



Grove Park Resident's Association

Chair: Mr Alan Moss. No. 38
Telephone: 01945 584244

Sec: Mrs Lynn Mason No. 5
Telephone: 01945 323225

NEWS LETTER

UPDATE RE COURT CASE

Members of the GPRA Committee attended Peterborough Magistrates Court on 21st August to hear the case which was brought by Fenland District Council, against Countrywide Park Homes, for non-compliance of their Licence. The non-compliance in question was the failure of Countrywide Parks to repair or replace the boundary fence of Grove Park to the satisfaction of Fenland District Council.

We are pleased to report that the magistrates found in favour of Fenland Council. Countrywide pleaded guilty both by way of letter to the court and via their barrister who appeared for them. After hearing both sides of the argument, the magistrates retired for 15 minutes or more to deliberate over sentence. The maximum sanction for this offence was a fine of up to £5000. The Fenland District Council solicitor suggested that a fine of £2500 would satisfy them. Countrywide's barrister suggested that a fine of £500 would be more appropriate. When the Magistrates returned to court they announced a fine of £3000 less 1/3 for pleading guilty, Fenland Council's solicitors fees of £354 and £170 victim support making a total fine of £2,524 was payable and ordered this to be paid within 7 days. Countrywide asked for more time to pay and this was denied. More to the point the court directed their Barrister to tell Countrywide that they should employ a professional company and complete the work without any further delay. They also stated that even though the compliance notice had passed its completion time by six months they should consider it valid and that failure to comply would bring them back to court. They also acknowledged our presence in the Court and thanked us for coming.

If anyone is looking for a reason for being in the association here it is. Without it the fence would still be falling down and no nearer to repair.

It appears that a number of homes have received letters from Countrywide regarding the paint colour of their homes. These letters state that the Residents' Association has informed them of the various colours. This is totally untrue, at no time has the Committee written to, emailed, or called to discuss any such thing. All correspondence sent to Countrywide is either by e-mail or recorded delivery it is also published on the GPRA website for members to see. It is not the job of the Committee to oversee the Park Rules, and nor would they wish to do so. A strongly worded letter will be sent to Countrywide, informing them that what they have written is defamatory and there is every possibility that we will taking legal advice regarding using the Associations name in such a manner.

We will also be writing to Fenland District Council requesting them, in light of the judgement in their favour, what there next action will be in respect of having the fences repaired.

For the benefit of those who do not have access to our web site and for clarity please see revise side of this news letter where you will see a copy of the letter sent to Countrywide.

GPRA COMMITTEE

