments made after 31st March 2010. Please contact the Secretary if you have any queries.

Residents Letters

Please send your letters via ESL's Secretary (for details see back page).

I see that I am nearing my 25th anniversary as a regular correspondent with our friends at Southern Water. Sometimes it feels like I am just banging my head against a drainpipe, but hey! Not any more, I can see clearly the light at the end of the drain.

There is one person who deserves our heartfelt thanks for this shift in our fortunes, Frances Ward, Senior Analyst at OFWAT – please see her article in this issue – without whom we would still be swimming against the tide. Thanks also to Tommy Thompson's crew, who are out there working in all weathers on our street drains.

Oh, one last thing, when you see the pumping station beacon flashing, don't concern yourself with why, just get hold of Southern Water and let them worry about the technical issues.

Geoff Matcham



Elmer Sands Boating and Angling Club has a full season planned. The first event is the **Plant Swap on 10th April** where you will be able to purchase baby pumpkin plants to nurture in time for the **Halloween Party** when prizes will be awarded for the largest pumpkin.

Also look out for the **Fishing Master Class Weekend**. Always wanted to land that big fish? Well this is for you!

The **Raft Race and BBQ** will take place on **June 19th** – another favourite to look forward to.

And the summer season wouldn't be complete without the **Fete and Hog Roast** which is traditionally held on the last Bank Holiday in August.

For further information please contact the Club Secretary, **Jude Williams on tel: 582980**

Children's Playground Work Party

Our playground is in need of a bit of TLC. Do your children, grandchildren enjoy the playground? Do you have time for a bit of light work – rubbing down, painting etc.? Please contact ESL's Secretary



Easter Beach Cleanup!

Calling all beach lovers, please join us on the weekend of the 3rd April at our Easter beach clean. Sadly we are all far too familiar with how the litter piles up over the long, stormy, winter months but together we can make a real and noticeable difference.

Meet at The Kiosk at 10.00 am
Please bring gloves

www.elmersands.co.uk

Where you can access details of the Estate, the Company and how everything is managed, also download forms, documents and submit queries.

Bognor Regis Regeneration

Bognor Regis Bognor Regis
whither goest thou,
Butlins to the east, -
new Spanish type hotels!
Westward past The Waverly
where George V spirit dwells.

Bognor Regis Bognor Regis
between these two extremes.
What is to become of you,
what regeneration dreams?

Shall we have an ASDA
or a Sainsbury store?
Shut off all the promenade,
no parking near the shore!

Flats and flats and more flats
from the ground keep popping.
Where on earth will all those folk,
do their weekly shopping?

Reggie

Contact ESL

Please route any queries through the Company Secretary, who can be contacted by phone, through our web site, or in writing, at
23 Arundel Way, Elmer Sands, PO22 6JH. Tel: 584900

www.elmersands.co.uk
NO house calls without prior arrangement please.

NEW RESIDENTS- If you have not received your Welcome Pack please contact the Secretary

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