

NEWSLETTER

July 2008



PRIZE WINNERS

As featured in our last newsletter, we held a free draw for all residents who paid their levy on or before 30th April 2008. The draw took place at our committee meeting on 13th May 2008 and the winning names were picked independently by Mr. Quinn, who is the Manager at The Setanta House Hotel, where our meetings are held.

The first prize was a gardening voucher worth €1000 and this was won by Mr. Brendan O'Reilly, of 15 The Drive, pictured on the right below receiving his prize from Committee Member, Pat Floody.



Second prize was a €500 home heating oil voucher, which was won by Mr. Sean O'Keeffe, pictured on the right below receiving his prize from Committee Member, Chris Reilly.



Levy Collectors:

Chris Reilly	22 Abbey Lane
Regina Hurd	19 The Park
Pat Sexton	4 River Lawn
Mark Cooke	19 River View
Pat Floody	14 Abbey Court
Eileen Walsh	11 The Grove
Ann Boyle	14 The Green

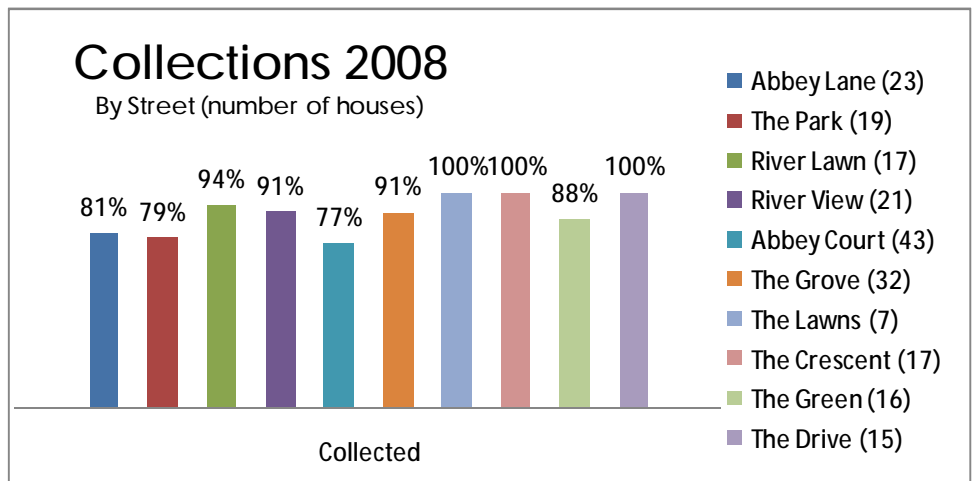
88% - Thank You!

This year's levy collections have reached 88% so far, almost reaching last year's record of 92%. With collectors still working hard to bring in more funds, we feel confident that we can match, if not beat last year's achievement.

The committee volunteers would like to sincerely thank all residents who have paid and we are delighted that the overall feeling in the estate is one of pride and satisfaction in how Abbey Farm is being maintained. The amount collected to date already allows us to maintain the level of grass maintenance and minor repairs of last year, and we are hoping that any further collections will allow us perhaps to carry out one or two extra improvements.

We would like to especially thank Karen Woulfe, Nikki Curran, and Ann Boyle, who volunteered once again this year to help with the collections, which was invaluable to us.

Here is a summary of the progress to date throughout the estate:



The outstanding levies consist of some residents who just have not been around when we called, or haven't had a chance to drop the payment around to their collector. Eight rented houses need to be pursued by us, and the balance is made up of people who can't or simply won't pay their contribution towards the upkeep of our fine estate.

We would respectfully ask those residents who, for whatever personal reason, have refused to pay their levy, to reconsider this in the interest of the community and the continual upkeep of our estate. It is this maintenance and upkeep, which enhances our estate, brings many compliments from visitors, and adds to the value of each house within the estate (even in these uncertain economic times).

Outstanding fees will can be dropped to your local collector (see left column for details).

As agreed recently at the AGM, we will be publishing, on or before 10th July 2008, a levy collection update on the website www.abbeyfarm.com which will list all paid up houses. Any fees paid up to 7th July will be updated prior to it's upload to the website.

RECENT EVENTS/ISSUES

GRAFFITI

We have been notified, by a parent of a 10 year old girl, of an incident where inappropriate remarks, about her daughter, were written on a wall and an ESB box within the estate. It is suspected that this graffiti was done by children of a similar age, which we are sure you will agree is quite disturbing. This surely constitutes bullying, which is very serious, and it is also very concerning that children of such a young age would be involved in vandalism of this nature. We would urge all residents to be vigilant in keeping an eye out for any such activity, especially during the school holidays.

