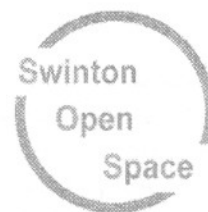




SOSCA NEWS

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Swinton Open Space Community Association Newsletter

Council share vision of Country Park

SOSCA has been pressing the council via the Swinton Community Committee to keep its promise of a 'steering committee' to work with SOSCA to realise its vision of a country park. At this month's meeting of the Swinton Community Committee, council officers volunteered. Lead Council member Derek Antrobus, Lead member for the Environment Councillor Maureen Lee and Swinton Councillor (and Salford's next Mayor) Val Burgoyne were keen to be involved. Our other councillors John Cullen and Joe O'Neil are equally supportive and wish to be kept up to date. SOSCA's vision for a country park with a recreational designation is to be discussed in a way that will bring this vision to fruition as far as possible. It is unlikely that this will be brought about in one move due to land ownership problems but a start can be made on the council owned land as this already has a recreational designation. The whole vision was put to public consultation by SOSCA at meetings and through SOSCA News earlier this year. A number of tasks will be earmarked where progress can be made. High on the agenda will be to obtain estimates for gating at the other entrances to the fields and talks with our neighbouring Residents Associations will be sought in the near future.

INROADS

The resurfacing work on Worsley Road gave us two or three days quiet from the 'rat run' that we normally put up with but slowly the traffic on Thorn Road and Campbell Road has got steadily worse as drivers discover that there is a way through. This exacerbated situation should be over by Christmas but by then hundreds of other drivers will know that there is a short cut (rat run) making the previous traffic situation worse. Fortunately, thanks to SOSCA, Thorn Road had been identified in the Local Community Action Plan for traffic calming measures. The Environmental Task Group has listed this and noted that discussions were needed with SOSCA to determine streets affected.

Task group Please Note - Crime Log number 1622 (11/10/06)

On the 11th October 2006 at 4:30 pm a green Vauxhall Omega car was speeding down Campbell Road and as it turned into Thorn Road it went out of control crashing through one residents fence. The damage is plain to see, a child's playhouse was knocked over, as was a child's slide. The car had been sold a few days earlier for £30, could this have been the cost of a child's life? We hope this picture brings it home to councillors that Campbell and Thorn Road need to be a high priority for traffic calming measures. The householders, Mr and Mrs Bentley say that cars speeding round this corner is an everyday occurrence.



Cut and Run?

The building project on **Worsley Road** at the junction with **Folly Lane** had some large sycamore trees that helped soften an area as only trees can. SOSCA heard a rumour that the trees were to be cut down to help sell the apartments on the grounds that the trees were diseased. Having contacted our local councillor to arrange a health check for the trees we awaited developments. We were informed that the environmental staff were short in number and that it may be some time before the trees could be inspected. Well, now it's too late - the trees have been cut down and we still have heard nothing! It is not known if the trees were or were not diseased. Did the council ignore our request and side with the developer or did the planning department who had originally said the trees must be kept, sanction the developers wish to destroy them? Was the staff shortage simply an excuse to ignore the public? Do councillors not get any priority when they ask for things to be done? For a council that claim to listen to the public they sure can be deaf sometimes !



A Green Rubbish Service - Bins

SOSCA has been hearing complaints about the 'green bin' collections, one resident on **Thorn Road** put out the green bin with garden waste and the black bin with garden waste together on green bin collection day. This was not the normal household waste collection day and the bins were side by side. At this time of the year there is a lot more garden waste with tree and shrub pruning. The black bin was ignored and the green bin was emptied as usual. This of course meant that the contents of the black bin had to be transferred to the green bin, which would not be emptied for another two weeks. WHY oh why could the bin men not look in the black bin, see it was green waste and just empty it? Do they think we go to all this trouble for fun? This is so frustrating when on the one hand we are encouraged to be environmentally friendly, (with threats of further charges if we are not) and on the other hand the collection officers are not even trying to be accommodating.

A further complaint was received from an elderly resident on **Houghton Lane** who had put grass cuttings in the bin a few weeks before collection day. The grass cuttings had started to decompose and did not come out of the bin when it was up-ended to be emptied. No check was made to ensure the bin had been emptied and no further attempt had been made to empty it. This old lady now has to try and get the old grass cuttings out of the bin and put them in the household waste bin. No easy task for an eighty six year old!

Is this a case of pure laziness on behalf of collection officers or rules are rules? If it is not laziness then why has no allowance been built in to the collection system that gives collection officers some discretion to *ensure the first principle of collecting waste is to collect it.*

If you are going to have one, have a **big** one!

The government have given Salford £110M to update its High Schools under the Building Schools for the Future Programme and there is a promise of more money in the future to update primary education. For Swinton South it is proposed that Moorside High School and Swinton High School are to close and be replaced with a single larger school that will accommodate 1500 pupils. These figures take account of birth rates etc. Modern teaching methods and requirements are the reason for this, education is changing and these schools are no longer 'Fit for Purpose'. Even throwing a couple of million pounds at each school will not be enough to bring them up to date. There is no panic about your child's education in the short term as it will be four or five years before this comes to pass and there are hurdles to overcome. Is bigger better, what are your views?

Congratulations are due to both schools for improvements in their GCSE A-C grade results.

Home Watch meeting at the United Reformed Church – September 21st

Fiona James, Salford's Home Watch Administrator talked to a lively and enthusiastic group of residents, interested in reviving Home Watch for their streets. She explained that, due to its success in reducing local crime and anti-social behaviour, she is now running about 300 schemes across Salford.



