**Westgate Residents’ Association (WRA)**

**AGM**

**Saturday, 7th November 2015, at St Wilfrid’s Church Hall**

Steering Committee members present:

Tony Schofield, Sue Doggart, Richard Brownfield, Paula Street, Colin Hicks, Kathryn Kellagher

1. **Apologies for absence**

Anthony Quail, Sandra Young, Fred Barber, Bernard Shapiro, Cecilia Cole, Tommy and Hannah Lunch, Peter Shoubridge, Eric and Sylvia Wood, Tim and Sue Bunker, Mrs Baker, Rachel and Michael Moriarty, Sally Wraith, Mr and Mrs Lumley, Noel Damon, Area Negus, Richard and Lynda King, David Setchell, Alby and Linda Healey, Steve Tennant and Liz Carter, Ann Nixon, Martine Shenke

1. **Welcome by the Chairman of the Steering Committee**
Richard Brownfield (RB) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for supporting the new WRA. He particularly welcomed the following local councillors:

Louise Goldsmith (also leader of the West Sussex County Council)
Pam Dignum
Clare Apel
Sarah Sharp
Anne Scicluna
Margaret Evans
Trevor Tupper
Julian Joy
Richard Plowman

representatives from other local RA’s:

Paula Chatfield – Parklands
Tim Rooth – Orchard Street and Summerstown
Paul Wreyford – a highways consultant engaged by Parklands RA, who has shared his work with us.

and two officers from our local PCSOs:

Karen Hopewell
Hannah Taylor
2. **Adoption of the New Constitution**After a brief discussion, during which it was established that the constitution could be amended, if necessary, at a future meeting with a 2/3 majority vote, Heather Erskine-Haskol proposed its adoption, seconded by David Tragear. It was passed by a large majority (only one vote against).
3. **Election of Officers**
Sue Doggart, in her position as Chairman of the committee that last met in 2004, oversaw the election of the following officers.

Chairman: Dr Richard Brownfield, proposed by Kathryn Kellagher and seconded by Christopher Podger.
Secretary and communications, including the mailing list and website: Colin Hicks, proposed by Mark McJennett and seconded by John Davies.
Treasurer: Anthony Schofield, proposed by Richard Brownfield and seconded by C J Podger.

Once these three officers were elected, SD passed on the overseeing of elections to RB.

1. **Election of Committee Members**
The following were elected to be committee members:
Anthony Quail, Brian Bird, Brian Raincock, Paula Street, Sandy Young and Vince Waldron.
2. **Financial Report**
Tony Schofield reported that there is still an active bank account for the WRA and that it currently stands at £184.00. One of the tasks of the new committee will be to decide whether or not to have an annual subscription fee or to rely on donations. He explained that expected expenses include postage, photocopying and paper. Social events were self-funded.

He was asked if, as a registered charity, we had ever explored Gift Aid and replied that we hadn’t but he would look into it.
3. **Status Report from the Steering Committee**

Colin Hicks welcomed our twelve guests and invited us all to speak to them informally over coffee.

He went on to report that the Steering Committee had met twice in order to revive the WRA, in response to the Whitehouse Farm Development and to residents’ increasing concerns over traffic.

The full report maybe read at: <http://www.westgatera.org.uk/2015/11/07/7th-november-outgoing-steering-committee-status-report/>

There were various points raised and questions asked following on from Colin’s report. In summary, these were as follows:

7.1 Will there be an on-site water-treatment site or will this involve large lorries removing the waste on a weekly basis. Clare Apel advised that in 2017 the Tangmere water treatment site might be increased to deal with this, which would involve laying down a pipe north of Whitehouse Farm around the north of Chichester to Tangmere.

7.2 Paul Wreyford wanted to make it clear that Phase 1 of the WHD has only a northern access. He emphasised the role of the A27 roundabout as being critical in terms of driver behaviour. The back-up of traffic trying to get onto the A27 means that local cars use Westgate. If the A27 roundabout is improved, then in theory traffic would choose not to use Westgate and Parklands with their speed restrictions. He did however warn against improving junctions as a matter of course, because as soon as roads become more easily accessible, they become more attractive and therefore the traffic flow increases.
With regards to cycle routes, Paul also advised that it would be better to either have a full and safe cycle route or none at all, rather than piecemeal areas of safety.

7.3 Sarah Sharpe agreed with Paul over the provision of cycle routes. She said we needed proper, safe and segregated cycle ways and that we should look to cities such as London or Copenhagen for inspiration.

7.4 If A27 through traffic is improved, then all local traffic conditions will be improved too. Louise Goldsmith reported that the consultation on A27 traffic improvement has been deferred to spring 2016.

7.5 Questions were asked as to what powers we have to affect the planning decisions. It was explained that all districts have to produce a Local Plan and that because of the National Park, we are only left with 30% of our land to build on (ie the coastal strip). The feeling from government seems to be that “we will get out of our economic difficulties if we build houses”. So we don’t have much power to veto the development itself, but, as Paula Chatfield pointed out, we can make important differences round the edges. The Local Plan sets out to deliver to Chichester houses that are sustainable (with regards to eg transport and the environment), so we can engage with the authorities to ensure that they keep to this.

7.6 We were reminded that the planning application has to be decided by 9 December, so we should make sure that our views are known and expressed to the council before this deadline. RB reiterated that individual opinions carry more weight than an “official” one put forward by a residents’ association.

7.7 There were worries about the affect the development would have on Bishop Luffa, on both its size, location and not least on its playing fields. These are all issues that should be debated.

7.8 Tony Schofield responded to a query from the floor re adding a signatory to the accounts, advising this was in hand.

7.9 Paula Street said that obviously everyone in the room had their own opinions but, as a newly formed committee, we needed to know what the over-riding principles should be. She encouraged people to leave messages in the comment boxes on the WRA website so that the committee can try to gather in views.

7.9 Paula Chatfield advised of a meeting on Chemroute on 10 November in Com Room 3 at County Hall, 6.15pm. She also said that the Parklands Residents’ Association had agreed at its last meeting to expand the distribution of its written newsletter to encompass Westgate and the smaller streets leading off from it.

7.10 We were encouraged to vote for the Crate and Apple which has been nominated in the Chichester Observer’s best pub category.

8. **Conclusion** Richard Brownfield then closed the meeting and invited everyone to mingle over coffee.