

Trumpington Meadows Delivery & Action Group Update Report, January 2021

For South Trumpington Parish Meeting - Thursday 21st January 2021

Since the last South Trumpington Parish Meeting, TMDAG has once again been very busy. We have continued to ensure that the development is swept by a road sweeper on a regular basis, pushed Barratt and Trinity Estates to replace and repair the various street lights that have not been working on the developments with some success (more required) including having the two damage lights at the Local Centre replaced, one of which was actually incorrectly sited in a car parking space. We have also ensured that dead trees that are the responsibility of Trinity were replaced by their team after TMDAG members had identified and marked them up as well as getting bags and stakes that are no longer required gradually removed by Trinity on some of the land that they manage

In addition, we continue to push Barratts to repair the drains that are facing the wrong way and re-align them before handover to Highways which is currently an ongoing process. There are many other areas of the development that require much further work but these will be tackled during 2021.

During the Christmas period and in part thanks to a grant from the Trumpington South Parish Meeting, TMDAG arranged for a Christmas tree to be located in the Local Centre and had over 26 groups and individuals paint their own individual porcelain stars to hang on the tree that represented their own work or life in the local community. Each of these stars also featured on the Trumpington Meadows Facebook Group in a post each day with a small biography of the group or individual for residents to see and ensuring a further link with the community. I am pleased to report that there was no vandalism to the tree, lights or the stars which is a very positive sign and I believe that the community have in effect now taken ownership of both the tree and Local Centre.

TMDAG arranged for a personal Christmas card to be printed and distributed to 850 letter boxes on the development with details of useful local organisations, further details about the proposed Santa on Tour event and advice as to how to remain covid secure on the night itself. Each new resident on the development will have found one of these cards in their letter boxes on arrival in their new homes giving them details of what there is in the community to benefit them. The cartoon on the card was commissioned by TMDAG from the brother of our local vicar Mandy who is a professional caricaturist and the cartoon is based on Santa scaling the "Hopscotch" art work at the local centre.

The covid safe Santa on tour event was extremely well received. For over 3 hours a team consisting of pairs of residents (in their own bubbles) handed out over 600 free chocolate selection boxes and chocolate Santas from shopping trolleys, whilst families stayed on their own doorsteps. Santa was ferried around the development in a 1930's style open topped vehicle with music being provided from the City Councils "Musical Bin" The event has already been described on social media as "a new Trumpington tradition"

As a direct result of the Christmas card distribution and the Santa on tour event, Trumpington Meadows was featured two weeks running in the news section of the Cambridge Independent with photos on each occasion and we also gained lots of positive reaction and comments on social media. Our thanks goes to the Trumpington Residents Association who agreed to handle the funds and payments on our behalf as bankers given our problems with the difficulties of setting up new company bank accounts during covid.

Two of our committee members - Gillian Rizvi and Karen Lamb spotted an opportunity to further support residents during lockdown by organising take away food vehicles to visit the Local Centre and have since very successfully organised a wide variety of differing foods offerings to be available on a rolling basis. This has been so successful that on most days the food is sold out. TMDAG and the organiser of the food vans in Clay Farm have linked up informally to ensure that cross promotion of the two areas occurs to the widest possible group. All the operators of the vans have proved their public liability insurance to the team and also their food safety certification. Team members check for litter after each event but most people take the food away to eat in their homes and the vans provide their own waste bins. No additional waste has been generated in the local centre as a result of the visits. We also now have a regular visit from VG coffee with his pedal powered coffee machine which is also creating a hit with locals.

TMDAG also arrange two important online Zoom events since the last South Trumpington Parish meeting. The first was relating to crime prevention and featured DS Kiri Mazur and 3 councillors, 2 of whom represent Trumpington. We discussed ways of reporting issues and the meeting was called as a direct result of ongoing anti-social behaviour problems on the development which have since been resolved. Members of TMDAG also met face to face with South Cambs MP Anthony Browne and subsequently by Zoom with Cambridge MP Daniel Zeichner and local councillor Katie Thornburrow to discuss and raise the problems associated with so-called Fleecehold and Inferior build quality which it was found was a serious problem in all new builds in Trumpington and not just Trumpington Meadows. TMDAG is taking the lead in setting up a new group to deal with these issues along with residents of other parts of Trumpington who are already involved in litigation regarding these issues.

Another important area that TMDAG are currently involved in is getting builders including Barratts to ensure that the secure bicycle storage facilities in blocks of flats are actually secure. There have been a number of instances where bicycles have been stolen as a result of apparent insecure installation of bike racks by developers and this is an ongoing and potentially growing problem. TMDAG are involved in linking with other resident groups in Trumpington to ensure that builders rectify what appears to be inadequate design and implementation.

Although TMDAG was initially conceived as mainly an action group to push for completion of outstanding and inferior works to be rectified on Trumpington Meadows, it has since morphed into something much bigger and has become a large residents organisation that truly represents all residents on Trumpington Meadows. We represent BPHA, private, and rental houses, flats, new and old with over 60 residents on our mailing list in what is now a Limited Company representing the whole community, some of whom are members with full voting rights and directors of the company.

We are also recognised by The Federation of Cambridge Residents Association (FECRA) and will hold our first Annual General Meeting in one weeks time. The meeting will discuss the works and results for TMDAG of the last year, as well as selecting the new committee members and discussing what we aim to achieve in 2021. We aim to continue to resolve outstanding building and maintenance matters as well as plan and event to celebrate the sixth anniversary of the Country Park as well as others we are developing in partnership with the Trumpington Residents Association (TRA) to provide all residents of Trumpington with a summer of what is being labeled as *"Life's simple Pleasures"*

Finally, we have just been notified that we have been nominated for the Mayors Volunteer award for our work supporting the community during Covid so watch this space!

Paul Colbert
Chairman, TMDAG, January 2021