

BAYVIEW CARAVAN OWNERS' ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 5534, Swanage, BH19 2ZN
Email: bayviewcaravanownersassociation@yahoo.co.uk
Website: www.bayviewowners.co.uk

Newsletter 77 August 2016

Next Association meeting

2016 AGM - Saturday 1st October at 5pm to 7pm (to include refreshments) at Emmanuel Baptist Church, Victoria Avenue, Swanage.

Committee news

An up to date list of committee members appears at the end of this newsletter.

Future meeting dates

2016 AGM – Saturday 1st October – 5pm (confirmed)

2017 General meeting – Saturday 8th April - 5pm (confirmed)

2017 AGM – Saturday 30th September (provisional)

2016 Subscriptions

Subscriptions for 2016/2019 are now overdue. As agreed at our 2015 AGM subscriptions will be £10 per pitch to cover the period March 2016 to March 2019. We still have a small number of members who have not paid their subs. It is unfair to expect committee members to visit caravans to collect subs during their holidays at the park so could we please ask all members to renew their subs over the next week if possible. There are several ways you can pay your £10 subscription as detailed below

- **cheque or cash payment to Marjorie Edwards at caravan number 66 (your caravan number on back of the cheque)**
- **Bank Transfer to Lloyds Bank. Payable to sort code 30-99-12, account number 01819778, please put your caravan number in the "reference" space**
- **cheque posted to - PO Box 5534, Swanage, Dorset, BH19 2ZN - please put your caravan number on the back of the cheque**

All cheques payable to "Bay View Caravan Owners' Association

New members

It is vital that the Association has as many members as possible if we wish to be effective and represent the views of the majority of owners at SBV. Our target for this year will be to get 90% of owners at the park signed up as members. You can help enormously in this task by promoting the Association with your immediate neighbours, especially any new owners you see moving into your area. Attached to this email is a new member leaflet that you can print or email to a new owner. All they have to do is complete the form and pay their £10 (see notes at the bottom of the proforma of how to do this) and we will do all the rest

Meeting with Drew Campbell (Operations Manager for Darwin)

The chair of the Association met with Drew Campbell and the following items were discussed.

Electrical supply to the park – as new caravans have many more electrical items than older models (e.g. dishwashers, washing machines, multiple TV/computers etc) the parks electrical supply system urgently needs to be upgraded to continue to give an uninterrupted

power supply. The cost of this work is estimated to be £150,000 and will take place over the next 12 months. The work should not involve digging up any cabling on the park but is a replacement of electrical delivery infrastructure, not cabling. This is an item of Capital Expenditure. Darwin have agreed that they will comply with our licence (Darwin/NACO 2013 licence) and will pay for all the work up front and then claim it back through a Capital Expenditure payment over a 10 year period. The cost is estimated to be £49 per caravan per year. More detail will be sent out to all Owners in the 2017 Site Fee letter that usually comes out in late November. Following the Association discussions with Darwin regarding the CE fee last year we are pleased to see that they are correctly following the CE procedure in our licence and have given us plenty of advance notice, with costings, for the work.

Gas cylinders – Following discussion between the Association and Darwin the cost of large gas bottles on the park will be reduced to £55 from £63.50 from Monday 8th August. A reduction of £8.50 a bottle which will save the average user about £50 a year. We recommend that Owners continue to use the park as their supplier of gas bottles as they provide a daily service for replacement

Grounds - I updated Drew on some of the grounds issues that have been sent to me recently. Although there has been a big improvement since last year there are several issues that still need to be addressed. Drew will be spending 2 days at the park this week to look into the work of the grounds team. I have also asked him to look at the perimeter hedge issue in Bluebell section

Barrier – I thanked Drew for getting the extended arm and the new light installed which enables drivers to reach the key pad from their car and see the buttons more clearly at night.

Park rules – I thanked Drew for helping to set up a proper consultation process and for agreeing to the removal of the rule for buying storage boxes only from the park. The whole process went very smoothly and the Association received no complaints from Owners. We would like to thank the Park Manager, Anne Foulkes, for organizing the consultation process

Restaurant/bar/entertainment programme – I explained to Drew all the issues that had been brought to my attention regarding these 3 items, especially with regard to the lack of promotion of events, value for money, quality of service and food/drinks offer, environment, and the balance of activities for adults and children. It appears that these areas are not meeting the needs of Owners as sales are falling year on year. Drew will be discussing these items with the Park Manager when he visits the park. I explained that the Association is willing to work with the park to discuss a way forward and increase sales if the right things are on offer and the right price. Darwin is having difficulty in many parks, including Swanage, in recruiting good quality chefs. They are bringing some over from Spain where there are a lot of chefs who are unemployed. The layout of the Vista centre makes any major change difficult (lots of small areas). Darwin will be considering short term and longer term changes to the Vista Centre to make it more attractive to Owners. At their Bath park (where I met Drew) the centre is fantastic, beautiful restaurant, bar, conference facility and spa - it shows what Darwin can do when they start from scratch.

Extension to (15 year) licences - Drew said that it is currently Darwins policy not to extend 15 year licences but he will take this one back to the Board to see if they would like to change the policy for the 15 year licences that currently exist at SBV.

Signage - I explained to Drew that the park has no signage to direct visitors/emergency services to vans. Drew will look at this when he is at the park.

Pitch Fees

Could we remind owners who pay pitch fees by two installments that the second installment must be paid by 1st September at the latest. Paying fees late produces an extra administration load for the office and puts owners in breach of their licence.

Restaurants

We would love to receive your recommendations for local restaurants that we can share with other Owners – just send a comment to our email address

Christmas social

The 2nd SBVCOA Christmas Social will take place on Saturday 3rd December from 6pm to 8pm in the reception area of Emmanuel Baptist church. As last year there will be drinks, Christmas savoury and sweet goodies to eat, Christmas music, a quiz and raffle. It is a great opportunity to meet fellow caravan owners. As it is the same day as the Swanage Christmas Street market why not book a weekend at your caravan to celebrate the start of the Christmas season. There will be no charge for the social for paid up members.

Committee members

Richard Swan – (189) – Chair	(Poppy rep) <input type="checkbox"/>
Rosemary Burbridge – (311) – Vice Chair	(Bluebell rep) <input type="checkbox"/>
Marjorie and Richard Edwards – (66) – Secretary	(Sunflower rep) <input type="checkbox"/>
Rhoda and Damian Goodwin – Treasurer (19)	(Tulip rep)
Lisa Murray – (274)	(Sweetpea rep) <input type="checkbox"/>
Michael Hardiman – (62)	(Sunflower rep) <input type="checkbox"/>
Val and Roy Gill – (244)	(Honeysuckle rep) <input type="checkbox"/>
Frank Carter – (84)	(Daisy rep) <input type="checkbox"/>
Leslie and Linda Burgess – (226A)	(Buttercup rep)
Ian and Phillipa Hills (90e)	(Daisy rep)
Trevor Bradbury (245)	(Sweetpea rep)
Harry Horton (210)	(Buttercup rep)
Derek Keller (TBA)	(Rose rep)