

**YOU ARE INVITED TO:**

## 'U-NAG'

**The Nottingham Action Group and Unipol Joint Public Meeting**

**MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER 2009**

**7.15 pm onwards**

**St. Mary's Church Hall, Wollaton Hall Drive  
Wollaton Park**

**Tea, coffee and cakes will be available**

### **U-NAG ... IT DOES WHAT IT SAYS ON THE LABEL!**

EARLIER THIS YEAR, U-NAG WAS APPROVED BY THE NAG COMMITTEE AND THE BOARD OF UNIPOL. AMONGST OTHER THINGS, U-NAG AIMS TO:

- ◆ make sure there is good communication and dialogue between Unipol and the community,
- ◆ arrange and facilitate consultations with the community as and when needed,
- ◆ identify areas where assistance can be provided by each body to further common aims.

The NAG and Unipol already work together on projects of mutual interest. The Voluntary Control of Letting Boards Scheme is the most recent example.

U-NAG is an extension and formalization of that co-operation.

There will be two U-NAG open meetings this year. More if you want them.

They will let everyone know how the Unipol service is doing, give updates on projects like the Garden Survey and the Voluntary Control of Letting Boards Scheme, and take on board your views and ideas.

### **U-NAG IS YOUR FORUM**

**... a place where NAG members, their friends and neighbours and Unipol can meet, exchange views and ideas, and look for ways in which some real improvements can be made to our neighbourhoods.**

**If you have suggestions for things to discuss at the September U-NAG meeting, please give us a call on 07762-525-625 as soon as possible.**

### **MINISTER'S COMMITMENT TO FINDING A SOLUTION**

AT THE END OF THE RECENT COMMUNITIES & LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON HMOs, A GOVERNMENT SPOKESPERSON SAID:

*"Students bring benefits to the places they live in, but too many residing in one area can impact negatively on a community, running down neighbourhoods and leaving places as ghost towns during the summer."*

*"This is a real problem in many communities across England, which is why Communities Secretary John Denham is committed to finding a long term solution to current rental practices."*

John Denham's Southampton constituency experiences the same problems with HMOs as Nottingham does and he has campaigned on these issues all his parliamentary career, regularly arguing that the planning rules governing HMOs need to be improved.

Speaking at the publication of the ECOTEC Report on HMOs last September, he said: "Over the years I have often been frustrated by the unwillingness of too many people to accept that some towns and cities have a real problem. Students make a significant contribution to sustaining and regenerating communities. But their dramatic growth in recent years has seen this type of housing problem increase because students typically group together to rent properties."

We understand he is hoping to make a statement about HMOs and possible planning responses in late summer.

There will be more about the consultation in the next issue of the NAG magazine.

Meantime, the Committee of the Nottingham Action Group would like to thank all the NAG members who sent

letters to government about their experiences with HMOs in their neighbourhoods as part of the Communities and Local Government Consultation

The NAG's response to the consultation can be downloaded from our website:

[www.nottinghamaction.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamaction.org.uk).

## NOTTINGHAM'S CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION

AT THE RECENT CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION MEETING AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL, RESIDENTS MADE THEIR VIEWS KNOWN ABOUT WHAT THEY want to see in Nottingham's developing Core Strategy.

Top of the list of concerns was shared houses (HMOs) and the way in which they affect our neighbourhoods today, and what has to be done to make sure that in the future our neighbourhoods will be places where families will want to live.

Strong views were expressed about the need for Nottingham's universities to do their bit by building student accommodation on their own campuses.

Also highlighted was the need for good schools, good amenities and good-quality housing to stop existing families from moving out of the city, and attract new families into Nottingham.

### MORE ABOUT THE CORE STRATEGY

After the meeting, the NAG was sent a number of comments by residents about the Core Strategy. These have been forwarded to the City Council along with a formal response on behalf of the NAG.

Arrangements are being made for a further meeting with the council officers responsible for developing the Core Strategy and the Sustainable Communities Strategy – hopefully in early November

## BURGLAR ALARMS

IN RESPONSE TO PROBLEMS THE NAG HAS RAISED THIS SUMMER ABOUT DISTURBANCE CAUSED BY BURGLAR ALARMS, NOTTINGHAM CITY COUNCIL'S NOISE AND Pollution Control team has asked us to pass on some information to you.

If residents can let the Pollution Control team have details of properties where alarms are sounding continuously for more than 20 minutes, or sounding for shorter periods and then resetting themselves and sounding again, etc., the team can at least send an advisory letter to the owner/occupier of the property.

Noise from alarms can be reported directly to the Pollution Control Team by calling **915-6410**. The team will look to identify and contact the owner to get the alarm silenced. Where necessary, they will take enforcement action to enable them to enter properties to disable alarms. At week-ends the answer phone is checked for messages about alarms and, again, the team will try and contact the owner and get the alarm silenced. However, you are asked to report sounding alarms to the Police as well as the Council in case the alarm is sounding because a burglar has been committed or is in progress.

## CITY TAKES ACTION

THE CITY COUNCIL IS CONTINUING TO TAKE ACTION ON LANDLORDS WHO HAVE FAILED TO COMPLY WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE HOUSING ACT.

In July, Dr. Balvinder Singh Mehat was fined a total of £20,534.06 by the Magistrates' Court.

In addition to breaching HMO licence requirements and management conditions of one of his properties in Lenton, Nottingham City Council officers found that the property presented a significant fire risk to its seven student tenants.

More recently, Anthony Carroll of Highfield Road, Dunkirk, pleaded guilty to 17 charges relating to the management of properties he owns in Dunkirk.

The case has now been referred to Nottingham Crown Court.

## NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY STUDENT OPEN DAYS

ADVANCE NOTICE HAS BEEN SENT THAT NOTTINGHAM UNIVERSITY WILL BE HOLDING OPEN DAYS FOR PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS IN SEPTEMBER.

The University points out that it is working in partnership with various agencies to keep the disruption to a minimum.

It is expecting around 20,000 people on Friday, 11 September and Saturday, 12 September, probably with more arriving on the Saturday than on the Friday.

All visitors will be directed to enter through the West and North entrances. There will also be a shuttle bus running throughout both days from the railway station to the Jubilee Campus and University Park.

## VOLUNTARY CONTROL OF LETTING BOARDS UPDATE

THE FINAL SCHEME CAME INTO OPERATION ON THE 1 JUNE AND MONITORING STATED ON THE 1 JULY. NAG MEMBERS ALONG WITH UNIPOL, COUNCIL OFFICERS and representatives from community organizations will continue to monitor the scheme monthly until Spring 2010.

**If you would like to help, or if you want more information about what is happening and you live in Lenton, Dunkirk, the Lenton Triangle, Wollaton Park, Radford, The Arboretum or the City Centre, please get in touch now.**

### MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR NOTTINGHAM ACTION GROUP MAGAZINE SUMMER-AUTUMN 2009

I am now putting together copy for the Summer-Autumn 2009 issue of the magazine and I'm looking for contributions.

If you would like to contribute an article, letter, photograph, poem ... whatever, you can reach me on **07762-525-625**.

Also, ideas about what you want to see in future issues of the magazine are more than welcome