TIDY TOWNS

We understand that judging will take place in the Tidy Towns competition, during July. Some committee members have worked on the main entrance to the estate, however, we would urge all residents to work on the area outside their own house, and if possible any public areas near to your street. We will not be organising an official clean up day this year, as it is usually only attended by the same few individuals. We would like to win a prize this year, but it's down to all residents living in Abbey Farm to work on it in their own small way.

BREAK INS

The Liffey Champion recently reported an increased number of house break-ins around Celbridge and Maynooth. Please be vigilant in locking all outer doors, and ensure that your alarm system is up-to-date. We recommend fitting infrared movement sensors as a further deterrent to burglars. Whilst there is no serious level of this in Abbey Farm, there have been break-ins here over the past few months.

PLANNING PERMISSION

We understand that the Esso Filling Station, owned by Sofa Properties Ltd., has applied for two separate planning permissions, one to extend the existing shop, and the other is for an off-license. The planning application references are 08/835 and 08/931 and full details of the applications can be obtained from Kildare County Council, including scope, if any, to object to either of their applications.

DOG ATTACK

We have been made aware that a young child was attacked by a dog in Abbey Lane. The child received quite serious injuries, and was extremely traumatised by the incident. We understand that the animal involved has either been removed from Abbey Farm or put down completely. However, this dog should have been more carefully controlled, and should have been wearing a muzzle. This incident simply shows why there are dog laws, and we would ask all dog owners to control their animals vigilantly. We would also ask all residents to report, to the dog warden, any incidents of dogs running loose in the estate, and to be aware of the dog laws, which were featured in a previous newsletter. Please see below a repeat of the information previously provided by us.

Dog Licences

In order to obtain a dog licence, you must be over 16 years of age. It is an offence for you to keep a dog over 4 months old unless you have a licence. Your dog must be accompanied by and be under your effective control or the control of another responsible person if it is outside your home or premises or the home or premises of the person in charge of it. You can be requested by a dog warden to produce evidence of your dog licence and failure to do so can result in an on-the-spot fine. Failure to pay this fine within a specified period can result in prosecution by your local authority.

Dog licences are issued by your post office. The revenue from dog licences finances the operation of dog control services in local areas throughout the country.

Dog Identification

Dogs must at all times wear a collar that bears the name and the address of the owner inscribed on it or on a plate, badge or disc. Failure to have identification on a dog can result in an on-the-spot fine issued by a dog warden. Failure to pay this fine within a specific period can result in prosecution by your local authority.

Stray Dogs

Stray dogs are dogs that are in a public place and are not accompanied by the owner or a responsible person. Dogs that are not under proper control are also considered stray dogs.

You can receive an on-the-spot fine if your dog is not under proper control. Stray dogs may be seized by the dog warden and the Gardai and brought to the local dog pound. These dogs may be put down or disposed of if their owners do not claim them within 5 days. If your dog has strayed or is missing, you should contact the local dog pound directly to check whether or not your dog has been picked up. Before you pick up your dog, you will have to pay a re-claim fee and produce a current dog licence. If you do not have a current dog licence, you must obtain one from your local post office before collecting your dog.

Local authorities and the Gardai are required to keep a register of dogs seized by them and dogs detained by other people and notified to them. You can inspect this register at the offices of your local authority or in your local Garda station.

Dog Wardens

Dog wardens have the power to request the name and address of a person suspected of an offence under the Control of Dogs Act. They also have the power to seize and detain any dog and to enter any premises, other than a residence with 5 or less dogs, to seize and detain a dog. You are guilty of an offence and can be arrested by a Garda if you obstruct a dog warden in the course of his or her work, refuse to give your name and address or give a false name and address.

Dog Faeces

Under new litter laws (section 22 of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997), it is an offence to allow a dog under your control to foul a public place. This means the owner/person in charge of the dog is required under this law to remove dog faeces and dispose of it in a suitable, sanitary manner. You can make a complaint to the District Court under the litter laws against an owner or someone in charge of a dog who allows that dog to foul public places and who fails to act responsibly. Before you do this, you must first inform the dog owner of your intention by completing a special form available from the Dog Control Unit of your local authority. You can read more about litter laws in Ireland [here](#).

Rules relating to certain breeds of dog

The Control of Dogs (Restriction of Certain Dogs) Regulations, 1991 impose additional rules in relation to the following breeds (and strains/cross-breeds) of dog in Ireland:

American Pit Bull Terrier	English Bull Terrier	Rhodesian Ridgeback
Staffordshire Bull Terrier	Bull Mastiff	Japanese Akita
Doberman Pinscher	German Shepherd	Rottweiler
Japanese Akita	Japanese Tosa Bandog	

These dogs (or strains and crosses of them) must be kept on a short strong lead by a person over 16 years who is capable of controlling them

These dogs (or strains and crosses of them) must be muzzled whenever they are in a public place. The rules on muzzling do not apply to guide dogs for the blind.

These dogs (or strains and crosses of them) must wear a collar bearing the name and address of their owner at all times.