Fiona outlined the following benefits:

- ❑ Local crime such as burglary, vandalism and car thefts can be reduced.
- ❑ People can get to know their neighbours better.
- ❑ Warnings and advice about current crime trends or suspicious people in the area can be circulated quickly.
- ❑ Better links are made with the police.
- ❑ Can result in a better quality of life for the neighbourhood.
- ❑ Reduces the cost of some home insurance policies.
- ❑ Some visits and tours can be arranged e.g. Call centre at Trafford, the Police Museum and the police helicopter.
- ❑ Quarterly newsletter from Fiona reporting recent trends in crime.

We were also interested to learn about a number of great gadgets designed to defeat the burglar, such as money or key safes disguised as tins of Heinz Baked Beans and an 'Identislot' which fits into a front door. This device enables identity cards to be inspected and checked by the householder without having to open the door. It is free for over 65s and can be obtained from the council – contact Vicky Ryan, Burglary Reduction Initiative, Salford City Council, Tel. 0161 793 2759.

Some of Fiona's tales of Home Watch's successful moves against crime were both amusing and inspiring, encouraging us to believe that we really can do something to help ourselves by starting up our own groups. Registration forms were taken by some of our members. Some have already been returned and we are waiting to get started. Roads represented at the meeting were: Campbell Road, Thorn Road, Sheringham Road, Chiltern Drive, Westgate Drive and Vendale Avenue. If your road was not represented or you have not yet returned your registration form and you would like to become involved, please contact Fiona James – 0161 856 5251. We do need more representatives in order to make this scheme work. There is only one meeting a year with Fiona and most groups meet in each other's homes only once every three months.

Photo : Fiona James with SOSCA Representatives Andrew Connolly and Gordon Purcell.

United Reformed Church

Our Vision: "Building and renewing for worship and service"

The URC are currently planning a new worship and community centre on the existing site at Worsley Road. The new building will be multi-purpose, serving the Church and community. They commenced the building work early in 2006.

Unfortunately time has taken its toll on the bricks and mortar of the main church building and major reconstruction work is required. The amount needed is in excess of £400,000. The fundraising effort is well on the way to meeting this target but there is still much to do and help is needed.

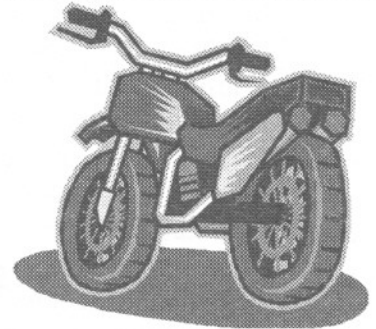
Keep an eye out on the URC events calendar for further events. If you would like to find out more about the new building project or have any fund raising ideas, please tel: 0161 794 5211 or email: geoffsidess@hotmail.com

Many Thanks

SOSCA would like to put on record its appreciation to the Swinton Community Committee for the grants received to fund its running costs and SOSCA News printing costs. This will allow all the monies raised by SOSCA to be used towards its realisation of the vision for the 30Ha of land, (recently saved from residential development at the public inquiry), to be converted to a country park. Swinton Community Committee has again been generous in this by contributing £1000 towards the fulfilment of SOSCA's vision.

Motor cycles – Quiet Please !!

After numerous complaints from residents SOSCA wrote to Environmental Services to complain about the noise nuisance of quad bikes and motorcyclists being suffered on a daily basis. The letter asked how they intended to enforce this legal requirement. This resulted in a site visit with Malcolm Coppock from Environmental Services who took many photographs of the tyre tracks and noted the distance to the rear of dwellings on Thorn Road. He said that signage around the area would act as a first warning, that the police would be notified of Environmental involvement, that United Utilities would be informed that this was ongoing on their land, that event logs would be issued to residents and a site identified for a camera to be set up to catch the offenders. Lets hope this activity will now stop and residents can regain some peace and quiet. Website interest www.stopoffroadnuisance.co.uk

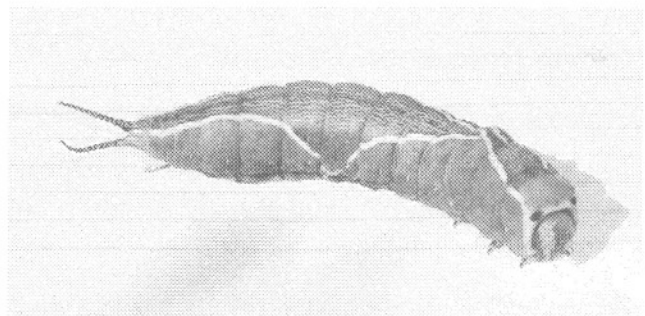


Down Your Street

As SOSCA is a community association and we are all part of the community please tell us if you are unhappy with your neighbourhood. The chances are that others will feel the same way and where the council can just brush you off as an individual it is so much more difficult to brush off an association especially one with a community newsletter. A report in SOSCA News is distributed to over one thousand five hundred houses, the Swinton Community Committee where other groups see it and all nine ward councillors that attend that committee. We are interested in anything that happens outside your home whether it be crime, street cleaning, education, traffic, medical or dental facilities etc. etc. Although our prime purpose is maintaining the open spaces in this area, that we and our children enjoy, we can and do so much more. Let us know what you think. If something is wrong or if you would like to express your own views through our newsletter we are more than happy to publish them.

Grubby picture Competition

Ciaran Davis of Thorn Road (a future David Attenborough) found this in his garden. This 'grub' may be a caterpillar. What insect will it turn into, what do you think? SOSCA committee members are offering a prize to the first correct received answer. In case the picture does not print well, the grub is light green with two white stripes running from head to tail which cross over the back at shoulder level and a cute pink and mauve face. It is 3 inch (75mm) long.



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