



Spring Newsletter

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April / May 2019

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER 2019



Late / Non-Payer Administration Fees

Following lengthy discussion in committee, we have found it necessary to increase the fees for late / non payers. As stated in the constitution and title deeds of all Beazer homes in the estate, the annual estate maintenance fee is due on 15th January each year. We send out notification for the next year's fees in mid to late November offering a discount of £10 if the fee is paid on or before 31 December of that year. Thereafter the full amount, as agreed by the committee (currently £55) must be paid by 31 January.

Previously an administration charge of £15 was added to fees not paid by the end of March. As the amount charged by the debt collection agency is currently £60 to recover the unpaid fees, the committee decided that this amount should be added to the debt and be paid by the defaulting owner rather than from the Association's funds, as was previously the case. This additional cost will be determined by the amount charged to the Association by the debt collection agency.

Overleaf is the fee collection process.

Please be aware that, in the interests of fairness to all owners, all debts will be pursued. It is very onerous on committee members to be continually chasing up late and non-payments. Owners will,

Fee table and costs for late payments

from now on, be sent the initial fee request letter in November and ONE reminder at the end of February, showing clearly the administration costs which will be added if no payment is made. No further reminders will be sent. Thereafter, the debts will be handed over to the debt collection agency.

I take this opportunity to thank the vast majority of owners who do pay the fees on time.

J McGrath-Scott (Treasurer)

Below is the fee collection process:

- 1. Fee due on 15 January (currently £55) as stipulated in constitution and title deeds of all Beazer homes.*
- 2. Initial fee reminder letters sent out in mid to late November offering £10 discount if fees paid before 31 December.*
- 3. Reminder letters sent to all late payers at the end of February showing clearly the administration costs which will be added if no payment is made.*
- 4. Owners who pay the discounted rate **after** 31 December (discount cut-off date), will be sent a letter requesting the £10 they still owe. If this is not paid then the amount will be shown as a debt against the owner and will be carried over to the next year as a debt.*
- 5. Non payers' details are sent to the Debt Collection Agency at the beginning of April.*
- 6. Non-payers at this stage are charged £60 (current debt collection fee) on top of the fee £55 = £115*
- 7. Failure to pay will result in claims being made through a Small Claims Action at the Sheriff Court which will incur even more debt for the defaulting owners.*

Hedgehogs in the UK are in Decline



It's a sad truth but many once common animals are in trouble and desperately need help.

Over the last 50 years, **two thirds of the UK's plant and animal species have declined in numbers**, with some of our much loved garden visitors, such as house sparrows, starlings and frogs becoming increasingly endangered.

The humble hedgehog highlights the plight of our garden wildlife perhaps more than most. Numbers have fallen by 30% since 2002, with the UK population now estimated to be fewer than one million. They have suffered a fate comparable to the loss of tigers globally.

The main reasons for this downward trend are thought to include over-management of parks and green spaces, loss of gardens to paving and decking, less insects to eat because of the use of pesticides, fragmentation of home ranges by fences and roads. The list could go on.

Any species would struggle with odds like these stacked against them.

But it's not too late to make a positive change, and it only takes a few simple steps to transform your garden, school or community space into a haven for hedgehogs and other wildlife this Spring

Top 10 tips to make your garden hedgehog-friendly

1. Link your garden with Hedgehog Highways
2. Make your pond safe with a ramp
3. Create a wild corner
4. Deal with netting and litter
5. Put out food and water
6. Stop using chemicals
7. Check before strimming
8. Be careful with bonfires
9. Make a home for hedgehogs
10. Become a Hedgehog Champion



Feeding Wildlife - Awareness



We recently received a complaint from a resident regarding human food waste being deposited in communal areas such as the park towards the nursing home.

The owner states that there have been 3 cases of dogs having gastric illnesses and one confirmed case of food poisoning through, it is believed, the animals eating discarded food waste. Whilst the dogs affected are well looked after and on now the mend, this may not be the case for the wildlife.

We believe that the food is being put out with the best intentions for the local wildlife. However, if thrown into communal areas, there is no control over how long it lies there and therefore, how rotten that food might become. Perhaps those who wish to feed the wildlife can do so within the boundaries of their own properties. In so doing, they will be in control of how long the food is out for. If food has been out for too long, and has gone off, it can be put in the bin instead of potentially causing harm to both pets and local wildlife.

We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Committee and Contact Details

Who are the Committee Members ?

John Pendlebury (Chair)
John Shepherd (Vice Chair)
Janice McGrath (Treasurer)
Cath Crosbie (Secretary)

Elaine Reid (Ordinary member)
John Whitchelo (Ordinary member)

Where can I find the most up-to-date information relating to the COA ?

You can find us on the web at www.carnbee.org

How do I contact the COA ?



Email is our preferred method of contact is email:
contact@carnbee.org



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