

# **Park Life News (a little bit more)**

The Ladybridge Park Residents Newsletter

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Whilst preparing for this month's Jubilee Special I have managed to get my hands on some old documents that give an idea of how things were around here.

One of the items handed to me is a folder used for the club's private hire package. There is no date on this document but the estate plan on the rear shows the estate minus a large part of Twining Brook Road and the side roads off it.

The plan also shows that the distance to the M63 motorway, this is of course the M60 now. The store on Councillor Lane is where the Lidl Store was before it was re-sited. At the time it was trading under the name Discount Giant. Also shown on the map is the Seven Arches Garden Centre which was situated on Ladybridge Road at its junction with Mill Lane.

I asked in previous editions of *Park Life News* for stories from people who have lived in more than one house on the estate.

Graham Thomas replied that he is currently in his third house on the estate and has been here for approximately 21 years. He says one of the weirdest experiences was scolding a child who, years later, is pulling you a pint over the bar. Let's hope he or she didn't bear a grudge. He says this has happened on many occasions. He says that he has seen many good people go over the years he has been the estate but equally seen many wonderful people come onto it. He goes on to say that there is a better sense of community spirit that has built up over the last nine months or so and that is down to many of the residents working in a co-ordinated manner. He finishes on a timely reminder that as a community we should look out for our older residents that may not be able to get about so much nowadays and would probably welcome a visit now and then.

In my own research I found the sale of plot Number 112 on the estate, which is on Twining Brook Road and was sold as a bungalow still in the process of being built. The sale price to the original owners is shown as £32, 245. You would not get very much for that nowadays in the property market.

Well so much for the first twenty-five years, and here's to the next twenty-five. What will time bring?

Will we still have a residents' club? Will the estate still be here? Or maybe additional properties will be built and become integrated with the estate.

Perhaps global warming will be out of control, or used as reasons for imposing more taxes. Will Cheadle Hulme have its own Congestion Charge Zone or will the golden age of public transport arrive making private transport obsolete. I personally will not be holding my breath for that.

One thing I have noticed over the years is the rate of change gets increasing faster and faster, and not always for the better.

The Residents' Club can either be an asset or a burden to the residents, or plot-holders as we are known. Plot-holder makes it sound more like an allotment or even a cemetery. Please note, powers that be, that I live in a home, a bungalow or a dwelling, call it what you may, but please don't call it a plot as it makes me feel like a pioneer under canvas. Enough of my rant, where was I, oh yes the Residents Club. My personal opinion, meaning it is mine and not necessarily a reflection of the Board of Trustees or the Management's opinion, is that the club is a place full of untapped potential. This is not a criticism of the Board or management because I applaud the strides they have made over the past few months and will continue to make, on our behalf, given the continuing support and assistance from the residents. It is not about money, but there is a need for the club to bring in extra revenue from off the estate to reduce the burden to the residents.

To me the club should be about community, a place on your doorstep that actively welcomes you. It is not about just having a bar, but long may it continue to have one. But it is about providing something for everyone, whether it be a dance class or a computer group, a badminton session or a coffee morning, a game of squash or a game of bingo, watching a sporting event on the big screen or producing a piece of art, having a meal or having a game of darts, this is the tip of the iceberg and there is the potential for many more things to happen.

The club is getting to be a focal point in the community. On a Friday evening we are getting around 50 people in for teas, the place is alive and a great place to say hi to that neighbour you hardly see, or meet that stranger from the other side of the estate. If you look around you will see pubs and clubs boarded up and knocked down. This club is more than a drinking den, it is the heartbeat of the estate. It is a place that helps transform a number of individuals into a community. It is a place where we can act together for a common good.

So I lift a glass to all those that have supported this club in the last 25 years, the board members, the staff, the users of the facilities, the levy payers to each and every one of you I offer my thanks. Here is now to the next 25, those that are here now and those still to come, let us invest a little time in them and let the club progress further.

Our best wishes for the future.