

## Kents Hill & Monkston (NAG)e-zine

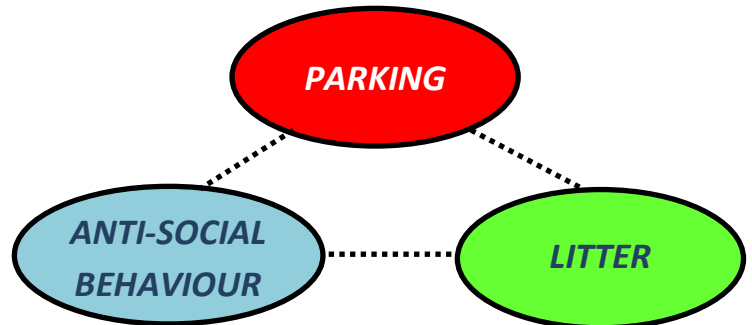
Covering Brinklow, Kents Hill, Kingston, Monkston and Monkston Park

Welcome to the latest edition of the NAGe-zine for the Kents Hill & Monkston Park Neighbourhood Action Group, or NAG.

NAGs are a key part of Neighbourhood Policing in Thames Valley and is a multi-agency, problem solving group that consists of relevant partner agencies, key stakeholders and, most importantly, members of the local community. All group members are volunteers and take on the responsibility for achieving certain tasks on behalf of the neighbourhood.

These are the top 3 concerns that you have raised during 2009. The NAG regularly meets to resolve issues that affect us all. This edition will provide updates on these Priorities as well as information that we hope will be both useful and informative.

We are here to try and help make a real difference to the quality of life and make a better community for all of us. Your contribution would be most welcome and we urge as many residents as possible to become actively involved in our community.



**Parking** remains a very emotive issue. Your NAG members are now carrying out an extensive survey in all communities and plan to submit their findings to the next meeting. We shall be assessing on a street by street basis to highlight the most difficult and challenging areas.

When parking, please be considerate – always think about your neighbours, the safety of children and wheelchair / buggy users and that there is access for emergency vehicles.

Emphasis will be placed on:-

- Parking in front of a driveway to somebody's property and / or across dropped kerbs.
- Parking on pavements causing obstruction by restricting safe access.
- On grass verges resulting in damage.
- Parking too close to bends or opposite junctions creating hazardous situations.

*Offenders will be warned and if persistent could get a Fixed Penalty Fine*

**Litter** - to live in a clean and tidy environment and not see rubbish cluttering our streets is surely the aim for us all?

Being socially responsible and not discarding litter carelessly, or deliberately, is the key to cleaner streets and tidier green spaces.

New litter bins have been added to our stock – so there is no excuse now!

**Please do not - drop litter** as you walk; throw down your **takeaway empties**; carelessly discard drink **cans or glass bottles**; throw **cigarette butts** from your car, as you walk, or from your home (yes, *there have been complaints about butts coming from properties - a dangerous practice that could easily land in a passing buggy or in a person's hair*); put **bin bags** out before collection day: **dump (fly tip)** unwanted items; and take a **trolley** beyond the perimeter of a supermarket.

*Did you know? PCSOs and Community Wardens have the powers to issue Fixed Penalty Fines for enviro-crimes. Please make that difference - help keep our communities clean and tidy!*

### Anti-Social Behaviour

As we highlighted in the previous NAGe-zine, **Anti-Social Behaviour** comes in many forms and they can all have an impact on people's quality of life, weaken communities, and generally cause great distress to many.

In each issue, we would like to highlight one of these issues. The focus this time is **Vandalism**.

**Vandalism** is where someone – without a lawful excuse – destroys or causes damage to something on purpose or recklessly. We must have all seen the results of vandalism in this Parish.

Examples are the destroying of the young trees in the Linear Park in Monkston Park, maybe damage to your car, or graffiti which - if left unchecked - seems to flourish and can hit at the very soul of a community.

Please help get the message across to all family members some of the realities that **committing vandalism** could mean:-

- **Difficulty in getting a job!** Having to **declare** a conviction on **job application form**.
- Being **refused a travel visa application** because you have a criminal record. There is also a risk that you could be **refused entry to the country on arrival**.
- An **£80 fixed penalty notice for minor** graffiti damage.
- A **fine of £500** if you damage property that will cost under £500 to repair.
- Getting a **three-month prison sentence and a £2,500 fine** if you damage property that costs under £5,000 to repair.
- Going to **jail for six months and a £5,000 fine** if you damage property that will cost more than £5,000 to repair.

*Is it really worth a lifetime of regret? If you see vandalism or any other type of crime - please pick up the phone, and help stop anti-social behaviour in our community.*

