



New Wardens for Clay Hill



Photo courtesy of Clay Hill NAG

Clay Hill is set to be a better place to live thanks to the expansion of the current wardens project. As of Friday 1 June 2007 the neighbourhood wardens are going to start patrolling the Turnpike / Shaw areas. There are around 2300 homes in Clay Hill, with just 500 managed by housing associations. The area stretches from Shaw Cemetery to the Skyllings, and from West Berkshire Community Hospital to Kiln Road.

Neighbourhood wardens have been operating in Newbury for five years, and have been successful in helping cut crime, coordinate community activities, and improve the streetscene, in Greenham, Wash Common and Stroud Green.

Sovereign Housing Association has expanded the current warden project to cover the Clay Hill area, after requests from Clay Hill Residents Association resulted in extra funding from Newbury Town Council.

Newbury Town Council recently agreed a £15,000 grant, allowing the four wardens' hours to be increased without harming their work elsewhere.

"This funding means Clay Hill residents will also benefit from having abandoned cars removed, someone to liaise with local teenagers, and to be a friendly face in the neighbourhood."

"We are pleased to support the expansion of the warden programme into Clay Hill", says Town Council Leader Ian Grose, "and it shows the commitment of Newbury Town Council to making this part of Newbury an even better place to live, work and play. I'm sure the residents of this part of the town will work with the wardens to sort out local concerns, and we hope to see support for the programme from others to carry it forward and expand it in future years."

Clay Hill Residents Association chairman Grahame Farquhar added:

"The addition of Wardens to the area will hopefully bring a sense of reassurance to the residents and also be a point of contact that they will see and be able to give their concerns to. We are hopeful that the addition of further wardens will be achieved in the future through funding from the District Council."

Sovereign Neighbourhood Warden Manager Andy Cooch said: "Our wardens are very much in demand as people have realised what they've achieved on the Nightingales and Pigeons Farm estates.

The Neighbourhood warden scheme is led by the community. you can help set our priorities by raising any issues and concerns you have through your local residents' association, or by contacting them direct.

There are several ways to do this:

- you can stop them for a chat when you see them patrolling your area
- they hold regular housing 'surgeries'
- you can contact them by phone on 01635 44387 or E-mail: newbury.wardens@sovereign.org.uk

Newbury Town Council

Town Hall, Market Place, Newbury, Berkshire. RG14 5AA

Telephone: (01635) 35486 Fax: (01635 40484)

E-Mail: towncouncil@newbury.gov.uk

Website designed & hosted by [Newbury Internet Services](#) and managed by Newbury Town Council
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