

**OLD BASSETT
RESIDENTS
ASSOCIATION**

It's nothing without YOU!

c/o Penny Hastings (Secretary)
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Christmas in the Community

**A Traditional Christmas Party
for local people**

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Bring and share tea

Festive drinks provided

We'll be running a quiz from 4.30 pm

Fancy yourself as a quiz master or know a great quiz?

Quiz contributions welcomed!

Christmas songs and Community Carols

Crafts and games for the children

Sunday 9th December, 4-6 pm

Setting up from 3 pm if you want to come and help!

All Saints' Hall, Winchester Road

FREE!

But we'll be taking a collection for the Rose Road Association

*This event is jointly hosted by Old Bassett Residents Association
and the All Saints' Committee*

What's happening at the Sports Centre?

Southampton City Golf Course Flood Alleviation Scheme

If you regularly use the Sports Centre you will have noticed a great deal of work going on next to the boating lake. The Environment Agency, in partnership with Active Nation and Southampton City Council is undertaking work to the Golf Course which will reduce the risk of flooding to more than 90 properties further downstream at the same time as improving the habitat for local wildlife in the Holly Brook. The work is temporary – it started in October 2012 and will last for around six months at which time all affected areas will be fully reinstated, in many cases in a better condition than which they started. More details available on <http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/homeandleisure/floods/141686.aspx> including frequently asked questions and a Hollybrook newsletter.

The Sporting View

The pub closed in May 2012 when the previous tenant placed their business into administration and handed the keys back to Active Nation. Active Nation is in the process of discussing future development of the provision with several interested parties. David Drew, Outside Facilities Manager of Active Nation, is quoted as follows: "Whilst it is early days in our discussions I can assure you that any if we pursue another lease then establishing a broader community provision and investing in the facility will be at the heart of any agreement. I cannot commit to a firm time line except to say we are keen to see a quick resolution on the decision about the Sporting Views future and I will update you once we see some firm movement."

David is happy to make the site and power available to OBRA if we want to put on another Big Picnic – let's hope we can do this next summer and that the pub is re-opened by then!

Protecting our area – planning, HMO's etc

The Localism Bill for Bassett – our section went in on time and is now awaiting approval. Many thanks to those of you who wrote in and particularly to our Chairman Janet Pratley for co-ordinating all our efforts. The fact that people care about the area is now on record and hopefully will affect future planning developments more in our favour.

HMO's – most people don't even know what an HMO is until they get one next door! An HMO is a House of Multiple Occupancy – 3 or more unrelated people living together. 1 or 2 houses in a street with professional people living in them is usually not a problem – however, where you get whole streets of HMO's then the whole area can change. The Council recognises this and since April 2012 landlords may not turn houses into HMO's without planning permission. However, worryingly, the Government is proposing new changes whereby homeowners may make larger extensions to their properties without requiring planning permission – even our Council planning department agrees this would be damaging to the city! Check out the consultation document :

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/extendingpdrconsultation>.

Residents are being urged to write in and **oppose** the proposals which would appear to give more powers to HMO landlords and result in a higher proliferation of HMO's. **Responses are required by 24th Dec.**

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/consultation_response_form/file/1/Permitted.doc

Check out our website for more information. You could also copy your local Councillor/Southampton Planning Department in on your response.

Planning Application - 12/01758/OUT - land At Vermont Close opposite the Red Lodge swimming pool: the proposed erection of two new buildings from 2 storeys to 5 storeys, to provide 32 student flats (142 bedrooms), with associated refuse, cycle store and parking following demolition of existing workshop/stores (outline application seeking approval for access, layout, scale and appearance). The height of 5 storeys is based on the other flats nearby – however, they are laid out with proper gardens and trees which balance things out. This site is a fraction of the size and without any of these pleasing amenities so this would appear to be a gross over-development of a relatively tiny site. Large proposals like this have the effect of changing an area and whilst most developers do not live in the area they develop in, we do and so we want changes that are good not just money-making! Check out : www.southampton.gov.uk/publicaccess. **Responses required by 17th Dec.**