

Belle Vue Estate Update

Andrew Dismore MP

July 2006

I promised to keep you up to date on developments in your area, the Belle Vue estate. I have just had my annual formal 'walkabout' inspection visit on the estate, with the Council and Barnet Homes, so I thought I should report back to you on my findings and the issues I have taken up.

Caretaking

Generally, the standard appears to be good, though there can be problems when the caretakers are called away for other duties elsewhere from time to time, an issue I have raised with the Council.

Grounds Maintenance

There is a problem with overgrown shrubbery and trees in a number of places; and grass cutting was "hit and miss!" I was also concerned by the amount of dog mess, and I would encourage residents to report this back to the estate office, if they know who are the dog owners responsible.

Car Park areas

There are a number of bad potholes, and underground car parks suffered from graffiti and fly tipping, which I asked to be attended to. Several areas also needed pavement repairs.

Longford Court

I was pleased to see the investment in the building, financed by Government money, but concerned as usual, about the poor security in the block, which already was leading to graffiti and damage.

The Council say they had a poor response to their consultation over the need for better security doors, and will try again to establish residents' views. I would encourage those in the block to reply, if there is to be action. In the meantime, CCTV is to be installed at the entrance; and the chute rooms will have locks fitted.

I was concerned to see the contractors had apparently damaged the springs on the fire doors, especially in the lift lobbies, which is particularly dangerous, so I have asked this to be given urgent attention.

Mini Motorbikes

The Police tell me this is a growing problem throughout the area, and with the encouragement of the Police Safer Neighbourhood Team, I am starting a campaign about this. These "minimotos" are illegal, in that although marketed as toys, they are anything but! They must comply with the same road safety rules as full sized motorcycles if used anywhere except on privately owned land. They do not usually comply with the Construction and Use Regulations and they are dangerous. If they do comply, then they should be taxed, insured and riders should hold a licence and wear crash helmets. The police have the power to seize minimotos and prosecute those that do not comply with these rules, especially if they are making a noise nuisance or are causing a danger to pedestrians and other road users. I have started a petition about this, and I enclose a copy – please sign it, encourage friends and neighbours to do so as well, and return it to me FREEPOST, if you agree with my stand!