

News Desk

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EDITOR'S NOTE

As you will see, we have arranged three meetings this month. My apologies for this clumping together of events. However, circumstances have meant that the meetings on the 9 June and the 18 June have to take place this month.

I would urge you to come to all of these meetings if at all possible. In their own ways, they are all important.

SOLUTIONS TO STUDENTIFICATION 4 JUNE

Darren Smith is not only the 'expert' on the subject of 'studentification', but is also an excellent speaker. So, the evening should be entertaining as well as informative.

There is also the added bonus that feedback from the NAG is highly likely to inform his future research (and publications) and therefore, in no small way, will help to the pressure on government (central as well as local), the universities, students unions and landlords.

DUNKIRK FIRE STATION 9 JUNE

Although a drop-in day has already taken place in Dunkirk, this meeting will require the developers and their architects to stand up and explain what they want to do, answer questions and take note of what a group of informed residents have to say about their proposals. And because no planning application has been submitted, this is as close to a genuine opportunity to influence things as we have had.

UNIPOL CONSULTATION 18 JUNE

UNIPOL has established a well-deserved reputation for raising the standard of student accommodation in Leeds and the way in which the whole process of house-hunting, house

advertising, and house management is conducted. It is for this reason that the NAG was instrumental in bringing UNIPOL to Nottingham in the first place, and why we have consistently supported the City Council and the two Students Unions in their attempts to get the two universities to sign up for UNIPOL-Nottingham.

Over the last few months UNIPOL has completely revised and updated the code of standards for landlords and tenants. The NAG have been closely involved in the development of this code and we are hopeful that, over time, it will improve the quality of life in our neighbourhoods.

The meeting with UNIPOL is the first opportunity for everyone to take a look at what is being proposed, assess its impact on them, and make suggestions for future improvements. So it is vital that you come along and take part.

WEDNESDAY, 4 JUNE

**SOLUTIONS TO STUDENTIFICATION:
BLUE SKY THINKING**
6.30 PM, ST. MARY'S CHURCH HALL, WOLLATON
HALL DRIVE, OFF DERBY ROAD

Talk by

DR. DARREN SMITH
**'Current and Future Challenges of
Studentification'**

Followed by Round-Table Group Discussions
of the
**'Structural & Management Challenges of
Studentification'**

MONDAY, 9 JUNE

FIRE STATION REDEVELOPMENT CONSULTATION MEETING

7.00 PM, HILLSIDE CLUB, DERBY ROAD, LENTON

The NAG has been asked to host an open consultation meeting where your views are being sought on proposals to re-develop the Dunkirk Fire Station site as housing for a substantial number of students.

Issues you may like to raise include: 'student or 'key worker' accommodation? Is the site appropriate? Is the welfare of established local residents going to be affected? What management conditions are needed, and how will they be enforced? Is the design likely to be attractive to students?

WEDNESDAY, 18 JUNE

THE UNIPOL-DASH CODE FOR SHARED STUDENT HOUSING

7.00 PM, HILLSIDE CLUB, DERBY ROAD, LENTON

Committee members of the Nottingham Action Group have been involved in the formulation of the UNIPOL-DASH Code which, it is hoped, will not only raise the standard of student accommodation but also have a positive effect on the environment for established residents with student neighbours.

This is a consultation meeting where UNIPOL will be seeking your views on the new Code which, amongst other things, sets standards for owners and tenants for the management of student HMOs in Greater Nottingham. It includes guidelines on anti-social behaviour, maintenance of gardens and yards, proper disposal of waste and storage of wheelie bins, and also includes complaints procedures for residents of neighbouring properties.

This meeting will be of interest to all residents of Greater Nottingham living in neighbourhoods where there is shared student housing

OTHER NEWS

LANDLORD FINED FOR FAILING TO APPLY FOR HMO LICENCE

THE LANDLORD OF A PROPERTY IN NOTTINGHAM HAS BEEN FOUND GUILTY OF FAILING TO OBTAIN AN HMO LICENCE. THE HOUSE, WHICH IS ON SHERWIN ROAD, Lenton has 3 storeys and is rented out to a group of students. The landlord, Mr Maurice John Doyle, did not attend court but the case was heard in his absence. He was fined £1,200 and ordered to pay all the Council's costs.

Nottingham City Council continues to be determined that HMOs in the City operate legally with the necessary licence.

We understand that more prosecutions are in the pipeline.

COMMUNITIES & LOCAL GOVERNMENT MINISTER VISITS NOTTINGHAM

NEARLY THREE YEARS AGO, CLLR. DAVE TRIMBLE PLEADED WITH GOVERNMENT FOR 'THE TOOLS TO DO THE JOB'.

Almost two years ago, at the Westminster launch of the Universities UK report on studentification and its impact on host communities, Baroness Andrews promised to come to Nottingham, meet us and visit our neighbourhoods. The City Council and the NAG wanted her to see for herself why we need Government to enact changes in legislation which will enable local authorities like ours to control the concentration and spread of HMOs – the Councillor's 'tools for the job'.

On Tuesday, 13 May, 2008 Iain Wright fulfilled the promise made to Cllr. Trimble and the NAG by his predecessor and came to Nottingham.

Iain Wright's visit was a short one – less than two hours in all – but during that time he was taken on a tour of some of our neighbourhoods before a 'lively' lunch-time discussion meeting with some thirty local residents as well as City Councillors, Council officers and representatives from both of Nottingham's universities and their students unions.

A formal letter from the NAG inviting him to return was sent immediately after his visit and, having also spoken to his diary secretary, the NAG committee is now waiting to hear from his office about arrangements for that visit

SPRING 'BOOST' FOR LENTON

LAST YEAR THE LENTON RECREATION GROUND WAS SPONSORED BY LENTON BOULEVARD ESTATE AGENT M S ESTATES. THIS YEAR SPONSORSHIP OF THE recreation ground has been taken on by the University of Nottingham which hopes that by enhancing the Green Flag award winning park they will encourage even more members of the local community to use it.

As Melanie Futer, Manager Off-Campus Student Affairs for The University said in a press release: "Lenton Recreation Ground is a real community park that is enjoyed by young families, the elderly and students alike. The Lenton Community festival was held there last year and is also home to a thriving bowls league, as well as a recently-installed basketball area where students and local young people can play together."

The year-long sponsorship, in support of Nottingham in Bloom, will see a number of projects at the park, including the creation of a new flowerbed.

Councillor Malcolm Wood, Chair of the Nottingham in Bloom Working Group, said: "This new sponsorship will bring benefits specifically to the people of Lenton, who live alongside many of the University's students and who enjoy the park all year round."

The sponsorship was set to kick off on the 17 May when students and members of the community were due to plant 3,000 bluebells.

Dr. Paul Greatrix, the University's new Registrar, was also due to plant a new native tree to commemorate the event.